



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 14, 2023

Andrea Ozyck
267 South Gate Lane
Southport, CT 06890
aozyck@optonline.net

RE: **DOCKET NO. 516** – The United Illuminating Company (UI) application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Fairfield to Congress Railroad Transmission Line 115-kV Rebuild Project that consists of the relocation and rebuild of its existing 115- kilovolt (kV) electric transmission lines from the railroad catenary structures to new steel monopole structures and related modifications along approximately 7.3 miles of the Connecticut Department of Transportation’s Metro-North Railroad corridor between Structure B648S located east of Sasco Creek in Fairfield and UI’s Congress Street Substation in Bridgeport, and the rebuild of two existing 115-kV transmission lines along 0.23 mile of existing UI right-of-way to facilitate interconnection of the rebuilt 115-kV electric transmission lines at UI’s existing Ash Creek, Resco, Pequonnock and Congress Street Substations traversing the municipalities of Bridgeport and Fairfield, Connecticut.

Dear Andrea Ozyck:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your recent correspondence concerning Docket No. 516.

In reaching a final decision on an application, the Council carefully considers all of the facts contained in the evidentiary record that is developed by the Council, the applicant, parties and intervenors in the proceeding, and all of the concerns received from members of the public who speak at the public hearing or submit written statements to the Council.

Please note that you can view documents related to this proceeding on our website at portal.ct.gov/csc under the “Pending Matters” link. You may also keep apprised of Council events on the website calendar and agenda.

Thank you for your interest and concern in this very important matter. Your letter will be entered in the public comment file related to this matter.

Sincerely,

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/MP/laf

c: Council Members

From: aozyck@optonline.net <aozyck@optonline.net>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 9:54 AM
To: CSC-DL Siting Council <Siting.Council@ct.gov>
Cc: ennifer.Leeper@cga.ct.gov; Pura.ExecutiveSecretary <Pura.ExecutiveSecretary@ct.gov>; firstselectwoman@fairfieldct.org
Subject: UI Transmission Line Rebuild Project (DO 516)

Hello. My name is Andrea Ozyck, and I reside on South Gate Lane in Southport with my husband. We attended the public hearing on 7/25/23 regarding the UI transmission line rebuild project (DO 516) and although we did not comment at the time, I would like to submit this letter to become part of the hearing's record.

I am writing to express my strong opposition and concern regarding the proposed Fairfield to Congress Substation, Bridgeport Transmission Line Rebuild Project. While I understand the importance of enhancing the reliability and resilience of the power grid, I firmly believe that the current plan fails to prioritize the historical charm of our town, the well-being of its citizens, and the surrounding environment. I have enumerated my primary concerns as follows:

1. **Safety** - The inconclusive health studies on the potential consequences of increased exposure to EMF indicate that moving the power lines closer to our properties could have adverse health effects on the numerous children residing on our street.
2. **Hurricane Preparedness** - Considering the escalating impacts of climate change, including the heightened probability of more powerful storms, the fact that the new towers are only designed to withstand a Category 3 hurricane is disconcerting. This seems inadequate in light of the increasing likelihood of more severe storms in the future.
3. **Environmental Impact** - Transmission lines pose habitat and breeding risks to birds, with migratory birds being at risk of collisions or electrocution. Additionally, the increased use of herbicides and pesticides for corridor maintenance near the towers will harm the environment, particularly due to proximity to the sound.
4. **Visual Appearance** - The proposed monopoles are visually unappealing. While the area already has train and power lines, the additional lines and increased height of the new towers will undoubtedly have a significantly negative impact on the aesthetic appeal of the area.
5. **Property Values** - Given the aforementioned concerns, it is highly probable that property values in the vicinity will significantly decrease, especially considering the already high housing costs in this area.

I am concerned that the current plan was chosen to minimize costs without adequately considering the significant negative impact it will have on the local area. I believe there are alternative options that would better address the concerns I have outlined, such as burying the lines, relocating the towers away from residential neighborhoods on the other side of the railroad tracks, reducing the height of the towers, and utilizing technology to optimize the efficiency of the transmission lines, among others. Neglecting these considerations in favor of cost would be a tragedy.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns.

Respectfully, Andrea Ozyck