

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

SITING COUNCIL

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CONNECTICUT LIGHT & POWER COMPANY
AND UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY

JANUARY 15, 2004
(7:15 P.M.)

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND
PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
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

DOCKET NO. 272

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BEFORE: PAMELA B. KATZ, CHAIRMAN

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STAFF MEMBERS: S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director
Fred O. Cunliffe, Siting Analyst
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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 Parson's Government Center Auditorium, 70 West River
6 Street, Milford, Connecticut, on January 15, 2004, at
7 7:15 p.m., at which time the parties were represented as
8 hereinbefore set forth . . .

9
10
11 CHAIRMAN PAMELA B. KATZ: Good evening --
12 good evening. I'm Pam Katz, Chairman of the Connecticut
13 Siting Council. Before I read our opening statement, I'd
14 just like to give a welcome to you people. You know, if
15 I had to do this docket all over again, I wouldn't have
16 scheduled it in the winter.

17 We're the Connecticut Siting Council and I
18 wanted to extend our welcome on behalf of our nine
19 members and our staff. Our job is to protect the
20 environment while providing for needed public utilities.

21 And we have before us an application here for an
22 electric transmission line. As part of this -- this is
23 the third stop on our listening tour. There are seven
24 stops in total, so this is our third stop. And we've

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1 received some very great pertinent and specific remarks,
2 which we appreciate, and are very important in our
3 decision making process. We don't know your towns as
4 well as you do, which is one of the parts of the process
5 you need to tell us how an application affects you both
6 to the positive and to the negative. And that's why
7 these -- this listening tour is so important.

8 As part of our process, we've decided to
9 hire our own under-grounding expert. It became apparent
10 during Phase 1, that's the Bethel to Norwalk line, that
11 under-grounding was going to be an important part of any
12 decision, so we decided to hire our own under-grounding
13 expert for this application. And we have an RFP on our
14 website looking for a qualified individual who can
15 provide expertise to us, the Siting Council, on making
16 important decision on how much of this line can and
17 should be underground. So that's one of the things that
18 we're doing as part of this application.

19 At this time, I'd like to read my opening
20 statement. After I do that, the Mayor is going to make a
21 few brief remarks in the way of greetings, and then we're
22 going to have a video by Northeast Utilities, which
23 briefly describes their application. So now I read the
24 part that was written by the lawyers.

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1 Ladies and gentlemen, this hearing is
2 called to order this day at 7:00 p.m., January 15, 2004.

3 My name is Pamela B. Katz, Chairman of the
4 Connecticut Siting Council. Other members of the Council
5 are Vice Chairman Colin C. Tait; Brian Emerick, designee
6 for Commissioner Rocque of DEP; Gerald J. Heffernan,
7 designee for Commissioner Downes of DPUC; Edward S.
8 Wilensky; James Murphy, Jr.; Philip T. Ashton; Daniel P.
9 Lynch, Jr.; and Brian O'Neill.

10 Members of the staff here are Derek
11 Phelps, Executive Director, and Fred O. Cunliffe, Siting
12 Analyst.

13 The court reporter is Mary Puzone and the
14 audio technician is Ed Chamberlain.

15 This hearing tonight is held pursuant to
16 the provisions of the General Statutes 16-50g through 16-
17 50aa and Sections 16-50j-1 through 16-50j-34 of the
18 Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies on an
19 application of The Connecticut Light and Power Company
20 and the United Illuminating Company for a Certificate of
21 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the
22 construction of a new 345-kV electric transmission line
23 and associated facilities between the Scovill Rock
24 Switching Station in Middletown and the Norwalk

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1 Substation in Norwalk, Connecticut. This includes
2 construction of the Beseck Switching Station in
3 Wallingford, the East Devon Substation in Milford, and
4 the Singer Substation in Bridgeport, and modifications to
5 the Scovill Rock Switching Station and the Norwalk
6 Substation and certain interconnections. This
7 application was received by the Council on October 9,
8 2003.

9 This proceeding is a contested case under
10 the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA) and will
11 be conducted in accordance with the applicable provisions
12 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and
13 the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

14 As required by law, ex parte or off-the-
15 record communication with a Council member or a Council
16 staff member on the merits of this application is
17 prohibited.

18 The parties and the intervenors for this
19 proceeding are listed on our website. It is a very
20 lengthy list, but I invite you to check the easel if
21 you'd like to find out who they all are.

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

24 Specifically, this is an opportunity for citizens, who

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1 are not formally participating in the process as a party
2 or intervenor, to make their views known to the Council.

3 These public statements are not subject to the right of
4 cross-examination and submission thereof does not entitle
5 the submitter to the right to cross-examine the
6 Applicant, the parties, or intervenors, or the Council.

7 In fairness to everyone who speaks, I will
8 limit the statements to three minutes. We have a
9 stoplight up here. And after two minutes, it goes to
10 flashing green, and then it goes to yellow, and then it
11 goes to red. So we ask you to keep an eye on that and
12 try to keep your statements to three minutes. To the
13 public officials, we don't put the stoplight on you, it
14 doesn't work -- (laughter) -- but I ask you to please
15 consider -- please consider trying to keep your
16 statements to about three minutes. These statements will
17 become part of the record for Council consideration.

18 In addition, written statements sent to
19 the Council within 30 days after the last hearing session
20 in this proceeding will be given the same weight as
21 spoken statements. So if you know of someone who
22 couldn't come out on this cold night, please encourage
23 them if they have a viewpoint, to please send us a
24 written statement. And again, our address is on the

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1 easel, our mailing address. The mailing address for the
2 Council is 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut
3 06051.

4 A verbatim transcript will be made of each
5 hearing session. And all hearing transcripts will be
6 deposited with the towns and city clerk offices within
7 the municipalities of Middletown, Middlefield, Haddam,
8 Durham, Meriden, Wallingford, Cheshire, Haddam, Bethany,
9 Woodbridge, Orange, West Haven, Milford, Stamford,
10 Bridgeport, Fairfield, Westport, Norwalk, Easton,
11 Trumbull, Weston, Wilton, North Haven and New Haven. My
12 goal at the end of this proceeding is to be able to do
13 that in one breath.

14 After all the public hearings in the
15 municipalities have concluded, the Council will continue
16 hearings for the purposes of cross-examination of
17 evidence by the Council, its staff, and parties and
18 intervenors. The dates, times, and locations of the
19 evidentiary hearings will be posted on the Council's
20 website, which is ct.gov/csc. And again, the website is
21 posted on the easel. But to give you the short version,
22 we're having hearings during the month of March on public
23 need, and there's going to be hearings in April on
24 segments 3 and 4, which you're included in, and -- or

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1 partially included in, west of East Devon is in segments
2 3 and 4. And then in May, we will have evidentiary
3 hearings on segment 1 and 2, which is proposed overhead.

4 At each of -- at the end of each hearing session date,
5 I will announce the date, time, and place of the next
6 session.

7 Before we have the video, I'd like at this
8 time to recommend -- to recognize Mayor James L.
9 Richetelli, Jr., who is going to make some brief remarks
10 in the way of greeting, and then the Mayor is going to
11 make a more detailed statement when we get to the public
12 officials. So, Mr. Mayor. (Applause).

13 MAYOR JAMES L. RICHELLELLI, JR.: Good
14 evening. Chairman Katz and members of the Siting
15 Council, welcome to Milford. I want you to know that we
16 deeply appreciate this opportunity to make our voices
17 heard to the Connecticut Siting Council. Thank you very
18 much for taking the time to come here to Milford today
19 and to spend the day. For those -- you probably don't
20 know, the Siting Council comes in earlier in the day and
21 does a field review of the line, so they've been here for
22 awhile. And we appreciate the time that you've spent in
23 Milford very much.

24 To my fellow elected officials, to the

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1 citizens of Milford, Stratford, West Haven, and the other
2 towns who are here tonight, I want to welcome you. I
3 want to thank you for coming out tonight in these
4 horrendous conditions to make your voices heard, to let
5 the Connecticut Siting Council know what you believe is
6 right and what's wrong with this proposal as it currently
7 stands. The fact that so many people are here tonight is
8 a testament to your concern for what happens in our town
9 and your respective towns. So thank you very much for
10 coming out. I look forward to listening and I know the
11 Siting Council looks forward to your testimony and
12 hearing your opinions. Thank you all very much.
13 (Applause).

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: For the benefit of the
15 public in attendance at tonight's hearing, I've asked the
16 Applicant to explain the general nature of the
17 application, its proposed benefits, its alleged need, and
18 what alternatives were explored. In response to that
19 request, the Applicant has compiled a short video that
20 addresses these issues in summary form. And the
21 Applicant is going to come down at this point and
22 introduce the video.

23 I'd also like to remind everybody if you
24 wish to speak tonight, the sign-up sheets are up here at

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1 the front. There's one sign-up sheet for public
2 officials and another one for members of the public.

3 So at this time, I will ask NU to
4 introduce their video and then the Siting Council will
5 take the stage and we'll start the public statements.

6 MR. JOHN PRET: Thank you, Chairman. My
7 name is John Pret and I'm Project Director for UI
8 Company. And on behalf of both UI and NU, as you had
9 asked, we have a short presentation. It summarizes what
10 the Chairman wanted, which is a summary of the need, why
11 we have proposed such a project, and it walks through in
12 more summary form the proposal from Norwalk to and
13 including Milford up through Middletown. And in more
14 detail it gets into very specifics of Milford.

15 In addition, Chairwoman, you had asked
16 also that we would put together a summary of an
17 alternative called the East Shore Alternative, so that
18 follows this presentation. It is self-directed. And
19 with that, we'll continue.

20

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

23

24

VIDEO PRESENTATION

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

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

Electrically, no state is an island. Every state relies on an interstate electric transmission grid to move power to where it is needed. Most of the time, Connecticut uses more power than it generates and needs to import about 2,000 megawatts or nearly one-third of the power consumed in the State. Most of Connecticut's imported power enters and moves around the State on a 345 kilovolt or a 345-kV system. There are nearly 400 miles of 345-kV lines in Connecticut. It is

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1 the standard voltage for moving power throughout New
2 England. But the 345-kV system stops at the threshold of
3 Southwest Connecticut, which is served today by an
4 increasingly inadequate 115-kV system. In fact, the 115-
5 kV system in Southwest Connecticut no longer meets
6 regional and national reliability standards.

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

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

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

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1 its property and environmental impact, and its cost to
2 consumers, the highest ranked solution was a combination
3 of overhead and under-street segments.

4 East of Milford the width of the existing
5 right-of-way ranges from 125 to 320 feet, a sufficient
6 width to allow for an overhead solution, and all but a
7 small area in Middletown and Haddam. However, west of
8 Milford the right-of-way has long stretches that are only
9 80 feet wide. If the existing right-of-way were to be
10 used here, 45 or more feet would need to be added to the
11 width of the right-of-way. This would require the
12 purchase of more than 115 acres of land and the
13 dislocation of an estimated 29 homes. Although under-
14 street solutions can run three to ten times the cost of
15 overhead solutions, in this section of the project the
16 shorter route of an under-street solution and the avoided
17 cost of buying property to widen the existing overhead
18 right-of-way, make an under-street solution comparable in
19 cost to the overhead option.

20 The proposed route in Milford has sections
21 of both overhead and underground. The route would enter
22 Milford from Orange along an existing overhead right-of-
23 way. Three rows of existing structures would be replaced
24 with two rows of monopoles. One row would typically be

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1 80 feet in height, the other 85 feet. No expansion of
2 the right-of-way would be needed and there would be a net
3 reduction in the number of structures from what exists
4 today.

5 The route would transition from overhead
6 to under-street at the proposed East Devon Substation at
7 the corner of Plains Road and Shelland Street. Upon
8 leaving the substation, the line would travel under the
9 street south, down Shelland Street and Caswell Street,
10 then following the existing right-of-way and Naugatuck
11 Avenue before crossing under Amtrak Railroad tracks and
12 the Housatonic River just south of the I-95 bridge. This
13 is the proposed route in Milford.

14 For Milford, Alternative A is the same as
15 the proposed route. For Alternative B, the route from
16 Orange to the proposed East Devon Substation would be the
17 same as the proposed route, but leaving the substation
18 the route would go overhead along the existing right-of-
19 way to the Housatonic River. The right-of-way would also
20 be reconstructed with two rows of monopoles and no
21 expansion of the right-of-way would be needed.

22 The proposed route in Stratford is an
23 under-street route that crosses under the Housatonic
24 River just south of the I-95 bridge and runs beneath

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1 Route 1, Barnum Avenue, as it crosses Stratford into
2 Bridgeport.

3 For Stratford, the route for Alternative A
4 is the same as the proposed route. Alternative B is an
5 overhead route that would enter Stratford on an overhead
6 line spanning the Housatonic River. The right-of-way
7 would be reconstructed with a row of monopoles with a
8 typical height of 105 feet. From the area between Forest
9 Road and River Valley Road to the Trumbull town line, the
10 right-of-way would need to be widened by 15 feet, which
11 would require the dislocation of homes. On the
12 north/south right-of-way from the Trumbull/Stratford town
13 line to the Bridgeport City line, the 60-foot right-of-
14 way would need to be widened to 175 feet. The existing
15 structures would be replaced with two rows of monopoles
16 with a typical height of 105 feet.

17 The proposed route in West Haven uses the
18 existing overhead right-of-way, which is 650 feet long
19 and no expansion of the right-of-way would be needed. As
20 in Milford, the three rows of existing structures would
21 be replaced with two rows of monopoles, one row with a
22 typical height of 80 feet, the other 85 feet. For West
23 Haven, Alternatives A and B are the same as the proposed
24 route.

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

13 The Connecticut Light & Power Company and
14 the United Illuminating Company thank the Connecticut
15 Siting Council for the opportunity to present this
16 information. Additional project information is available
17 on our websites, ww -- (audio malfunction).

18 The following is a brief summary of the
19 company's investigation of a potential East Shore
20 alternative prepared at the request of the Connecticut
21 Siting Council.

22 One of the options originally considered
23 for building a 345-kilovolt loop through Southwest
24 Connecticut involved connecting the strong source in

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1 Wallingford to the substation in Milford by means of a
2 route that passes through a New Haven substation known as
3 East Shore. Initial evaluations of this route indicated
4 that a second line on separate structures would be needed
5 from Wallingford to New Haven. Connecting New Haven to
6 Milford would require either seven miles of underground,
7 ten miles of overhead, and two transition stations, or
8 thirteen miles of underground and two transition
9 stations. And this route would cost about 200 million
10 dollars compared with the estimated 100 million dollars
11 to connect Wallingford to Milford along that portion of
12 the proposed route.

13 During the municipal consultation process,
14 the Mayor of Wallingford urged the companies to
15 reconsider using the existing 345-kilovolt line into East
16 Shore as part of the project, so the companies are
17 exploring every means for making this alternative a
18 possibility.

19 There are two major challenges to making
20 this alternative work. The first challenge is to
21 eliminate the need to build a second line. Second is to
22 overcome all the electric system issues related to the
23 added miles of underground. The companies have begun by
24 exploring the effect of making substantial changes to the

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1 East Shore Substation to see if changes there could
2 eliminate the need for a second line between Wallingford
3 and New Haven. So far one reconfiguration has passed
4 preliminary screening and the companies have commissioned
5 experts in power modeling to see if this reconfiguration
6 can pass National Reliability Standards.

7 If the companies develop a means to avoid
8 the need for a second line, then they will begin to
9 explore whether there is any way to overcome the electric
10 system issues related to the added miles of underground.

11 You can find more information about this potential
12 alternative in the supplemental filing posted on the
13 company's websites, www.transmission-nu.com or
14 www.uinet.com.

15 END PRESENTATION

16
17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: This afternoon the Siting
18 Council got a call that because of the high electrical
19 demand, there's a chance of rolling brown-outs or
20 blackouts tonight. So just in case the lights dim or go
21 out during this hearing, please just stay seated and the
22 local officials will do what they need to do. Yeah,
23 don't panic.

24 At this time, the Siting Council is going

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1 to take our seats and then I'm going to call first on the
2 public officials and then on members of the public.
3 Again, I ask that you look at our stoplight up here. And
4 if you want to speak, we do need for you to sign up.
5 Thank you.

6 (Pause)

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Again, public officials,
8 we don't put you on the clock, but I ask if you could try
9 to keep your remarks to three minutes because we have a
10 number of people who have signed up to speak tonight.
11 The first to speak by tradition is Mayor Jim Richetelli.
12 Mr. Mayor, if you want to come up. For each person that
13 comes up to speak, I ask that you give your name, spell
14 your name for the court reporter, and give your
15 affiliation.

16 MAYOR JAMES L. RICHETELLI, JR.: Testing.
17 It's on. Again, good evening, Madam Chairman and
18 members of the Connecticut Siting Council.

19 For the record, my name is James L.
20 Richetelli, Jr. My address is 110 River Street, Milford,
21 Connecticut. And I'm the Mayor of the City of Milford.

22 This application is of great concern to
23 all of the residents of Milford. As a result, we have
24 invested substantial time and resources into researching

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1 alternatives to the Applicant's proposal and working with
2 other municipalities affected by this proposal.

3 Milford vigorously opposes the
4 implementation of the new 345-kV transmission lines as
5 currently proposed. The Applicants seek to locate a
6 substation in East Devon and overhead lines from that
7 substation to the Orange line for an approximate distance
8 of 3.5 miles. It is imperative that these new lines be
9 placed underground to adequately mitigate the negative
10 impacts associated with aerial lines and to better
11 promote safety and security in the City of Milford.

12 As proposed, these three 345-kV lines will
13 run right through several dense residential neighborhoods
14 and these residents are understandably -- these residents
15 are understandably concerned about their health and their
16 safety. Many of the fall zones of these new structures
17 appear to be actually encroaching on property lines, and
18 in some cases the actual homes themselves. We just had a
19 case this past weekend where one of the lines fell in one
20 of our resident's yard. We cannot allow this to happen
21 with a 345-k line.

22 The new transmission structures will have
23 a direct aesthetic impact on the neighborhoods that
24 surround the proposed location of these lines. The views

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1 from these homes are not distant. They are in extremely
2 close proximity to the power lines. Additionally,
3 Milford requests that the Applicants provide a health and
4 safety study that addresses the concerns of those
5 residents impacted by this proposal.

6 The current proposal would locate the 345-
7 kV transmission line right through the center of
8 Eisenhower Park. This is the largest open space and
9 recreational parcel in the City of Milford. Allowing the
10 lines to bisect this parcel limits its recreational use
11 and impacts the open space character of this beautiful
12 piece of property.

13 Milford would be receptive to any proposal
14 or configuration that would allow these lines to be
15 under-grounded. These alternatives could include the
16 location of lines under the Boston Post Road, Route 1,
17 either the Merritt Parkway or I-95, or beneath other
18 thoroughfares in the City of Milford, such as Route 121
19 or North Street.

20 Milford would request that the Applicant
21 seriously and aggressively pursue an underground East
22 Shore to East Devon alternative raised in the company's
23 supplemental filing, as well as to consider agreeing to
24 under-grounding the additional 3.5 miles to protect these

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1 neighborhoods and Eisenhower Park. We believe that
2 under-grounding this small portion of the transmission
3 line will have a negligible effect on the proposal
4 itself. We also believe that it is technically feasible
5 and can be readily accomplished.

6 Finally, any modifications that may be
7 required to accommodate this additional under-grounding
8 are minimal in comparison to the enormous benefit to the
9 citizens and the residents of Milford and its open space.

10 Nevertheless, if the Applicants claim that
11 they cannot underground the additional 3.5 miles of line
12 and the Council concurs, then we respectfully request
13 that the Council consider reallocating a portion of the
14 underground line, which is currently proposed in nearby
15 municipalities, and place that under-grounding in Milford
16 instead. If there is limited length of underground line
17 technically possible, it is Milford's belief that the
18 value of under-grounding this line through the dense
19 residential neighborhoods and open space areas in Milford
20 outweighs under-grounding the 345-k line in many of the
21 other proposed locations in surrounding municipalities.

22 I would note that Milford is concerned
23 about the recent issues that have arisen about the
24 location of the East Devon Substation. During the

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1 municipal consultation stage and during the time that the
2 power companies came in to talk to the City, the
3 Applicants indicated that they had entered into an
4 agreement for locating the substation on a specific piece
5 of parcel in Milford. When the certificate was filed,
6 apparently the substation location was changed without
7 consultation to my office or the City of Milford, and the
8 landowner of this parcel was -- is not in agreement with
9 that. While Milford finds the general location of the
10 proposed substation to be reasonable, it is troubled
11 about the Applicant's plan to locate this substation on
12 the property of a Milford resident that has not agreed to
13 the use of this property. There are other alternatives.

14 Finally, given the severe weather
15 conditions of today, we believe that the attendance here
16 tonight has been -- greatly reduced the amount of people
17 that would have come out. And in fact -- or also the
18 potential addition of the alternative routing known as
19 East Shore from -- East Shore to Devon in the
20 supplemental filing, I would reiterate my request to the
21 Council that the Council hold a second public comment
22 session prior to the evidentiary hearings. We believe
23 that it's imperative that those residents who were unable
24 to attend this evening due to the record breaking

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1 temperatures and those residents and businesses that have
2 not been put on notice regarding the potential impact of
3 this new routing in the supplemental filing be provided
4 the opportunity to address the Council in a forum not
5 limited to the evidentiary issues.

6 Members of the Council, thank you again
7 for your consideration of these issues and your
8 attentiveness to our concerns. We look forward to
9 hearing our residents and our public officials and we
10 thank you again for coming to Milford. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.
12 (Applause). Mr. Mayor, we appreciate you allowing us to
13 have this hearing in your beautiful auditorium.

14 MAYOR RICHETELLI: Thank you very much.
15 The copies --

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Yes?

17 MAYOR RICHETELLI: -- there were several
18 that were handed to me tonight and I know that some
19 residents don't plan on speaking but do want to leave
20 their comments. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. Next is
22 Majority Leader Jim Amann. Representative Amann.
23 (Applause).

24 REPRESENTATIVE JAMES AMANN: Oh, boy,

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1 chilly, huh. Nice to see everybody. Honorable Members
2 of the Connecticut Siting Council, thank you for allowing
3 me to speak with you today regarding Docket No. 272.

4 If I could, I would like to ask everyone
5 to look 20 to 30 or even 50 years into the future.
6 Hopefully our children and our grandchildren will be able
7 to say that we were here today, we were farsighted and
8 that we possessed the wisdom to plan for the long-term.
9 I hope they can say that we did -- that we did not make
10 shortsighted short-term decisions that were penny-wise
11 but pound-foolish. I hope they can say that we weighed
12 the relatively modest additional costs of placing our
13 electrical lines underground rather than condemning them
14 and future generations to live with all the problems that
15 we know are associated with aboveground lines. Surely
16 there can be no doubt that placing the lines under ground
17 makes for a safer and more reliable system. There can be
18 no doubt that placing these unsightly structures
19 underground will enhance the quality of our community.

20 Members of the Siting Council, this is a
21 rare turning point in time. What you will surely decide
22 will not only impact this community today, but will also
23 impact future generations. As you know the studies
24 conducted by the utilities companies have indicated that

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1 it is both possible and economically feasible to bury
2 these lines. I would respectfully ask that you listen to
3 the residents of our community. I believe it will be
4 come crystal clear that the overwhelming desire of the
5 Milford citizens is that these lines be placed
6 underground.

7 Again, I respectfully ask that you make a
8 decision and leave a legacy that we can all look back on
9 as being farsighted and wise. Thank you very much for
10 coming to Milford this evening.

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Representative.
12 (Applause). Next is Senator Win Smith, Jr. Senator.
13 (Applause).

14 SENATOR WIN SMITH, JR.: Members of the
15 Siting Council, welcome to our fair city. I don't envy
16 the job that all of you have, and I recognize that one of
17 the reasons that the Siting Council is in existence is to
18 deal with some of the not-in-my-back-yard-syndrome. And
19 I would have you know that Milford is not one of those
20 communities. Especially in the power transmission and
21 generation areas Milford has done what seems to me to be
22 far more than its fair share, we have two power plants
23 here, we host the existing high voltage wires, and we
24 have the Iroquois Pipeline. And with respect to this

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1 line, I don't think you're going to hear many folks here
2 and certainly you won't hear any of the public officials
3 say that we don't recognize the need for the upgrade. We
4 understand its need and we accept that. We also accept
5 that we are a route through which this must pass. But we
6 do ask that you look seriously at all the options
7 available to you with particular emphasis on the
8 underground option.

9 I know from the many talks with the
10 Applicant, and they have been good in meeting with us if
11 not ceding to our requests, that they have raised certain
12 technical issues. I would tell you as a public official
13 having watched the first phase of this unfold, I have
14 watched a progression where the Applicant has started off
15 at a place where they said that there was no under-
16 grounding possible, it couldn't be done, and then Phase 1
17 became underground. And then in Phase 2 they magically
18 came up with an additional 22 miles that they could put
19 underground that just so happened to coincide with the
20 narrow right-of-way. Now, I know you need to look at the
21 technical arguments and data placed in front of you, but
22 you need not suspend your common sense. They couldn't do
23 it, it wasn't possible until they had to do it. And now
24 apparently they've come up with an additional five miles

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1 that that maybe they could put underground. Frankly -- I
2 know that you can't legislate the laws the physics, they
3 keep telling us that, but there is another old adage that
4 says where there's a will there's a way. You can
5 motivate them to put it underground. And I suspect if
6 you require them to do so, they will find a way to do it.

7 I would also suggest -- I know the work
8 load that this requires of all of you and your staff
9 here, if I could humbly make a recommendation, that you
10 hire an underground expert to help you ferret through a
11 lot of the weighty technical data that may come before
12 you and the voluminous submissions I know you're
13 subjected to in applications like this.

14 I would also ask you please -- the City of
15 Milford and other towns have gone through great expense
16 to hire experts so that it isn't simply anecdotal
17 testimony and evidence that comes before you, that you
18 please truly critically look at the Applicant's
19 information and the City's information and weigh them
20 fairly and not just perhaps, sometimes as some of us see
21 it, weight one side more heavily than the other.

22 Our town has a series of concerns that
23 were mentioned by the Mayor. And I know one of your
24 charges is to look at the environmental impact of

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1 something like this. And of course the environmental
2 impact here with the new lines going in and the clearing
3 and the other construction that's going to go on with the
4 footings and the new towers is going to be substantial,
5 but I also think that the health and safety aspects is
6 part of the environmental consideration you have. And I
7 wouldn't mind meeting -- and I know I've told the
8 Chairman the next time I'm in New Britain, I'm going to
9 stop in and see her and we're going to have some chats
10 and everything -- but I hope within the parameters of
11 your environmental reflection on this, you can look at
12 the real true health and safety concerns. And I realize,
13 you know, the health issues -- there are studies on both
14 sides and they're not really sure, nothing's been proven,
15 but you know when there are conflicting studies about
16 health, that means you can't say that it's unequivocally
17 safe, unequivocally there is no health concern. And if
18 that's the way it's going to be, I suggest you error on
19 the side of caution. Perhaps those folks who say there
20 are health concerns are right. And if there is an
21 alternative open to you, and here I believe that there
22 is, take that alternative, take the safe route.

23 The Mayor mentioned the safety concern
24 about that wire coming down in somebody's yard. Thank

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1 heaven somebody wasn't killed as well could have been the
2 case it seems to me had they been out in their yard. If
3 you're going to put in a gigantic new line like this, no
4 matter what they say, accidents are going to happen. We
5 are going to be subjected to that.

6 As well it seems to me that it's beyond
7 dispute that the positioning and the existence, the mere
8 existence of these lines is going to have an adverse
9 impact on the property values throughout the whole course
10 of the line. That has been the case in Milford, it is
11 the case now. And if these lines go in, that's going to
12 be even more so. There is no way that that cannot have a
13 depressing effect on the values of the real estate all
14 throughout that line area, which of course means that the
15 grand list goes down by that much, which of course means
16 that the taxes on the rest of us here in these host
17 municipalities have to go up. In other words, what's
18 going to happen if there are these aboveground lines is
19 you're going to have a very narrowly tightly focused tax
20 increase on the host communities, which simply isn't
21 fair.

22 These impacts, health, safety,
23 environment, and financial are going to be with us and
24 our towns for the next 30, 50 years. We would hope that

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1 you would look and think carefully about what you're
2 doing to us in that regard.

3 And finally -- (applause) -- you never
4 know -- and finally, I would just say there are a number
5 of us who have in the Legislature expressed
6 dissatisfaction with the way the Siting Council has
7 operated in some historic context. And -- and -- and
8 again, I know I've told the Chairman we're going to sit
9 down and chat about this, but -- but I hope you would
10 take this opportunity to show us, you know, in kind of a
11 balanced thoughtful way that perhaps in the past we've
12 been -- we've been wrong. Thank you very much.
13 (Applause).

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is William Sahlmann,
15 Vice Chairman of the Conservation Commission. On deck is
16 Judith Toohey, Alderman 2nd District.

17 MR. WILLIAM SAHLMANN: Thank you very
18 much, Madam Chairman. I'd like to read a letter from the
19 Conservation Commission here in Milford stating our
20 position.

21 After reviewing the final application to
22 the Connecticut Seeding Council, the Milford -- or Siting
23 Council, excuse me -- the Milford Conservation Commission
24 would like to make the following comments and

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1 suggestions.

2 The Conservation Commission is still in
3 agreement that the proposed upgrade is necessary and
4 prudent. We would, however, like to have assurances that
5 whichever method and route is finally selected, that the
6 environmental consequences both during construction and
7 for maintenance and repair are given the highest
8 priority. As a matter of good faith and to allow for
9 additional input from the other city agencies, we would
10 therefore like to request that Northeast Utilities and
11 United Illumination -- Illuminating -- submit
12 applications to the appropriate city agencies as is
13 required by private firms wanting to do construction in
14 Milford. This would include but may not be limited to
15 the Inland/Wetlands Agency, the Engineering Department,
16 the Health Department, and Planning & Zoning.

17 And finally, just to clear up one final
18 question, if the new 345-kV lines are buried, what's
19 going to happen to the 115-kV line present in existence?
20 Will they remain up above ground? And if so, will they
21 be upgraded to monopoles? Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. When I read
23 the on deck person -- (applause) -- I'd appreciate it if
24 the on deck person could come down to the front row so

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1 that we can work through this list. So up next is Judith
2 Toohey, Alderman 2nd District. On deck is Mary Ludwig,
3 Vice Chairman of the Tree Commission.

4 MS. JUDITH TOOHEY: Thank you. I'm here
5 tonight in support of putting the proposed power lines
6 underground.

7 Milford and its citizens have voiced
8 strongly our opposition to your current proposal.
9 Overall, the opposition is based on environmental,
10 economic, as well as cultural impacts to our city.

11 This proposal directly affects densely
12 populated areas in residential neighborhoods that will
13 have both negative impacts to property value as well as
14 quality of life issues. Damage includes increased air
15 pollution as well as negative impact to open space, which
16 we have as a city worked very hard to obtain over the
17 years. One of our most natural resources, excuse me,
18 Eisenhower Park, would be directly affected by this
19 proposal.

20 One of my greatest concerns is the
21 economic impact to our community. This would include
22 property values. Its effect could reduce property values
23 in the proposed area and have a negative impact on tax
24 revenue to the city.

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1 We have an opportunity at this time to
2 upgrade using the state-of-the-art technology by putting
3 all of our power lines underground. Milford would
4 benefit greatly by this use as would Northeast Utilities.
5 Problems have existed for years with overhead power
6 lines. And as our city has grown, the overhead lines have
7 posed additional problems. I'm sure you can understand
8 our concerns. This is the perfect time to be effective
9 as a Council and begin to work toward all lines being put
10 underground. Milford is the perfect place to do this
11 with Fairfield County's proposal for power lines being
12 built underground already.

13 On the cultural side, my biggest concern
14 once again is the impact to Eisenhower Park. We cannot
15 allow our recreational areas, which are utilized by so
16 many people, to become a safety issue as well as a
17 quality of life issue.

18 We, as the City of Milford, do request
19 your consideration to have all of Milford's proposed
20 power lines be put underground.

21 I thank you for this opportunity once
22 again to voice my thoughts and concerns.

23 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
24 Next is Mary Ludwig and on deck is John Janson, Chairman

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1 of Planning & Zoning.

2 MS. MARY LUDWIG: Good evening. I am an
3 officer of the Milford Trees, Incorporated, a member of
4 the Tree Commission, and an officer on the Connecticut
5 Urban Forest Council, but tonight I'm here to speak for
6 myself.

7 Milford has received several awards for
8 the attention given to our urban forests. We are proud
9 of our efforts regarding the preservation of trees as a
10 natural resource. Both regionally and in the city we see
11 Connecticut's forests as an integral and vital part of a
12 healthy environment and not in terms of an amenity.

13 According to the application, this power
14 line upgrade is by far the largest transmission project
15 that has ever been proposed in Connecticut. It cuts a
16 huge swath 45 miles long northeast of the Housatonic
17 River across the central -- the south central part of our
18 state. Because of its proposed location, it will have a
19 great amount of impact on woodlands. Although the power
20 companies argue that environmental damage will be minimal
21 since they will work along their current right-of-way,
22 the overall picture suggests it will be a significant and
23 substantial impact.

24 Specifically, new clear-cutting is

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1 proposed to widen the right-of-way for the new lines in
2 Middletown, Haddam, Meriden, Wallingford and Cheshire.
3 Moreover, even in areas where no new clear-cutting is
4 proposed, such as Milford, the removal of the present
5 towers and the construction of two rows of new towers
6 will be a major and permanent disturbance to the right-
7 of-way that now exists. Through cumulative impacts
8 associated with the construction of access roads, staging
9 areas, substations, and other associated facilities all
10 along the line, we will lose a significant number of
11 mature trees and forested habitats.

12 I know one of your jobs is to weigh the
13 environmental impacts of this proposal and I know you
14 have heard and will hear a lot of testimony about harm to
15 the environment, but let me point out what I see as the
16 consequences of authorizing the proposed aerial alignment
17 through Milford. As a urban forester, I have learned
18 from knowledgeable professionals how forested areas are
19 filters that clean the air and regulate water flows
20 through the hydrological cycle. The hydrological cycle -
21 - the hydrological function of trees is especially
22 important around wetlands and watersheds. In Milford the
23 current proposal will have a maximum -- will have maximum
24 adverse environmental impacts where it crosses from

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1 Orange and passes through wetlands associated with the
2 Wepawaug River Watershed. The Wepawaug River is one of
3 Milford's most important natural resources and the
4 woodland areas around it is just as important, if not
5 more important than the river itself. The area is
6 already experiencing flooding and erosion caused by
7 development. These impacts can be avoided or greatly
8 lessened by using technology such as burial of the cable
9 in transportation rights-of-way. The forested areas
10 within the Wepawaug Watershed are already stressed by
11 activities within the project corridor and are of great
12 concern to me. Now multiple that by other Milford
13 examples plus similar situations from 13 other
14 municipalities between Milford and Middletown and you're
15 looking at a 45-mile long avoidable environmental threat.

16 I strongly and respectfully urge you to
17 decide on siting the new 345-kV line on a different route
18 than has been proposed. The line should go under major
19 public roads where the environmental damage can be
20 generally avoided or greatly minimized. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
22 Next is John Janson, Chairman of Planning & Zoning. On
23 deck is Representative Ray Collins.

24 MR. JOHN JANSON: Good evening, Council,

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1 and thanks for giving us the chance to address our
2 concerns. My name is John Janson, 22 Russell Road,
3 Milford.

4 I'd like to express my opposition to the
5 proposed overhead transmission line upgrade as proposed
6 through the City of Milford on two issues related
7 specifically to the impact on the quality of life on the
8 citizens of Milford.

9 The first issue is the loss of valuable
10 recreational area for the City. Milford is not a
11 sparsely populated area with lots of open space where
12 overhead power transmission lines would be a minor
13 inconvenience. Milford is densely populated with limited
14 open space available for recreational uses and very
15 little undeveloped land.

16 The proposed route for the transmission
17 line passes through Eisenhower Park, which is the City's
18 major piece of open space recreational area. The
19 distance it travels through the park is approximately a
20 half a mile or roughly twenty-six hundred feet. There's
21 a restriction for locating recreational activities within
22 a hundred feet of the centerline of these transmission
23 lines. This results in a 200 wide foot swath cut through
24 the park where such activities are prohibited. A little

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1 math shows that this places a restriction on the
2 activities that can take place in an area of about
3 520,000 square feet, or roughly 12 acres. What is that
4 amount of land worth, prime recreation land worth to the
5 City of Milford?

6 The second issue that affects the quality
7 of life is the potential health risk of this 345-kV
8 transmission line to the folks who happen to live and
9 work in its path. Notice I refer to the potential health
10 risks because it's well documented that there hasn't been
11 any clear link established between the electrical and
12 magnetic fields, or EMF, and any health issues. However,
13 there has been much controversy on this subject.

14 I'd like to quote from the Connecticut
15 1995 report on the task force activities to evaluate the
16 health effects from electric and magnetic fields, which
17 was issued in January of 1995. The task force was
18 comprised of representatives from the Connecticut DPUC
19 and DEP, your Council, the Connecticut Siting Council,
20 the Department of Public Health, and with advisors from
21 Northeast Utilities, SNET, the University of Connecticut,
22 G.E., Yale University School of Medicine, and the
23 American Cancer Society, and U-Conn Health Center. The
24 report quotes from a report by the National Radiological

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1 Protection Board relating to several studies that were
2 done on this subject. A quote from the report states,
3 and I quote, "The studies do not establish that exposure
4 to electromagnetic fields is a cause of cancer, but taken
5 together do provide some evidence that suggests that the
6 possibility exists in the case of childhood leukemia, the
7 number of effected children in the study however is
8 small", closed quotes. That's not very comforting.
9 Further the task force states, again in quotes, "The
10 public health policy is consistent with the electric and
11 magnetic fields best practices adopted by the Connecticut
12 Siting Council in 1993, which considers EMF in the siting
13 of electric generation substation and transmission
14 facilities. Up to date information, technology and field
15 management techniques are applied on a project specific
16 basis to reduce the EMF exposure wherever is feasible.
17 The approach adopted by the task force is dictated by the
18 level of uncertainty surrounding EMF science. While
19 there's no definitive cause and effect relationship,
20 there is enough evidence to suggest that science -- that
21 scientists need to study a possible association
22 thoroughly", again closed quotes. There's that
23 uncertainty issue again and again. I submit that the
24 anxiety created by this uncertainty reduces the quality

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1 of life for the hundreds and perhaps thousands of folks
2 who live, work, and play in the path of this proposed
3 transmission line.

4 No one is suggesting that the power
5 companies should remove existing overhead transmission
6 lines and bury them, but here's an opportunity to make
7 things better rather than worse. Since the need for an
8 upgrade has been established, it will go forward. Let's
9 not lose this opportunity to improve the quality of life
10 for Milford residents in the process. This transmission
11 line is not here for the short-term, it will affect
12 Milford for the next 50 years or more. The technology is
13 available now to bury these lines and avoid environmental
14 disaster for the City and its residents. Let's not find
15 out in 10 or 15 years from now that there really is a
16 connection between EMF and certain diseases and then
17 decide that these lines should have been buried. Let's
18 do what's feasible and right and bury this transmission
19 line now. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
21 Hold that thought -- Representative Ray Collins and on
22 deck is Representative Richard Roy. Representative.

23 REPRESENTATIVE RAY COLLINS: Good evening.
24 I'm Ray Collins, State Rep for the 117th District, which

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1 comprises portions of Milford, Orange, and West Haven.
2 Obviously, I've had a lot of communications from
3 constituents about this issue and I would like to share
4 the content of those with you. Surprisingly -- truly
5 surprisingly to me, not one expressed the NIMBY syndrome.
6 I was amazed at that.

7 You could take the rest of the comments
8 and put them into two categories, one was apprehension
9 and one was cynicism. The apprehensive wanted to know
10 why the line couldn't go underground. I'm hearing lately
11 that it's a technical problem. But when I first asked
12 the question, it was not technical but economic. That
13 was the very first answer I got. I understand the
14 apprehension there because that's exactly what I was
15 told.

16 The cynical want to know why the line is
17 there in the first place because we've got the power
18 lines coming down from Bethel and now we've got the lines
19 coming from here. A few of them understood the problems
20 of power in Fairfield County. Most of them thought it's
21 actually just because they both terminate in Norwalk
22 where the power lines to Long Island emanate from, that
23 it was power for New York, not for Connecticut. I don't
24 know if that's true or not, but if it is, I think the

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1 good people from New York could offset the economic
2 problems we have here. We would have a pretty state and
3 they could have their power.

4 With the Cross Sound fiasco still in front
5 of us, you can understand why some people are cynical. I
6 think that we can do the right thing. We should do the
7 right thing. I hope you will do the right thing. Thank
8 you.

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
10 Next is Representative Richard Roy, on deck is Mark
11 Lofthouse, Vice Chairman of Planning & Zoning and Vice
12 Chairman of the Eisenhower Park Committee.
13 Representative, welcome.

14 REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD ROY: Madam Chair,
15 members of the Council, thank you for coming here
16 tonight. I hope you enjoy your visit to the southern part
17 of Connecticut, which is a little warmer than the rest of
18 us.

19 The past couple of weeks have shown us
20 just how accomplished and spirited the American people
21 can be. The latest Mars exploration has resulted in
22 fantastic pictures of the surface of that planet. The
23 images once again prove that we can accomplish great
24 things if we set our minds to it. The people of Milford

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1 want the new electric cables underground. We were told
2 it's too expensive, too difficult, and too hard to
3 maintain. I contend that if we can send a rocket to Mars
4 with a device that can send photos back to Earth, then we
5 certainly have the technological ability to put electric
6 cables underground in Milford. (Applause).

7 It is a quality of life issue for the
8 residents of this city. I moved to Milford 35 years ago
9 because of its reputation for protecting the quality life
10 for its citizens. I have never been disappointed.
11 Tonight we confront another proposal that would erode
12 that quality of life for my neighbors along the proposed
13 power line route. I too want the power lines
14 underground. I too want to protect the environment and
15 the diversity of plants and animals it produces for all
16 to enjoy. I too want to protect the quality of life that
17 is so dear to all in Milford.

18 I understand the need to upgrade the
19 transmission system to meet future needs. I don't
20 understand why someone fumbling the ball in Ohio last
21 August is used as a argument to dismiss the wants of the
22 residents here. (Applause). If these lines were in
23 place last summer, it would not have prevented the power
24 outages. It was a human error.

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1 We have an opportunity at this time to
2 serve both the residents of Milford and the power
3 company. Please put the lines underground to protect our
4 quality of life. A number of potential routes have been
5 identified during this process. You have the options
6 before you and you have the ability to protect Milford's
7 quality of life. Thank you. (Applause).

8 CHAIRMAN KATZ: (Indiscernible) -- Vice
9 Chairman of Planning & Zoning and Vice Chairman of the
10 Eisenhower Park Committee, on deck is Councilwoman Martha
11 Bell.

12 MR. MARK LOFTHOUSE: Thank you and good
13 evening. My name is Mark Lofthouse, Vice Chairman of the
14 Milford Planning & Zoning Board, and I live at 54 Maple
15 Street here in Milford, Connecticut.

16 What can I say that hasn't already been
17 said this evening. And Dick Roy stole probably the last
18 point on my list to talk about tonight. But I can tell
19 you that the Eisenhower Park Revitalization Committee and
20 the Planning & Zoning Board unanimously support putting
21 these lines underground for all the reasons we've heard
22 here tonight.

23 Milford has played a gracious hosts to
24 power lines and two power stations for many many years.

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1 We have never balked about our role in the power grid. I
2 think this is one instance where the citizens need to be
3 heard. We want to recapture part of our park, namely
4 Eisenhower Park. The power lines dissect it right down
5 the center. And really if you're on our committee trying
6 to figure out how we're going to add ball fields and
7 walking trails, but yet we've got to figure out what we
8 are going to do with these power lines and we can't do
9 anything underneath it, it really is quite a challenge.
10 And it's very sad that a city the size of Milford having
11 a huge tract of land about 240 acres has to really dance
12 around this issue. Putting the power lines underground
13 would certainly help us make a park that this community
14 could be very proud of and our children could play in in
15 the future.

16 In addition, the technology -- you know,
17 the Mars lander showing photos from the surface of -- of
18 what we've never seen before and as clear as a bell --
19 the President on TV I think a couple of nights ago said
20 by the year 2020 we'll land a person on Mars, which is
21 quite a feat. If we go at the rate we're going as far as
22 upgrading and overhauling these power lines, the last one
23 was done 40 years ago, so 40 or 50 years from now, we can
24 probably see these lines being redone, and by that time

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1 it would have -- when we're ready for an upgrade, it
2 would have been 20 years past the time we've landed
3 people on Mars. And we know this technology today of
4 putting power lines underground and we should use it
5 today and I implore you to do so. Let's not be behind
6 the eight-ball here. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
8 Next is Councilwoman Martha Bell, on deck is Minority
9 Leader of the Board of Aldermen Gayle Slossberg. And do
10 I have any other public officials who have signed up to
11 speak? Okay. And then after that, we'll go to the
12 public residents. Miss Bell.

13 MS. MARTHA BELL: My name is Martha Bell
14 and I reside at 182 Canton Street, West Haven,
15 Connecticut. Can you hear me?

16 I'd like to thank you for the opportunity
17 to speak this evening. And I bring a concern from my
18 district, which is the Fifth District in West Haven,
19 about the health and safety of what the new power lines
20 would do for the district. I reside very close to the
21 proposed area site where the lines would be located.

22 And I'm disappointed that I don't see any
23 of the municipal officials from my town because when the
24 presentation was made by the Applicant, it indicated that

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1 there was a municipal consultation process. I was not
2 aware of that process, I was not a part of that process.

3 Everything that I know about this project or proposed
4 project, I have either read in the newspaper or saw some
5 insert in my electric bill. So, I speak from the
6 standpoint of those constituents that I represent and
7 also myself as a resident of the area because we have not
8 been given enough information as to how this will affect
9 our health and safety.

10 But as I listen to the speakers here this
11 evening, it's quite obvious that if the power lines are
12 buried, there's less risk for our health and safety as
13 there will be if they are placed above the ground. So
14 there's definitely an increase from 115 kV's to 345 kV's.
15 And I emphasize along with all the other speakers that we
16 take advantage of the latest technology and bury these
17 lines underground.

18 And the statement I read in the New Haven
19 Register yesterday indicated in West Haven the proposal
20 is to upgrade about half a mile line aboveground, which
21 is supported by city officials. For the record, I am a
22 city official elected by the constituents in my district
23 and I am opposed to the installation of the aboveground
24 cables.

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1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

2 Next is Gayle Slossberg, on deck is Jeanne -- if I
3 massacre your last name, correct me when you get up to
4 the mic -- Jeanne Cer --

5 A VOICE: Cervene?

6 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Cerene --

7 A VOICE: Cervene.

8 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. Anyone -- and
9 again anyone, if I massacre the pronunciation of your
10 name, when you get up to the mic, please correct it.

11 MS. GAYLE SLOSSBERG: Good evening, Madam
12 Chairwoman and members of the Siting Council, welcome to
13 Milford and thank you for giving us this opportunity to
14 speak to you.

15 My name is Gayle Slossberg. I live at 14
16 Honeysuckle Lane in Milford. My last name is spelled S-
17 l-o-s-s-b-e-r-g. I'm the Democratic Minority Leader for
18 the Milford Board of Aldermen and I am the Aldermen for
19 the First District of Milford where most of the existing
20 right-of-way exists -- is located. I am also a member of
21 the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board.

22 I'm here tonight, like everyone else, to
23 request that you place the lines underground and that you
24 deny the application before you to the extent that the

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1 propose route passes aboveground, overhead through
2 Eisenhower Park and through our neighborhoods that are
3 densely populated with hundreds of children.

4 The location of the lines as proposed
5 poses an undue hazard to the people who live near the
6 line and who use Eisenhower Park. It will have
7 significant adverse impacts to our environment, our
8 property values, the recreational value of our park and
9 is also contrary to our State's energy policy.

10 The people before me have detailed a lot
11 of the things that I think I would have said and I will
12 try to spare you the repetitiveness, so if you will bear
13 with me if I jump around in my notes. As was stated,
14 this route goes through Eisenhower Park, and that is a
15 park that we are currently looking to revamp. And we
16 will be expecting thousands of visitors there at some
17 point, there's always the possibility. One of the
18 concerns that's raised is with regard to EMF's. And I
19 know that this is not something that's easily quantified,
20 but I would share with you that the Applicant states in
21 their proposal that there are no ill health effects
22 associated with residential levels of EMF's, and they
23 define that as one milligauss. Now if you search through
24 the proposal, you can find in the appendix that the

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1 magnetic fields that will be proposed in Eisenhower Park
2 at the bleachers, which is not actually in the right-of-
3 way, will be 30.7 milligauss. So you're talking 30 times
4 the amount of magnetic field that the Applicant has
5 already stated there will be no ill health effects.

6 (Applause).

7 I'd also like you to note that that is one
8 of the highest levels in this application. Outside of
9 the B'Nai Jacob location in Woodbridge, this is the
10 second highest level of magnetic fields proposed. And
11 with the lines going where they are and people using this
12 park all the time, as I'm sure -- well, I don't know how
13 well you could see today in this weather in the snow, but
14 it is an area where people walk, they you know bring
15 their animals, they fly airplanes, they fly kites, and
16 it's a very well used area. And no matter what you do to
17 keep people out, people are going to be in there.

18 I would also just note for the record that
19 the only readings they took that are provided in this
20 proposal are with regard to Eisenhower Park. Now, I'm
21 sure as you know these lines continue further on to a
22 very densely populated area where we have lots and lots
23 of children, who no matter what you do will play in the
24 right-of-way. The Applicant does not provide us with

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1 information or with readings near the residential portion
2 of this route. And that is something that I know I would
3 like to have in terms of what the existing base -- the
4 base line is and what the proposed readings would be
5 there.

6 I would also note for there record that
7 there is an alternative in this proposal, it is in Volume
8 1, Table H-2, that states that the most viable
9 underground alternative is some underground alternative
10 called 2-3, which is an underground route along existing
11 roads, however there is nowhere else in this proposal
12 that this is explored. And I would like some more
13 information on that.

14 With regard to the supplemental filing --
15 (applause) -- I do think the East Shore alternative
16 requires further investigation. And I'm pleased to see
17 that that's moving along. I would just ask for one
18 conceptual thought, and that would be to give thought to
19 the idea that we could go down to the East Shore Station
20 and then actually leave a gap. And knowing that Milford
21 Power has now got one turbine running and will have a
22 second turbine up in 90 days, you'll be adding 536
23 megawatts to the grid, whether that will sufficiently
24 alleviate -- with a 345 coming out of Milford Power,

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1 whether that will sufficiently alleviate some of the
2 congestion problem, along with the fact that we have a
3 number of plants that are not on-line but are in the -- I
4 hate to use the word pipeline, but are in the process
5 that are not recognized in this proposal.

6 Finally, it's worth mentioning that there
7 are significant clashes with this proposal with our State
8 Energy Policy. Our State Energy Policy relies upon the
9 Institute for Sustainable Energy, their assessment and
10 report of distributed generation opportunities in
11 Southwestern Connecticut. One of the things they talk
12 about is -- in this report is that it encourages our
13 distribution companies to participate in projects that
14 will increase the amount of DG in the region as a way of
15 mitigating transmission problems.

16 The other thing that's left out of this
17 proposal is that our State energy plan also recommends
18 that the State support demand response initiatives as an
19 alternative to transmission expansion. So it's clearly
20 our State policy to consider distributed generation
21 demand response initiatives as well as traditional method
22 of conservation, because remember we're talking here
23 about, you know, a problem that exists but also exists
24 more often than not when you're dealing with peak loads.

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1 The Applicant discusses distributed
2 generation, they discuss demand response, they discuss
3 conservation and load management, but they dismiss each
4 one singly and say this one alone is not going to do the
5 job, this one alone is not going to do the job. What I'd
6 like to see happen, and I think it is our State's policy
7 to look at it this way, is there an alternative in
8 combination that would address -- would alleviate some of
9 these congestion problems rather than crisscrossing our
10 state with all of these massive transmission lines.

11 One last thing and -- with regard to the
12 Siting Council's best management practices regarding EMF
13 exposures, that does require, as I'm sure you know,
14 specific comments from the DEP, the DPUC, and the DOHS
15 regarding EMF exposure. That may be somewhere in the
16 file, but I know I couldn't find it. So if that exists,
17 I'd love to see it, but I'm sure that that would be of
18 interests.

19 The bottom line here is that the adverse
20 impacts to our neighborhoods, our park, our safety, our
21 environment, compel that any line be placed away from our
22 homes and our park, it clashes with our State Energy
23 Policy, and this application must be modified to address
24 these issues. Thank you for your time.

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1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

2 Good evening. How did I do on the pronunciation?

3 MS. JEAN CERVIN: You did very well and
4 that's not very common, so I thank you for that.

5 I am Jean Cervin, 3 Central Avenue,
6 Milford, Connecticut. And I'm going to take somewhat of
7 a different approach to what we've been discussing this
8 evening. As a member of the Milford Planning & Zoning
9 Board, I can appreciate to some degree the process you're
10 going through. To me this process is something like a
11 zoning board at the state level and is a great example of
12 democracy at work. The way it is suppose to work, not in
13 terms of political bias or party affiliation, but in
14 terms of citizens speaking out on matters that concern
15 them directly.

16 I am aware that many experts, academics,
17 and politicians who are concerned with regulatory matters
18 in the energy field regard the public as unqualified to
19 comment. If one believes this, the public can only react
20 in a knee-jerk not-in-my-backyard fashion to energy
21 proposals because they don't really understand enough
22 about how energy is priced, produced, and delivered. I
23 believe that many people want to know more about energy,
24 not only how it is priced, produced and delivered, but

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1 what impact varying forms of energy production may have
2 on the environment.

3 National poles show that more people are
4 asking for more education on energy, but that's like the
5 glass half empty or half full. The poles don't show
6 ignorance as much as interests. So I'm glad that you are
7 giving us a chance to educate each other at hearings like
8 this one, through the video we saw, through each other's
9 comments, through suggestions and ideas for further
10 investigation.

11 Also, I want to point out that all
12 democratic societies have to deal with technologies and
13 many other things that the average citizen does not fully
14 understand. In a way that's an important reason
15 democracy was created, to have checks and balances on
16 power groups that either possess money or influence.
17 Science and technology are human products having arisen
18 from human effort and they have been and remain within
19 the reach of democratic regulation and decision making.
20 We learned an important lesson from the energy debacle in
21 California, but maybe not the lesson reported in the
22 papers. As one observer said, the problem for California
23 was that government and the public were not sufficiently
24 engaged and cautiously thoughtful prior to the adoption

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1 of specific policy choices that had long-range
2 implications and significant economic, social, and
3 environmental impact. In other words, the problem in
4 California was not too much democracy, but not enough.
5 We are trying to correct our heading in Connecticut. We
6 are getting plenty of input. We are interested in energy
7 and in the environment.

8 I along with many others in my city who
9 have already spoken and more who will are saying that the
10 current proposal of overhead wires is not what we want.
11 We urge you to take our concerns seriously and to
12 consider the alternatives, we know that they exist. The
13 particular alternative we want is that of placing the
14 power lines underground. Thank you for your attention.

15 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
16 That concludes the public officials list. We're going to
17 take a 10-minute break. After the break, we are going to
18 take the citizens who have signed up. The first three on
19 that list are Robert A. Fiore, Helen Moore, and Betsey
20 Wright. So we will reconvene in 10 minutes. If you wish
21 to speak and you have not already signed up, please sign
22 up at the list down here by the table near the easel.
23 Thank you.

24 (Whereupon, a short recess was taken)

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1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Would you please have a
2 seat. For the citizens we are going to be using the
3 traffic light, which is here on the front of the stage.
4 We are going to ask you to keep your remarks to three
5 minutes. After two minutes, it goes to flashing green,
6 then it goes to yellow, then it goes to red. I won't
7 tell you what happens when it hits red. (Laughter).

8 What I'm going to do is I'm going to
9 indicate who's up and who's on deck, and I'd like the on
10 deck person to -- I'd like the on deck person to come
11 down to the front so that we can -- so we can go through
12 the list. First up is Robert A. Fiore and on deck is
13 Helen Moore. When you come up to the microphone, please
14 give your name, spell your name for the court reporter,
15 and give your address.

16 MR. ROBERT A. FIORE: Good evening. My
17 name is Robert A. Fiore, F-i-o-r-e. I reside at 20 Salem
18 Walk here in Milford.

19 Before I start, may I ask -- I'm without
20 my reading glasses, so if you don't mind -- Chairman
21 Katz, Executive Director Phelps, Senator Smith,
22 Representative Amann, Representative Roy, and all the
23 other distinguished members and representatives of
24 various branches of Connecticut government, along with my

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1 fellow residents of Milford and our neighbors of West
2 Haven, Stratford, and of course Mayor James Richetelli,
3 Jr., and members of the Siting Council, please be advised
4 that when I speak, it is straight from the hip. I am
5 making my appeal today to the Connecticut Siting Council
6 by asking them to take a fresh approach to assign a task
7 and make a future step by joining all of us here in our
8 great State in the 21st Century, the burying of power
9 lines is a must. This should have been done decades ago,
10 but there's no point in crying over spilt milk or in this
11 case cancer causing rays spilling out from high voltage
12 power lines that are presently located aboveground.

13 The Connecticut Siting Council members
14 should jump at this opportunity to bury all power lines
15 along with telephone and cable lines too. Why? Because
16 having the presence of mind and vision to do this will
17 not only make the system work better, it will be safer
18 for the population at large. It will become more cost-
19 effective in the long-run to the consumer, the power
20 companies and all of the utilities that would participate
21 in this project.

22 I would like to submit a few -- excuse me
23 -- a brief review of some relevant issues pertaining to
24 this. Disadvantages of keeping the aboveground power

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1 lines. It is a proven medical fact that aboveground
2 power lines can use -- horrific human casualty including
3 but not limited to cancer. Power lines themselves that
4 have fallen to the ground can electrocute people and
5 animals. Fallen power lines can cause property damage.
6 Power lines are vulnerable to wind, lightning and ice,
7 mainly making -- physical irresponsible when other
8 options are readily available. The advantages to power
9 lines. Power lines and other utilities that are not
10 underground and in conduit will last longer. Access to
11 underground power lines is simple via manholes. The
12 longevity of these power lines will prove to be cost-
13 effective in parts, labor, and many hours saved.
14 Monetarily it will lower both the power and the company's
15 budget, as well as consumers' bills. For more than 75
16 years the power and other lines that have been
17 underground in conduit have proven the previous mentioned
18 advantages to be true.

19 This project should be done in
20 construction with -- in conjunction, excuse me, with
21 power lines, telephone and cable companies so they can
22 all pull their resources, equipment, and manpower. This
23 will allow each of the three companies to buy their
24 respective lines in conduit, thus making this job cost-

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1 effective and be able to expedite time line and produce
2 to the fullest.

3 The question of passing the present power
4 lines capability from 135 -- from 115-kV to 345-kV is a
5 no-brainer and requires very little justification. Yes,
6 it should be done and done soon. The present system is
7 antique. Common sense will tell you that -- tell you a
8 need for a much larger but equal flow of energy coming
9 into each grid can be made down for specific needs and
10 requirements. How can --

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Mr. Fiore --

12 MR. FIORE: Yes, ma'am?

13 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Your time up. If we can
14 have one concluding thought.

15 MR. FIORE: Yes, I can. All I can say is
16 in closing I would like to reiterate that all my thoughts
17 and ideas although based in solid, proven and documented
18 fact come from the heart, please know that when my time
19 with this uniform is limited, I do not have -- have
20 additional ideas and theories to support my beliefs and
21 I'm willing to do whatever is necessary to get them
22 heard. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

24 Next is Helen Moore, on deck is Betsey Wright.

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1 MS. HELEN MOORE: Yes. Greetings to all
2 of you on this frigid night.

3 I, Helen K. Moore, of 385 Oronoke Road,
4 Milford, Connecticut have two high voltage towers several
5 poles and necessary wires within the 165-foot right-of-
6 way for Connecticut Light & Power starting at the
7 entrance of my property and running over half my land. I
8 strongly object to new heavier wires that will
9 necessitate new taller towers on my land.

10 My five-acre property is rectangular with
11 a 200-foot frontage on Oronoke Road and runs 850 feet in
12 length, extending to Lexington Green houses in the rear.

13 A wetlands stream runs through it. Houses in my area
14 have increased in value while appraisers have downgraded
15 my home due to the towers negative effect. Paddock Place
16 and River Highlands Drive run parallel with my property
17 on each side. Twenty to twenty-five young families and
18 their children's health will be at risk to any increased
19 exposure to the electromagnetic fields. Is it
20 conscionable to take that risk from upgraded high voltage
21 power lines when avoiding that risk is possible just by
22 burying the heavier lines or placing them away from
23 residential neighborhoods. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. Miss Moore --

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1 (applause) -- Miss Moore, before you leave the
2 microphone, can you just spell your name for the court
3 reporter.

4 MS. MOORE: Oh, yes. H-e-l-e-n. Moore,
5 M-o-o-r-e.

6 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. And there's a
7 bin next to the microphone for anybody who wishes to
8 leave a statement. Next is Betsey Wright. On deck is
9 Kathleen Zancewicz.

10 MS. BETSEY WRIGHT: Good evening. Betsey
11 Wright, B-e-t-s-e-y, W-r-i-g-h-t, 20 South Street,
12 Milford.

13 In their application the power companies
14 say they've taken local plans of conservation and
15 development into account. Milford's plan has a strong
16 statement on the importance of open space, which our
17 citizens certainly support. As a past member of the
18 Planning & Zoning Board in Milford and chair of Planning
19 in Milford for the three years at the time we updated our
20 30-year-old plan of conservation and development, I want
21 to make some comments about the effect of the proposed
22 power line upgrade on open space.

23 Milford is densely developed. We're
24 trying to preserve open space. We're doing that to

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1 benefit the public, not private property values. We want
2 to offer recreation opportunities to the public and we
3 want our city to have a healthy natural environment,
4 because a healthy environment benefits public health.
5 This is quality of life.

6 The pressure for development is
7 heightening however and every week brings applications to
8 our inland/wetlands agency, our planning and zoning
9 board. It seems like they never end. And the pressure
10 is on now on land that never would have seen developable
11 in the past because of steep slopes, impacts on wetlands
12 and watercourses, or other environmental considerations.
13 At the same time and for the same reasons, it's becoming
14 more and more expensive for the city to buy new land
15 expressly for open space. Now along comes the power line
16 upgrade.

17 The transmission right-of-way from our
18 point of view offers many of the benefits of open space.
19 Now the power companies want to put new development on
20 this marginal land. They say the new larger towers will
21 not cause permanent environmental damage, but we in
22 Milford argue otherwise. We feel the public benefits
23 we're trying to provide through open space are being
24 undercut. The power line upgrade will provide some new

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1 taxes to Milford for the new structures, but their value
2 will depreciate quickly, so we stand to lose all the way
3 around.

4 This isn't just an issue for Milford
5 along. Connecticut as a state promotes public access to
6 open space. Taxpayers have spent millions of dollars to
7 help municipalities acquire open space. Open space is a
8 huge asset in Connecticut, so it does make sense to go
9 out -- does it make sense to go out and develop large
10 tracts, along 45 miles of prime land from Milford to
11 Middletown. Citizens of Connecticut gave the land to the
12 power companies in the first place, so we should have a
13 say in how it's used.

14 And we thank you for the chance to speak
15 to you about this this evening. Please don't agree with
16 the plan to go above the ground or to disturb any more
17 lands in Connecticut. Please put those lines underground
18 and stay away from open space. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
20 Next is Kathleen Zancewicz and on deck is Cheryl Barker.

21 MS. KATHLEEN ZANCEWICZ: My name is
22 Kathleen Zancewicz, Z-a-n-c-e-w-i-c-z, and I reside at
23 185 Cornfield Road, Milford. The power lines will go
24 right behind my home.

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1 First, let me thank the Siting Council for
2 coming and listening to us tonight. I am here to state
3 that I am not only opposed to the proposal taking the
4 route through residential neighborhoods and parks, but to
5 also state that this proposal frightens me. I grew up in
6 Milford and chose to make my home here. I love my home
7 and my yard. It is my safe place. The place where my
8 family is sheltered from anything that would bring harm
9 to us. When we purchased our home five years ago, it was
10 our understanding that the easement behind our home
11 allowed the utility company to trim vegetation and
12 maintain the existing lines.

13 Let me tell you about the environment
14 behind my home. We have the privilege of viewing many
15 different types of wildlife which frequent our backyard,
16 such as Cardinals, Hummingbirds, Hawks, deer, rabbits,
17 and wild turkeys, which we feed regularly. If this area
18 is disturbed, they will no longer have a suitable
19 habitat.

20 Now let me tell you about my neighborhood.
21 There are close to a hundred children in my neighborhood
22 who can often be seen playing in their backyards. Just
23 feed away from the existing lines, because as you
24 probably know, the easements merge into our backyards,

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1 there is no definition. Two of those children are my
2 own.

3 We have all been hearing about
4 electromagnetic fields. And after much research, I have
5 questions for you. Even though you are not mandated to
6 include health impacts in your deliberations, the human
7 factor is an issue which you must consider. Therefore,
8 can you please in your evidentiary hearings and in your
9 consideration of the issues, answer or attempt to answer
10 these questions for me. What are the long-term impacts
11 of living in close proximity to the right-of-way of a
12 345-kV power line? How can I know with certainty that
13 what the utilities want to do will not cause short or
14 long-term harm to my children or the children of my
15 neighbors? Can you tell any of us that the loose
16 association that exists today for increased risk of
17 illness associated with exposure to electromagnetic
18 fields, including childhood leukemia, will not be more
19 definitive in the next few years?

20 I am here tonight on behalf of the
21 children. With answers to my questions, probably the
22 same questions that many of my neighbors have, we know
23 that you will be able to come up with a positive
24 conclusion. There are opportunities to find ways to

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1 solve the issues and attend to the very real concerns of
2 our citizens. Can we look to you to find a route that
3 will not require the lines to go through our backyards.
4 We look to all of you on the Siting Council to listen to
5 our concerns. We count on you for that. Our lives and
6 the future of our children depend on you being able to
7 find that very precarious balance. Please find a way to
8 protect us. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

10 Next is Cheryl Baker, on deck is Ann Berman.

11 MS. CHERYL BARKER: Yeah, it's Cheryl
12 Barker --

13 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Sorry.

14 MS. BARKER: -- B-a-r-k-e-r. I live at 47
15 Chestnut Lane in Lexington Green in Milford.

16 Quality of life -- (pause) -- the power
17 lines at Lexington Green run in my backyard. Excuse me.
18 I'm a cancer survivor. And -- excuse me -- I don't want
19 cancer again. I don't want my husband to have cancer
20 again.

21 I bought this house only a year and a half
22 ago. And I thought for weeks -- for weeks and weeks I
23 did not say yes to buying it. I had UI come and do some
24 testing. I looked at those power lines. I drove by many

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1 times. And we decided we would live for a short term in
2 that house and we would never have children there because
3 of the current 115-kV lines. Now I'm going to have to
4 sell my house if those lines get upgraded to 345-kV and
5 I'm going to lose money because I've only been there for
6 two years and I -- you know, I can't stay there.

7 There's an open field behind my house
8 where the lines are running. We have deer, we have
9 turkeys, we have squirrels, we have kids riding their
10 dirt bikes and their ATV's. And I will not even go out
11 in my backyard any more when the foliage is gone in the
12 fall. I only go out there when the leaves are there. I
13 was told that they protect us in some way and we're far
14 enough away.

15 I just -- I want the children in the
16 neighborhood to be safe from leukemia. I want to be safe
17 and I want my family and my neighbors to be safe. Thank
18 you.

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
20 Next is Ann Berman, on deck is Bart Block.

21 MS. ANN BERMAN: My name is Ann Berman and
22 I live at 77 Pelham (phonetic) Street in Milford.

23 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Could you spell it please.

24 MS. BERMAN: Oh B-e-r-m-a-n. And Ann

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1 without an E.

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

3 MS. BERMAN: As Chair of the Milford
4 Environmental Concerns Coalition, the ECC, I want to
5 express our doubt about the -- of all the aspects of the
6 proposed upgrade, from the need for it in the first place
7 to the large amount of environmental damage it will
8 cause. But tonight I want to bring up just one point that
9 may not otherwise be mentioned, the use of pesticides.

10 First, I would like to point out that the
11 ECC's mission has been since 1996 to educate and
12 encourage our residents to use organic lawn care methods.

13 The city does not use pesticides on public lands and the
14 Board of Aldermen passed a resolution for the voluntary
15 non-use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The ECC
16 is presently partnering with the DEP's Long Island Sound
17 Fund to promote further the non-use of these chemicals,
18 meanwhile applying markers to storm drains that say no
19 dumping. With a grant, 15,000 lawn brochures were
20 printed and are being distributed to every household in
21 Milford. We know what you put on the ground goes into
22 the Sound.

23 The power companies talk a lot about how
24 the major environmental impacts of their upgrade will be

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1 temporary, not permanent. They say that since the new
2 line would be built in an existing right-of-way, which
3 presumably does not harm, new structures in the same
4 place will cause minimal damage. Leaving aside the
5 actual permanent impacts that this construction will
6 have, other speakers have addressed this, let's look at
7 this idea of temporary and the supposedly acceptable
8 environmental conditions along the right-of-way as it
9 exists today. The current power line is maintained with
10 vegetation clearing and pesticide applications every
11 three or four years. At the beginning when the lines
12 were installed, this was an acceptable procedure. But we
13 know now there are health risks to both humans, excuse
14 me, and the environment. Science is showing us that the
15 toxic effects of pesticides last longer than was
16 understood earlier, that the long-lasting effects may not
17 kill, but it is clear and well documented that pesticides
18 do kill and harm the organisms in the soils which we had
19 no way of measuring before, that long-lasting toxic
20 effects do not always dwindle, slowly -- slowing down to
21 nothing as we originally thought, but can combine with
22 other toxic effects to actually multiply.

23 There are a lot of pesticide residues in
24 this right-of-way. With new construction, that opens up

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1 these residues. The widening of the right-of-way and the
2 increased maintenance and pesticide use is not the making
3 of a good idea. As a result of the use of pesticides, it
4 creates poor soil conditions in these welcoming wide open
5 spaces for invasives. It eliminates competing native
6 plants and it makes an environment in which these
7 Japanese --

8 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Please -- please
9 summarize.

10 MS. BERMAN: Oh, I'm sorry. For
11 environmental reasons, the Milford ECC supports putting
12 new power lines underground, under roadways, and
13 completely redesigning the maintenance of the current
14 right-of-way. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
16 Next up is Bart Block, on deck is Yvonne Jennings.

17 MR. BARTLEY BLOCK: Good evening. My name
18 is Bartley Block, B-a-r-t-l-e-y. Block, B-l-o-c-k. And
19 I live at 25 Lajoie Lane.

20 Milford has a natural resources inventory,
21 an integral part of its plan of conservation and
22 development. As the author of that inventory, I want you
23 to know that one of our highest priorities is the area
24 near the Wepawaug River where the overhead route of the

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1 power line runs. In Milford's inland/wetlands
2 regulations, we have assigned a 150-foot review area
3 along the Wepawaug River rather than the normal review
4 area of 100 feet because this area is so critical to the
5 integrity of the developing Wepawaug greenway.

6 Because the power line route clearly cuts
7 through several wetlands related to the Wepawaug River
8 and because transmission towers now are actually standing
9 in these wetlands and new ones likely will be there too,
10 and because wetland filling will take place with the new
11 construction and there may be other major permanent
12 impacts in addition to the obvious temporary ones, we
13 feel that the power lines should not be sited in a way
14 that threatens this key natural resource area.

15 In addition, the Working Group, a state
16 body appointed by the Governor to provide general
17 guidance on where to site land-based transmission lines,
18 has provided relevant input for siting standards in
19 sensitive environments. The Working Group consisted of
20 environmentalists, representatives of municipalities,
21 power company officials and an ISO official and it was
22 mandated to come up with the highest siting standards.

23 The Working Group painstakingly studied
24 environmental preferences during the fall of 2002 and

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1 produced a report in 2003 with which you are familiar.
2 In it they stated their first preference, their blue
3 ribbon standard, which can be stated as follows: A
4 transmission line will cause the least harm to the
5 environment if it is built under public roadways where
6 the land has already been disturbed.

7 When a natural resource from a publicly
8 developed and accepted natural resource inventory from
9 Milford has been identified, every effort should be made
10 to protect the designated natural resource. You can
11 accomplish that protection by following the Working
12 Group's preference. We request that you follow through
13 with your earlier reasoning. Please site the line
14 through Milford under public roadways where the
15 environmental damage has already been perpetrated. Thank
16 you.

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
18 Next up is Yvonne Jennings, on deck is Marti Reed.

19 MS. YVONNE JENNINGS: Hi, good evening.
20 My name is Yvonne Jennings. It's Y-v-o-n-n-e. The last
21 name Jennings, J-e-n-n-i-n-g-s. I live at 71 Haystack
22 Road here in Milford.

23 I'm here to tell you about a situation
24 that happened to myself just last Saturday. Friday night

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1 I noticed large billows of condensation coming from the
2 power plant, which isn't far from my home. It's also my
3 understanding that the Milford Power Plant isn't up and
4 running fully yet and the billows that are being released
5 from the power plant will be up and running 365 days a
6 year when it's running fully. So this has made my
7 husband and I wonder if it contributed to what I woke up
8 to Saturday morning. Saturday morning there was a power
9 line laying down across the back portion of my backyard.
10 Upon calling UI, they had no knowledge of the line being
11 down. UI contacted CL&P. Guess what? They didn't know
12 the line was down either. Finding out that neither
13 company knew that the line was down made us really
14 concerned.

15 CL&P did come out and fixed the problem by
16 the end of the day, but it has made us think about why
17 we're really here tonight. Putting higher voltage lines
18 in the backyards of Milford residents when we are so
19 close to a power plant that sends out so much
20 condensation gives us something more to think about;
21 could this cold weather New England has been experiencing
22 have iced up the lines and caused it to fall. This is a
23 huge warning sign of up and coming problems that could
24 lead to potential risks if one of these new massive

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1 transmission lines falls into the backyard of a Milford
2 resident who might have small children or even a family
3 pet playing outside. Even though a downed power line is
4 rare, it's still very dangerous. Power lines can be
5 buried.

6 Please consider this as a huge wakeup call
7 to all Milford residents and avoid potential problems.
8 Please let's bury the lines. Thank you. (Applause).

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is Marti Reed, on
10 deck is Mike DiMassa.

11 MS. MARTI REED: Good evening. My name is
12 Marti Reed, M-a-r-t-i, R-e-e-d. I live at 30 Harbor View
13 Avenue in Milford.

14 You might think that business owners and
15 environmentalists could be at opposite ends of the table
16 on this issue. In my case that's not at all true. As
17 the owner of a business in Milford for 27 years and a
18 resident for almost 40, I need a reliable and dependable
19 electric service, that is no blackouts and no brown-outs.
20 I feel the best way to lay the new power lines is
21 underground, under existing roadways. It may be
22 inconvenient to those businesses and/or residents along
23 the way, but work could be done at night and traffic kept
24 at an even flow. I know this because I had a large

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1 construction project in front of my store. I and
2 neighboring retailers all survived and now enjoy the
3 benefits of the project's long-term objectives.

4 I want to live in a city which respects
5 and preserves its fast disappearing open space and
6 preserves what is left of its wildlife habitats. To me
7 this means protecting my quality of life. Thank you very
8 much.

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
10 Next is Mike DiMassa, on deck is Gregory Vetter.

11 MR. MIKE DiMASSA: My name is Mike
12 DiMassa. That's D-i-M-a-s-s-a. And I live at 140
13 Lexington Way South in Milford.

14 This past summer, my wife and I attended
15 the information fair in Milford sponsored by the utility
16 companies, the purpose of which was to inform the public
17 about the proposed upgrade in transmission lines.
18 Conspicuous by its absence amid all the high tech
19 displays on view was a station that adequately detailed
20 the utilities research into new technologies that could
21 replace the existing 19th century based technology of
22 generating and transmitting electricity. When we brought
23 this omission to the attention of company
24 representatives, we were told simply and rather

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1 dismissively that while the demand for increased
2 transmission capability was immediate, the prospect of
3 altering the method of transmission was extremely remote.

4 We were not and are not satisfied by this answer.

5 We would ask the Siting Council to
6 consider whether or not it is just to make the citizens
7 of Connecticut liable for the self-serving,
8 shortsightedness of the utility companies. Is it
9 fiscally responsible to invest large sums of money to
10 perpetuate what is fast becoming an outmoded technology,
11 and is it ethical to satisfy a corporation's greed and
12 reward its lack of foresight by forcing the citizens of
13 this state to submit to a proposal that contains little
14 to recommend it other than expediency and a great deal
15 that might lead one to oppose it.

16 Our answer to all these questions is no.
17 We, therefore, urge the Siting Council to give careful
18 consideration in the upcoming evidentiary hearings to
19 information that will be presented concerning the
20 negative environmental impact of the utilities current
21 proposal.

22 We further urge the Siting Council to
23 carefully review information that will be provided
24 concerning pertinent new technologies, specifically those

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1 for burying transmission cables. At the very least, we
2 look for the Siting Council to consider and adopt one of
3 the viable and alternative routes for overhead lines that
4 will be suggested. If we do nothing else, let us move
5 these power lines away from our homes and our children
6 and relocate them along public thoroughfares such as
7 railroad lines, interstates, or major state highways
8 wherever possible.

9 If the citizens of the State must be
10 punished for the utilities lack of vision, we think that
11 it is the Siting Council's duty to ensure that that
12 punishment be as mild and as innocuous as possible.
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
15 Gregory Vetter.

16 A VOICE: Am I last?

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Yes. And next is Phillip
18 Lorenzo.

19 MR. GREGORY VETTER: Gregory Vetter, V-e-
20 t-t-e-r, of 65 Myrtle Wood Drive. Thanks for coming
21 tonight to hear our concerns.

22 On three things, (1) Milford's power
23 generation, (2) Milford's wetlands, and (3) the Devon
24 Substation. I'll touch on each of them real quickly.

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1 1: Clearly the people of Milford and
2 Milford's government feels strongly about burying these
3 lines underground. You can see from the commissioners
4 and the different committees that have presented that in
5 Milford we care a lot about the environment in the way we
6 treat our land and the aesthetic beauty that we're trying
7 to maintain as we grow and continue to grow. Currently,
8 we have a new sizable power plant coming on-line, we have
9 gas lines and compressor stations both on land and off
10 sea -- or in the sea. We have a member of what we all
11 the Sooty Six. These facilities -- there's health
12 concerns surrounding all these things. My children
13 struggle with asthma as do a lot of folks children
14 struggle with different ailments. And there's health
15 concerns around all these things. As Senator Smith said
16 earlier, this is not a not-in-my-backyard type of claim.
17 We have a fair amount of industry and utility support in
18 Milford. It's a matter of my backyard is full and we've
19 kind of had enough of the building and the construction
20 of these types of facilities. And I think we've done our
21 fair share to support Connecticut. And the cost incurred
22 to bury these lines will be considered negligible in
23 years to come, but the blight on our community will only
24 become more prominent. And I think enough is probably

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1 enough in terms of this development.

2 Secondly, with regards to the wetlands, as
3 was touched upon a little bit earlier, the route of the
4 power lines will cut through 10 wetlands, and the 10
5 wetland will comprise approximately 10 acres. And the
6 specific concern here is that a large portion of this is
7 in the Wepawaug River Watershed area. This is, as was
8 stated earlier, one of our most important natural
9 resources. Fourteen of the proposed structures are
10 standing in the actual wetlands. And clearly the
11 wetlands and the surrounding area would be destroyed by
12 this as the footings and so forth are created. The
13 construction disturbance is just one impact, but there
14 will be permanent structures there after the fact.

15 Lastly, regarding the East Devon
16 Substation, this is planned at approximately 19 acres.
17 Two wetlands lie in this property and to date there's
18 been no effort to avoid damaging or impacting these
19 wetlands. What concerns me though is the size of this
20 substation, it's huge. Right now -- you know, there's
21 two new stations planned along the entire line of
22 development, one in Bridgeport and one in Milford. The
23 one in Bridgeport is 2.7 acres and the one in East Devon
24 right now is proposed up to 20 acres in size. It seems

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1 like a very large substation. And just the amount of
2 power that's going to be generated out of that as
3 multiple lines and multiple facilities join at that spot,
4 I have health concerns in that specific area. And I
5 wonder if we have to destroy the wetlands on those 20
6 acres and if we must have such a sized facility at all.
7 I also wonder if this burden that we seem to be
8 encompassing in Milford can't be better distributed among
9 the benefiting communities.

10 And lastly, I just beg you to consider
11 equitable solutions so that all communities that benefit
12 can share in a good cost-effective manner and share the
13 burden. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
15 Next up is Phillip Lorenzo, on deck is Steve Kraffmiller.
16 We have approximately 11 names left. And we'd like to
17 adjourn at 10:00 o'clock. There are members of this
18 Siting Council who will drive two hours tonight after
19 they leave here. So if you find that there are people
20 who have said what you wanted to say already, feel free
21 if you want to edit your remarks to avoid some
22 repetition.

23 MR. PHILLIP LORENZO: I will -- I will try
24 to do that. My name is Phillip Lorenzo. The last name

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1 L-o-r-e-n-z-o. I am the President of the Lexington Green
2 Homeowners Association located here in Milford. I
3 appreciate you coming here tonight to hear our
4 viewpoints and also to view -- and I hope you had a
5 chance to view our community. We are a community of 261
6 households bordering on the right-of-way of these power
7 lines. Ours is a new development, less than 10 years
8 old. It's comprised mostly of young families with
9 infants and school aged children.

10 While we support the upgrade of existing
11 power lines, we would like to see it done in a
12 responsible way that minimizes the risk to the children
13 of our community. We would like to have those power
14 lines buried.

15 In theory, had these power lines never
16 existed and we were discussing where to locate the
17 proposed right-of-way, we would steer clear of any
18 schools along that route. Our community probably
19 averages two and a half children per household. And at
20 261 households, that's 653 children. This is more
21 children than at my daughter's school, Mathewson
22 Elementary located here in Milford. Lexington Green for
23 all intents and purposes should be treated just like a
24 school. Our children have unencumbered access to the

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1 existing right-of-way. Like any parent, our number one
2 concern is protecting the health and safety of our
3 children.

4 When you opened up with your statement,
5 you said you wanted to know our community and you wanted
6 to know about the environment. Our environment includes
7 our children. And if you have any other concerns or
8 questions about our community, my contact information is
9 at the bottom of my statement. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
11 Steve Kraffmiller, on deck is Barbara Milton.

12 MR. STEVE KRAFFMILLER: Hi. My name is
13 Steve Kraffmiller, K-r-a-f-f-m-i-l-l-e-r. I live at 37
14 Sycamore Road, Milford, Connecticut. And I'm a
15 member of the Environmental Concerns Coalition of the
16 city.

17 From what I hear, based on the economics
18 of the situation, 20 miles of line will be underground in
19 Fairfield County because it's too expensive to buy
20 additional right-of-way. Here in Milford the right-of-
21 way is evidently wide enough to put it above ground. But
22 the impact caused by that is greater than the cost of
23 additional right-of-way. It will impact our most
24 significant important open space, Eisenhower Park, and it

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1 will certainly be closest to our very densely populated
2 Lexington Green where the previous spokesman just said
3 600 children live. I suggest it's more important than
4 the cost saving of the line of building it aboveground to
5 put it underground in already disturbed areas, railways
6 or streets, highways and railways, etcetera. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
8 Barbara Milton, on deck is Nancy Bruno.

9 MS. BARBARA MILTON: Barbara Milton, 32
10 Elm Street. Rather than simply second other opinions
11 that have been voiced tonight, which I fully support, I
12 want to bring up three additional and relatively
13 technical points, which I nevertheless think need
14 attention.

15 The application mentions that some
16 blasting will have to be done to put in the towers for
17 overhead lines. If blasting is necessary anywhere, it
18 seems likely that it will be in Milford where the right-
19 of-way traverses steep rocky outcroppings. I feel that
20 the procedures in case of blasting are not sufficiently
21 detailed in a variety of ways. To give just one example,
22 the procedures seem to address only impacts to
23 residences. What about impacts to wells? Have you done
24 any surveys of people who use well water in potential

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1 blast areas north of the Housatonic?

2 2: The application contains a description
3 of horizontal directional drilling techniques for
4 crossing the Housatonic River. No mention is made that
5 these techniques can and do fail. The application should
6 contain a contingency plan describing how drilling fluids
7 would be contained and controlled and how hole
8 abandonment would be handled. Have you come up with a
9 Plan B?

10 3: The Housatonic is planned to be
11 dredged soon in the vicinity of the proposed underground
12 cable crossing. Dredging will apparently go down only 18
13 feet while the cable crossing is proposed at 50 feet
14 deep. So perhaps there is no problem. But if the
15 riverbed ends up 18 feet lower, does that mean the cable
16 needs to compensate by going to a 68-foot depth. If so,
17 are there any limiting factors?

18 I understand the problems and expense that
19 go along with going from underground cable to aboveground
20 cable. But given the costs of transitioning from
21 underground to aboveground, wouldn't it make sense if you
22 were to drill beneath the Housatonic, to keep the cable
23 underground and eliminate the need for siting the Devon
24 transition station all together. Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
2 Before you leave the microphone, could you spell your
3 name for the court reporter.

4 MS. MILTON: M-i-l-t-o-n.

5 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
6 Next is Nancy Bruno, on deck is Frank Byrne.

7 MS. NANCY BRUNO: My name is Nancy Bruno
8 and I live at 67 Sixth Avenue. Bruno is B-r-u-n-o.

9 I have lived in Connecticut all my life
10 and in Milford for the last 55 years. For 26 of those
11 years here in Milford, I taught at a nursery school. I
12 was famous for getting the kids to recycle everything
13 they could, even their lunch bags and pay attention to
14 the environment. I love the outdoors and I tried to
15 teach the kids how to appreciate nature. In such a
16 beautiful city as Milford, there's plenty of chance for a
17 teacher to do that with kids.

18 And my statement to you tonight really is
19 about the power lines effect on kids, not on their
20 physical health, other people have talked about that, but
21 on their minds. How can teachers get through to kids the
22 importance of treating the environment carefully and
23 responsibly when people are cutting down trees and
24 plowing through wetlands and putting more and more cables

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1 in the Sound and building larger and larger transmission
2 towers in the woods and generally developing every
3 natural piece of land with human constructions. Might
4 there be some connection between the fact that kids don't
5 play outdoors any more and the fact that the outdoors has
6 become so developed leaving nothing left to explore.
7 We're in a vicious cycle here.

8 People think that environmentalists are
9 about hugging trees. They're missing the whole point if
10 they think that. Everything is connected. Trees aren't
11 important all by themselves because they're not all by
12 themselves in the world, just the way humans aren't all
13 by themselves in the world. Trees live by recycling air
14 and water among other functions. If they didn't do that
15 for humans, we wouldn't survive. How are we going to
16 teach kids about the big picture, about something bigger
17 than ourselves, about all the connections living
18 creatures need to survive if they don't grow up thinking
19 humans survive just by making cool machines. Power lines
20 are like machines. Don't let transmission towers take up
21 more of the landscape, bury them. Kids need to see how
22 big the trees are and the water and the sky. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
24 Next is Frank Byrne, on deck is Richard Platt.

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1 MR. FRANK BYRNE: Yes. My name is Frank
2 Byrne, B-y-r-n-e, and I -- my address is 99 Pine Nob
3 Terrace, Milford.

4 I guess most of what has transpired before
5 probably was covered in my notes here, but one of the
6 priorities I think that's very important -- I spent
7 myself 40 years in the safety and health field and I
8 think that the health issue is a very large one. I know
9 there is a controversy over whether studies prove one
10 side or the other, but I think it is necessary that that
11 be taken into consideration, the health issue.

12 And also I think Milford has not shirked
13 its duty as far as being part of the grid. And I do
14 second the idea that other communities should also be
15 involved as well as Milford is here.

16 And given the fact that the power increase
17 from the 115 to the 345 is a necessity, and I think
18 everyone understands that, I would really submit though
19 that the underground route is the way to go in this case.
20 Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
22 Next is Richard Platt, on deck is Caroline Alling.

23 MR. RICHARD PLATT: Good evening. I am
24 Richard Platt. That's P-l-a-t-t. I live at 132 Platt

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1 Lane in Milford.

2 I am reading this statement for Lettie
3 Malone, M-a-l-o-n-e, who is ill unfortunately. Mrs.
4 Malone is the former chair of the Milford Conservation
5 Commission and lives at 14 Eighth Avenue in Milford. And
6 she says:

7 I feel as if I'm seeing ghosts. Thirty
8 years ago many citizens in Connecticut took a stand
9 against upgrading the power lines using environmental
10 arguments very similar to the ones we're using now. The
11 power lines weren't upgraded then, but not because the
12 environmentalists won the day. Mainly the lines weren't
13 built because the economy declined and so did the demand
14 for power.

15 Many people 30 years ago were saying
16 environmentalists stood in the way of progress just as
17 some are saying today. Then, as now, however the
18 environmentalists weren't against any new transmission at
19 all. They simply wanted the route to go underground.
20 Similarly to today, environmentalists in the 70's wanted
21 not less advanced technology but more. So what's the
22 difference between the 70's and now, just that the
23 transmission upgrade didn't happen then but will happen
24 now?

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1 There are many differences, but I'd like
2 to focus on two. The first difference between the 70's
3 and today is that we know now how environmental
4 regulation does work. Although businesses claim
5 regulations ruin them, it actually accelerated
6 deficiencies and made our economy the most productive in
7 the world. The Federal Office of Management and Budget
8 in the Bush administration not known to favor regulation
9 actually issued a 2003 report showing that the benefits
10 of environmental regulations outweighed the costs by more
11 than 10 to 1.

12 The second difference between the 70's and
13 today is that we now know a lot more than we used to
14 about the environment. And the more we know, the more
15 complicated and connected we find our world to be.
16 Unfortunately, many of our past worries about pollution
17 and other upsets in the balance of nature have proved to
18 be justified. So overall, I don't regret the stand that
19 an earlier generation of environmentalists took. I think
20 it was the right stand then and I think even more
21 strongly that it's the right stand now.

22 I can do no better than to repeat to you,
23 the Siting Council, the words that the Committee on
24 Environmental Policy wrote to then Governor Meskill in

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1 1970, quote, "It is highly desirable that wires for the
2 transmission of energy and messages be underground,
3 especially environmentally sensitive situations",
4 unquote. And I am going to add what is becoming
5 increasingly evident, the entire proposed route across
6 the heart of south central Connecticut from Milford to
7 Middletown is an environmentally sensitive situation.
8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
10 Caroline Alling, on deck is Wendy Myles-Klein.

11 MS. CAROLINE ALLING: Hello. Most of what
12 I have to say has already been said. My name is Caroline
13 Alling, 29 River Cliff Drive, A-l-l-i-n-g.

14 I'd just like to say if we have to pay for
15 more power, let's pay for it with our money and not with
16 our quality of life and please put the power lines
17 underground.

18 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
19 Wendy Myles-Klein, on deck Paul White.

20 MS. WENDY MYLES-KLEIN: Good evening and
21 thank you very much for coming this evening. I'm Wendy
22 Myles-Klein, 163 Acorn Lane in Milford.

23 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Could you spell it please.

24 MS. MYLES-KLEIN: M-y-l-e-s, dash, Klein,

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1 K-l-e-i-n.

2 I'm especially here tonight because my
3 godson Jared, age 14, who attends Jonathan Law, came to
4 my house today. He couldn't attend because he had
5 homework. And he asked me to attend for him and most of
6 his class at Jonathan High. He wanted the Siting Council
7 to know about the electric wire that fell down on his
8 friend's house in Milford. Then he said to me did you
9 know about the storm in Hawaii. And I sort of didn't
10 want to hear it, but I said okay. And he said, Wendy, do
11 you know there's a major storm and the winds were 30, 40,
12 50 miles an hour and the electrical wires fell down on
13 peoples' houses and families were hurt. I said really,
14 well I will tell them this.

15 You -- would you have the power lines near
16 your children in your backyards. Why doesn't Westport
17 have this problem or Southport? I know we can do it
18 underground. I'd be willing to cut my power, I'd be
19 willing to have one less computer, one less light on in
20 my house. I'd be willing to lower any electrical I can
21 do not to have power lines overhead.

22 Connecticut has the second highest rate of
23 cancer in the United States, we all know this. We don't
24 talk about it. And Milford has a power plant. We didn't

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1 have a public forum for that. I don't know why. But
2 like everyone else said, we have had enough. We need to
3 survive. I thank you very much. (Applause).

4 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Paul White, on deck Kevin
5 Lindy. The last speaker is Ronald M. Goldwyn.

6 MR. PAUL WHITE: Thank you. My name is
7 Paul White, W-h-i-t-e. I live at 40 Oakridge Lane, which
8 is in the Lexington Green section of Milford. We've
9 lived there for eight years, really since the beginning
10 of the community. One thing that wasn't mentioned from
11 other people that spoke about the community is every day
12 pretty much people drive in and out underneath these
13 power lines.

14 I'd ask you to consider several things as
15 you're thinking about the power lines and the power plan
16 that was put together, because the proposed power lines
17 will impact all of us in so many ways here. First
18 there's the issue of safety and health. There's been
19 numerous reports, we've heard about them, about the
20 potential issues. It's very intuitive to people that
21 drive in and under these things every day when our radio
22 goes static that intuitively there's an issue here. When
23 a power line falls across somebody who's driving in and
24 out, intuitively it's going to impact their health and

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1 safety. And clearly if it impacts those things, it's
2 going to impact each of us. We're not machines, we're
3 not radios, we're not cars, so each of us is weaker than
4 that and is going to be hurt much more than that.

5 Second, there's the issue of the
6 environment. Milford is a beautiful place to live.
7 Lexington Green is clearly a part of that. An
8 installation of this magnitude will impact the
9 environment there in many ways simply from a need to
10 clear more trees, through the traffic, through the other
11 causes that it's going to cause. If it's buried, it's
12 temporary. If it's not, it's going to be permanent.

13 Third is the economic impact. It's clear
14 cut that our property values will go down as a result of
15 this. All of us have houses that represent a tremendous
16 portion of our net worth. It's not come easy. My family
17 has done it, all the families in our community have done
18 it and we've built and bought very nice houses there.
19 Clearly the power lines will dramatically impact the net
20 worth of those houses.

21 Due to each of these items, Lexington
22 Green and Milford in general will become a much less
23 attractive place to live. My family, other families will
24 think about moving, and some of us will certainly do so.

1 In time that will impact the demographics of Milford and
2 cause an overall downward spiral in this economy here.

3 Given those factors, there's no amount of
4 compensation that can be paid to make this up. I would,
5 therefore, ask you to consider first and foremost is the
6 power line addition needed. If it is, please look at the
7 alternatives to doing the overhead lines and do it the
8 right way. Thanks. (Applause).

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. Kevin Lindy,
10 followed by Ronald Goldwyn. Is Mr. Lindy here? Ronald
11 Goldwyn. Mr. Goldwyn, you're going to be the last
12 speaker, you get the last word -- well, I get the last
13 word, you get the second to the last word.

14 MR. RONALD GOLDWYN: Thank you. My name
15 is Ronald Goldwyn, G-o-l-d-w-y-n. I'm a fairly new
16 resident here in Milford having spent 45 years in New
17 York. I came here to retire.

18 A hundred and thirty year ago, the first
19 hydro-electric plant was built in Niagara Falls and it
20 produced AC current because Thomas Alva Edison proved
21 that DC couldn't travel. So with AC power coming along,
22 they found that they could put transmission poles up and
23 boost the current with transformers and produce high
24 voltage and low-current lines, so you used thin cables.

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1 Well that was 130 years ago. And what this proposal is
2 is to use the same technology, boost the current, boost
3 the voltage, reduce the current, and still put them on
4 transmission poles.

5 You have been appointed to a siting
6 committee now in the 21st century and I'm hoping you have
7 the wisdom to start using a new technology, which is to
8 put things underground. You don't see high voltage
9 cables in New York City, it's dangerous. Everything is
10 underground. The problem is finding the right level to
11 put the new cable in when you build in New York. I spent
12 half my lifetime in New York building as a structural
13 engineer and superintendent of construction, I know what
14 I'm talking about.

15 What I'm asking you to do is put us in the
16 21st century. People want the lines now underground.
17 We're talking about a 600 million dollar project. And
18 the bottom line is that you and I are going to pay for it
19 some way in the rates that we're going to be charged. If
20 this wasn't a 900 million dollar project, we wouldn't be
21 here complaining, everything would have been put
22 underground because they'd have the money for it. But by
23 being tight-fisted with 600 million dollars, you have to
24 work harder in order to make it fit within the budget. I

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1 suggest give it a little more thought. People are
2 willing to pay for the safety they want. I thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
4 The members of the Siting Council would like to thank all
5 the people who came out tonight and shared their comments
6 with us. We also remind you written comments can be sent
7 to the Siting Council. The address is on the easel as is
8 our website.

9 I want to thank again Mayor Richetelli for
10 providing a venue for this hearing, if you only could
11 have done a little better on the weather. (Laughter).

12 Our listening tour continues. The
13 Council's next public hearing is a week from tonight,
14 January 21, 2004, 7:00 p.m., at the Weston High School
15 Auditorium on School Road in Weston.

16 I want to thank everybody again for their
17 participation and please drive safely and stay warm.
18 (Applause).

19 (Whereupon, the hearing adjourned at 9:50
20 p.m.)

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Robin L. Focht,
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