

ORIGINAL

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

SITING COUNCIL

* * * * *

CONNECTICUT LIGHT & POWER COMPANY * JANUARY 5, 2004
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 *

* * * * *

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:

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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 the
5 Bedford Middle School, 88 North Avenue, Westport,
6 Connecticut, on January 5, 2004 at 7:10 p.m., at which
7 time the parties were represented as hereinbefore set
8 forth . . .

9
10
11 CHAIRMAN PAMELA B. KATZ: Good evening.
12 In a moment I'm going to read a very nice formal opening
13 statement, but first I'd just like to make a brief
14 welcome. My name is Pam Katz. I'm Chairman of the
15 Connecticut Siting Council. And there are nine of us
16 here tonight to listen to you.

17 The mission of the Connecticut Siting
18 Council is to protect the environment while allowing for
19 necessary public utilities. So we've been charged by
20 statute to look at applications such as for this electric
21 transmission line.

22 This is the second stop in our seven-stop
23 listening tour. Basically, we are going to the various
24 towns on route for the proposed line with the expressed

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1 purpose to listen to you, the residents, on your
2 viewpoints. We're coming to you to hear what you have to
3 say about this application.

4 In the spring, we're going to have
5 evidentiary hearings at our headquarters in New Britain
6 where we're going to get into some of the details of the
7 proposed route and some of the alternative routes.

8 The Siting Council is doing something a
9 little different on this application. We're hiring our
10 own expert on under-grounding. We've had a lot of
11 questions about this. We are not experts on this
12 subject, so we are going to go out and hire our own
13 expert on the subject of under-grounding. And that
14 person will be available for our evidentiary hearings,
15 but -- (applause) -- so at this point, I'm going to read
16 the opening statement.

17 Ladies and gentlemen, this hearing is
18 called to order at 7:00 p.m., January 5, 2004. My name
19 is Pamela B. Katz, Chairman of the Connecticut Siting
20 Council.

21 Other members of the Council are Vice
22 Chairman Colin C. Tait; Brian Emerick, designee for
23 Commissioner Rocque of DEP; Gerald J. Heffernan, designee
24 for Commissioner Downes of DPUC; Edward S. Wilensky;

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1 James Murphy, Jr.; Philip T. Ashton; Daniel P. Lynch,
2 Jr.; and Brian O'Neill.

3 Members of the staff are Derek Phelps,
4 Executive Director, and Fred Cunliffe, Siting Analyst.

5 The court reporter is Tony Vanacore and
6 the audio technician is Ed Chamberlain.

7 This hearing is held pursuant to the
8 provisions of the General Statutes 16-50g through 16-50aa
9 and Sections 16-50j-1 through 16-50j-34 of the
10 Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies on an
11 application of Connecticut Light and Power and the United
12 Illuminating Company for a Certificate of Environmental
13 Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a
14 new 345-kV electric transmission line and associated
15 facilities between the Scovill Rock Switching Station in
16 Middletown and the Norwalk Substation in Norwalk,
17 Connecticut. This includes the construction of the
18 Beseck Switching Station in Wallingford, the East Devon
19 Substation in Milford, and the Singer Substation in
20 Bridgeport, and modifications to the Scovill Rock
21 Switching Station and the Norwalk Substation and certain
22 interconnections. This application was received by the
23 Council on October 9, 2003.

24 This proceeding is a contested case under

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1 the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA) and will
2 be conducted in accordance with the applicable provisions
3 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and
4 the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

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

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

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

21 A party is the Town of Middlefield,
22 represented by Eric Knapp, Esquire, of Branse & Willis,
23 LLC. A party is the Town of Milford, represented by
24 Julie Donaldson Kohler, Esquire, of Hurwitz & Sagarin,

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1 LLC. A party is the Town of Wallingford, represented by
2 Peter G. Boucher, Esquire, of Halloran & Sage, LLP. A
3 party is the Town of Durham, represented by Peter G.
4 Boucher, Esquire, of Halloran & Sage, LLP. A party is
5 the City of Norwalk, represented by Louis L. Ciccarello,
6 Corporation Counsel. A party is the Town of Westport,
7 represented by Ira W. Bloom, Esquire.

8 An intervenor is Mary G. Fritz, State
9 Representative of the 90th District. A party is the Town
10 of Woodbridge, represented by David A. Ball of Cohen &
11 Wolf, PC. A party is the City of Meriden, represented by
12 Deborah L. Moore, Esquire, of the City of Meriden. And a
13 party is Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, represented
14 by Michael C. Wertheimer, Assistant Attorney General.

15 An intervenor is Raymond Kalinowski, State
16 Representative of the 100th District. A party is the City
17 of Bridgeport, represented by Melanie J. Howlett,
18 Associate City Attorney. A party is the Communities for
19 Responsible Energy, represented by Trish Bradley,
20 President. A party is the Office of Consumer Counsel,
21 represented by Bruce C. Johnson, Staff Attorney.

22 An intervenor is Themis L. Klarides, State
23 Representative of the 114th District. A party is The
24 Woodlands Coalition for Responsible Energy, Inc.,

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1 represented by Lawrence J. Golden, Esquire, of Pullman &
2 Comley, LLC. An intervenor is ISO New England, Inc.,
3 represented by Anthony M. MacLeod, Esquire, of Whitman,
4 Breed, Abbott & Morgan, LLC.

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

13 A party is the Town of Witton -- Wilton --
14 represented by Monte E. Frank, Esquire, of Cohen & Wolf,
15 PC. A party is the Town of Weston, represented by David
16 A. Ball, Esquire, of Cohen & Wolf, PC. A party is South
17 Central Connecticut Water Authority, represented by
18 Anthony W. Lord, Esquire, of Murtha & Cullina, LLC. A
19 party is the Town of Engineer -- the Town -- I'm sorry --
20 The Town of Orange, represented by Mitchell R. Blatt,
21 First Selectman.

22 My goal is by the end of the listening
23 tour to be able to do this in one breath. (Laughter).

24 This hearing is held tonight solely for

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1 the public to make brief oral statements into the record.

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

5 These public statements are not subject to cross-
6 examination and submission thereof does not entitle the
7 submitter to the right of cross-examination of the party,
8 applicant, or intervenors, or the Council.

9 In fairness to everyone who wishes to
10 speak, I would like to limit public statements to three
11 minutes. To aid you in this process, we have a
12 stoplight, which will turn to yellow when you have about
13 30 seconds left. When it turns to yellow, please use
14 that as an opportunity to wrap up your statement. These
15 statements will become part of the record for Council
16 consideration.

17 In addition, written statements sent to
18 the Council within 30 days after the last hearing session
19 in this proceeding will be given the same weight as
20 spoken statements. The mailing address for the Council
21 is 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut 06051.
22 And that address also appears on the easel over here.

23 A verbatim transcript will be made of each
24 hearing session. And all hearing transcripts will be

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1 deposited with the towns and city clerks offices within
2 the municipalities of Middletown, Middlefield, Haddam,
3 Durham, Meriden, Wallingford, Cheshire, Haddam, Bethany,
4 Woodbridge, Orange, West Haven, Milford, Stratford,
5 Bridgeport, Fairfield, Westport, Norwalk, Easton,
6 Trumbull, Weston, Wilton, North Haven and New Haven.

7 After all the public hearings in the
8 municipalities have concluded, the Council will continue
9 hearings for the purposes of cross-examination of
10 evidence by the Council, its staff, and parties and
11 intervenors. The dates, times, and locations of the
12 evidentiary hearings will be noticed to the parties and
13 intervenors and posted on the Council's website,
14 ct.gov/csc. And again, this website is posted on the
15 easel.

16 At the end of each hearing session of this
17 proceeding, I will announce the date, time, and place of
18 the next session.

19 A sign-up sheet is available for those who
20 wish to participate. And it's located there at the front
21 table. Please sign up if you'd like to speak tonight.

22 First, I'd like to invite the First
23 selectman of Westport, Diane Goss Farrell, to make some
24 brief remarks at the outset of our hearing.

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1 MS. DIANE GOSS FARRELL: Has anybody ever
2 seen this kind of a device before? I'm afraid it's going
3 to send out little shocks in your back once it goes.
4 Anyway, thank you for not turning it on while I get to
5 speak.

6 I would like to officially welcome all of
7 the meeting participants this evening to the Bedford
8 Middle School here in Westport. I know that this is a
9 Westport/Norwalk Siting Council hearing. However, I also
10 would like to note that we have residents from Weston,
11 from Woodbridge, from Fairfield, from Southport. So
12 we're pleased that all of you are here. And whether
13 you're going to speak as a participant this evening or
14 just be here to lend your interests and support, we're
15 really delighted to have you here.

16 I do want to thank the members of the
17 Siting Council for coming all the way down from New
18 Britain. It's nice to have you in our neighborhood as
19 opposed to driving up to your offices. And we do
20 appreciate your taking the evenings that you are because
21 this is obviously a project that is going to have a
22 significant impact on hundreds of thousands of residents
23 in Connecticut as it moves through the State. So we're
24 delighted that you're here to make it a little bit easier

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1 for our residents.

2 I think it's safe to say, or at least I
3 will speak on my own behalf and on behalf of the
4 residents from Westport that we're not here to dispute
5 the need for additional power here in lower Fairfield
6 County. We know that we have an economic dependency upon
7 power that needs to come down here to ensure the
8 viability of our businesses and all of the quality of
9 life aspects that ensue.

10 I think it's also safe to say that it's
11 the expectation of the residents here that we're willing
12 to put up with disruption and we're willing to, you know,
13 go through the Sturm and Drang of the kind of change
14 we're talking about as long as the intent is to benefit
15 the folks in lower Fairfield County. I don't think
16 anybody would be pleased to think or to hear that, in
17 fact, the ultimate agenda is to provide power to another
18 state, a state that right now doesn't even want to talk
19 to the Attorney General -- our Attorney General. So, I
20 do want to say that, you know, we support it as far as
21 what's happening to us and our needs down here.

22 I want to thank Chairman Katz for a couple
23 of things. She was willing to come down to a forum -- to
24 participate in a forum this summer, and she was

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1 wonderful. And what she has done is really demonstrated
2 the willingness on the part of the entire Siting Council
3 to be open, to listen, to accept criticism, and also to
4 take suggestion. And some of the modifications that you
5 all adopted a few months ago, I think have been very
6 positive and very helpful, and certainly an indication to
7 the local officials down here that you, you know, really
8 do want to work with us and that we are as important a
9 party as all of those that come before you. And so, Pam,
10 I want to thank you for that specifically because it's
11 your leadership that has resulted in that. And I suppose
12 the most tangible evidence of that this evening was the
13 reference that Chairman Katz made suggesting that the
14 Siting Council themselves will hire their own expert when
15 it comes to understanding the nature of under-grounding
16 this power, because clearly while we know we have to have
17 it, we would much prefer that it not be above ground for
18 all the obvious reasons, whether it's health concerns
19 about EMU's or whether it's the aesthetic issues that we
20 talk about and the impact potentially to property values.
21 So the more that you can under-ground, the better. And
22 so we appreciate the fact that you're taking that extra
23 step and extra effort to do that.

24 We are fortunate in Westport because this

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1 aspect of the plan is only suggesting under-grounding.
2 And as I said to our Planning & Zoning Commission, who --
3 many of whose members are here this evening -- if this
4 project were suggested above ground in Westport, this
5 auditorium would be filled and we'd probably have an
6 overflow capacity in the cafeteria.

7 However, the plan is not exactly perfect
8 for Westport. And so I do want to just speak on behalf
9 of those residents that have expressed some concern about
10 these cables coming through local neighborhoods. And I
11 know that the residents are here to speak to that. And
12 there are some other officials too who will want to talk
13 about specifically within Westport the cable going down
14 Lincoln Street. And the utility company in an effort to
15 accommodate a different neighborhood at Kings Highway,
16 offered this as an alternate solution, but it should be
17 noted that there is still concern raised on the part of
18 Westport residents, in this case now the Lincoln Street
19 residents, about the kind of impact that under-grounding
20 may have on a residential street.

21 I also would like to say that Westport, as
22 an interested party as we mentioned and also as a
23 participant in a larger coalition, supports those efforts
24 on behalf of our neighbors heading toward the east and

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1 toward the north who right now do not have proposals that
2 involve under-grounding. And we certainly understand
3 their concerns and support their efforts to urge the
4 Siting Council to work with the utility companies to
5 provide as much relief to those towns that right now are
6 facing the tall towers with the kilovolt lines above
7 ground.

8 And finally, I would like to say thank you
9 to the utility companies. They have made every effort to
10 reach out to us, to try to work with us wherever possible
11 and practicable. I'm confident that the Siting Council
12 will maintain that sense of balance between the needs of
13 industry and the needs and the concerns of the individual
14 citizens within the State of Connecticut. And so I thank
15 the Siting Council, I thank the utilities, and once again
16 I thank the members of the public for caring and for
17 coming out and providing your testimony this evening.
18 Thank you. (Applause).

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Diane. For the
20 benefit of the public in attendance at tonight's hearing,
21 I have asked the Applicant to explain the general nature
22 of the application, its proposed benefit, its alleged
23 need, and what alternatives were explored. In response
24 to that request, the Applicant has compiled a short video

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1 that addresses these issues in summary form. I will ask
2 that the Applicant show that video now. And then
3 following the video, we are going to have public
4 officials and then we are going to have members of the
5 public. Thank you.

6 MS. ANN BARTOSEWICZ: Thank you, Madam
7 Chair. Good evening. My name is Ann Bartosewicz. I'm
8 the Project Director for Northeast Utilities, and thank
9 you --

10 COURT REPORTER: Spell it.

11 MS. BARTOSEWICZ: Sure. B-a-r-t-o-s-e-w-
12 i-c-z. Thank you for having us here this evening. As
13 Chairman Katz indicated, the Council has requested that
14 we put together a brief presentation that just gives a
15 review of our application. And we will show this as a
16 power-point presentation. It does have a voice over, so
17 it gives our message completely. Go ahead.

18
19 (Whereupon, a video presentation prepared
20 by the Applicant was played for the public.)

21
22 VIDEO PRESENTATION

23
24 The following is a brief summary of the

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1 Middletown/Norwalk Project Proposal prepared at the
2 request of the Connecticut Siting Council for use during
3 its public hearings.

4 Economic growth in Connecticut has brought
5 with it an increasing demand for electricity. Between
6 1990 and 2001, electric consumption grew by 27 percent
7 statewide, significant growth despite Connecticut being
8 among the best in the country at conserving power.
9 During that same time period, electric consumption grew
10 by 30 percent in the southwest quarter of the State and
11 by 33 percent in the greater Norwalk/Stamford area.
12 Today, Southwest Connecticut accounts for half the power
13 consumption in the State.

14 Electrically, no state is an island.
15 Every state relies on an interstate electric transmission
16 grid to move power to where it is needed. Most of the
17 time, Connecticut uses more power than it generates and
18 needs to import about 2,000 megawatts or nearly one-third
19 of the power consumed in the State. Most of
20 Connecticut's imported power enters and moves around the
21 State on a 345 kilovolt or a 345-kV system. There are
22 nearly 400 miles of 345-kV lines in Connecticut. It is
23 the standard voltage for moving power throughout New
24 England. But the 345-kV system stops at the threshold of

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1 Southwest Connecticut, which is served today by an
2 increasingly inadequate 115-kV system. In fact, the 115-
3 kV system in Southwest Connecticut no longer meets
4 regional and national reliability standards.

5 The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
6 has designated Southwest Connecticut as one of the
7 nation's most severe reliability risks. And the
8 Independent System Operator of New England's transmission
9 grid has repeatedly indicated that upgrading the system
10 in Southwest Connecticut is the most urgent need in the
11 region.

12 Regional planning led by ISO New England
13 has determined that to meet reliability standards, the
14 345-kV system should be extended into Southwest
15 Connecticut by strengthening the power source to a point
16 in Wallingford, and connecting that source to substations
17 in Milford, Bridgeport, and Norwalk.

18 To strengthen this source and make these
19 connections, CL&P and UI looked at a variety of overhead
20 and under-street options for each section of the upgrade.
21 After evaluating each option and each combination of
22 options, according to its system and technical merits,
23 its property and environmental impact, and its cost to
24 consumers, the highest ranked solution was a combination

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1 of overhead and under-street segments.

2 East of Milford the width of the existing
3 right-of-way ranges from 125 to 320 feet, a sufficient
4 width to allow for an overhead solution, and all but a
5 small area in Middletown and Haddam. However, west of
6 Milford the right-of-way has long stretches that are only
7 80 feet wide. If the existing right-of-way were to be
8 used here, 45 or more feet would need to be added to the
9 width of the right-of-way. This would require the
10 purchase of more than 115 acres of land and the
11 dislocation of an estimated 29 homes.

12 Although under-street solutions can run
13 three to ten times the cost of overhead solutions, in
14 this section of the project the shorter route of an
15 under-street solution and the avoided cost of buying
16 property to widen the existing overhead right-of-way,
17 make an under-street solution comparable in cost to the
18 overhead option.

19 The proposed route in Westport is an all
20 underground route that enters Westport following Route 1,
21 then goes north on Myrtle Avenue across the Saugatuck
22 River, and back onto Kings Highway north before returning
23 to Route 1. This is the proposed route in Westport.

24 During municipal consultations, the

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1 suggestion was made to route the line away from
2 Westport's historic and downtown districts by turning
3 south onto Imperial Avenue, crossing the Saugatuck River,
4 and heading west on Lincoln Street before returning to
5 Route 1. The companies support this suggested change.
6 Both Alternative A and Alternative B are overhead
7 solutions that do not enter Westport.

8 The proposed route in Norwalk is an
9 underground route that enters Norwalk along Route 1,
10 continues west following Westport Avenue, which turns
11 into North Avenue. The route crosses the Norwalk River
12 at Cross Street, turns north onto Riverside Avenue, goes
13 east onto New Canaan Avenue, and makes a second crossing
14 of the Norwalk River as it enters the Norwalk Substation.

15 Modifications will be needed within the Norwalk
16 Substation. This is the proposed route in Norwalk.

17 Both Alternative A and Alternative B are
18 overhead solutions that would enter Norwalk from the
19 north along an existing overhead right-of-way. Some of
20 the existing structures would be replaced with a row of
21 monopoles with a typical height of 108 feet, and one of
22 the existing 115 kilovolt lines would be placed under the
23 street. No expansion of the right-of-way would be
24 necessary in Norwalk for the Middletown to Norwalk --

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1 (video stopped).

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

14 The Connecticut Light & Power Company and
15 The United Illuminating Company thank the Connecticut
16 Siting Council for the opportunity to present this
17 information.

18 END PRESENTATION

19

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: At this time, I'm going to
21 recognize the public officials who have signed up to
22 speak. When I call your name, please come up and spell
23 your name for the court reporter and -- by tradition, we
24 don't use the traffic light for public officials, but I'm

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1 going to ask the public officials to please try to limit
2 their statements to three minutes if at all possible.
3 The first one to sign up is State Senator Judith
4 Freedman. (Applause).

5 SENATOR JUDITH FREEDMAN: For the record,
6 Judith Freedman, F-r -- (mic feedback) -- F-r-e-e-d-m-a-
7 n. Welcome to Westport again Madam Chair and members of
8 the Siting Council. Indeed, you're becoming regular
9 residents here.

10 I am a State Senator and I live in
11 Westport at 17 Crawford Road. And I thank you for
12 bringing again this public hearing to the Town of
13 Westport regarding the Phase 2 construction of the new
14 electric transmission lines from Middletown to Norwalk.

15 I recognize and understand the need to
16 increase transmission in this part of the State. After
17 struggling through the Phase 1 battle from Bethel to
18 Norwalk, the power company has made the point clearly
19 that we need more transmission in this part of the State.

20 Our battle was not why, but rather how do we get this
21 built in a way that will have the least impact on the
22 environment and those who reside along the suggested
23 path.

24 During this process, I have learned much

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1 more than I ever wanted to know about electric
2 transmission lines, about underground transmission lines,
3 and about power in general. But it did become apparent
4 as we went through the Phase 1 process that in the best
5 interests of the public, the way to make this happen is
6 by burying the cables underground and following the
7 modified route. I believe the compromise worked out will
8 prove beneficial to all those that have a stake in the
9 Phase 1 part of the project.

10 Tonight I am here to testify about Phase
11 2, which is a far more encompassing plan and crosses
12 through more towns. As a resident of Westport, I am
13 pleased that we have learned some lessons from Phase 1
14 and that the lines will be buried as they come through
15 the town.

16 At the planning -- at the Westport
17 Planning & Zoning Commission meeting, I questioned the
18 original plan as the route diverted from U.S. 1, past
19 Town Hall, up Kings Highway, across the river and back to
20 U.S. 1. The original plan did cut a swath right through
21 a designated historic district. That plan has been
22 scuttled and what we see tonight is another plan. The
23 lines make a left onto Imperial Avenue, go through one of
24 the parking lots, across the river, up Lincoln Street,

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1 and then back to U.S. 1. I don't believe Lincoln Street
2 is any wider than Kings Highway, and certainly is not as
3 wide as U.S. 1. Is there some valid reason why this
4 diversion occurs?

5 I believe it was suggested at the P&Z
6 hearing in Westport that the lines follow U.S. 1 all the
7 way through Westport. I am curious as to why that plan
8 isn't before us. If not, may I suggest that the members
9 of the Siting Council take a look at lines that continue
10 through Westport from the Fairfield line to the Norwalk
11 line along U.S. 1 and crossing the bridge on U.S. 1. If
12 there is a valid reason why the transmission lines divert
13 at this point, may I suggest a careful review be done to
14 determine if there is a place to cross the river and get
15 the lines to Norwalk without impacting upon any family
16 neighborhood.

17 Please as you go forward, continue to
18 pursue the underground placement of all the lines. And I
19 thank you for your being patient.

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Senator. I'd
21 just like to note for the record that the Council did
22 drive the route today through Westport and Norwalk and
23 made a special point of driving down Imperial Avenue and
24 Lincoln Street.

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1 Next on the list is Mayor Alex Knopp.
2 (Applause).

3 MAYOR ALEX KNOPP: Good evening. My name
4 is Alex Knopp, K-n-o-p-p, the Mayor of Norwalk, and we
5 can't keep meeting like this. (Laughter).

6 Chairwoman Katz and members of the Siting
7 Council, the City of Norwalk and its Land Use Agency
8 support the underground route proposed in Docket 272 for
9 the Norwalk portion of the Middletown to Norwalk Phase 2
10 Transmission Line application, which is to locate the
11 line underground primarily along Route 1 from the New
12 Canaan Avenue Substation to the Westport boundary.

13 As you know, the project to upgrade power
14 transmission capacity in Southwestern Connecticut is
15 turning Norwalk into the Grand Central Station of high
16 voltage lines. My city ends up, depending upon how you
17 trace it, as the beginning or the end of Phase 1 from
18 Norwalk to Bethel, Phase 2 from Norwalk to Middletown,
19 the withdrawn Phase 3 from Norwalk to Long Island, and
20 the recently proposed Phase 4 from Norwalk to Stamford.
21 We hope, therefore, that with all of the disruption,
22 inconvenience and interruption that comes with the
23 construction of even one of these proposals, that the
24 Siting Council will make an extra effort to minimize and

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1 mitigate any negative impacts on Norwalk from the
2 extraordinary cumulative impact of all of these
3 proposals.

4 I have met with representatives of the
5 utility companies in the municipal consultation phase and
6 suggested that they modify the original proposal for the
7 western leg of this route. And I am pleased to see the
8 change we recommended has been incorporated into the
9 preferred plan. Let me emphasize the importance of the
10 change and urge that you support it as well. The
11 proposed route is along Route 1, but the original version
12 had it turning northward at Main Street in order to reach
13 the New Canaan Avenue Substation. This would have
14 brought the line through the heart of one of the key
15 neighborhood and business personal service centers of the
16 city. The road in this area has only one travel lane in
17 each direction and parking occurs on both sides of the
18 street. It is adjoined on either side by older
19 residential neighborhoods with narrow streets.
20 Construction in this area and the accompanying traffic
21 detours would not only disrupt many small businesses, but
22 would also be a major disruption to the quality of life
23 in these neighborhoods. The alternative we have proposed
24 would minimize disruption, save time, and decrease

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1 construction costs. And the utility companies have
2 agreed to the general route.

3 We are requesting an additional reasonable
4 and non-controversial modification for which we also seek
5 your support. We are in agreement now with NU that the
6 underground line should continue west along Route 1, past
7 Main Street, and then cross Norwalk River until it
8 reaches Riverside Avenue. At this point the line would
9 veer north to the New Canaan Avenue Substation. It is
10 along this leg that the City supports a change in the
11 proposal. We believe that for the entire length of
12 Riverside Avenue, the underground line should be placed
13 along the eastern shoulder of the road instead of under
14 the traveled portion of the highway. The shoulder in
15 this -- on Riverside Avenue is wide with few adjoining
16 properties, and there's enough room to safely install the
17 line. The advantage of this modification are numerous;
18 there's little need to disrupt traffic during
19 construction, a minimum number of properties would be
20 impacted, the expense of removing and then replacing the
21 asphalt and concrete roadway would be practically
22 eliminated. Finally, this change gives NU an opportunity
23 for the improvement of the area by constructing a bikeway
24 over the lines when restored. Norwalk has already

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1 reached a similar agreement whereby a bikeway is being
2 constructed along the Norwalk River as part of the New
3 Canaan Avenue Substation reconstruction. This duly
4 proposed bikeway could link to the one under construction
5 at New Canaan Avenue and is a minimal mitigation for the
6 impacts caused in the city.

7 The route that we are proposing has been
8 reviewed by the City's land use regulatory agencies. And
9 I'm providing attached to my statement copies of their
10 resolutions.

11 Norwalk is pleased to work in a
12 cooperative fashion with the Siting Council and the
13 utility companies towards a win/win situation for Phase
14 2. And to that end, I am prepared to offer the City's
15 professional staff to work with all parties. And I
16 believe that our Planning Director, Mike Green,
17 accompanied the Council on its tour this afternoon.

18 Finally, since Norwalk now occupies the
19 unenviable position as the hub of all high voltage
20 transmission lines coming or going in our region, and
21 since that assures the City of Norwalk frequent contacts
22 in the future with this distinguished Siting Council, let
23 me tonight compliment Chairwoman Katz on the many
24 positive and municipal friendly changes adopted by the

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1 Siting Council. Your decisions to hire an independent
2 expert on underground transmission and to refuse to
3 consider partial settlements involving some but not all
4 towns affected by Phase 2 will certainly improve the
5 process for municipal and public input and make the
6 Siting Council better equipped to represent the public
7 interests on an independent basis without relying almost
8 exclusively on information provided by the utility
9 applicants.

10 You would not, I think -- you would
11 understand, of course, that I have to express my regret
12 that these changes that the Council has made for Phase 2
13 were not in place in time to affect the Council's
14 decision on Phase 1, which you know we are appealing.
15 But our appeal is based in part on the assertions that
16 the better practices that you have applied to Phase 2
17 should have been applied to Phase 1 as well, and the 24
18 miles of under-grounding of 345-kV line you are reviewing
19 tonight between Norwalk, Bridgeport and Milford could and
20 should have been applied to the 20-mile route between
21 Bethel and Norwalk in Phase 1. Thank you. (Applause).

22 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.
23 Next is the First Selectman of Weston, Woody Bliss. Two
24 bites of the apple, Mr. Bliss.

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1 MR. WOODY BLISS: There you go, right.

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: We're coming to Weston in

3 --

4 MR. BLISS: Here in Weston -- I also
5 appreciate the fact that you didn't turn the traffic
6 light on for the folks that need it the most, and that's
7 the elected officials. (Laughter).

8 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Well, we found that
9 basically it just got ignored. (Laughter).

10 MR. BLISS: That's probably correct. My
11 name is Woody Bliss. I'm First Selectman of Weston.
12 Bliss is spelled B-l-i-s-s.

13 I want to thank you tonight for the
14 opportunity to speak and I thank all of you for spending
15 an evening, as you are I guess seven evenings of your
16 life to listen to the citizens and elected officials from
17 the various towns along the line.

18 The Town of Weston supports the
19 application -- the proposed application as submitted. We
20 -- I would congratulate you -- or we congratulate you on
21 the decision to hire an expert on under-grounding. What
22 we're talking about in this Phase 2, obviously, is a 50-
23 plus year investment and it's important as fast as
24 technology moves in this world today, that we get it as

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1 right as we can get it. And I certainly think that
2 outside experts will help you to do that.

3 Under-grounding really was the issue in
4 Phase 1 as well. And the critical question is how far
5 can you go underground and with what technology. And I
6 hope that these experts will bring you needed information
7 on that topic so that we can make -- so that you can make
8 the best decision.

9 I, too, commend you for the changes you've
10 made to the process. Weston was involved in Phase 1 from
11 the beginning. And the process for Phase 2 is much, much
12 better. And I think the Mayor outlined that very very
13 clearly.

14 I think we all learned a lot from Phase 1.
15 And one of the things was the need for working together
16 for adjustment and compromise. The major issue at the
17 beginning of Phase 1 was the issue of need. That's no
18 longer on the table and that should help a lot.

19 We're working with the other towns to
20 support a solution which benefits and maximizes the
21 benefit to all. And we appreciate the opportunity to
22 work with the towns, to work with the Siting Council, to
23 work with the utilities, and we look forward to what the
24 experts that you're hiring will bring to the table in

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1 terms of new information. Thank you for this opportunity
2 tonight.

3 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Mr. First
4 Selectman. (Applause). Next is State Representative Bob
5 Duff. While the State Representative is coming up -- oh,
6 I'm sorry -- my mother told me never step on someone's
7 applause line -- (laughter) -- while the State
8 Representative is coming up, I'd just like to tell the
9 audience that the State Representative is Vice Chairman
10 of the Legislature's Energy & Technology Committee and is
11 one of the knowledgeable members of the Legislature on
12 the Siting Council process. State Representative.

13 STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT DUFF: Thank
14 you very much. Good evening, Chairman Katz and members
15 of the Siting Council. I'd like to welcome you to the
16 Westport and Norwalk area. My name is Bob Duff, D-u-f-f,
17 and I'm a State Representative from Norwalk, and as you
18 said Vice Chairman of the Legislature's Energy &
19 Technology Committee.

20 This meeting is an important first step in
21 what I hope will be a positive relationship between your
22 body and the residents of the City of Norwalk. I applaud
23 you, Chairman Katz, for conducting this listening tour.
24 This is a welcomed approach from what many of us feel was

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1 lacking during past applications. Though you've been a
2 leader of the Connecticut Siting Council for a short
3 amount of time, your style is a breath of fresh air and
4 we appreciate that.

5 In Phase 2, I believe it is important to
6 note what we have learned from recent history. During
7 the contentious Phase 1 application, most of the
8 residents here tonight couldn't tell you what the
9 Connecticut Siting Council did or even if it actually
10 existed. The utility companies on their part totally
11 underestimated the fortitude of the residents, setting
12 everyone up for a battle extraordinaire. I'm convinced
13 that we've all gained an understanding of each other's
14 roles and will respect the opinions of those involved.
15 I'm confident Phase 2 will be different. It must. Just
16 look at what has changed in three years. We now have
17 grassroots organizations mobilized throughout many of the
18 towns and the utility companies understand how much
19 people will commit to something that is so important to
20 them. The character of our towns is always worth
21 fighting for.

22 I'd like to point out a few reasons why I
23 believe this is going to be a smoother ride for those
24 involved. (1) There's a new state law that allows

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1 affected towns to receive some relief in the form of a
2 municipal intervenor's fee in order to hire independent
3 outside experts and legal counsel. I believe that with
4 such a large application as this, it would also encourage
5 them to work together as well. The Siting Council has
6 the ability to seek outside proposals and alternatives to
7 the power lines. While ultimately the final application
8 may or may not change, this at least alters the dynamics
9 of the process for the better. This is not a fait
10 accompli, nor should it ever be perceived that way. You
11 have taken the positive step to hire an independent
12 outside expert to address under-grounding the power
13 lines. This is an important tool in your toolbox and I'm
14 glad you're utilizing this valuable resource.

15 While we all -- while we view all of this
16 in a positive light, my concern is Norwalk, the Grand
17 Central Station of power lines. And I just think I heard
18 that someplace else. Like it or not, we are the anchor
19 that provides electrical reliability to Fairfield County.
20 However, as we all know, the residents of our wonderful
21 city will fight loudly and with a lot of furor to protect
22 our community. We are pleased that the preferred route
23 is underground and not overhead wires. We encourage the
24 application to remain underground in Norwalk and not

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1 alter from that basic fact. We will stay involved and
2 vigilant during the process because we know that
3 sometimes things can change. For the benefit of our
4 neighborhoods, the environment, electric security and
5 reliability, I remain committed to keeping the lines
6 buried underground.

7 Again, I appreciate your coming to
8 Westport and listening to us. It is now time to get in
9 our seats, strap ourselves in, and to participate in a
10 ride that will ensure reliability while protecting those
11 who it promises to help.

12 Thank you very much. Thank you for your
13 comments too, Chairman.

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Representative.
15 (Applause). Next on the list is Douglas Hempstead,
16 Councilman for the City of Norwalk. (Applause).

17 If there is any other public official who
18 has not yet signed up to speak who wishes to, please do
19 so at the table before I go on to members of the public.
20 Mr. Hempstead.

21 MR. DOUGLAS HEMPSTEAD: Thank you. Madam
22 Chairperson and committee, thank you for this
23 opportunity. Doug Hempstead, Councilman, City of Norwalk.

24 COURT REPORTER: Spell that for me please.

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1 MR. HEMPSTEAD: H-e-m-p-s-t-e-a-d. Just
2 like Long Island, which doesn't get any power from
3 Connecticut. (Applause).

4 I have more of a request than a statement
5 as most of the other people who have come before. I do
6 support the Mayor in his efforts if the Siting Council
7 will see fit in creating a bikeway and a greenway along
8 Norwalk as part of the installation moving into Riverside
9 Avenue.

10 But I'm also asking you as a commission,
11 compared to the last Phase 1, which my district which I
12 represent was suppose to affect it, that all your
13 negotiations and all negotiations that the utility
14 companies have with the towns be fair, equitable, and
15 open to public scrutiny before the decisions are made,
16 that every effort be made that the stuff be
17 environmentally friendly and aesthetically pleasing to
18 the towns that they are going through.

19 And most importantly, since this is going
20 through a major business route along Westport Avenue and
21 Norwalk, that consideration -- and make sure
22 communication between this Council and the utility
23 companies is -- that we are not affecting businesses to
24 great degrees which allow -- which actually need this

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1 major highway to survive. We're just coming out of
2 recession. These are mostly retail outlets which need
3 access. My understanding is construction is suppose to
4 be in the evenings from 10:00 p.m. until -- I think 6:00
5 a.m. in the morning is what they're talking about -- and
6 we have to make sure that these are stuck to time
7 schedules and they are also maybe eliminated during peak
8 holiday seasons.

9 But most importantly, I appreciate the new
10 process that you've allowed us now to come before you as
11 an open forum versus before where we were dealing with
12 the utility companies in private, and I applaud that
13 effort. Thank you. (Applause).

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Is there any other public
15 official? Can you come up and sign up at the public
16 official list. (Pause). Next is the First Selectman of
17 Woodbridge, Amy Marrella.

18 MS. AMY MARRELLA: Thank you. I just
19 wanted to -- for a spelling it's M-a-r-r-e-l-l-a -- I
20 want to ask the patience of the residents of Norwalk and
21 Westport for one moment while I listen to my grandmother.
22 My grandmother taught me to say please and thank you, so
23 I'm just here to say thank you to all the members of the
24 Siting Council in person for having changed the date of

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1 the hearing in Woodbridge to February 9th. Originally it
2 was scheduled for an evening when we had a whole week of
3 school vacation. So since I am here to listen, I
4 couldn't but take the opportunity to say thank you for
5 that and we will look forward to welcoming you to
6 Woodbridge on the 9th. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: You're welcome.

8 (Applause). We usually get yelled at, so we always
9 appreciate the gratitude.

10 Next on the list is Mary -- Welches -- of
11 the RTM of Westport. And please correct my
12 pronunciation.

13 MS. MARY WEBBER: I think I don't need to
14 correct your pronunciation. I need to apologize for my
15 handwriting. It's Mary Webber and it's spelled W-e-b-b-
16 e-r. I represent RTM District 2, Representative Town
17 Meeting. Essentially, that's where you go when you go
18 west of the river in Westport, any way that you go west
19 of the river pretty much, unless you go very far south.

20 I am delighted and would like to join the
21 former speaker in thanking you for going underground.
22 Clearly if you're going to go through Westport, there's
23 no other way to go than underground. However, once you
24 get west of the river and in fact going across the river,

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1 things do become problematic.

2 A couple of observations. The first is I
3 don't know if it has been brought to your attention that
4 the process of dredging the Saugatuck up to the Post Road
5 Bridge has been started. My memory, which I'm relying on
6 rather than looking up the documents, says that the hope
7 was that we could get boats up that far. I don't know
8 how deep the dredging was going to be. I don't know if
9 that would be a complication to the project, but I would
10 hope that it would be made note of and taken into
11 consideration. I think that this is a question of check
12 about the dredging before you dig.

13 The second question is the larger one.
14 How to go across the river and what happens once you get
15 there? Honestly, I don't see any really perfect
16 solution. I think if you saw one, you would have found it
17 by now. I understood at the earlier hearings that there
18 is an issue of going -- of using the bridge on the Post
19 Road because there appears to be a limited amount of room
20 at either end of the bridge for coming up and going --
21 continuing down 1.

22 I did speak at the earlier meeting on the
23 problematic nature of the Kings Highway north route. You
24 may recall that that is, in fact, one of the oldest roads

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1 in the country. And in fact, I don't think that the
2 width of the right-of-way is known, let alone whether or
3 not it meets your specifications or needs.

4 The road that is -- been mooted by Barlow
5 Cutler-Wotton as a -- or the route as an alternative
6 obviously has its limitations because Lincoln is a very
7 small road in and of itself. One would hope that somehow
8 the problems of using the Post Road Bridge might be
9 overcome.

10 But I thank you for your time, I thank you
11 for your attention, and I wish you good luck.

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. A public
13 official has asked that a statement be read into the
14 record. Mr. Phelps, could you read that in now.

15 MR. S. DEREK PHELPS: Madam Chair, this is
16 the statement of Representative Cathy Tymniak,
17 representing the 133rd District.

18 Representative Tymniak writes, "I would
19 like to thank the Siting Council for the public hearing
20 this evening on the proposed Phase 2 Docket 272
21 Application. I wish to express my support of Docket 272
22 and my support for the plan put forward in Phase 2. The
23 proposal is sound and will be beneficial to the district
24 I represent, which covers portions of Fairfield and

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1 Westport. I urge the Council to favorably consider the
2 construction of the new transmission lines. Thank you
3 for the opportunity to speak and to voice my approval."

4 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. We'll place
5 that in the record.

6 At this time, we are going to take members
7 of the public who signed up to speak. If you -- we'll
8 take them in the order that they signed. If you did not
9 sign up and wish to speak, please come down to the front
10 table and sign up.

11 We're going to activate the traffic light.
12 How this works is you have a green light for about two
13 and a half minutes and then it goes to yellow. When it
14 goes to yellow, start wrapping up your remarks.

15 First -- and again if I -- when I call
16 your name, please come to the microphone, give your name,
17 spell your name for the court reporter, and give your
18 address. If I massacre the pronunciation of your name,
19 please feel free to correct it. First on the list is
20 Laurel Lindstrom. (Pause). Yes, let me do it this way
21 to make it a little easier. I'm going to say who the
22 speaker is and then I'm going to say who is on deck. So
23 on deck is Melissa Newman. If you'd like to come down to
24 the front.

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1 COURT REPORTER: Spell both your first and
2 last name for me please.

3 MS. LAUREL LINDSTROM: Laurel Lindstrom,
4 L-a-u-r-e-l. Lindstrom, L-i-n-d-s-t-r-o-m. And it's 20
5 Raymond Terrace, Norwalk.

6 And I'm here as the President of the East
7 Norwalk Neighborhood Association and am addressing the
8 neighborhood factor. The mission of the East Norwalk
9 Neighborhood Association is to foster and preserve the
10 residential character, natural, and historic resources,
11 and quality of life in the East Norwalk community.
12 Overhead power lines constructed through a neighborhood
13 harm the quality of life for its residents and
14 drastically alter its character forever.

15 The Board of Directors of the ENNA adopted
16 a resolution supporting underground lines where power
17 lines have been deemed necessary, which includes areas
18 outside the boundaries of the ENNA. The background to
19 the power line resolution, Northeast Utilities is moving
20 forward with its plans to place power lines from Bethel
21 to Norwalk, from Norwalk to Middletown, and from Norwalk
22 to Stamford. Since some members of the East Norwalk
23 Neighborhood Association may be directly impacted because
24 NU's preferred configuration for the Norwalk to

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1 Middletown line would run underground along our most
2 northern border under Westport Avenue, the Board of
3 Directors of the ENNA at its regular board meeting of
4 December 18, 2003 has passed the following resolution:

5 Be it resolved that where power lines have
6 been deemed necessary, the Board of Directors of the ENNA
7 favors underground lines.

8 Be it resolved that the Board of Directors
9 of the ENNA recognizes that although NU's alternative
10 configuration for the power lines from Norwalk to
11 Middletown would run overhead along Route 7 and not along
12 Westport Avenue, we are in support of the underground
13 option along Westport Avenue.

14 Be it resolved that the Board of Directors
15 of the ENNA recognizes that our members may be
16 inconvenienced during construction of lines under
17 Westport Avenue related to lane closures and additional
18 noise, but the inconvenience will be minimal and
19 temporary and does not alter our support for the
20 underground option.

21 Be it further resolved that the Board of
22 Directors of the ENNA favors the aggressive advocacy and
23 support by NU of energy conservation measures so that the
24 need for more power lines would be lessened or

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1 eliminated.

2 The members of the Board of Directors of
3 the East Norwalk Neighborhood Association voted
4 unanimously in support of the above resolution and it was
5 signed Laurel Lindstrom, President, Marie Dileo,
6 Treasurer, Richard Boucher, Jr. (phonetic) Secretary,
7 Maria Bryant, Director, Eric Neece (phonetic) Director,
8 Anthony Halem (phonetic) Director, Gordon Tully,
9 Director. Adoption of this resolution acknowledges that
10 the protection of all neighborhoods is an important
11 factor in maintaining the quality of life for our
12 members. Thank you very much.

13 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Three minutes on the dot.
14 (Applause). Thank you, Miss Lindstrom. Next is Melissa
15 Newman, on deck is Meredith Gray.

16 MS. MELISSA NEWMAN: My name is Melissa
17 Newman, N-e-w-m-a-n. I live at 59 Coley Town Road in
18 Westport. And I've lived in Westport for 42 years.

19 And I'd like to commend Diane Farrell for
20 her farsightedness in agreeing that the power lines in
21 Westport should be buried under the Post Road. And I
22 also commend the Woodlands Coalition who were so
23 instrumental in bringing this issue to public attention,
24 including mine -- (applause) -- you did a great job.

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1 The preservation of environmentally
2 sensitive areas and the avoidance of a possible effect on
3 property values are really important issues I think to
4 most of us. What I don't understand is why these -- why
5 these reasons suddenly lose their importance between
6 Milford and Middletown.

7 It's also my hope that Connecticut
8 continues to explore more efficient localized and
9 therefore less vulnerable energy sources. And that's all
10 I have to say. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
12 Next is --

13 MS. MEREDITH GRAY: My name is -- oh --

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Just --

15 MS. GRAY: -- excuse me.

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: -- one second. Next is
17 Meredith Gray. On deck is Nancy R. -- Coley? Go ahead.

18 MS. GRAY: My name is Meredith Gray, G-r-
19 a-y. My address is 170 Silvermine Avenue in Norwalk.
20 Good evening, Madam Chair and distinguished Council
21 members.

22 I am an 11-year resident of Silvermine in
23 Norwalk, Connecticut, and I feel that it is very
24 important, as this next phase of Northeast Utilities

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1 expansion is being determined, to voice my strong opinion
2 as well as those shared by my entire community that the
3 lines be buried underground. I am -- absolutely am
4 opposed to any overhead lines in Norwalk as an
5 alternative.

6 I hope and trust that as members of this
7 overseeing committee, you will act wisely and listen to
8 the concerns of the people who take great pride in their
9 community and want to see that its integrity is
10 preserved. Lives, homes, and most importantly our
11 environment will be strongly impacted by the decision you
12 reach. Please hear our voices as we raise them in unison
13 in a plea to have the power lines go underground. Help
14 us to preserve our past so that the future generations
15 can be proud. Thank you. (Applause).

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. Next is Nancy
17 R. Coley. On deck is Mary Anne Case.

18 MS. NANCY R. COLEY: Nancy R. Coley, C-o-
19 l-e-y, 125 Riverside Avenue, Westport. And I have
20 several questions. Nowhere have I heard how deep this
21 cable will be buried.

22 (2) How will this affect the dredging of
23 the river in the near future?

24 (3) If these magnetic forces are bad for

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1 humans, won't this have a direct impact on the marine
2 life in our river, namely oysters, crabs, fish,
3 waterfowl, and etcetera? And we do have quite a bit.

4 Uh -- I guess that's -- (4) Coming up with
5 a certain amount of electromagnetic vibes emanating from
6 underground the river, won't this cause electrolysis?
7 This certainly would affect any boaters in the area,
8 won't it? I'll stop with the numbers.

9 Digging in an old sanitary landfill on the
10 river will also cause contamination to the river, won't
11 it? How about gases? How does the DEP feel about this
12 intrusion into a landfill and a river? Is the DEP
13 involved in this dredging or digging?

14 Uplink in the street, are you crazy? How
15 will the electric vibes affect the water and sewer lines
16 that run on this very narrow street? This line has no
17 place in a residential area or even in the center of a
18 town. Kings Highway residents cried NIMBY. So are we in
19 this area. Our homes are also historical. And this
20 certainly will have a definite impact on the property
21 values in this area besides possible damage to them.

22 I am a NIMBY resident and am very much
23 opposed to this cable in this area of Riverside Avenue
24 and Lincoln Street. Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

2 Next is Mary Anne Case. On deck is Bill Huber.

3 MS. MARY ANNE CASE: My name is Mary Anne
4 Case. That's spelled M-a-r-y, a new word A-n-n-e, Case,
5 C-a-s-e. And I live at 191 Perry Avenue in Norwalk.
6 This is my neighbor, Jean Mitchell, of Silvermine Avenue
7 in Norwalk.

8 Madam Chairman, Council members, thank you
9 for coming to Westport tonight to hear the concerns of
10 the residents of both Norwalk and Westport.

11 I am a citizen of Norwalk and a Silvermine
12 artist. It is sad that a picture speaks a thousand
13 words. My thousands words are spoken in this image that I
14 have created. It visually expresses the notion that for
15 reasons of health, safety, aesthetics, and the negative
16 impact of overhead power lines on property values. I
17 support the under-grounding of the lines in Norwalk in
18 Phase 2 and oppose overhead lines of any kind in any area
19 of Norwalk.

20 I am -- (applause) -- I am proud, very
21 proud of our city. And I look to you to protect the
22 appearance and well being of Norwalk, present and future.
23 I look to you, the Connecticut Siting Council, to bring
24 independent experts to the under-grounding process for

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1 the edification of us all and to the best interests of us
2 all. Thank you for your help, respectfully, Mary Anne
3 Case.

4 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. Will you be
5 placing that in the record?

6 MS. CASE: I'm giving you --

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. If you could
8 give that to Mr. Phelps. (Applause). Bill Huber. On
9 deck, Sharon Carrigan.

10 MR. BILL HUBER: It's good to be back. I
11 see a lot of friendly faces.

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Mr. Huber is a former
13 member of this council.

14 MR. HUBER: I'm here tonight to talk about
15 --

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Could you spell your name
17 for the court reporter.

18 MR. HUBER: -- the overhead -- oh, I'm
19 sorry -- Bill Huber, H-u-b-e-r, 7 Gray Lane, Westport.

20 I'm here to talk about the cost of
21 overhead transmission lines, which of course are not
22 directly relevant in Westport because we're going
23 underground, but I am concerned about the bigger picture
24 if you will. And what I want to do is to refer back to

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1 the cost study that was undertaken in 1996, and that was
2 sponsored by the Legislature. And the final conclusion
3 of that cost study was that the cost for overhead was
4 significantly less than the cost for underground. I
5 believe that to be totally wrong. And I want to get into
6 a brief discussion of why I feel that way. And
7 basically, I want to discuss four major areas; the right-
8 of-way, best practices, societal costs and other costs.

9 I won't be able to cover each of these
10 categories before my yellow light goes on and goes off,
11 so let me start with the right-of-way. Now the study was
12 based upon the use of existing rights-of-way. And
13 therefore, incremental costs associated with an upgrade
14 were not included. So the cost study did not include any
15 incremental costs for right-of-way.

16 Now in fact, the current study addresses
17 the need for some increase in the right-of-way. And
18 certainly if we think in terms of making an analysis, the
19 underground installation -- an underground installation,
20 if we look at the cost, would permit a significant
21 reduction in the right-of-way in Connecticut, providing
22 an opportunity -- providing an opportunity for
23 significant cost savings if we were to give alternative
24 uses to that right-of-way, that is the overhead requires

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1 a much wider right-of-way and underground would permit us
2 to significantly reduce that right-of-way. And we could,
3 therefore, give alternative uses for that right-of-way,
4 such as constructing highways, leisure paths, or what
5 have you. And that was not included, the significant
6 cost reduction that would be possible with an underground
7 installation.

8 Best practices. The study did not really
9 address best practices. What they did was they
10 essentially looked at the current methods and processes
11 used by the utilities and they extrapolated those to
12 determine what the cost of the underground would be.
13 They did not go out and undertake a best practice study
14 throughout the industry, including allied industries,
15 such as how best to undertake, if you will -- undertake
16 tunneling and diagnostic techniques. There are many good
17 cost saving techniques that were not included in that
18 cost study. Now in subsequent sections --

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Mr. Huber, I'm hoping you
20 will share your expertise with us --

21 MR. HUBER: Yes --

22 CHAIRMAN KATZ: -- with a written
23 statement to the Council.

24 MR. HUBER: Okay, fine.

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1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

2 Next is Sharon Carrigan. On deck, Jill -- Klafsky?

3 MS. SHARON CARRIGAN: Good evening and
4 thank you very much for hearing our concerns. My name is
5 Sharon Carrigan. That's C-a-r-r-i-g-a-n.

6 And along with my husband, Greg Illyn, I-
7 l-l-y-n, we've owned a house for about a dozen years at 4
8 Briarwood Road in Norwalk. It's off Perry Avenue in the
9 Silvermine section. Our property backs up to State
10 property which borders the right-of-way for the overhead
11 power lines. We are vehemently against the overhead
12 power line option and we do strongly support and prefer
13 the underground route through Norwalk as amended through
14 Mayor Knopp's presentation.

15 The new towers will be visible from our
16 backyard and from many neighbors' yards. More than a
17 half a dozen properties in our area have been offered for
18 sale since last spring. None have sold and several have
19 now been taken off the listing. There is a devastating
20 effect of these power lines to the property values due to
21 their extreme ugliness in a very historic and charming
22 section of town, and also due to the significant concerns
23 over the health impact.

24 The Silvermine section is noted for its

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1 woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife. And we are extremely
2 concerned on the impact overhead lines would have. We
3 respectfully request that the overhead route not be
4 approved and instead consider under-grounding through
5 Norwalk. Thank you very much. (Applause).

6 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. Jill Klaf --

7 MS. JILL KLAFFKY: It's a tough one.

8 Klaffky.

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

10 MS. KLAFFKY: K-l-a-f-f-k-y. 58 Goodhill
11 Road, Weston, Connecticut.

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: And on deck is Larry
13 Rossi. And after Mr. Rossi, we're going to take a brief
14 break.

15 MS. KLAFFKY: I was born and I grew up in
16 Connecticut. And shortly after college, I moved to New
17 York City. About three years ago or so, my husband and I
18 returned to Connecticut because I talked so much about
19 the beauty of it and how he just had to become part of
20 it. So, I am not here as an expert of any technical
21 parts of this, but as a citizen who's very concerned
22 about the preservation of Connecticut.

23 Shortly after we moved here, we heard
24 about the original Northeast Utility proposal and found

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1 that the height of the poles was unacceptable and that
2 the increased right-of-ways was unacceptable. And after
3 two years of attending Siting Council meetings, Northeast
4 Utility meetings, information meetings, and doing a lot
5 of reading on different subjects that are brought up and
6 listening to what Northeast Utilities wants to do, I'm in
7 complete agreement and support the underground solution.
8 And I'm here to ask you, the Siting Council, to also
9 take that as the only solution to the power problem in
10 Southeast Connecticut. Thank you. (Applause).

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. Larry Rossi.

12 MR. LARRY ROSSI: Chairwoman Katz and
13 members of the Council, welcome to this end of the State.

14 My name -- I'm going to be very brief,
15 less than three minutes -- my name is Larry Rossi and I
16 live at 77 Walter Avenue in Norwalk, which is
17 approximately two -- two or three blocks from Westport
18 Avenue where this line is proposed to go.

19 I have served on the Governor's task
20 working group force along with my friend here, Phil, and
21 so -- on Phase 1 -- and while serving on that task force,
22 I constantly argued against any overhead lines within
23 Fairfield County and no overhead lines anywhere between
24 Norwalk and Bethel. Along with Woody Bliss and Paul Anna

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1 (phonetic) we took a very strong position on that and
2 this was constant.

3 I do echo the Mayor's comments this
4 evening, so that's why I'm not going to be too long, on
5 what he said. I do support the underground of Phase 2.
6 I want to congratulate Northeast Utility for proposing
7 the underground in Norwalk. I think it's a step in the
8 right direction. I hope that they stay with it and I
9 hope the Council approves it.

10 Like I said before, I'm going to be very
11 short. I thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
13 At this time, we're going to take a 10-minute break.
14 When we resume, the next speaker will be Danny Grudman.
15 If you wish to speak tonight, please sign up at the list
16 down at the table.

17 (Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

18 MS. PHELPS: Cell phones and pagers to
19 silent please, cell phones and pagers to silent.

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: If you're remaining,
21 please take a seat. (Pause). The next speaker is Danny
22 Grudman. On deck is Barlow Cutler -- Wooden? Mr.
23 Grudman.

24 MR. DANNY GRUNDMAN: Danny Grundman, G-r-

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1 u-n-d-m-a-n.

2 Madam Chairman and members of the Siting
3 Council, thank you for this opportunity to speak and
4 happy New Year.

5 I applaud the action of Mrs. Katz and the
6 Siting Council to hire an underground cable expert. It's
7 a big step in the right direction, but there is still a
8 long way yet to go until the citizens of Connecticut
9 receive fair and equal status at these hearings. That
10 will take continued legislation, constant vigilance,
11 independent experts, and the use by the people of every
12 legal means necessary. We need to ensure the
13 presentation of factual solutions that show all sides of
14 the problem, including that of public health, so that the
15 utilities will not have the advantage of presenting only
16 part of the picture. Phase 1 has been a bitter lesson.

17 Aluminum overhead cables were the cause of
18 the largest blackout in history. When you look at the
19 disruption caused by that disaster and the economic loss
20 to this country, how can the utility companies claim
21 overhead is less expensive than underground.

22 Now we have terrorism. Overhead cables
23 and towers certainly make easy targets. For these
24 reasons and in light of the clear advantage that the

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1 European and Asian underground technologies have
2 demonstrated, I ask that underground cable be considered
3 as the common sense approach to transmission lines.

4 I support the proposed under-grounding of
5 Phase 2 to the greatest extent possible and especially in
6 Norwalk, which is affected by all four phases of this
7 project. I ask that you, the members of the Siting
8 Council, examine your conscience and your heart and give
9 fair and equal consideration to underground cable. I
10 thank you and may God bless you. (Applause).

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. Next is Barlow
12 Cutter-Wotten. On deck, Don Bergmann.

13 MS. BARLOW CUTLER-WOTTON: May I get my
14 name straight?

15 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Please.

16 MS. CUTLER-WOTTON: Barlow Cutler, C-u-t-
17 l-e-r, dash, Wotton --

18 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

19 MS. CUTLER-WOTTON: -- W-o-t-t-o-n. Like
20 in Cotton as my ex-husband used to say.

21 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you for that
22 clarification.

23 MS. CUTLER-WOTTON: I'm going to speak
24 first as the President of the Kings Highway North

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1 Association, in which I addressed the Planning & Zoning
2 meeting on the 19th of June and spoke obviously of our
3 concern of the proposed route through Kings Highway and
4 Myrtle Avenue. And I'm going to give this statement to
5 you -- to the Siting Council, because I would like to go
6 on from there to the new -- (indiscernible, walked away
7 from mic) -- at that meeting -- at that meeting I heard
8 from the utility companies that they could go under the
9 river. And with that in mind, after the meeting, I did
10 my own research. I have been also on the First
11 Selectman's Land Use Committee. So I went and found all
12 of our public lands. And I went down to the river and I
13 found the park on one side of the river at Riverside and
14 the landfill area on the other side where we have a
15 parking area, and I realized that these two areas could
16 be the positions of where they have to go under the
17 ground. They need staging grounds. So, I proposed the
18 route coming down Imperial Avenue to the staging ground
19 on -- at Imperial Avenue, going across the river to the
20 park, Eloise Ray Park. I was very sorry that -- I'm
21 looking right at Lincoln Avenue -- I wrote in my letter
22 to the First Selectman I regret that I was now looking at
23 a residential street.

24 If -- when you come up out of the river in

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1 that park, you have the choice if you want to spend more
2 money and go down -- to go back down Riverside Avenue and
3 perhaps coming up a smaller cross street by the name of
4 Cross Street. It's a very steep incline. It only has an
5 apartment building and two houses on it and then an old
6 telephone building that's no longer in use, so perhaps
7 less people would be involved and perhaps it could be
8 done, but you would have the lovely houses along
9 Riverside Avenue. So all these have to be taken into
10 consideration, otherwise Lincoln Street as I proposed is
11 the shortest distance to get back to the Post Road, but
12 it does impact a residential neighborhood. So that is my
13 -- basically my statement. And I -- you have all the
14 information. They've already adopted it as a proposed
15 route. So thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
17 Don Bergmann.

18 MR. DONALD BERGMANN: Good evening --

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: That's my maiden name.
20 We'll talk later to see if we share some of the same
21 people.

22 MR. BERGMANN: Good evening. Donald
23 Bergmann, B-e-r-g-m-a-n-n.

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: And on deck is Larry

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1 Liesner. Go ahead.

2 MR. BERGMANN: I've lived in Westport
3 since 1979 and I was very very troubled by the Phase 1
4 proposal of Northeast Utilities, but became much more
5 pleased with the result that you people and others have
6 impacted upon and produced.

7 I am delighted, delighted that Phase 2 is
8 being pursued underground. I would like to ask that
9 every consideration however be given also to adding to
10 those underground wires the other wires that might run
11 along the Post Road, such as for cable, phone lines and
12 whatever, so that we eliminate all wires wherever
13 possible along the busiest sections of the Post Road.

14 So often I sense the Siting Council's job
15 is at best to not make the environment worse or not make
16 our aesthetics in this lovely part of the country worse.

17 By putting more wires underground than simply just the
18 electric wires, the Siting Council and all those
19 involved, including my town, have an opportunity to not
20 only simply not do harm but an opportunity to do
21 something very very positive for all of us, to eliminate
22 all wires along a commercial roadway. Thank you.

23 (Applause).

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. Next is Larry

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1 Liesner and on deck is Anthony DeAngelis.

2 MR. LARRY LIESNER: Thank you for the
3 opportunity to speak. My name is Larry Liesner, L-i-e-s-
4 n-e-r, and I live on Lincoln Street in Westport. And I
5 want to thank first Barlow Wotton for feeling a little
6 guilty about recommending Lincoln Street and I'm glad
7 she's offering yet again an alternative route.

8 I believe Lincoln Street is the wrong
9 street for this project. Lincoln Street is too narrow.
10 It is 25 feet from curb to curb. This brings my home and
11 the other homes on this street too close to the digging,
12 too close to the pounding, and too close to the
13 vibrations that will occur from this project. I believe
14 the digging, the pounding, and the vibrations will damage
15 our homes, many of which are older and more vulnerable.

16 Lincoln Street is a residential street.
17 The transmission line is a commercial project.
18 Commercial projects belong on commercial streets. I
19 believe there is something inherently wrong with running
20 the largest transmission line ever run in Connecticut
21 under a narrow residential street.

22 I have one more concern about the
23 Saugatuck River. The Saugatuck River in the Lincoln
24 Street area flows directly into Long Island Sound, it

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1 contains numerous wildlife, including ducks, geese,
2 Heron, and other aquatic life such as Stripe Bass, Blue
3 Fish and Flounder. Is it advisable to disturb this
4 location by placing a high voltage cable into the
5 ecosystem.

6 With all due respect, I would like to ask
7 the Siting Committee the following, to spend more time to
8 find a wider more commercial route and to consider such a
9 route even though it may be a longer or more costly
10 route.

11 I trust that in the end that all doubts
12 about this project will be laid to rest. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
14 Next is Anthony DeAngelis. On deck is Audrey Sparre.

15 MR. ANTHONY DeANGELIS: Good evening. I'm
16 Anthony DeAngelis, D-e-A-n-g-e-l-i-s. I've lived in
17 Westport my whole life and currently live at 26 Lincoln
18 Street with my wife and seven-month old child, and I have
19 some concerns and questions about the proposed
20 underground power line through Lincoln Street. Why does
21 the line have to go through Lincoln Street? Why can't
22 this be kept and contained to the major highways,
23 commercial and business streets?

24 In regards to health risks, how do we know

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1 that 20 or 30 years or anytime in the future from now
2 that these lines will not cause cancer, electromagnetic
3 radiation or other adverse effects? My wife and I have a
4 seven-month old son and do not want to find out that down
5 the line this may cause health problems. I'd rather not
6 take the risk. Would you?

7 In regards to traffic, parking, and road
8 access, how will construction affect access to our homes?
9 Many residents that live on Lincoln Street have no choice
10 but to park on the road. While we have access -- will we
11 have access through the street at all times? With us
12 having a young infant, having access 24 hours a day is a
13 must. My father also lives on Lincoln Street who is
14 handicapped with limited mobility. Not having access
15 would cause great problems and major inconveniences for
16 all on Lincoln Street.

17 As far as the width of Lincoln Street and
18 proximity of the houses to the street, has the width of
19 Lincoln Street been taken into consideration? Most of
20 the homes on Lincoln Street are very close to the road.
21 Many are less than 25 feet from the curb. And how will
22 this affect our homes? Many of our homes are very old,
23 have plaster walls that may be damaged due to vibration,
24 demolition, excavation and blasting. I also anticipate

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1 very loud noise from demolition and construction. It
2 would be very difficult for a young infant to sleep
3 through noise from any form of construction and
4 machinery. How would you like to be less than 25 feet
5 away from major construction and noise?

6 Emergency risks. If access is limited to
7 the road, does this pose any emergency risk, especially
8 when I have a seven-month old infant and a handicapped
9 father on the same street. We have to have access up and
10 down the road at all times.

11 Safety measures and access. Does NU and
12 CL&P have safety measures in place if something does
13 happen to go wrong with the underground wire during
14 construction and once it is in place? How will the
15 electric company access the underground wire if they need
16 to get to it? Will it require excavating?

17 And closure of the 345-kV line, is the
18 material being used for the enclosure which will house
19 the line underground be more than sufficient to protect
20 us from any electromagnetic radiation? How do we really
21 know what enough is?

22 And the electrical wire route, why was the
23 route changed from its original path? Is it simply
24 because it was a historic district? Many of the homes in

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1 our area are very old as well and considered historic.

2 Please take these issues and questions
3 into consideration while planning the route for the power
4 line. What it all comes down to is that we do not want
5 this on or in our street. This would be less than 25
6 feet away from our homes. Would you like this to be
7 installed permanently in front of your home?

8 Thank you for your time and consideration
9 to this matter.

10 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
11 Next is Audrey Sparre. On deck is Stephen Moore.

12 MS. AUDREY SPARRE: Hi, good evening. My
13 name is Audrey Sparre. That's S-p-a-r-r-e. And I live
14 at 25 Lincoln Street in Westport. And I am pleased to
15 have a few minutes to explain why I do not want the
16 proposed power line on my street. And I appreciate very
17 much the opportunity to do this in person in a public
18 format.

19 My concerns about the project are simple.
20 You've heard from other neighbors. I also live in a
21 nearly 100-year old home that has a stone foundation and
22 plaster walls. Our neighborhood is densely populated.
23 Our street is narrow. The buildings are very close to
24 the street and not everybody has a driveway, so there are

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1 a lot of cars on the road as you've heard. I worry about
2 damage to the property due to the construction and the
3 digging for the underground power line.

4 I think about the inconvenience and safety
5 concerns during the construction. There are elderly
6 people and others who may need a quick exit that would be
7 impossible during the construction.

8 I worry about the effects of the line
9 coming under the Saugatuck River after passing through
10 the landfill on the other side. Will the digging in the
11 landfill stir up toxic waste now buried and contained.

12 I also wonder why this controversial power
13 line has to come through one of the most tightly
14 populated residential streets in our town.

15 I guess my most compelling concern is that
16 we have been told by representatives from the power
17 company that there's nothing to worry about. Nothing to
18 worry about regarding the installation, the ongoing
19 maintenance of the line, and that there are no ill health
20 effects. When a large profit making entity tells me not
21 to worry, I have a hard time believing them and I worry.

22 I worry that there are real concerns that are getting
23 glossed over due to the profit motive. It may all be
24 fine, but intuitively I do not want this power line on my

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1 street where there are old homes and young children.

2 There must be another way. (Applause).

3 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is Stephen Moore. On
4 deck is Norman Clark.

5 MR. STEPHEN MOORE: Madam Chairman and
6 Council, thank you very much for the time. It's Stephen,
7 S-t-e-p-h-e-n, Moore, M-o-o-r-e. I am a resident of West
8 Norwalk on the Darien/New Canaan border.

9 I am here to support all the communities
10 affected by these power lines wherever they may be in
11 Fairfield County. Clearly, my discussion will be related
12 to West Norwalk but, nevertheless, express the concerns
13 of all those involved.

14 Clearly, nowhere in southwestern Fairfield
15 County do overhead wires belong of 345 kilovolt. They
16 just don't belong here. I think that's been made very
17 clear by many speakers, and Phase 1 made it crucially
18 clear.

19 And I would like to say that of all the
20 affected towns in Fairfield County, Norwalk can least
21 afford a hit to its property values. Norwalk has not
22 kept pace with the surrounding towns -- (applause) -- and
23 overhead wires would be the final nail in the coffin if
24 you have four phases coming through Norwalk.

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1 Living in Norwalk directly between this
2 substation and Stamford, I would like to know which
3 individual to contact to know where that is being
4 proposed. That has not been made public, at least not to
5 my knowledge. And I would like to firmly express to the
6 Council that the under-grounding which you are now
7 proposing under Phase 2 be continued throughout all
8 phases of this work in Norwalk. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
10 Next is Norman Clark. On deck is Tod Bryant.

11 MR. NORMAN CLARK: Hi, hello, good
12 evening, how are you. Clark, C-l-a-r-k.

13 By the way, was that you all I saw going
14 down Lincoln Street today, this afternoon, with two
15 police cars and three cars, where you took a right on a
16 red light -- (laughter) -- and I got a ticket for doing
17 that a couple of months ago. So is that part of the
18 perks of having some power?

19 Anyway, over the years many of us have
20 watched images on television boat workers, coal miners,
21 or some disgruntled individuals protesting some perceived
22 injustice and who have been given the opportunity to
23 voice their grievance by appearing in front of some
24 committee or board similar to this. And truly we have

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1 asked ourselves the same question, what would I do in
2 similar circumstances. I never thought it would ever
3 happen, but here we are. And now is the time for myself
4 and other residents of Lincoln Street to speak up.

5 If it is the intention of CL&P to lay high
6 voltage power cables in the street where I live, then I
7 wish to express my deepest concerns and strong opposition
8 to the proposal.

9 I have been informed that any arguments
10 regarding the potential health risks from high voltage
11 power lines and the EMF's emitting from them is a known -
12 - (indiscernible) -- well, I find this incredulous. And
13 speaking for my wife, my daughter and myself, I would
14 like to start an argument now and give you something to
15 think about. I would like to ask the assembled audience
16 who among them -- or the assembled board, who among them
17 lives within a hundred yards of the power lines? Would
18 you mind raising your hand. Two of you. Who among you
19 live within 50 feet of the power lines? Would you mind
20 raising your hand.

21 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Sir, that's not -- just
22 keep going.

23 MR. CLARK: Well, I'm making my point.
24 For every study saying that there's no danger from these

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1 power lines and the EMF's emitting from them, another
2 study will contradict these findings. Representatives of
3 the utility company are quoted as saying there is no
4 positive proof and there is no -- and there continues to
5 be no link. Well it depends on your point of view. The
6 fact studies have been done at all shows a major degree
7 of concern. What if any studies -- what, if any, studies
8 have been done with the power lines being located
9 underground this close to homes and for how long were
10 these studies conducted.

11 I happen to believe the evidence, which by
12 the way took many years to reach conclusions, which show
13 that when these lines are located overhead and people are
14 exposed to them over a long period of time, they do
15 indeed pose a health risk with links to certain forms of
16 cancer.

17 I don't care how much insulation you wrap
18 around it or how deep you bury it, the fact remains it's
19 right outside my door. Incessantly radiation is poison
20 into the atmosphere 25 feet away, 24 hours a day, 7 days
21 a week, 52 weeks a year. No amount of persuasion or
22 scientific evidence will convince me to the contrary that
23 this does not present a health risk to my family.

24 You may present all the scientific

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1 evidence available in an attempt to nullify my argument
2 and allay my fears, you can present all the necessary
3 legal documentation that will allow you to proceed with
4 your plans, you can have meetings every night of the week
5 and -- (indiscernible) -- all the lip service required
6 and lend the most sympathetic ear to our concerns, but I
7 implore you to ask yourself what would you do if it was
8 right outside your door. As far as I'm concerned,
9 morally you can say nothing. I am afraid of what you're
10 doing and I don't trust the results of your research data
11 telling me it's right -- it's all right, nothing can go
12 wrong, you're quite safe. I write easy for you to say.
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
15 Next is Tod Bryant. On deck is Edward DeBarbieri.

16 MR. TOD BRYANT: Well, it's tough to
17 follow that one. (Laughter). I'm Tod Bryant, T-o-d, B-
18 r-y-a-n-t, 23 Morgan Avenue in Norwalk, and I'm the
19 President of the Norwalk Preservation Trust.

20 I'd like to thank the commission for
21 coming down to this -- to Westport to listen to -- to
22 listen to us from Westport and Norwalk to speak about our
23 concerns here.

24 And I'm going to speak here for the

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1 Norwalk Preservation Trust. And we very much support the
2 underground option for all of these cables for all of the
3 phases in all of the towns. I know you've heard that
4 from everyone, but no reason not to say it.

5 And we of course are mostly interested in
6 the impact on historic properties. We work very hard to
7 maintain the architectural heritage of Norwalk. Well
8 maintained historic homes and neighborhoods increase
9 property values for the entire community. Overhead power
10 lines, especially high voltage towers, work directly
11 against this initiative.

12 Since the proposed route touches the edges
13 of Norwalk's national register district as well as
14 several of Norwalk's oldest neighborhoods, putting the
15 lines underground is the only reasonable choice. Our
16 beautiful 350-year-old town green overshadowed by power
17 lines would lose value and negates the effort put into
18 the historic buildings around it. Putting these lines
19 underground reinforce all the work done by homeowners and
20 businesses to improve their property.

21 Technology exists to eliminate the
22 vulnerability, possible health risks, and visual blight
23 of overhead power lines. We urge the Siting Council to
24 hire independent experts in this field to bring the

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1 benefits of the current -- the best current thinking and
2 technology to this project.

3 I'd also like to borrow Mayor Knopp's
4 analogy to Grand Central, that while we are -- while we
5 have apparently become the Grand Central of power,
6 there's another connection to Grand Central. Grand
7 Central is an important historic resource in the City of
8 New York much as Norwalk is to the State of Connecticut.

9 And while Grand Central has been restored to its former
10 glory, Norwalk is now in the midst of that kind of
11 restoration. And this sort of underground power line
12 would only help that initiative. Overhead lines would
13 indeed hurt it. Thank you very much.

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
15 Next is Edward DeBarbieri. On deck is Peter Wien.

16 MR. EDWARD DeBARBIERI: I am Edward
17 DeBarbieri and I thank you for allowing me to be here.

18 COURT REPORTER: Spell your last name.

19 MR. DeBARBIERI: I'll spell my last name
20 for you. D-e-B-a-r-b-i-e-r-i. Okay?

21 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

22 MR. DeBARBIERI: Now, I heard a lot of
23 people speaking about property values and everything. I
24 think that's minor. I'm thinking about Al Quaida. You

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1 put up those poles and lines, a Piper Cub could crash
2 through those lines. Now a larger plane with a radial
3 engine would be heavier. At about 150 miles an hour,
4 what do you think he could do to one of those poles? Do
5 you have any idea? It not only would take the pole out,
6 but it would pull all the lines down. Think about that.
7 Who's going to pay for that when that happens and they
8 say, well, now we've got to go underground. Look at the
9 money you could have saved if you went underground to
10 start with. Think about that. I know I don't want to
11 help pay for it. I know that Connecticut Light & Power
12 furnishes my power, but even if they've got to go into
13 the red, let them go into the red. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
15 Peter Wien. Next on deck is David Hamm.

16 MR. PETER WIEN: Madam Chair -- first off,
17 it's Peter Wien, W-i-e-n, 24 High Street in Norwalk,
18 Connecticut. Madam Chair, thank you for being one of the
19 very few people who could actually pronounce it right,
20 right off the bat.

21 I, basically -- I've come to a number of
22 these meetings. I come as a citizen, also as a public
23 servant in Norwalk. And what I've heard over time is
24 that the citizenry doesn't want overhead power, that

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1 there is technology that can be used to deliver power
2 underground, and that it just seems that it becomes an
3 economic factor for a business that's delivering power to
4 us, the citizens. And my bottom line is that since we're
5 the ones who are buying the power and it's our homes and
6 our real estate and everything that's being affected,
7 that I hope the Siting Council will listen to us, the
8 people who this country belongs to, and not necessarily
9 profits of big -- of a large business, big business. But
10 put the -- put the cables underground, listen to the
11 people, and let the people have what they want.

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause). I
13 have three names on the list -- remaining on this list.
14 Is there another list?

15 MR. PHELPS: Two more names.

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Okay. So if you're
17 planning on speaking tonight, please go down and sign up
18 on that list now. This will be the last call. David
19 Hamm. On deck, Ricardo Viera.

20 MR. DAVID HAMM: Good evening. My name is
21 David Hamm. That's spelled H-a-m-m. I live at 6 Silent
22 Groove North in Westport. I'm the founder of the Clean
23 Energy Center, which is a Westport based business, and I
24 applaud the underground -- the under-grounding as a

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1 viable way to deliver power to residents and businesses
2 in Connecticut.

3 From what I've observed tonight, it's --
4 from my observation, overwhelmingly in favor of under-
5 grounding. And as the owner of a business that is
6 interested in selling energy back into the grid, clean
7 energy specifically, I'd like to ask the Siting Council
8 to make sure that the applicants communicate the process
9 that they want to see for companies like mine, to
10 actually introduce clean electricity from photovoltaics
11 or other clean energy sources into the grid itself. And
12 I -- I didn't see that or get a clear understanding of
13 how that was going to be done.

14 And I wish you good luck with the
15 residents who don't want the cables in their streets, but
16 I think it's a great idea, and I know you'll find a way
17 around those issues. But please do communicate how
18 responsible citizens who are concerned about the
19 environment can help put more clean energy into the
20 system itself. Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
22 Ricardo Viera. On deck, Mary Lavan.

23 MR. RICARDO VIERA: Good evening, Council
24 members. My name is Ricardo Viera, V-i-e-r-a, and I am a

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1 resident of the Silvermine area of Norwalk.

2 I am an advocate of burying the power
3 lines in Phase 2 in Norwalk as proposed by Northeast
4 Utilities along Route 1. Many reasons compel my wife,
5 Lillian Viera, and I to feel so strongly about this
6 decision, among which include the impact the alternative
7 of having the overhead lines may have on our health, on
8 the aesthetics of Norwalk, property values, on the
9 consumption of property, and on the destruction of
10 portions of our natural environment. It makes sense to
11 bury these lines under commercial streets as opposed to
12 stringing them through residential areas.

13 The decision that you're faced with is an
14 immensely important one. It imminently affects not only
15 my neighborhood but other towns and cities in Connecticut
16 as well. We are aware that there are temporary
17 disruptions during construction of the installation of
18 the lines underground and that the cost may initially be
19 higher. However, focusing on just these issues would be
20 shortsighted at best. The immediate and long-term
21 advantages of placing these lines underground far
22 outweigh the disadvantages.

23 We trust that the Council will approve the
24 plan to bury the lines. Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

2 Next is Mary Lavan. On deck is Andrianna Crimmins.

3 MS. MARY LAVINS: Good evening. My name
4 is Mary Lavins, L-a-v-i-n-s.

5 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you for correcting
6 that.

7 MS. LAVINS: Okay. And I live at Old
8 Kings Highway in Norwalk, which is in the Silvermine
9 area.

10 I'd like to just read a brief letter that
11 I have copies of that I'd like to submit too. Thank you
12 for coming tonight to hear the concerns of residents of
13 Norwalk and Westport. I'm a Norwalk resident in the
14 Silvermine area, which is an area -- a beautiful wooded
15 area, which intersects Norwalk, Wilton, and New Canaan.
16 I speak for myself and my husband, Fred Lavins, who can't
17 attend tonight.

18 For reasons of health, safety, aesthetics,
19 and the negative impact of overhead power lines on
20 property values, we support under-grounding the lines in
21 Norwalk in Phase 2 following the proposed route along
22 Route 1 as proposed by NU.

23 We oppose overhead lines of any kind in
24 any area of Norwalk. Norwalk is already faced with a

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1 whole lot of applications by Northeast Utility for Phase
2 1. As you know, there's an appeal going on, and we
3 definitely support that appeal -- thank you, Mayor Knopp
4 -- Phase 2 and the Norwalk to Stamford line.

5 Furthermore, as Silvermine residents,
6 which is a community in Norwalk, which is in the process
7 of applying for national historic district status, we are
8 especially horrified at the prospect of monstrous
9 overhead lines scarring the appearance of our community
10 and city. This is with reference to Phase 1. We
11 definitely support the Phase 1 appeal.

12 Please help protect the appearance and the
13 well being of Norwalk present and the future and bring
14 independent experts to the under-grounding process so
15 that all are fully apprised of the new technologies that
16 we can all benefit from.

17 We support under-grounding in all phases,
18 and especially Phase 2 in Norwalk.

19 And finally, I'd like to just -- I heard
20 an analogy earlier by Mayor Knopp and some others about
21 Norwalk being a Grand Central Station for power
22 utilities. And it occurred to me -- I remembered as a
23 formal -- as a former commuter to New York City -- as you
24 probably know, that all trains and tunnels that lead to

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1 Grand Central Station are underground. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

3 Andrianna Crimmins. On deck is Kelly Straniti and
4 finally Marita Bryant.

5 MS. ANDRIANNA CRIMMINS: Good evening. My
6 name is Andrianna Crimmins, C-r-i-m-m-i-n-s, and I live
7 in Weston, and I would very much like to thank you for
8 your time and attention.

9 And I would like to once again address the
10 overhead -- the cost of the overhead transmission lines,
11 which Mr. Huber from Gray Lane started. He said that the
12 study of the relative costs of the overhead and
13 underground transmission lines prepared and presented for
14 this Siting Council in 1996 concluded that the
15 construction and operation costs of the overhead lines
16 was significantly less than the cost of underground
17 lines, the study we feel was wrong. The study was based
18 upon the use of existing rights-of-way and, therefore,
19 incremental costs were not included. In fact, the higher
20 voltage levels proposed require an increase in the
21 rights-of-way in several locations, but most importantly
22 the opportunity for cost reduction through use of an
23 underground installation is not included. And that
24 underground installation could be used by other utilities

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1 or by existing lines and costs may be shared. An
2 underground installation would permit a significant
3 reduction in the rights-of-way in Connecticut, providing
4 an opportunity for alternative uses of this valuable real
5 estate.

6 The study made no attempt at benchmarking
7 to determine the best practices used in the industry or
8 comparable industries. The costs used were those
9 provided by the utilities in the region. No attempt was
10 made to extrapolate into the future or to conduct a
11 serious benchmarking study.

12 It is known that significant improvements
13 in tunneling technology and diagnostics of underground
14 installations have been realized in recent years in the
15 oil and similar industries.

16 The only costs included in the study were
17 those incurred by the utilities. Societal costs were not
18 considered relevant, but they are pervasive and
19 significant. The most significant is the loss in
20 property values for those in physical and visual
21 proximity to overhead lines. The only question is the
22 magnitude of the losses, but estimates range from 20 to
23 40 percent.

24 There are hundreds of homes per mile that

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1 would suffer from such an installation. Why should we
2 ask those people to subsidize the utility companies when
3 underground installations entirely avoid the costs.

4 Overhead lines and towers are ugly. And
5 I'm sure most of us would pay significant sums to
6 eliminate these eyesores. Overhead lines are subject to
7 weather induced damage as well as the significant threat
8 of terrorist action. Underground installations do not
9 suffer from these risks. Power outages have costs in
10 themselves; businesses, food spoilage, etcetera,
11 etcetera.

12 Thank you very much for your time. I hope
13 you take all of these things into consideration when
14 you're making your final determinations. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

16 Next is Kelly Stra --

17 MS. KELLY STRANITI: Straniti.

18 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Straniti?

19 MS. STRANITI: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. And the final
21 speaker tonight is Marita Bryant.

22 MS. STRANITI: Hi, good evening. My name
23 is Kelly, K-e-l-l-y. The last name is Straniti, S-t-r-a-
24 n-i-t-i. I live at 1 Ponus Avenue in Norwalk,

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1 Connecticut, and that's the Broad River area of Norwalk.

2 And I just wanted to say that I do support
3 Phase 2 going underground and as it is now. I have power
4 lines running through my yard, and in fact a tower also
5 in the wooded area of my yard. And I really wouldn't
6 want any more going up, especially ones that are higher
7 than the ones that are existing now.

8 One of my concerns are that I would like
9 to hear more information about at some point is the
10 substation. I understand that there's going to be
11 modifications that are required for that for Phase 2.
12 And I also live just down the street from that. So, I'm
13 hoping that the utility companies will provide us with
14 more information about that. I'm hoping that that part
15 of the project can be completed with minimal impacts to
16 our neighborhood.

17 And that's all that I wanted to say. I
18 just would hope that the Phase 2 continues to remain
19 underground throughout Norwalk.

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you --

21 MS. STRANITI: Thank you. (Applause).

22 MS. MARIJA BRYANT: Hi. I'm Marija Bryant
23 from 23 Morgan Avenue in Norwalk. And congratulations on
24 almost getting the first name right. It's spelled M-a-r-

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1 i-j-a, B-r-y-a-n-t. And I live three blocks from the
2 proposed route down Westport Avenue and in the Norwalk
3 Green National Register District.

4 I support underground lines in all of
5 Norwalk, but I'd like to take this opportunity to maybe
6 push the envelop a little bit and suggest for all the
7 reasons that high voltage makes sense underground, the
8 aesthetics, the maintenance and the safety, I suggest
9 that NU, Northeast Utilities take a forward-looking
10 stance and put all the power lines underground,
11 especially in the areas that are historically sensitive
12 and in the core area of Norwalk. It would add to the
13 value and it would help us and other groups as we move
14 Norwalk forward by preserving its past.

15 Thank you and I would encourage you to
16 encourage Northeast Utilities to take a forward-looking
17 stance. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
19 On behalf of all the members of the Siting Council, we'd
20 like to thank the residents who came tonight and the
21 public officials to give us their views.

22 The listening tour continues. The next
23 stop is -- we have a public hearing on January 15th at
24 7:00 p.m. in Parsons Government Center Auditorium, 70

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1 West River Street in Milford.

2 Thank you for your participation and
3 please drive safely. (Applause).

4

5 (Whereupon, the public hearing adjourned
6 at 9:15 p.m.)

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