

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

SITING COUNCIL

\* \* \* \* \*

MERIDEN GAS TURBINES, LLC \* JUNE 4, 2013  
 \* (7:04 p.m.)

MOTION TO REOPEN THE FINAL DECISION \*  
 ON THE CERTIFICATE OF \*  
 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND \*  
 PUBLIC NEED HELD BY MERIDEN GAS \*  
 TURBINES, LLC FOR A 530 MW \* DOCKET NO. 190B  
 COMBINED CYCLE GENERATING PLANT IN \*  
 MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*

BEFORE: ROBIN STEIN, CHAIRMAN

BOARD MEMBERS: Robert Hannon, DEP Designee  
 Larry P. Levesque, DPUC Designee  
 Edward S. Wilensky  
 Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.  
 James J. Murphy, Jr.  
 Dr. Barbara Bell

STAFF MEMBERS: David Martin, Siting Analyst  
 Melanie Bachman, Staff Attorney

APPEARANCES:

FOR THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER MERIDEN GAS TURBINES, LLC:

MURTHA CULLINA, LLP  
 CityPlace I  
 185 Asylum Street  
 Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3469  
 BY: ANDREW W. LORD, ESQUIRE

## APPEARANCES (Continued):

FOR THE INTERVENOR, THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND  
POWER COMPANY:

STEPHEN GIBELLI, ESQUIRE  
Associate General Counsel  
The Connecticut Light and Power Company  
P.O. Box 270  
Hartford, Connecticut 06141-0270

ELIZABETH MALDONADO, Senior Counsel  
Northeast Utilities Service Company  
107 Selden Street  
Berlin, Connecticut 06037

FOR THE INTERVENOR, RIVERS ALLIANCE OF  
CONNECTICUT - FARMINGTON RIVER WATERSHED  
ASSOCIATION:

ERIC HAMMERLING, PRESIDENT  
Rivers Alliance of Connecticut  
P.O. Box 1797  
Litchfield, Connecticut 06759

KEVIN CASE  
Farmington River Watershed Association  
749 Hopmeadow Street  
Simsbury, Connecticut 06070

FOR THE PARTY, THE QUINNIPIAC RIVER WATERSHED  
ASSOCIATION:

MARY MUSHINSKY  
Executive Director  
Quinnipiac River Watershed Association  
P.O. Box 2825  
Meriden, Connecticut 06450

## APPEARANCES (Continued):

FOR THE PARTY, THE CITY OF MERIDEN:

BROWN, RUDNICK, LLP  
CityPlace I  
185 Asylum Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
BY: PHILIP M. SMALL, ESQUIRE  
SCOTT A. MUSKA, ESQUIRE

DEBORAH L. MOORE, CITY ATTORNEY  
City of Meriden  
142 East Main Street  
Meriden, Connecticut 06450

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1 . . .Verbatim proceedings of a hearing  
2 before the State of Connecticut Siting Council, Re:  
3 Motion to Reopen Final Decision on a Certificate by  
4 Meriden Gas Turbines, LLC, held at the Meriden City Hall,  
5 145 East Main Street, Meriden, Connecticut, on June 4,  
6 2013 at 7:04 p.m., at which time the parties were  
7 represented as hereinbefore set forth . . .

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CHAIRMAN ROBIN STEIN: Good evening,  
ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to call to order this  
public hearing of the Siting Council today Tuesday, June  
4, 2013, at approximately 7:00 p.m.

My name is Robin Stein and I'm Chairman of  
the Connecticut Siting Council.

Other members of the Council present are  
Mr. Hannon, who is the designee, from the Department of  
Energy and Environmental Protection; Mr. Levesque, the  
designee from the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority;  
Senator James Murphy; Mr. Wilensky; Dr. Bell; and Mr.  
Lynch.

Members of the staff present are Melanie  
Bachman, Acting Executive Director; David Martin, the  
Siting Analyst; and Gail Gregoriades, who is our court

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1 reporter?

2 This is a continuation of a public hearing  
3 that began at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon.

4 Copies of the hearing program and the  
5 Council's Citizen Guide to Siting Council Procedures are  
6 available for members of the public. And also there's a  
7 sign-up sheet for those who haven't signed up as of yet.

8 This hearing is held pursuant to the  
9 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General  
10 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act  
11 upon a Motion to Reopen the Final Decision on the  
12 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public  
13 Need held by the Meriden Gas Turbines, LLC for a 530  
14 megawatt combined cycle generating plant in Meriden,  
15 Connecticut.

16 On April 18, 2013 the Council, pursuant to  
17 a request filed by the City of Meriden and the provision  
18 of the Connecticut General Statute 4-181a(b), opened --  
19 reopened the final decision rendered in this docket and  
20 specifically limited this hearing to Council  
21 consideration of changed conditions and a decommissioning  
22 plan.

23 This hearing tonight has been reserved  
24 first for the public to make short statements into the

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1 record. And these public statements are not subject to  
2 questions from parties or the Council. And members of  
3 the public making statements may not ask questions of the  
4 parties or the Council. They will become part of the  
5 record for Council consideration. As I mentioned,  
6 there's a sign-up sheet for those who want to  
7 participate.

8 As a reminder to all, off-the-record  
9 communication with a member of the Council or the  
10 Council's staff upon the merits of this request is  
11 prohibited by law.

12 I wish to note that parties and  
13 intervenors, including their representatives and  
14 witnesses, are not allowed to participate in the public  
15 comment session. They've had a chance this afternoon and  
16 will -- and there will be a subsequent meeting at a date  
17 to be announced.

18 I also wish to note for those who are here  
19 and for the benefit of your friends and neighbors who are  
20 unable to join us for this session, that you or they may  
21 send written statements to the Council within 30 days of  
22 today. And such written statements will be given the  
23 same weight as if spoken at the hearing.

24 We ask each person making a public

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1 statement in this proceeding to confine his or her  
2 statements to the subject matter before the Council and  
3 to avoid unnecessary repetition so that we may hear all  
4 the concerns you and your neighbors may have.

5 Again be advised that we cannot directly  
6 answer questions from the public about the facility.

7 A verbatim transcript will be made of this  
8 hearing and deposited at the Meriden and Berlin Town  
9 Clerks' Offices for the convenience of the public.

10 I'll now call on the list. I'll start - -  
11 and I'm going to in advance ask for your indulgence if I  
12 mispronounce people's names. The first speaker is the  
13 Mayor.

14 MR. MICHAEL ROHDE: Good evening, Mr.  
15 Chairman and members of the Siting Council and welcome to  
16 Meriden. I hope you had a great tour with our A-team  
17 that took you around the city to show you some of our  
18 sites.

19 I'll be speaking to Council Docket No.  
20 190B and some observations. I also have a letter from  
21 our state delegation that I'd like to read into the  
22 record. They're at the State Capitol tonight trying to  
23 finish off a legislative session and could not be with  
24 us, but they do have testimony that I have this evening.

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1                   So good evening. As the Mayor of the City  
2 of Meriden, I appreciate this opportunity to welcome you  
3 to Meriden and to briefly discuss with you tonight an  
4 important issue for all of us. We are very concerned  
5 about the effects on the city and its residents of  
6 Meriden Gas Turbines abandonment of its partially  
7 constructed electric generating facility on Cathole  
8 Mountain in Meriden. Because of our concern, we've ask  
9 the Siting Council to take appropriate actions to  
10 mitigate the adverse consequences of MGT's abandonment.

11                   As you saw in your travels around Meriden  
12 today, the extremely large main power plant building is  
13 visible throughout Meriden. I actually see it every  
14 single day when I come to work as I get on 691.

15                   Although the City encouraged MGT's project  
16 and understood it would some visual impacts, conditions  
17 have changed. What the City accepted was some visual  
18 impact in exchange for the benefits of the project to the  
19 city and its residents. Those benefits no longer exist  
20 due to MGT's abandonment. In fact over the years, city  
21 officials have received many complaints from residents  
22 about the visibility of the power plant. And you're  
23 going to hear from them tonight.

24                   In the past we could tell residents that



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1 the power plant would ultimately produce significant  
2 benefits for the city and the State of Connecticut,  
3 essentially tax revenue to our city. Obviously, we can  
4 no longer say that.

5 Also, MGT promised the City and the Siting  
6 Council they would partially mitigate the visual impact  
7 of the power plant by appropriate plantings. My  
8 understanding is that these plantings were never done.  
9 And if you can look at different views from the city,  
10 this big white building stands out with no cover  
11 whatsoever.

12 Due to these changed conditions, the City  
13 believes that it would be appropriate for the Siting  
14 Council to require MGT to dismantle the large power plant  
15 building and other buildings and structures on the site  
16 as part of a decommissioning plan.

17 The City is also concerned that MGT may  
18 not have complied with the conditions imposed by the  
19 Siting Council to mitigate the adverse environmental and  
20 other effects of this plant. The City believes that the  
21 Siting Council should take appropriate steps through  
22 decommissioning the plant to ensure that environmental  
23 and residents are not adversely impacted by MGT's  
24 abandonment of the power plant and its failure to meet

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1 its obligations.

2 At this point I'd like to read into the  
3 record the testimony from our state delegation, and these  
4 are our State Senator Dante Bartolomeo, Representative  
5 Cathy Abercrombie, Representative Buddy Altobello, and  
6 Representative Hilda Santiago, and this is their joint  
7 statement:

8 Dear Chairman Stein, as Meriden's selected  
9 state delegation, we thank you for the opportunity to  
10 address the Connecticut Siting Council and to request  
11 that the Council take appropriate action to require NRG  
12 Energy to commence with the immediate removal of their  
13 inactive power plant site. Eliminating this abandoned  
14 facility will provide an invaluable service to Meriden by  
15 removing a distinct and visible eyesore while aiding in  
16 the beautification of the entire community.

17 Located at the top of Meriden Cathole  
18 Mountain in the city's northwest corner, the 44,000  
19 square foot property has not been completed or functional  
20 since NRG purchased the site and correspondingly  
21 developed permits in 2000 -- the year 2000.

22 On April 3, 2012, NRG filed a notice of  
23 abandonment with the city in which the company formally  
24 announced their intention to hold all development of the

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1 proposed power generating facility. Since that time, NRG  
2 has promised that they would remove the unfinished  
3 structure that currently exists on the site. But to  
4 date, no steps have taken place. This past March, NRG  
5 reaffirmed their desire to terminate operations in a  
6 letter to the Connecticut Siting Council.

7 At present, the 82-foot tall abandoned  
8 facility remains visible on top of Cathole Mountain and  
9 can be clearly seen from numerous city neighborhoods,  
10 parks, and other recreational areas. All of which stand  
11 among our community's most important assets. In  
12 addition, the mountain is part of Connecticut's scenic  
13 Metacomet Trail, which was designed as part of the New  
14 England National Scenic Trail and signed into law by  
15 President Obama as part of the omnibus Public Land  
16 Management Act of 2009. The NRG plant remains a distinct  
17 eyesore in the midst of the area's scenic beauty as well  
18 as having the potential to endure further blithe and  
19 vandalism in the coming years.

20 Given that this power plant is completely  
21 inactive and in light of NRG's failure to take the  
22 necessary steps to remove the facility, we respectfully  
23 request that the Siting Council exercise jurisdiction by  
24 compelling NRG to establish a time frame for the removal

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1 of the Meriden power plant. We would also find it  
2 appropriate for NRG to restrict access to the site and  
3 take steps to provide visual mitigation. Such action  
4 would prove beneficial not only to the site itself, but  
5 also to the entire Meriden community which aspires only  
6 to provide an attractive, pleasurable, and living  
7 municipal atmosphere on behalf of the residents and  
8 tourists alike.

9 Thank you for your attention to this  
10 matter and for your thoughtful consideration. Please do  
11 not hesitate to contact our offices at your earliest  
12 convenience should you have any questions or require  
13 additional information.

14 Back to my comment. Let me just close by  
15 thanking you for being here this evening, for your  
16 willingness to come to Meriden and consider our issues  
17 and concerns. I sincerely hope you will require MGT to  
18 properly mitigate the effects of the power plant and its  
19 abandonment of that plant on our community. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you, Mayor. I also  
21 have a request from Councilor Cathy Battista.

22 MS. CATHERINE BATTISTA: Thank you, Mr.  
23 Chairman and members of the Siting Council.

24 I'm speaking on behalf of my constituents.

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1 Some of them are here tonight and they'll speak for  
2 themselves about all their concerns about this issue.  
3 But I'm speaking right now as Chair of Parks in Meriden  
4 and also as a constituent and also as a city council  
5 liaison to our Meriden Linear Trails Committee. That  
6 committee is very important, and of course parks is as  
7 I'm sure you're aware. We work very, very hard every day  
8 to beautify Meriden, to make it its absolute best. It's  
9 a quality of life issue.

10 I see this as a quality of life issue. I  
11 noticed in some notes that I've been reading over from  
12 some of my constituents that it is a visual monstrosity.  
13 Perhaps it wouldn't have been that if it moved forward.  
14 And although I'm sure there's debate about that as well,  
15 but it didn't move forward as you know -- and I don't  
16 want to be repeating everything that everyone is going to  
17 say, but again as a quality of life issue, I'm very  
18 concerned. And I'm very concerned about my committee and  
19 my constituents and how they feel and how it affects them  
20 every day that they can see that.

21 I thank you so much for listening to us  
22 and for listening to my constituents and I appreciate it.  
23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. I'll now go

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1 to the list of the public who have asked to speak.  
2 Dwight Needels. And if you could spell your -- spell  
3 your last name so the court reporter has it. Thank you.

4 MR. DWIGHT NEEDELS: The last name is  
5 spelled -- Needels, N-e-e-d-e-l-s. I live at 40 Monroe  
6 Street here in Meriden. I'm President of the Meriden  
7 Land Trust, Chairman of the Flood Control and  
8 Implementation Agency, and a member of both the Meriden  
9 Linear Trail Advisory Committee and the Conservation  
10 Commission.

11 However, tonight I'm speaking on my own  
12 behalf as a directly impacted citizen of Meriden. I'm  
13 not an attorney, so I will not try to delve into the  
14 legal arguments. However, I must say that I'm shocked by  
15 the argument made by the power company that they can  
16 avoid the oversight of the Connecticut Siting Council  
17 simply because they no longer see a profit. They cannot  
18 be allowed to abandon their responsibility simply by  
19 abandoning their certification of environmental  
20 compatibility and public need.

21 I urge you to require Meriden Gas  
22 Turbines, LLC and their parent NRG to undo the damage  
23 they have done to Cathole Mountain. Earlier today you  
24 were taken on a tour to see a handful of the places where

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1 that big white behemoth, that Moby Dick of a building is  
2 visible. But you should be aware that this is but a tiny  
3 fraction of the places from which this monstrosity can be  
4 seen.

5 I glared at that power plant every morning  
6 driving down the tiny little hill I live on at Bradley  
7 Park until I picked a different way to work. When I  
8 first moved to Meriden, I used to envy the fabulous view  
9 of the Hanging Hills, from the hill where Columbus Avenue  
10 goes, but not any more. They violated my enjoyment of  
11 the natural beauty of my neighborhood.

12 Nothing demonstrates the intrusiveness of  
13 this building better than taking a hike on Mountain  
14 Lamentation or on Chauncey Peak or on Mount Higby or on  
15 Mount Beseck, and that doesn't even count Cathole  
16 Mountain.

17 One of Meriden's greatest assets is the  
18 beauty of the view from our traprock ridges. Our trail  
19 system draws people from all over the region to enjoy our  
20 ridgeline. But as soon as you rise above the tops of the  
21 buildings, the power plant jumps out as by far the  
22 largest manmade object on the ridgeline. Meriden is  
23 known for the tower on Castle Craig. But from the  
24 eastern ridgeline, you have to look very carefully to

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1 find it, but not so the power plant, which is a huge scar  
2 on the ridgeline. The New England Scenic Trail, as the  
3 Mayor said, is the first scenic trail designated by the  
4 National Park Service in over 25 years. It goes right  
5 along those very same ridgelines. Once a hiker arrives  
6 at the border of Meriden on this national scenic trail,  
7 the first thing they see and the primary thing they see  
8 is this power plant.

9 Please require the removal of this  
10 eyesore, which is no longer providing any benefit to the  
11 city, and do so at the full expense of the owner.

12 Sodom Brook flows just down the hill from  
13 my house. The up head waters of this --

14 (pause - audio malfunction)

15 MR. NEEDELS: Okay. The upper head waters  
16 of this brook start right on Cathole Mountain, right  
17 underneath where the power plant is located. There are  
18 numerous vernal pools in the vicinity of the power plant,  
19 with only three of them protected in any way. Meriden's  
20 traprock ridges represent a precious and dwindling  
21 resource that is critically important due to its  
22 hydrology, its geology, its plant life, and its animal  
23 life. Please require convincing proof that the owner has  
24 fulfilled each and every promise they made regarding



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1 protection of the natural habitat of the mountain.

2                   There are over a hundred acres of  
3 designated open space designated by the city on Cathole  
4 Mountain, which is at least a start in the right  
5 direction. And yet the only roads that access this  
6 preserved space have locked gates. Anybody who tries to  
7 hike on this city owned property runs the risk of being  
8 threatened by a power plant guard, who still thinks the  
9 whole mountain is private property owned by his employer.  
10 By the way, the New England Scenic Trail also runs a very  
11 short distance just west of the power plant. Please  
12 require public access by road and by trail to the city  
13 owned open space on Cathole Mountain.

14                   I could go on, but I'll stop here and let  
15 others have a say. Please use your authority to require  
16 the owner to do the right thing and clean up this mess  
17 that they've made. Thank you very much.

18                   CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Mary Ellen  
19 Mordarski.

20                   MS. MARY ELLEN MORDARSKI: Good evening.  
21 My name is Mary Ellen Mordarski. I live at 65 Cherry  
22 Street here in Meriden. I am the Chairman of the Meriden  
23 Conservation Commission, but also as a resident of the  
24 city of -- a lifelong resident of the City of Meriden.

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1        Personally, I'd like to see that building come down. As  
2        has been stated, it is an eyesore. It can be seen from  
3        all over. Whether or not they will -- whether or not we  
4        can -- they can actually be forced to take it down, I  
5        don't know. However, if for some reason it can't be  
6        demolished, then perhaps paint it a shade of brown or  
7        something that's not quite as -- that wouldn't stand out  
8        as much.

9                                I mean as far as planting, short of  
10       getting the Redwoods from California, which I doubt  
11       they'll give up, you're going to have a heck of a time  
12       trying to hide that with any kind of planting. As I  
13       said, my first choice would be to have them knock it  
14       down.

15                                When they made the agreement -- and -- and  
16       the other thing is they -- they signed -- or they said  
17       they would agree to whatever -- they -- they agreed to  
18       certain terms. And because they went bankrupt or  
19       whatever their issues were, now they don't feel that they  
20       have to fulfill that. Well wouldn't it be nice if we  
21       could all -- if we -- if our circumstances or our work or  
22       our income changed and we could just abandon our  
23       obligations as well. Thank you.

24                                CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Tim Fogal.

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1 MR. TIMOTHY FOGAL: Thank you, Mr.  
2 Chairman. Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

3 My name is Timothy Fogal. I reside at 269  
4 Chamberlain Highway. I'm a past chairman of the  
5 Conservation Commission. I'm currently serving in the  
6 Meriden Linear Trails as Vice Chair.

7 At the time when this power plant project  
8 was being proposed and implemented, I was Vice Chairman  
9 of Conservation. And we -- a large group of people  
10 worked very hard and fought very hard against this  
11 project. Now we seem to have a situation where now the  
12 project never came to fruition and is now completely  
13 abandoned. So the buildings have been built, but nothing  
14 else moved forward with it and now we've got a very large  
15 eyesore on our ridgeline.

16 It was our understanding that -- they sold  
17 to us a very big package of promised revenues. They also  
18 promised that they were going to blend the structures so  
19 that they wouldn't be very recognizable from any  
20 distance. And they were also going to -- if I'm not  
21 mistaken, I recall a quote somewhere where they were  
22 going to actually do some minor road repair on our local  
23 streets after all the heavy trucking and all that was to  
24 be completed. There are a couple of local streets that

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1 they did use regularly. And they're in rather poor  
2 condition right now as a result.

3 The Hanging Hills are a very major and big  
4 draw to people from all over this central Connecticut and  
5 area. It provides some of the very finest hiking in the  
6 state and there's -- it's already been noted that it's  
7 part of the nationally recognized trail system. The  
8 Ridgeline Protection Policy, it specifically preserves  
9 Meriden's Hanging Hills and our ridgelines. Yet, it  
10 seems like that policy was compromised in the approval of  
11 this power plant.

12 This mountainside is -- it's deeply  
13 scarred now. It's going to -- it's been changed forever.  
14 I -- I don't know that even if the buildings were  
15 removed, if it would be possible to even restore what has  
16 been done up there. But anything this committee can do  
17 to help either eliminate that building or camouflage it  
18 and try to make it blend in a little bit more would be  
19 greatly appreciated.

20 I'd like to speculate just on one more  
21 simple little thing. Is I -- I venture to say a majority  
22 of you live in other areas of the state and probably  
23 don't very frequently travel the 691 corridor. You won't  
24 be looking at this very often as -- in the matter as you

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1 have done today. We who live here, we look at it every  
2 single day.

3 So, I'd like to thank you very much for  
4 being here and thank you for your attention to this  
5 matter.

6 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. James Dionne.

7 MR. JAMES DIONNE: I'm James Dionne. I  
8 live in Sterling Village on the east side of town. And I  
9 too see that white thing sticking up in the hills every  
10 day.

11 I'm not going to repeat what everybody  
12 else said, but I do travel to the Portland area to the  
13 Salmon River on Route 16 and they have a plant over  
14 there, that gas generation plant that they put up on the  
15 hill, and you really have to look for it. So like the  
16 young lady back here said, paint. If you can't tear it  
17 down right away, you can get a commercial painter and go  
18 up there and spray the building with dark green or brown  
19 paint.

20 I'm also an amateur photographer. And  
21 every time I photograph that area, I either have to hide  
22 it with some green paint on the brush or crop it out or  
23 do something. So you know, it's -- it is an eyesore.  
24 Thanks for your consideration.

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1 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Mr. Pagini.

2 MR. ROBERT PAGINI: My name is Bob Pagini.  
3 I live at 22 Pearl Street here in Meriden. I've lived  
4 here all my life. And I love hiking.

5 And around the time of the permitting  
6 process for that power plant, I became a member of the  
7 Conservation Commission here in town. And we generated a  
8 report because most of us felt as though it would be a  
9 very big impact not only visually to the City of Meriden,  
10 but also in other ways. So each of us took a segment of  
11 a report -- of a subject to do on the report. And my  
12 subject was the visual impact. So you can see that it  
13 bothered me so much, I wanted to do this visual impact  
14 study.

15 So to make it -- to make a long story  
16 short, we submitted that impact analysis to the City of  
17 Meriden. And at the time it wasn't met with open arms.  
18 And you know, some of us suffered because of this, but we  
19 did really believe that we were right in the sense of  
20 especially the visual impact. And it did come true, that  
21 this thing is very very visible.

22 And me being a hiker, I hike the New  
23 England trail around the ridges in Meriden. And we have  
24 eight of them in Meriden, which is pretty astounding

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1 because most other communities don't have that many.  
2 They're actually not in the City of Meriden, but they  
3 surround the City of Meriden. Some of them are actually  
4 in the City of Meriden. But just to show you -- and if I  
5 could submit this through the Chair just to show the  
6 Siting Council the impact from one of our ridges. I took  
7 this up on Chauncey Peak, which is in our Giuffrida Park  
8 on the east side of town. But it's the first thing that  
9 you see is that power plant. It just nails you as you  
10 look at the viewshed. It's a very sad thing for our  
11 viewshed. We -- we try to keep those things out of the  
12 viewshed whenever possible.

13 So my suggestion, of course like everybody  
14 else's, is it would be nice to eliminate that building.  
15 And maybe even go one step further -- and because this  
16 was an old quarry and because they've even shelved it  
17 more through solid rock -- which once you quarry  
18 something, it takes a very long time for topsoil to come  
19 back and for plants to grow or trees or any other kind of  
20 growth. So it would be nice if it could be restored  
21 somewhat by putting some topsoil in there and get  
22 something to grow. And then it would blend into the  
23 landscape that much better. I thank you for your time.

24 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Karen -- and

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1 I'm not sure whether it's Nangle or --

2 MS. KAREN NANGLE: Nangle.

3 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Nangle. Sorry.

4 MS. NANGLE: Good evening, Mr. Chairman  
5 and members of the Connecticut Siting Council and ladies  
6 and gentlemen.

7 My name is Karen Nangle. That's N as in  
8 Nancy, a-n-g-l-e. I've lived on Thorpe Avenue in Meriden  
9 for ten years. There are many things about Meriden that  
10 I love. Its central location in the state situates us  
11 halfway between our children and grandchildren. Its  
12 location allows me to look out on unobstructed greenery  
13 while having breakfast and an open field across the  
14 street as I leave for work. It takes me just a half-hour  
15 to get to my desk in New Haven.

16 Every time I read an article in the Record  
17 Journal about the progress of the New Haven, Meriden, and  
18 Springfield commuter line and the new Meriden train  
19 station, I am happy. Every time I read an article about  
20 uncovering Harbor Brook and turning the hub into a town  
21 green park, I rejoice. Hubbard Park is already lovely  
22 and inviting. I love the view as I'm driving down the  
23 Exit 12 ramp on to 691 and the unique profile of the  
24 hills across the city and their changing mood, that is



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1 until the power plant ruins the view. The power plant is  
2 a piece of architectural litter, spoiling one of  
3 Meriden's greatest treasures, a restful and beautiful  
4 view that contributes to making Meriden an appealing  
5 place to live.

6 I urge the approval of Meriden's  
7 application seeking an order that the power plant on the  
8 Mountain mitigate the visual impact of its building by  
9 dismantling and removing it. Thank you very much to all  
10 of you for coming and hearing me say my piece.

11 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. John Ho.

12 MR. JOHN HO: Hi everybody. As you may  
13 know, Meriden does not have good schools, good roads, or  
14 great property values, the train station is dirty and  
15 would not be considered safe --

16 A VOICE: That's correct --

17 MR. HO: -- the hub, which used to be a  
18 mall that crumbled for decades, is now finding its best  
19 use as a place to dump snow to melt after the winter --  
20 I'm sorry, what?

21 A VOICE: (Indiscernible) --

22 MR. HO: I guess I don't. I'm not  
23 familiar with the procedure --

24 CHAIRMAN STEIN: You will get to the topic

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1 at hand I assume?

2 MR. HO: Absolutely.

3 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you.

4 MR. HO: My point is, is that -- that  
5 Meriden doesn't have a lot to recommend to -- to  
6 recommend itself to other places or to homeowners. But  
7 one of the things it does have is a great horizon, a  
8 great skyline. And obviously that skyline has a monument  
9 competing with Castle Craig, and that monument is a  
10 monument to shortsighted thinking, and that monument is  
11 more than 82 feet tall because it's up on a mountain, and  
12 I know you've already seen that, and it is somewhat  
13 looking down on all of us that live here and scolding us  
14 for buying property in this town. So of course I'm here  
15 to say please remove it. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. I guess I  
17 have to editorialize and say you have at least one very  
18 good restaurant, which we enjoyed earlier this evening.  
19 I think you have a pretty impressive city hall, but I  
20 won't go beyond that I guess.

21 Is there -- we don't have anybody else on  
22 the sign-up list or -- no? Okay.

23 So I want to first thank you all for  
24 coming and those who spoke. And again repeat that if you

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1 or any of your neighbors want to submit at some future  
2 time within the next 30 days any written comments, we  
3 would appreciate that.

4 I want to announce that the evidentiary  
5 portion of the hearing, which is what we started at 3:00  
6 p.m., that will be continued at the Siting Council's  
7 office in Hearing Room 1 at Ten Franklin Square, New  
8 Britain, on Tuesday July 16, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. Anybody  
9 is -- or are encouraged to come. It's specifically for  
10 the parties and intervenors at that meeting.

11 Again, copies of the transcript of this  
12 hearing will be filed at both the Meriden and Berlin Town  
13 Clerk's Office.

14 And again, I thank you and I declare this  
15 hearing adjourned.

16

17 (Whereupon, the hearing adjourned at 7:35  
18 p.m.)

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