

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

SITING COUNCIL

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CONNECTICUT LIGHT & POWER COMPANY * DECEMBER 17, 2003
AND UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY * (7:10 P.M.)

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF *
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND *
PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION * DOCKET NO. 272
OF A NEW 345-kV ELECTRIC *
TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED *
FACILITIES BETWEEN THE SCOVILL ROCK *
SWITCHING STATION IN MIDDLETOWN *
AND THE NORWALK SUBSTATION IN *
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT *

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SITING COUNCIL

BEFORE: PAMELA B. KATZ, CHAIRMAN

BOARD MEMBERS: Colin C. Tait, Vice Chairman
Gerald J. Heffernan, DPUC Designee
Brian Emerick, DEP Designee
Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.
Edward S. Wilensky
Philip T. Ashton
Brian O'Neill
James J. Murphy, Jr.

STAFF MEMBERS: S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director
Fred O. Cunliffe, Siting Analyst
Robert L. Marconi, AAG

APPEARANCES:

FOR THE APPLICANT, CONNECTICUT LIGHT & POWER
COMPANY:

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50 Leavenworth Street
P.O. Box 1110
Waterbury, Connecticut 06721-1110
BY: ANTHONY M. FITZGERALD, ESQUIRE
BRIAN T. HENEBRY, ESQUIRE

FOR THE APPLICANT, UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY:

WIGGIN & DANA, LLP
One Century Tower
P.O. Box 1832
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BY: LINDA L. RANDELL, ATTORNEY
BRUCE L. McDERMOTT, ESQUIRE

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DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 . . .Verbatim proceedings of a hearing
2 before the State of Connecticut Siting Council in the
3 matter of an application by Connecticut Light & Power
4 Company and United Illuminating Company, held at
5 Bridgeport City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, Bridgeport,
6 Connecticut, on December 17, 2003, at 7:10 p.m., at which
7 time the parties were represented as hereinbefore set
8 forth . . .

9
10

11 CHAIRPMAN PAMELA B. KATZ: Before we
12 begin, on behalf of the nine members of the Siting
13 Council, I'd like to welcome you. In a moment, I'm going
14 to read our opening statement. I just want to tell you,
15 I was a selectman in my hometown, and I think our
16 selectmen's meeting room was probably a twentieth of the
17 size of this room. So this -- this is a little
18 intimidating for us up here. Are we ready to begin?

19 Ladies and gentlemen, this hearing is
20 called to order this day at 7:00 p.m., December 17, 2003.

21 My name is Pamela B. Katz, Chairman of the
22 Connecticut Siting Council. Other members of the Council
23 are Brian Emerick, designee for Commissioner Rocque of
24 DEP; Gerald J. Heffernan, designee for Commissioner

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 Downes of DPUC; Edward S. Wilensky; James Murphy, Jr.;
2 Vice Chairman Colin C. Tait; Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.; Brian
3 O'Neill; and Philip T. Ashton.

4 Members of the staff here are Derek
5 Phelps, Executive Director, and Fred O. Cunliffe, Siting
6 Analyst on this docket.

7 The court reporter is Tony Vanacore and
8 the audio technician is Ed Chamberlain.

9 This hearing tonight is held pursuant to
10 the provisions of the General Statutes 16-50g through 16-
11 50aa and Sections 16-50j-1 through 16-50j-34 of the
12 Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies on an
13 application of The Connecticut Light and Power Company
14 and the United Illuminating Company for a Certificate of
15 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the
16 construction of a new 345-kV transmission line and
17 associated facilities between the Scovill Rock Switching
18 Station in Middletown and the Norwalk Substation in
19 Norwalk, Connecticut. This includes construction of the
20 Beseck Switching Station in Norwalk, the East Devon
21 Substation in Milford, and the Singer Substation in
22 Bridgeport, and modifications to the Scovill Rock
23 Switching Station and the Norwalk Substation and certain
24 interconnections. This application was received by the

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 Council on October 9, 2003.

2 This proceeding is a contested case under
3 the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA) and will
4 be conducted in accordance with the applicable provisions
5 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and
6 the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

7 As required by law, ex parte or off-the-
8 record communication with a Council member or a Council
9 staff member on the merits of this application is
10 prohibited.

11 The parties and the intervenors to the
12 proceeding are as follows: The Applicants are
13 Connecticut Light & Power, represented by Anthony M.
14 Fitzgerald, Esquire, and Brian T. Henebry, Esquire, of
15 Carmody & Torrance, LLP. The Applicant is also United
16 Illuminating Company, represented by Linda L. Randell,
17 Esquire, and Bruce L. McDermott, Esquire, of Wiggin &
18 Dana, LLP.

19 An intervenor is the Norwalk Association
20 of Silvermine Homeowners, represented by Leigh Grant. A
21 party is Robert L. Megna, State Representative of the 97th
22 District. An intervenor is Al Adinolfi, State
23 Representative of the 103rd District.

24 A party is the Town of Middlefield,

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 represented by Eric Knapp, Esquire, of Branse & Willis,
2 LLC. A party is the Town of Milford, represented by
3 Julie Donaldson Kohler, Esquire, of Hurwitz & Sagarin,
4 LLC. A party is the Town of Wallingford, represented by
5 Peter G. Boucher, Esquire, of Halloran & Sage, LLP. A
6 party is the Town of Durham, represented by Peter G.
7 Boucher, Esquire, of Halloran & Sage, LLP. A party is
8 the City of Norwalk, represented by Louis S. Ciccarello,
9 Corporation Counsel. A party is the Town of Westport,
10 represented by Ira L. Bloom, Esquire.

11 An intervenor is Mary G. Fritz, State
12 Representative of the 90th District. A party is the Town
13 of Woodbridge, represented by Joanne D'Angelo, Esquire,
14 Town Counsel. A party is the City of Meriden,
15 represented by Deborah L. Moore, Esquire, of the City of
16 Meriden. And a party is Attorney General Richard
17 Blumenthal, represented by Michael C. Wertheimer,
18 Assistant Attorney General.

19 An intervenor is Raymond Kalinowski, State
20 Representative of the 100th District. A party is the City
21 of Bridgeport, represented by Melanie J. Howlett,
22 Associate City Attorney. A party is Communities for
23 Responsible Energy, represented by Trish Bradley,
24 President. A party is the Office of Consumer Counsel,

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 represented by Mary J. Healey, Consumer Counsel, and
2 Bruce C. Johnson, Staff Attorney.

3 An intervenor is Themis Klarides, State
4 Representative from the 114th District. A party is The
5 Woodlands Coalition for Responsible Energy, Inc.,
6 represented by Lawrence J. Golden, Esquire, of Pullman &
7 Comley, LLC. An intervenor is ISO New England, Inc.,
8 represented by Anthony M. MacLeod, Esquire, of Whitman,
9 Breed, Abbott & Morgan, LLC.

10 An intervenor is the Department of
11 Transportation, represented by Arthur W. Gruhn, P.E.,
12 Chief Engineer. An intervenor is John E. Stripp, State
13 Representative of the 135th District. An intervenor is
14 the Town of Fairfield, represented by Kenneth A. Flatto,
15 First Selectman. An intervenor is PSEG Power of
16 Connecticut, LLC, represented by Harold W. Borden, Vice
17 President and General Counsel.

18 This hearing held tonight is solely for
19 the public to make brief oral statements into the record.

20 Specifically, this is an opportunity for citizens, who
21 are not formally participating in the process as a party
22 or intervenor, to make their views known to the Council.

23 These public statements are not subject to cross-
24 examination and submission thereof does not entitle the

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 submitter to the right of cross-examination of the
2 parties and intervenors or the Council.

3 In fairness to everyone who wishes to
4 speak, I wish to limit statements to three minutes. And
5 we have a stoplight up here and it will indicate when
6 your time is up. And when it goes to yellow, you have 30
7 seconds left. These statements will become part of the
8 record for Council consideration.

9 In addition, written statements sent to
10 the Council within 30 days after the last hearing session
11 in this proceeding will be given the same weight as
12 spoken statements. The mailing address for the Council
13 is 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut 06051,
14 and it appears on the easel, as does our website address.

15 A verbatim transcript will be made of each
16 hearing session and all transcripts will be deposited
17 with the towns and city clerk offices within the
18 municipalities of Middletown, Middlefield, Haddam,
19 Durham, Meriden, Wallingford, Cheshire, Haddam, Bethany,
20 Woodbridge, Orange, West Haven, Milford, Stratford,
21 Bridgeport, Fairfield, Westport, Norwalk, Easton,
22 Trumbull, Weston, Wilton, North Haven and New Haven.

23 After all the public hearings in the
24 municipalities have concluded, the Council will begin

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 hearings for the purpose of cross-examination of evidence
2 by the Council, its staff, and the parties and
3 intervenors. The date, time and locations of the
4 evidentiary hearings will be noticed to the parties and
5 intervenors and posted on the Council's website, which is
6 www.ct.gov/csc. And if you didn't get that web address,
7 as I said, it's on the easel up front here.

8 At the end of each hearing session of this
9 proceeding, I will announce the date, time, and place of
10 the next session.

11 Prior to this meeting, I made a courtesy
12 call to the Mayor, as I usually do, and he unfortunately
13 had another obligation tonight, but he told me that he
14 was sending a representative to speak. So at this time,
15 I'd like to -- I'd like to recognize the representative
16 for the Mayor of the City of Bridgeport, Mr. Michael P.
17 Nidoh -- if I -- who is the Director of Planning.

18 COURT REPORTER: State your name and spell
19 your name.

20 MR. MICHAEL NIDOH: Michael P. Nidoh, N-i-
21 d-o-h. All set? Okay.

22 Good evening members of the Connecticut
23 Siting Council, representatives of the Town of Fairfield
24 and Trumbull, and other residents of Bridgeport and these

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 communities. On behalf of Mayor John Fabrizi, I welcome
2 you to the City of Bridgeport.

3 My name is Mike Nidoh. I'm the Director
4 of Planning for the City of Bridgeport and have been
5 working with the representatives of the United
6 Illuminating Company on the Bridgeport segment of the
7 proposed Middletown and Norwalk 345-kV transmission line
8 project. The City of Bridgeport has had an ongoing
9 dialogue with the UI Company that has been -- that has
10 involved the city departments of Emergency Services,
11 public facilities, Health, Engineering, Planning, and the
12 Office of the City Attorney. There has been an excellent
13 line of communication between the City and the UI Company
14 as this project has developed, and the City fully expects
15 to continue this dialogue through the final design,
16 permitting, construction and beyond.

17 Southwestern Connecticut has well
18 documented power needs that not only impact the economic
19 well being of Fairfield County, but also it affects the
20 quality of life of our residents. We all have the
21 tendency to expect that there will be power on demand.
22 However on a hot summer day when brownouts occur and
23 power reduction warnings are issued, we will all still
24 stand around and wonder why someone hasn't done something

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 to address this problem. We are here tonight to do just
2 that.

3 The City of Bridgeport supports the United
4 Illuminating Company's proposal to route this 345-kV
5 transmission line underground through the city. Our
6 discussions with the company have already resulted in
7 some route changes that were based on city concerns. We
8 continue to discuss with the company such outstanding
9 issues as how these cables will pass under several
10 railroad, highway, river, and utility crossings, and
11 fully expect to be able to resolve these items amicably
12 over the coming months.

13 Of concern to the City of Bridgeport is
14 the siting of the proposed substation here in the city.
15 The City supports the proposed Singer Substation site on
16 lower Main Street and the city south end neighborhood.
17 We will vigorously oppose any substation sites that are
18 located within the historic residential neighborhood of
19 the south end. The siting of such a facility within the
20 neighborhood would adversely impact the City's
21 established, redevelopment and land use plans of the
22 south end.

23 The City of Bridgeport respectfully
24 requests that the Connecticut Siting Council use its

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 authority to direct the siting of this proposed
2 substation to the United Illuminating Company's
3 recommended Singer site, thereby protecting the integrity
4 of the residential character of the City's south end.
5 Notwithstanding the State's approval of the substation
6 location, it is the position of the City that local
7 zoning approval is also required pursuant to Section 16-
8 235 of the Connecticut General Statutes. My department
9 intends to assist UI with that application and will
10 support them at those public proceedings.

11 Other issues of interests to the City
12 center around the development of a traffic management
13 plan, repaving of streets involved in construction, and
14 coordination of construction operations. The City is
15 already committed to working with the UI Company and its
16 contractors to resolve any conflicts with city ordinances
17 that regulate utility companies excavations in the
18 streets and nighttime construction prohibitions.

19 In summary, the City of Bridgeport is
20 supportive of the United Illuminating Company's plans to
21 locate the 345-kV transmission line again underground
22 within the city. Furthermore, it strongly supports the
23 siting of the proposed substation in the south end
24 neighborhood at the UI's recommended Singer site on lower

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 Main Street.

2 Once again, on behalf of Mayor Fabrizi, I
3 thank you for making the City of Bridgeport your first
4 site for the public hearings on the proposed Middletown
5 to Norwalk transmission line project. If you haven't
6 already enjoyed a ballgame at Harvey Yards Park and a
7 concert at the arena, a show at the Playhouse on the
8 Green or the Downtown Cabaret Theatre, or visited the
9 Barnes Museum or the Discovery Museum, or any of our fine
10 restaurants, please do so at your earliest convenience.
11 You will be glad that you did. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Mr. Nidoh. And
13 do you also work for the Department of Economic
14 Development?

15 MR. NIDOH: Yes, I do. (Laughter).

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: At this time -- in a
17 moment we're going to do public officials and residents,
18 but before we do that, the Applicants for this
19 application are going to make a brief presentation to the
20 public in the form of a video, and we will do that now.

21 MR. JOHN PRETE: Madam Chairman, I'm John
22 Prete, P-r-e-t-e. I'm the Project Director for UI
23 Company. And on behalf of UI and CL&P and at your
24 request, we have prepared a presentation. The

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 presentation summarizes our application, our project. It
2 will highlight the need, it will highlight the solution,
3 and it will go into details and the effect of Bridgeport,
4 Fairfield, and Trumbull. We have elected to do a self-
5 directed presentation so that we maintain a consistency
6 throughout the numerous public hearings that we'll have
7 over the next couple of months and to maintain
8 conciseness. So with that, I'll ask the presentation to
9 begin. And as it ends, it will also conclude our message
10 as you had asked. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

12 (Whereupon, a video presentation prepared
13 by the Applicant was played for the public.)

14

15 VIDEO PRESENTATION

16

17 The following is a brief summary of the
18 Middletown/Norwalk Project Proposal prepared at the
19 request of the Connecticut Siting Council for use during
20 its public hearings.

21 Economic growth in Connecticut has brought
22 with it an increasing demand for electricity. Between
23 1990 and 2001, electric consumption grew by 27 percent
24 statewide, significant growth despite Connecticut being

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 among the best in the country at conserving power.
2 During that same time period, electric consumption grew
3 by 30 percent in the southwest quarter of the State and
4 by 33 percent in the greater Norwalk/Stamford area.
5 Today, Southwest Connecticut accounts for half the power
6 consumption in the State.

7 Electrically, no state is an island.
8 Every state relies on an interstate electric transmission
9 grid to move power to where it is needed. Most of the
10 time, Connecticut uses more power than it generates and
11 needs to import about 2,000 megawatts or nearly one-third
12 of the power consumed in the State. Most of
13 Connecticut's imported power enters and moves around the
14 State on a 345 kilovolt or a 345-kV system. There are
15 nearly 400 miles of 345-kV lines in Connecticut. It is
16 the standard voltage for moving power throughout New
17 England. But the 345-kV system stops at the threshold of
18 Southwest Connecticut, which is served today by an
19 increasingly inadequate 115-kV system. In fact, the 115-
20 kV system in Southwest Connecticut no longer meets
21 regional and national reliability standards.

22 The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
23 has designated Southwest Connecticut as one of the
24 nation's most severe reliability risks. And the

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 Independent System Operator of New England's transmission
2 grid has repeatedly indicated that upgrading the system
3 in Southwest Connecticut is the most urgent need in the
4 region.

5 Regional planning led by ISO New England
6 has determined that to meet reliability standards, the
7 345-kV system should be extended into Southwest
8 Connecticut by strengthening the power source to a point
9 in Wallingford, and connecting that source to substations
10 in Milford, Bridgeport, and Norwalk.

11 To strengthen this source and make these
12 connections, CL&P and UI looked at a variety of overhead
13 and under-street options for each section of the upgrade.
14 After evaluating each option and each combination of
15 options, according to its system and technical merits,
16 its property and environmental impact, and its cost to
17 consumers, the highest ranked solution was a combination
18 of overhead and under-street segments.

19 East of Milford the width of the existing
20 right-of-way ranges from 125 to 320 feet, a sufficient
21 width to allow for an overhead solution, and all but a
22 small area in Middletown and Haddam. However, west of
23 Milford the right-of-way has long stretches that are only
24 80 feet wide. If the existing right-of-way were to be

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 used here, 45 or more feet would need to be added to the
2 width of the right-of-way. This would require the
3 purchase of more than 115 acres of land and the
4 dislocation of an estimated 29 homes.

5 Although under-street solutions can run
6 three to ten times the cost of overhead solutions, in
7 this section of the project the shorter route of an
8 under-street solution and the avoided cost of buying
9 property to widen the existing overhead right-of-way,
10 make an under-street solution comparable in cost to the
11 overhead option.

12 The proposed route through Bridgeport is
13 an all underground route that enters Bridgeport heading
14 west along Barnum, Noble and Washington Avenues, heads
15 south along Housatonic Avenue, continues as it becomes
16 Water Street, shifts to following the railroad where
17 Water Street meets I-95, and follows the railroad until
18 turning onto Fairfield Avenue, which it follows into the
19 Town of Fairfield. A short run along Main Street and
20 Broad Street would be needed to tie the proposed Singer
21 Substation into the system. This is the proposed route
22 through Bridgeport.

23 A change proposed by the City of
24 Bridgeport during the municipal consultation process and

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 supported by the companies would take the route further
2 south along Noble Avenue, then follow the railroad across
3 the Pequonnock River before turning onto Water Street.

4 Alternative A, detailed in the
5 application, would run underground along the railroad
6 from the proposed Singer Substation, go north at Clinton
7 Avenue, then follow Brooklawn Avenue into Fairfield.
8 This route would be part of a design that would
9 transition into an existing overhead right-of-way through
10 Fairfield, Easton, Weston, Wilton and Norwalk.

11 Alternative B, detailed in the
12 application, is a mostly overhead route through every
13 town. In northern Bridgeport, the 80-foot right-of-way
14 would need to be widened to 125 feet. In eastern
15 Bridgeport, the 60-foot right-of-way would need to be
16 widened to 175 feet, and a two-acre transition station
17 would need to be built near Barnum and Seaview Avenues to
18 run the connection underground to the proposed Singer
19 Substation through this densely developed area of
20 Bridgeport. Widening the rights-of-way in Bridgeport
21 would require the dislocation of homes.

22 The proposed route in Fairfield is an all
23 underground route that enters Fairfield on Fairfield
24 Avenue and follows Boston Post Road most of the way

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 through town. The route would leave Boston Post Road
2 briefly, taking Pequot Avenue and Old Post Road before
3 returning to Boston Post Road as it goes into Westport.
4 This is the proposed route through Fairfield.

5 Alternative A, detailed in the
6 application, would have the underground route enter
7 Fairfield on Brooklawn Avenue, then take Stratfield Road,
8 which is Route 59, to the existing transmission right-of-
9 way in the north of town. A two to four-acre transition
10 station would convert the underground into overhead lines
11 that would run along an existing right-of-way through
12 Fairfield, Easton, Weston, Wilton and Norwalk. The 80-
13 foot right-of-way in this area would need to be widened
14 to 125 feet.

15 Alternative B, detailed in the
16 application, involves an entirely overhead route through
17 Fairfield and the towns to the west. As with the other
18 overhead alternative, it would require widening the
19 existing 80-foot right-of-way to 125 feet. Alternative B
20 would require the dislocation of homes in Fairfield.

21 In Trumbull, neither the proposed
22 underground route nor Alternative A would affect the
23 town. However, Alternative B would involve widening the
24 existing 100-foot right-of-way from Stratford to 115

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 feet, and widening the existing 80-foot right-of-way into
2 Fairfield to 125 feet. No widening would be needed for
3 the right-of-way into Bridgeport. This alternative would
4 require the dislocation of homes in Trumbull.

5 As the blackout on August 14th showed us, a
6 weakness anywhere on the grid can affect an area much
7 larger than where the weakness is. Because the
8 Middletown/Norwalk Project will provide significant
9 reliability and economic benefits to customers anywhere
10 on the New England regional grid, the companies
11 anticipate that the \$604 million dollar cost of the
12 proposed solution will be shared by customers throughout
13 New England. And according to a December 2002 ruling by
14 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, completion of
15 the project by 2007 at reasonable costs will greatly
16 assist in obtaining this regionalized rate treatment.

17 END PRESENTATION

18
19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. At this time,
20 we will first recognize public officials and then members
21 of the public. When I call your name, please come up to
22 the podium. And we ask that you observe our three-minute
23 traffic light. Can I have the list of public officials
24 who signed up. (Pause). The first name on the list is

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 State Senator John McKinney. Senator McKinney.

2 COURT REPORTER: Spell your name.

3 SENATOR JOHN MCKINNEY: J-o-h-n, M-c-K-i-
4 n-n-e-y.

5 Thank you, Chairman Katz and members of
6 the Siting Council. For the record, my name is John
7 McKinney, State Senator. I represent the Towns
8 Fairfield, Easton, Weston, and Newtown. I want to first
9 thank you for all of your hard work with respect to Phase
10 1, and looking at your lengthy public hearing schedule
11 for all of the hard work you have ahead of you on Phase
12 2.

13 I stood before you in the Town of Weston
14 in strong opposition to Phase 1 because I believed then
15 and still believe now that our future energy needs are
16 better served by more energy conservation, better energy
17 efficiency, and not in 130-foot tall steel poles.

18 While the State of Connecticut is still
19 not doing enough with respect to energy conservation, the
20 345-kV line is here. And now the question is how do we
21 get it done on Phase 2. The primary route, which would
22 go under-street through the Town of Fairfield is the
23 better route and the route that I am here to speak in
24 favor of. Clearly our -- the character of our

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 communities, our environment are, I believe, hurt through
2 130-foot tall towers. And I want to compliment the
3 Applicants for realizing that there is more that can be
4 done with respect to under-grounding or under-streeting.

5 I also want to thank you for all of your work that
6 you've done on that too.

7 As you may recall, Phase 1 was initially
8 put out without any of the lines going underground.
9 Thanks to a little intervention on the part of the
10 Legislature, a lot of hard work on your part and the
11 parts of the five towns, we realized that a lot of the
12 route could be put underground. I would just ask that
13 you consider as you look at Devon Station and points
14 north, whether there is more room for the proposal to go
15 underground or under-street. I could stand here before
16 you and say that the 130-foot poles aren't going to be in
17 my backyard and that's great and leave it at that, but I
18 think more can be done underground and under-street. And
19 I would ask that as you go forward with this application,
20 you question the Applicants to see why more can't be done
21 north of Devon Station.

22 The last thing I would urge is that we
23 move forward with this proposal in as timely a manner as
24 possible. I have a great fear that something down in

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 Washington might happen which will give the FERC power
2 and control over everything that happens in Connecticut
3 and take it away from you and take it away from the
4 citizens of this State, and I think that would be a
5 terrible tragedy.

6 So, I again want to thank you for all of
7 your hard work, and speak in favor of the primary route,
8 which is underground and under-street, as I think that is
9 the better alternative to meet our energy needs, and
10 appreciate all your time. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Senator. Next,
12 speaking for Congressman Shays is Paul Pimentel.

13 COURT REPORTER: State your name and spell
14 your last name please.

15 MR. PAUL PIMENTEL: Paul Pimentel, P-i-m-
16 e-n-t-e-l. I'm District Director for Congressman
17 Christopher Shays and he's asked me to read the following
18 statement on his behalf.

19 "Madam Chairman and Members of the Siting
20 Council, thank you for taking the time to come to
21 Bridgeport to hear from the public on this important
22 issue.

23 We can all agree that some amount of
24 additional power will be necessary in our region in the

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 next 20 years, but I believe there are still many
2 unanswered questions about the exact size of the need.
3 As a state and a nation, we are not doing enough to be
4 energy efficient and to slow the growth of demand for
5 power. Clearly much more can be done to encourage
6 conservation and demand management, including
7 implementation of real time and peak pricing programs so
8 business and residential users can make an informed
9 economic decision about the cost of using power at times
10 of peak demands.

11 With that said, it would seem the Council
12 has already made its decision about the need for 345-kV,
13 and so my comments will focus on the question of how that
14 additional transmission capacity will be provided. The
15 bottom line is it is simply unacceptable to have 117-foot
16 tall towers running through residential neighborhoods.
17 The potential environmental and quality of life impacts
18 of such a plan are enormous and deserve the utmost
19 consideration in your deliberations.

20 I am very grateful that the draft plan put
21 forward by the utility recognizes these facts and calls
22 for much greater use of underground transmission in
23 Fairfield County than previous proposals. Nonetheless,
24 I'm hopeful even more of the line can be buried. We

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 cannot and frankly need not allow meeting our community's
2 future power needs to come at the expense of our
3 environment or by destroying the character of our towns.

4 I urge the Siting Council to support under-grounding of
5 the 345-kV lines to the maximum extent possible. Thank
6 you."

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Sir. Next is
8 State Senator Bill Finch.

9 COURT REPORTER: State your name and spell
10 it please.

11 SENATOR BILL FINCH: It's Bill Finch, B-i-
12 l-l, F-i-n-c-h.

13 First off, I sincerely want to thank you
14 for coming to Bridgeport. I do an electronic newsletter
15 to about twelve hundred people who have asked to be kept
16 in touch with state government and I put that in there
17 this week and a lot of people reacted very positively
18 that you were coming here to Bridgeport to hear people's
19 concerns. And I really want to tell you how much we
20 appreciate you being here. It's isn't just a great place
21 to go out to dinner and to the ballpark, it's full of
22 great people with a lot of good ideas.

23 Although I'm not a formal intervenor, I
24 guess the people here -- there's a few of us that weren't

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 as legislators -- I want to say that during the process
2 of the give and take during the legislature, we did make
3 our feelings known to the utility company. There are a
4 lot of issues that they come before us for. And I want
5 to say how proud I am of both the Woodlands Coalition,
6 the Siting Council, and the utility companies for coming
7 up with a proposal that so many people can feel good
8 about. I work in the field of economic development and
9 it always seems like if it stinks, or if it smells, or if
10 it doesn't pay taxes, we end up with it. And this isn't
11 one of those things. This is a good thing for us. It's
12 going to make sure the lights are on and it's not going
13 to take up land that we could use in our very tiny little
14 city for economic development.

15 I don't think that when I saw you folks on
16 the CTN network a couple of years ago, I ever thought I
17 would be standing here saying thank you, this is a great
18 job. Not that I didn't have confidence in you or the
19 process, but it was so contentious. And I don't need to
20 tell you that.

21 This is a wonderful thing. Certainly it
22 could be improved, but as we in the Legislature know,
23 there are many times when no matter what you do, no
24 matter how much you compromise, there may still be things

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 that are left off the table that you aren't able to do
2 despite the fact that you want to. There may be ways we
3 can make this plan better, but in terms of my end of the
4 State, the 22nd Senatorial and the entire 4th congressional
5 district downward, we're very happy that this part of the
6 plan is underground, allowing us great economic
7 development opportunities because it's not taking land
8 and it's providing the electricity we so desperately
9 need.

10 So, I -- I want to thank you. And I want
11 to thank the members again of the Woodland Coalition and
12 the utility companies for compromising and putting
13 together a plan that we can be proud of. And as I said,
14 I'm sure there are things we can do about it differently.
15 Senator McKinney eluded to maybe a few other places that
16 it could be put underground, but I don't want to lose
17 sight of the fact that where we started was that none
18 could be put underground because of technology problems,
19 and we're today at a time when a great part of this line
20 is being put underground.

21 I want to thank you. I want to make sure
22 that you understand that we want it underground and we
23 don't want any changes to the current proposal that has
24 it underground through Bridgeport. Thank you very much.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Senator. Next
2 is State Senator Ernest Newton.

3 SENATOR ERNEST NEWTON: For the record, my
4 name is Ernie Newton, State Senator for Bridgeport and
5 Stratford. I also would like to welcome you to a great
6 city and say this is the best place to have your first
7 hearing.

8 And I must admit that the first proposal
9 that came out with the towers and the overhead, I was
10 totally against it, especially coming through urban areas
11 where people have to go out their homes and look at these
12 towers. I was totally against it, and thank the General
13 Assembly for at least having a discussion on what it is
14 we should fight for to make sure that we put them
15 underground.

16 And so I want to commend you Madam
17 Chairman and this committee for listening to people who
18 really didn't want to walk out of their homes and look at
19 these tall power lines stretching across the State of
20 Connecticut. And I'm sure we will have some more debates
21 when the session opens on our problem with Long Island
22 Sound. I'm sure we will discuss that issue, but I want
23 to say that I want to commend you all for listening. You
24 know, a lot of people say that committees don't listen to

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 the people who they represent. And you all have listened
2 to the consumers and the people who live in the State of
3 Connecticut.

4 Now, I'm just hoping that -- we have a
5 saying in Hartford, that this is a work in progress, and
6 so we can always fine tune and improve it as we move
7 further down the line here in the State of Connecticut.
8 So if there is any way possible that you all can put all
9 of it underground, I think we ought to look at that. And
10 I know UI, who's a great friend to the City of
11 Bridgeport, might not agree with that, but I think it's
12 something to look at. And we've come a long ways from
13 your first proposal -- or their first proposal with the
14 towers on top of and going through the city that they
15 have agreed to put it underground. So, I want to commend
16 you all, thank UI, and those individuals who listened to
17 the General Assembly and listened to the consumer that
18 there was a way we could put them underground and be
19 cost-efficient. And so they did that. But I'm just
20 hoping that this is a work in progress for the other part
21 of the state that might have to look at the towers that
22 overlook them.

23 So thank you all for coming to Bridgeport.

24 And we do have some fine restaurants because I know

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 you're going to be hungry, some very fine restaurants.
2 And I'm sure the Mayor would love you all to spend your
3 money here in the city of Bridgeport. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Senator. And
5 we did have an excellent dinner over on Wall Street. The
6 next person is the First Selectman of Fairfield, Kenneth
7 Flatto. Mr. Flatto.

8 COURT REPORTER: State your name and spell
9 it please.

10 MR. KENNETH FLATTO: Ken Flatto, K-e-n, F-
11 l-a-t-t-o, First Selectman of Fairfield. And it's a
12 pleasure as well to be here tonight. It's a little damp
13 out tonight, but thank you so much for coming out, thank
14 you for affording us this opportunity.

15 And particular thanks to UI and NU for a
16 couple of things. This process has been very different.
17 And really they deserve kudos to coming to our
18 communities -- coming to all the communities to listening
19 -- to trying to listen and to trying to assess what they
20 can do. We understand there is some issues. We're
21 hoping they can do as much as they can. We're hoping you
22 can do as much as you can to address and respond to the
23 concerns of all the communities all the way along the
24 route, in particular Segment 4 in the Town of Fairfield.

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 One of the interesting things about your
2 process is it's engendered a huge amount of regional
3 cooperation. We have absolute unanimity in our segment.

4 In the Towns of Fairfield, Westport, Trumbull, Easton,
5 Bridgeport, total consensus as to the primary route being
6 the only route that we believe is acceptable and
7 environmentally conscious, the only route that will
8 provide the mechanism that you need to have a smooth
9 process and to enable this project to go forward.

10 We would have had obviously a larger
11 turnout tonight. We had a turnout in our town in one of
12 the preliminary hearings of about 50 people. And across
13 the board, whether it was civic groups, our chamber of
14 commerce, everybody understands that the primary route
15 that is being recommended, which does go through
16 commercial districts of our town, is the appropriate
17 route to be underground through those districts. No. 1,
18 it is a hugely more quick route to be able to accomplish.

19 No. 2, the districts and the area to go through in terms
20 of the hours of work certainly will be of more benefit
21 and of less effect upon the community at large by going
22 through those routes.

23 The alternatives in reality aren't
24 alternatives. They are potentially an environmental

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 disaster. If you look at either Alternative A or
2 Alternative B in our town as an example, you would be
3 potentially going through expanded rights-of-way that are
4 not only going to affect and impact historic parts of our
5 town, some of the most scenic parts of our town, but also
6 some of the key pieces of property in our town. The
7 largest taxpayer in our community is General Electric.
8 The GE property is right on the border of one of those
9 right-of-ways. I don't know what their response would be
10 if they were to see that go forward, but I can tell you
11 it will not be a simply response. The neighborhoods that
12 would potentially be affected by either of those
13 alternatives and the historic properties that are along
14 those neighborhoods, including a new elementary school
15 along Burr Street that is almost right alongside, would
16 be unbelievably adversely impacted.

17 So we are very very hopeful that you are
18 going to stick with the primary route under consideration
19 for Segment 4. We are, obviously, supportive of all the
20 efforts of our fellow communities to urge you to do as
21 much as you can to make the entire route as community
22 friendly as you can. But we thank you very much and we
23 hope you will support in our segment the primary route
24 and appreciate your consideration. And our testimony

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 will be forwarded to you as well. Thank you so much.

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Mr. First
3 Selectman, we appreciate your comments. I understand
4 there might have been a public official or two who did
5 not get a chance to sign up on the list and I just want
6 to give them an opportunity. Is there any public
7 official in the room? Sir, if you can come down and
8 identify yourself.

9 MR. RAYMOND BALDWIN: My name is Raymond
10 Baldwin, Jr., I'm the First Selectman of the Town of
11 Trumbull.

12 Again, I'd like to echo the sentiments of
13 the previous speakers in thanking you, Chairman Katz, for
14 being here in Bridgeport this evening.

15 My remarks may seem a bit self-serving
16 because the Town of Trumbull is an Alternative B route,
17 but I'd like to echo the sentiments of Senator Finch when
18 he said economic development is a key benefactor of this
19 proposal. We in the Town of Trumbull have experienced
20 significant growth in the last year or two. We
21 anticipate nearly a million square feet of new corporate
22 and industrial development in the Town of Trumbull. And
23 I think the project that has been proposed, the
24 alternative that has been proposed is an appropriate one.

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 I too would like to commend the United
2 Illuminating Company for being so direct and forthright
3 with our community in telling us the options. And I'd
4 also like to commend the Woodland Coalition for
5 expressing their concerns. Again in echoing the previous
6 speakers, I'd like to see as much be done to put as many
7 of these lines underground as possible so that it does
8 not disrupt the communities that are affected directly.
9 Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Mr. First
11 Selectman. Is there any other town or public official
12 who wishes to speak? At this time, I will take the list
13 for members of the public. (Pause). Would you please
14 come down to the microphone and please give your name,
15 address, and spell your name for the court reporter. As
16 was mentioned earlier, we are developing a transcript of
17 this hearing, which will be here in the Bridgeport City
18 Hall. And if I massacre the pronunciation of your name,
19 feel free to correct me when you get to the microphone.

20 The first name I have on the list is Ellen
21 McCarthy Payden.

22 COURT REPORTER: Spell your name please.

23 MS. ELLEN McCARTHY PAYDEN: Good evening.
24 Ellen McCarthy Payden, P-a-y-d-e-n. And I live in

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 Weston, Connecticut.

2 COURT REPORTER: McCarthy is?

3 MS. PAYDEN: M-c-C-a-r-t-h-y. And since I
4 was going to miss your visit to our town, I wanted to
5 come here tonight.

6 So Chairwoman Katz and members of the
7 Siting Council, thank you for providing this opportunity
8 to express our concerns about Northeast Utilities and the
9 UI Company's Phase 2 transmission project from Middletown
10 to Norwalk.

11 My husband and I moved to Weston
12 approximately 25 years ago to enjoy and appreciate the
13 ambiance of nature. Our home is adjacent to the existing
14 power line right-of-way. Phase 2 will destroy the
15 environment of our home by the impact of encroaching 50
16 feet of our property by eminent domain, which will
17 eliminate approximately a hundred trees which provide
18 wildlife protection and habitats, as well as natural
19 barriers for our property, obliterate tree root structure
20 so necessary to balance the water absorption and runoff,
21 which when removed will cause flooding to our basement
22 and garage, as well as impose potential negative impacts
23 on our well water. There is no city water available in
24 all of Weston. It will also destroy the leaching fields

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 of our septic system. The fumes and runoff of the
2 defoliation chemicals used to maintain the existing
3 right-of-way will invade not only our home but also
4 infiltrate the adjoining documented wetlands.

5 Located in Weston's historical district,
6 the visibility of 100-foot monopoles will severely impact
7 the scenic landscape of this beautiful New England
8 neighborhood.

9 Also, what are the determined health
10 implications of magnetic fields and corona related
11 effects by 345-kV power lines or of the decibel
12 contributions of this increased voltage.

13 If Connecticut truly needs to strengthen
14 the supply of energy, it should do so without placing
15 unfair and undue burdens on individual residents,
16 neighborhoods or towns. Burying the power lines
17 underground will minimize the impact on the environment.

18 It is the 21st Century and technology is available to
19 implement modern solutions. It is deplorable to consider
20 using overhead 1950's technology solely to enhance the
21 bottom line of greedy utility companies.

22 The preservation of our environment is in
23 your hands. Please do not miss this opportunity. We and
24 future generations trust that you will assist us in

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 maintaining the beauty and safety of our state. Thank
2 you for your time and consideration.

3 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. Next on the
4 list is Claire Baker. What I think I'll also do in case
5 that person wants to move down toward the front, is I'll
6 say who's up next and then I'll also say who's on deck so
7 they can move down. Following Miss Baker is Rabbi Israel
8 C. Stein.

9 COURT REPORTER: State your name and spell
10 it please.

11 MS. CLAIRE BAKER: My name is Claire
12 Baker, C-l-a-i-r-e. Baker, B-a-k-e-r. And I live in
13 Fairfield. Do you need the address? Okay.

14 Thank you very much for coming and
15 listening to us. I can't tell you what a wonderful
16 feeling it is to know that a private citizen has a chance
17 to speak at a hearing like this.

18 I also as a resident of Fairfield support
19 the underground route 100 percent. I think it's an
20 excellent idea and excellent solution. The plans for
21 construction in themselves are very sensible and very
22 sensitive. I understand the work will be done at night,
23 that Route 1 will not be a -- will not be completely
24 blocked, there will always be a lane open, and that

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 during the daytime the road will be covered with metal
2 plates so that traffic won't be disrupted and businesses
3 will not be affected. And I think that's an excellent
4 idea.

5 The alternate route, which is why I'm
6 really here speaking, would go along the existing way,
7 which is along my property. The tower is right on my
8 property line. The expansion of the right-of-way would
9 cause my lot to be nonconforming. I would lose control
10 over much more of my property. And over the years, we
11 have been very very proud of maintaining the habitat and
12 the wildlife that we have on our properties. I am
13 terrified to think of what the construction of these
14 towers would do.

15 I understand there's a good possibility
16 there would be blasting. The only route to the tower on
17 my property would probably be my driveway. And I
18 understand there would be many truckloads of cement and
19 all kinds of construction equipment that would be coming
20 up and down my driveway, which is a stone driveway, as
21 are many of the driveways in our part of the country, and
22 I just don't see how it could tolerate that.

23 I have a stream on my property. I'm
24 concerned about the blasting. The line goes into

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 wetlands as it leaves my property. My neighbors have
2 horses. I can't imagine how those horses could exist
3 during this construction on the property. And then the
4 line would go up into a 183 acres of Brett Woods open
5 space. There are nesting sites of all kinds of wildlife
6 there. As you can see, I'm not being very technical
7 about this. I'm a private citizen, but I am voicing my
8 concerns.

9 My last concern is about the herbicides
10 that would be used to maintain the low vegetation. And
11 I'm also very concerned about that. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Miss Baker.
13 Next is Rabbi Israel C. Stein. On deck is Dave
14 Huntington.

15 RABBI ISRAEL C. STEIN: Israel, I-s-r-a-e-
16 l. Stein, S-t-e-i-n.

17 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, your first
18 name?

19 RABBI STEIN: Israel, I-s-r-a-e-l. Madam
20 Chairwoman, I thank you very much for coming to our
21 beautiful city and it is an honor to make this
22 presentation to you.

23 I've been involved in environmental
24 concerns for a long long time and I'm proud to be here to

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 tell you that it's beginning to sound a lot like a chorus
2 with these complimentary remarks that you've heard and
3 continue to hear, that indeed for the least environmental
4 harm that the building of the lines under streets and
5 underground is indeed the preferred program to follow.
6 And it's not only a matter of those who are concerned
7 with the environment, but indeed those standards were
8 contained in a report that was written by the
9 representatives of the working group that was appointed
10 by Governor Rowland to study transmission lines during
11 last year's moratorium, and consisted of
12 environmentalists, state agency representatives, and
13 Northeast Utility representatives. So it wasn't only
14 those of us who love to hug trees, but for those indeed
15 who represent outside interests as well. Their
16 presentation and their suggestions represented a
17 consensus point of view as well. And that indeed they
18 not only abide by the environmental standards its own
19 people agreed upon, and they should be commended, but
20 also for those of us in the community who are concerned
21 with the quality of life as well.

22 I do want to address just quickly the
23 subject of the overhead transmission lines that can and
24 do impact on human life and natural surroundings. And

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 for that, I would suggest that you go to the Commerce
2 Park area in Bridgeport and there you will notice that
3 the towers march through crowded commercial areas with no
4 buffer at all and over a small wooded corridor separating
5 the office part from a residential area to the southwest.
6 And when you look at those lines that are so low and
7 swoop just above the buildings and the trees and realize
8 how injurious they are and how unpleasant they are and
9 how they run perpendicular to the major north/south road
10 servicing the city and cutting across the public rights-
11 of-way not following them and looking at that part of the
12 City of Bridgeport where those transmission structures
13 dominate the areas and dominate the streets and the
14 scenes, you can imagine the disruption that would be
15 caused if new and bigger towers were added, and then you
16 can appreciate the wisdom of placing the line completely
17 underground along the route following a major public
18 road. These are not only the standards that I as an
19 environmentalist am concerned with, but also for the
20 quality of life of people living in the area. And you've
21 heard so many interesting comments about that already and
22 also endorsed by the Comprehensive Assessment and Report
23 Energy Resources Infrastructure of the SWCT group. And I
24 thank you very much.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Rabbi. Next is
2 Dave Huntington. On deck is Robert Halstead.

3 MR. DAVID HUNTINGTON: My name is David
4 Huntington, H-u-n-t-i-n-g-t-o-n, Fairfield, Connecticut.

5 I am highly in favor of this new 345-kV
6 line. I think we certainly need the extra power or we're
7 going to be in trouble down the line.

8 My comments are more to the location of
9 the line. I believe that it would be possible to install
10 this line along the Merritt Parkway, probably on the
11 southerly side where the State of Connecticut presently
12 has a 300-foot right-of-way, the parkway being built on
13 the northerly 150 feet. I realize that the parkway is a
14 national historic monument. I can't believe that a small
15 right-of-way along the southerly portion could not be
16 built. I believe that some day the parkway will have to
17 be modified and that we will run into that historic
18 district problem at that time also.

19 I'm sure that there will be some
20 environmental problems in installing it in this location,
21 but I think the economic benefits and the lessening of
22 the cost of construction compared with going down the
23 Post Road and through all of the city streets with the
24 interference that's going to be had with sewer lines,

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 electric lines, telephone lines and all kinds of
2 utilities under the road. Many portions of that street
3 are concrete under the old pavement, which is an
4 additional cost of construction.

5 Also where the line parallels the
6 railroad, we already have a pretty high voltage line
7 along the railroad. And this line is very close to it,
8 whether we're going to get into a problem with the
9 correolous effect -- or whatever it is -- the corona
10 effect. With two lines so close together, that might be
11 a problem. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Mr. Huntington.
13 Next is Robert Halstead. On deck is Wayne Parks.

14 COURT REPORTER: State your name and spell
15 it for me please.

16 MR. ROBERT HALSTEAD: Robert Halstead, R-
17 o-b-e-r-t, H-a-l-s-t-e-a-d.

18 I have a suggestion. The gentleman before
19 me came up with a pretty good idea actually I never heard
20 before. I didn't know that the overhead lights -- or
21 lines in the north end were not the preferred way before
22 I came here tonight. But I thought that if anything were
23 to be done on that site on the north end, considering the
24 fact that the neighbors there have put up with that

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 abomination site for so many years, that perhaps to
2 better neighbors, the utility company could do more than
3 just pull them out, or if you put lines in, just put the
4 lines in. There's a perfect opportunity up in that area
5 between Commerce Park, Roger's Park and Veteran's Park to
6 put a bikeway. Most of the land is owned by the City.
7 If you were to put some kind of lines in there or pull
8 them out, if you would be a better neighbor and use --
9 spend a little bit more money for public relations to put
10 a bike path there. People have no way to walk or to jog
11 or to ride bikes in that area.

12 Any -- the gentleman before me came up
13 with an idea of the parkway. If that ever came about,
14 that could also be a bike path. That would also solve
15 the transportation problem and it would greatly improve
16 the quality of life of the area. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Mr. Halstead.
18 Next is Wayne Parks. On deck is Louie Johnson. Mr.
19 Johnson is the last name that I have on the list. If
20 there's any other member of the public who wishes to
21 speak, please come down and sign up.

22 COURT REPORTER: State your name and spell
23 it for me please.

24 MR. WAYNE PARKS: Wayne Parks, W-a-y-n-e,

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 P-a-r-k-s, Fairfield. I plan to get done before the
2 light starts blinking.

3 I want to start with I agree with the
4 previous local reps and citizens supporting the path, the
5 path down the Post Road that is. The effect on property
6 values are obvious. I don't think I need to address
7 that.

8 I'll just address the environmental issue.
9 And that is the environmental issue -- it isn't just what
10 we feel, it's what we see. And what we see is a manmade
11 steel structure rising 25 percent higher than, you know,
12 the leafy towers that God has made before us. So it's
13 the detrimental impact to the eye that concerns me as
14 much as the ground impacts, you know, of all the things
15 that the previous speakers have mentioned. This impact
16 is much -- goes much farther. It's much broader than
17 tearing up the ground and disrupting wildlife, because
18 not just the people who are underneath the right-of-way
19 will be affected, it's all of you and everybody else who
20 lives for quite a distance away who will now see these
21 towers rising above if we went with the north plan.

22 I just want to say I thank you for your
23 consideration and I hope we can move it along as quickly
24 as possible and go down the Post Road. Thank you.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Mr. Parks.

2 Next on the list is Louie Johnson.

3 COURT REPORTER: State your name and --

4 MR. LOUIS JOHNSON: I want to thank --

5 excuse me -- I wanted to thank everybody --

6 COURT REPORTER: Spell your name please.

7 MR. JOHNSON: L-o-u-i-s. Johnson, J-o-h-
8 n-s-o-n.

9 I live on a right-of-way in Fairfield and
10 I also share property for the substation. And there's
11 not a day that goes by that I look at my four children,
12 who range from the ages of -- twins at the age of one and
13 a four-year-old, that I made the right decision by moving
14 so close to a substation. And I think about that every
15 day.

16 And I do support the underground lines
17 running through Fairfield on the Post Road. Any more, I
18 would be forced to move or look at my situation. And
19 we've grown to love where we live, we love our home, we
20 love the community, and we want to stay there.

21 So on behalf of my family and my
22 neighbors, Plan B or C for the alternative route would
23 not be acceptable and we feel that it would damage us
24 economically as well as environmentally. Thank you.

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
DECEMBER 17, 2003 (7:10 PM)

1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.
2 If I could have the last list. (Pause). Mr. Edward
3 Carter. And again, if there is anyone who wishes to speak
4 after Mr. Carter, we need you to sign up on the list now.
5 This is the last call.

6 MR. EDWARD CARTER: Edward Carter,
7 Fairfield, Connecticut. Edward, E-d-w-a-r-d, C-a-r-t-e-
8 r.

9 Certainly we've heard an excellent
10 articulation of the case for the underground lines
11 related to the environmental and the community impact
12 side of the coin. And I think that that's clearly
13 prominent in all of our concerns. But I've been
14 surprised that I haven't heard one other point made and I
15 will take 30 seconds to mention it. You spoke to the
16 need for these power lines because of reliability. May I
17 remind you that the only time we've really had a
18 disastrous power failure situation in recent years, the
19 origin of the problem appeared to be related to the
20 vulnerability of overhead lines. So as you weigh your
21 concerns about the difficulties of constructing
22 underground or anything else that may be of concern
23 there, let me remind you if your real objective is to
24 give Connecticut more reliability, you certainly will

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1 want to stick with underground lines.

2 And that applies all the way upstate, not
3 just here. We all, I think, are sighing a bit with
4 relief that you are talking about underground here, but I
5 can't help but be concerned for our neighbors further
6 north. And I think we all share an equal concern for the
7 reliability that would be achieved if everything could be
8 put underground.

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, sir. That's
10 all the names I have signed up to speak. So that will
11 close our public comment.

12 On behalf of the Siting Council, we'd like
13 to thank all the members of the public and the public
14 officials who came here tonight to speak and give us your
15 views, they're very valuable. We call this our listening
16 tour and we have six more stops. We resume after the
17 holidays. They are evening public hearings. And the
18 next public hearing, public comment is January 5th at 7:00
19 p.m. at Bedford Middle School on North Avenue in
20 Westport. This hearing is primarily for the Towns of
21 Westport and Norwalk, but of course anyone can attend.

22 I would like to thank you all for your
23 participation and please drive safely.

24

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1 (Whereupon, the hearing adjourned at 8:15
2 p.m.)

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INDEX OF SPEAKERS

	PAGE
Baker, Claire	37
Baldwin, Raymond (First Selectman Trumbull)	33
Carter, Edward	47
Finch, Bill (State Senator)	25
Flatto, Kenneth (First Selectman Fairfield)	30
Halstead, Robert	43
Huntington, David	42
Johnson, Louis	46
McKinney, John (State Senator)	21
Newton, Ernest (State Senator)	28
Nidoh, Michael	9
Parks, Wayne	44
Payden, Ellen McCarthy	34
Pimentel, Paul (for Congressman Shays)	23
Stein, Israel (Rabbi)	39

CERTIFICATE

I, Paul Landman, a Notary Public in and for the State of Connecticut, and President of Post Reporting Service, Inc., do hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing record is a correct and verbatim transcription of the audio recording made of the proceeding hereinbefore set forth.

I further certify that neither the audio operator nor I are attorney or counsel for, nor directly related to or employed by any of the parties to the action and/or proceeding in which this action is taken; and further, that neither the audio operator nor I are a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties, thereto, or financially interested in any way in the outcome of this action or proceeding.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and do so attest to the above, this 22nd day of December, 2003.



Paul Landman,
President

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