

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

SITING COUNCIL

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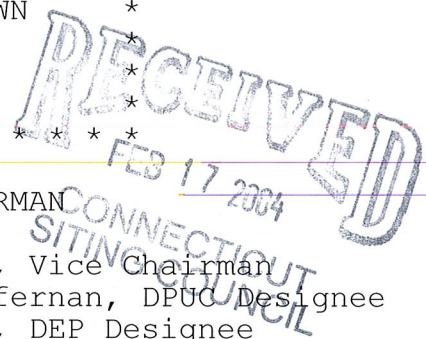
CONNECTICUT LIGHT & POWER COMPANY
AND UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY

FEBRUARY 5, 2004
(7:10 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

* * * * *



BEFORE: PAMELA B. KATZ, CHAIRMAN

BOARD MEMBERS: Colin C. Tait, Vice Chairman
Gerald J. Heffernan, DPUC Designee
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STAFF MEMBERS: S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director
Fred O. Cunliffe, Siting Analyst
Christina Lepage, Siting Analyst
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HAMDEN, CT (800) 262-4102

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

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 Sheehan High School, Hope Hill Road, Wallingford,
6 Connecticut, on February 5, 2004, at 7:10 p.m., at which
7 time the parties were represented as hereinbefore set
8 forth . . .

9
10

11 CHAIRMAN PAMELA B. KATZ: My name is Pam
12 Katz, Chairman of the Connecticut Siting Council. Before
13 I read our formal opening statement, I'd like to make a
14 short welcome. In fact, tonight is the one year
15 anniversary of me becoming chairman of the Siting
16 Council. (Applause). And last night my husband asked me
17 are we ready to thank the Governor yet. I'm not sure.

18 The mission of the Siting Council is to
19 protect the environment while providing needed public
20 utilities. And we do this for telecommunications, such
21 as cell towers, and power plants, and in this case an
22 electric transmission line by first holding a listening
23 tour. And we have seven listening stops. You are our
24 fifth stop on the tour. So that we get an opportunity to

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 hear you, the members of the public tell us, how you
2 think this application will impact you and your
3 neighborhood, and that's why we come out here and do
4 this. And then later in March, April and May, we'll do
5 the evidentiary portion of this in our headquarters in
6 New Britain.

7 One of the things we decided to do on this
8 docket is to hire our own under-grounding expert, which
9 we are allowed to do by statute. And we did this because
10 when we did Phase 1, which was the line that went from
11 Bethel to Norwalk, it became very apparent to us -- a
12 critical question that we get from the public is how much
13 of this line can go underground, and we wanted to have
14 our own expert to help us with that part of it. So we
15 have put out an RFP for an under-grounding expert and we
16 will be bringing that person onboard probably next month.

17 (Applause).

18 What I'm going to do first is I'm going to
19 read our opening statement, then we're going to have a
20 short presentation by the Applicant, who is going to do a
21 video and introduce that video, and then I'm going to
22 call on public officials, and then I'm going to call on
23 members of the public.

24 We have a traffic light system here behind

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 me, which you will quickly figure out. We're going to
2 ask you to limit your remarks to three minutes because of
3 the number of people who are here who wish to speak. Now
4 public officials, we don't usually put the stoplight on
5 you, but we're going to ask you to please try to keep
6 your remarks to three minutes so that we can hear from
7 everybody tonight. The way the stoplight works is you --
8 is after two minutes it turns to flashing green, then to
9 yellow, and then to red, so that you'll finish up by
10 three minutes. And what this -- it will be -- you'll be
11 facing it.

12 So at this point let me read our opening
13 statement and we'll get started. Ladies and gentlemen,
14 this hearing is called to order 7:00 p.m., February 5,
15 2004.

16 My name is Pamela B. Katz, Chairman of the
17 Connecticut Siting Council. Other members of the Council
18 are Vice Chairman Colin C. Tait; Brian Emerick, designee
19 for Commissioner Rocque of DEP; Gerald J. Heffernan,
20 designee for Commissioner Downes of DPUC; Edward S.
21 Wilensky; James Murphy, Jr.; Daniel P. Lynch; and Brian
22 O'Neill.

23 Members of the staff are Derek Phelps,
24 Executive Director; Fred Cunliffe, Siting Analyst for

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 this docket; Assistant Attorney General Robert Marconi.

2 The court reporter is Tony Vanacore and
3 the audio technician is Ed Chamberlain.

4 This hearing tonight is held pursuant to
5 the provisions of the General Statutes 16-50g through 16-
6 50aa and Sections 16-50j through 16-50j-34 of the
7 Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies on an
8 application from Connecticut Light and Power and United
9 Illuminating Company for a Certificate of Environmental
10 Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a
11 new 345-kV electric transmission line and associated
12 facilities between the Scovill Rock Switching Station in
13 Middletown and the Norwalk Substation in Norwalk. This
14 includes construction of the Beseck Switching Station in
15 Norwalk, the East Devon Substation in Milford, and the
16 Singer Substation in Bridgeport, and modifications to the
17 Scovill Rock Switching Station and the Norwalk Substation
18 and certain interconnections. This application was
19 received by the Council on October 9, 2003.

20 This proceeding is a contested case under
21 the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA) and will
22 be conducted in accordance with the applicable provisions
23 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and
24 the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 As required by law, ex parte or off-the-
2 record communication with a Council member or a Council
3 staff member on the merits of the application is
4 prohibited.

5 There is a long list of parties and
6 intervenors, which includes just about every town on the
7 route, and I'm not going to read it tonight. If you --
8 you are welcome though to check our website if you would
9 like the long list of all the parties and intervenors in
10 this proceeding.

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

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

16 These public statements are not subject to cross-
17 examination and submission thereof does not entitle the
18 submitter to the right of cross-examination of the
19 Applicant, parties and intervenors, or the Council.

20 In fairness to everyone who wishes to
21 speak, I will limit the statements to three minutes.
22 These statements will become part of the record for
23 Council consideration.

24 In addition, written statements sent to

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 the Council within 30 days after the last hearing in this
2 proceeding will be given the same weight as spoken
3 statements. The mailing address for the Council is 10
4 Franklin Square in New Britain, 06051, and it appears on
5 the ease here to my left.

6 A verbatim transcript will be made of each
7 hearing session and all hearing transcripts will be
8 deposited with the towns and city clerks within the
9 municipalities of Middletown, Middlefield, Haddam,
10 Durham, Meriden, Wallingford, Cheshire, Haddam, Bethany,
11 Woodbridge, Orange, West Haven, Milford, Stratford,
12 Bridgeport, Fairfield, Westport, Norwalk, Easton,
13 Trumbull, Weston, Wilton, North Haven and New Haven.

14 After all the public hearings in the
15 municipalities have concluded, the Council will continue
16 hearings for the purposes of examination of evidence by
17 the Council and its staff, and the parties and
18 intervenors. The times, dates, and locations of these
19 hearings will be noticed to the parties and intervenors
20 and posted on the Council's website, ct.gov/csc. And
21 that website again is on the easel.

22 For the benefit of the public in
23 attendance at tonight's hearing, I have asked the
24 Applicant to explain the general nature of this

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 application, it's proposed benefits, its alleged need,
2 and what alternatives were explored. In response to that
3 request, the Applicant has compiled a short video that
4 addresses these issues in summary form. I will ask that
5 the Applicant show that video now.

6 MR. ALBERT CRETELLA: Good evening, ladies
7 and gentlemen. My name is Albert Cretella. I am the
8 Project Manager for the Middletown/Norwalk Project
9 working for Northeast Utilities. On behalf of CL&P and
10 United Illuminating, I welcome you tonight to this public
11 hearing. Your participation is very important in this
12 process.

13 At the request of the Siting Council, we
14 have prepared a short video that provides an overview of
15 the entire project and some additional specific
16 information about the project as it goes through Meriden,
17 Wallingford, and Cheshire. In addition, this
18 presentation will include information on an alternate
19 proposal that was put forth by the Town of Wallingford
20 for consideration by the utilities.

21 Again, tonight I thank you very much for
22 your participation, it is very important. Thank you.

23

24 (Whereupon, a video presentation prepared

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 by the Applicant was played for the public.)

2 VIDEO PRESENTATION

3

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

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

18 Electrically, no state is an island.
19 Every state relies on an interstate electric transmission
20 grid to move power to where it is needed. Most of the
21 time, Connecticut uses more power than it generates, and
22 needs to import about 2,000 megawatts or nearly one-third
23 of the power consumed in the State. Most of
24 Connecticut's imported power enters and moves around the

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 State on a 345 kilovolt or a 345-kV system. There are
2 nearly 400 miles of 345-kV lines in Connecticut. It is
3 the standard voltage for moving power throughout New
4 England. But the 345-kV system stops at the threshold of
5 Southwest Connecticut, which is served today by an
6 increasingly inadequate 115-kV system. In fact, the 115-
7 kV system in Southwest Connecticut no longer meets
8 regional and national reliability standards.

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

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

22 To strengthen this source and make these
23 connections, CL&P and UI looked at a variety of overhead
24 and under-street options for each section of the upgrade.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 After evaluating each option and each combination of
2 options according to its system and technical merits, its
3 property and environmental impact, and its cost to
4 consumers, the highest ranked solution was a combination
5 of overhead and under-street segments.

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

16 Although under-street solutions can run
17 three to ten times the cost of overhead solutions, in
18 this section of the project the shorter route of an
19 under-street solution and the avoided cost of buying
20 property to widen the existing overhead right-of-way,
21 make an under-street solution comparable in cost --
22 (video failure) --

23 In Meriden the proposed route is an
24 overhead solution. From Black Pond Junction off

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 Interstate 91 near East Main Street south to East Meriden
2 Substation, the existing row of monopoles would remain
3 and two more rows with a typical height of 130 feet would
4 be added. Continuing south from East Meriden Substation
5 to the Wallingford town line, which is just under a mile
6 in length, the existing H-frames would be removed, one
7 row of existing monopoles would be reconfigured, and two
8 rows of monopoles with a typical height of 130 feet would
9 be installed. For Meriden, Alternatives A and B are the
10 same as the proposed route and right-of-way expansion
11 would not be necessary.

12 The proposed route in Wallingford is an
13 overhead solution. Between the Middlefield town line and
14 the proposed Beseck Switching Station near the
15 intersection of Carpenter Lane and High Hill Road, the
16 two existing rows of H-frame structures would be replaced
17 with one row of monopoles with a typical height of 105
18 feet, there would be a net reduction in the number of
19 structures. Between the Meriden town line and the
20 proposed Beseck Switching Station, a distance of a half-
21 mile, the existing H-frame structures would be removed,
22 the existing row of monopoles would remain and two rows
23 of monopoles with a typical height of 130 feet would be
24 added. From the proposed Beseck Switching Station south

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 to East Wallingford Junction a row of structures with a
2 typical height of 90 feet would be added to the row of H-
3 frame structures already there. From East Wallingford
4 Junction to the Wallingford Junction, a distance of just
5 over two miles, the existing H-frames in the right-of-way
6 would be replaced with a row of monopoles with a typical
7 height of 105 feet. And from Wallingford Junction to the
8 Cheshire town line the existing row of lattice structures
9 would be joined by a row of monopoles with a typical
10 height of 108 feet. For Wallingford, Alternatives A and
11 B are the same as the proposed route.

12 In Cheshire the proposed route is also an
13 overhead solution along an existing right-of-way that is
14 just under a mile in length. Between the Wallingford
15 town line and Cook Hill Junction, the existing lattice
16 structures would remain and a row of monopoles with a
17 typical height of 108 feet would be added. From Cook
18 Hill Junction to the Hamden town line, the existing three
19 rows of structures would be removed and replaced by two
20 rows of monopoles, one row with a typical height of 80
21 feet and the other row with a typical height of 85 feet.

22 During municipal consultations a suggestion was made to
23 bury one of the existing 115-kV overhead lines in the Old
24 Farms Road/Old Lane Road area. This would reduce the

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 impact of vegetation clearing required along existing
2 easements on homeowners' front yards. The companies
3 support this suggestion. For Cheshire, Alternatives A
4 and B are the same as the proposed route, and right-of-
5 way expansion would not be necessary.

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

18 The Connecticut Light & Power Company and
19 the United Illuminating Company thank the Connecticut
20 Siting Council for the opportunity to present this
21 information. Additional project information is available
22 on our websites, www.transmission-nu.com or
23 www.uinet.com.

24 END PRESENTATION

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

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CHAIRMAN KATZ: We are going to begin with public officials, and I ask that they try to limit their remarks to three minutes. When I call your name, please come up to the podium, give your name and your title for public officials. For members of the public give your name and address. And please spell your name for the court reporter.

First, we'd like to thank the Town of Wallingford for providing us the facility for this hearing tonight. And first, I'd like to ask the Mayor of Wallingford, William Dickinson, to come up and be our first speaker. Mr. Mayor. (Applause).

MAYOR WILLIAM DICKINSON: Good evening. My name is William Dickinson. W-i-l-l-i-a-m, D-i-c-k-i-n-s-o-n. I serve as Mayor for the Town of Wallingford. And thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening.

I'm speaking on behalf of the Town of Wallingford. Approximately 10 miles of the impacted electric utility right-of-way traverse Wallingford, with most of it in close proximity to residential areas. In addition, it crosses property purchased with State of Connecticut open space funds and a golf course. The proposed project impacts 33 wetland areas and three AAA

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 water quality streams. It will significantly change
2 visual aesthetics with the construction of up to 130-foot
3 monopoles in the Beseck Switching Station section and 90-
4 foot H-frames in most of the remaining right-of-way.
5 Many of the communities -- other communities impacted by
6 the project are seeing a reduction in the number of
7 structures, that does not appear to be the case in
8 Wallingford, there does not appear to be a uniformity of
9 design. We are also suggesting that the line 387 to East
10 Shore Substation be seriously considered as an
11 alternative, that's currently a 345-kilovolt line taking
12 the electric energy down to East Shore and then over to
13 Milford I believe.

14 Wallingford as a community is requesting
15 that the Siting Council approve an underground
16 alternative to the overhead proposal. The project has
17 many recognized goals which can be successfully realized
18 with an underground design. The goals include (1) an
19 adequate and reliable electric energy supply, (2) a
20 reduction of health and environmental impacts, (3) a
21 securer supply of electric energy, and (4) a project with
22 reasonable costs.

23 An adequate and reliable supply of
24 electric energy can be achieved with underground

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 technology. We request that Wallingford be designated as
2 a route for under-grounding of the 345-kilovolt lines
3 with the same analyses and courtesies as applied in other
4 communities. If it is confirmed that the 345-kilovolt
5 line could or should not be constructed underground, then
6 we suggest that the 115-kilovolt line should be
7 constructed underground in the alternative, leaving only
8 the 345 line overhead.

9 The underground approach should satisfy
10 the second goal of reducing environmental and health
11 impacts. There should be fewer structures in wetland
12 areas and less potential impact to water supplies.

13 The third goal of providing a securer
14 supply of electric energy is very important. Modern
15 society stops without electric energy. Most, if not all,
16 of the creature comforts we enjoy depend upon electric
17 energy. Given our nation's concerns about terrorism, we
18 should plan for the transmission of electric energy in
19 the most secure manner possible. Constructing a new
20 overhead 345-kV line next to the existing 115-kilovolt
21 line does not appear to be the most secure approach.
22 Both lines can easily be negatively affected at the same
23 time. Constructing a new line underground in an
24 alternative route would reduce this exposure.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 The fourth goal of supplying electric
2 energy at a reasonable cost is dependent upon our
3 responses to the first three goals. Clearly the
4 underground alternative is the more expensive, but is not
5 that justified by reducing negative environmental and
6 health concerns and providing a more secure electric
7 energy transmission grid.

8 There's another larger issue. We do
9 believe that there is a need for enhanced electric energy
10 supply. However, transmission capabilities alone will
11 not eliminate the potential for energy brownouts and
12 blackouts, there still may be a question of adequate
13 electric energy generation. Long distance energy
14 transmission may not be a complete or adequate answer to
15 energy supply questions. Thank you very much for the
16 opportunity to speak.

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.
18 (Applause). Next is State Senator Thomas Gaffey.
19 Senator.

20 SENATOR THOMAS GAFFEY: Good evening and
21 welcome to Central Connecticut. I appreciate the Council
22 having your hearing here this evening in Wallingford.
23 And I appreciate Mayor Dickinson's comments and his
24 leadership on this issue, along with Representatives Mary

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 Fritz and Mary Mushinsky from Wallingford and many of my
2 other legislative colleagues that have worked long and
3 hard on this issue. Certainly we're all concerned with
4 reliability and we know that that's a major charge that
5 you have to be concerned with.

6 COURT REPORTER: Senator --

7 SENATOR GAFFEY: Yes?

8 COURT REPORTER: Please give us your name
9 and spell your last name.

10 SENATOR GAFFEY: Thank you. Senator
11 Thomas P. Gaffey. G-a, double F as in Frank, e-y.
12 Meriden, Connecticut. I represent the 13th Senatorial
13 District, which includes the towns of -- the City of
14 Middletown, the Town of Middlefield, the City of Meriden,
15 and the Town of Cheshire. So this proposal hits every
16 single town in my district.

17 As I was stating, reliability is a major
18 concern of us all. To me, though, reliability and
19 environmentally safe underground transmission are
20 mutually attainable propositions. And in your decisions
21 that you weigh, you have to keep in mind under the
22 application of the statute two very paramount
23 considerations, that is that your decisions have to be
24 equitable and they have to be consistent, consistent and

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 equitable with statute, and consistent and equitable with
2 past practice and past decisions.

3 I'm going to focus on that issue because
4 you have had past decisions on this type of a matter in
5 other areas of the State, in fact in the very
6 southwestern area of the State that is the primary
7 beneficiary of the transmission project proposed as
8 admitted in the Applicant's own video that we saw prior
9 to the public comment. And what occurred in the
10 application that impacted the southwestern area in the
11 State in the Bethel/Norwalk application and the testimony
12 that you heard there from the citizens in that area of
13 the State, again the area of the State that's the primary
14 beneficiary of the upgraded transmission that affects
15 other areas of the State in this application, our area of
16 the State very demonstrably, in that application the
17 towns of Bethel, Redding, Weston, Wilton and Norwalk
18 requested that you consider very carefully underground
19 lines. And as you know, you made the decision to send
20 the Applicant and the towns into negotiations. And
21 through that negotiation came a proposal and a request
22 for you to open up the record and consider a settlement
23 agreement from the towns and the Applicant. And you did.
24 And in fact, you approved an agreement amongst the towns

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 and the Applicant that led to lines being placed
2 underground. The property values of the people of my
3 district and the people of Bill Dickinson's town and Mary
4 Fritz's district and Mary Mushinsky's district and
5 everybody else's district that's here tonight in the
6 central area of the State of Connecticut are just as
7 important as the people that live in the southwestern
8 area of the State in Fairfield County that are the major
9 beneficiaries of this application. (Applause). And I
10 urge you, I urge you to carefully consider consistency
11 and equity in your decision.

12 I was heartened to hear Chairwoman Katz
13 talk about -- that you're bringing on an underground
14 expert. And I look forward to what that expert brings
15 forth in his or her findings. But we need to keep in
16 mind that underground technology is feasible. Yes, as
17 the Mayor said, it is more expensive, but everything is
18 relative. And I grant you that there are ratepayers that
19 are willing to have that expense, because it is
20 ratepayers that will pay that expense, not shareholders,
21 that are willing to bear that expense to spare their
22 property values from diminishing and to keep the
23 environmental integrity and the natural heritage of
24 Central Connecticut intact.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 And just as I close, I would mention that
2 one of our jewels in Central Connecticut and actually
3 surrounds my district, are the basalt trap rock
4 ridgelines that are protected by statute. And I ask you
5 to consider the spirit of the law that Mary Mushinsky and
6 I co-authored, and that those trap rock ridgelines be
7 spared the impact of the proposal as now before the
8 Council.

9 I thank you for your time and I appreciate
10 you taking the time to come down to Central Connecticut
11 to hear us. Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Senator.
13 (Applause). Senator -- State Senator Len Fasano.
14 Senator. (Applause).

15 SENATOR LEONARD FASANO: Thank you.
16 Senator Len Fasano, F-a-s-a-n-o, 34th District, which is
17 Wallingford, North Haven, and East Haven.

18 Dear Chairman Katz and members of the
19 Council, as a State Senator representing the Town of
20 Wallingford, I come before you to convince this Council
21 to require Northeast Utilities to place their electrical
22 wires underground.

23 As everyone knows, the application by
24 Northeast Utilities is to place the 345 line through the

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 Town of Wallingford and eventually to Norwalk. As a
2 result, the Town of Wallingford is merely a conduit.
3 This project will not benefit the residents of
4 Wallingford. It's primarily being done to meet the
5 energy needs of the residents in the Fairfield area, and
6 make no mistake about it, eventually for the folks in
7 Long Island, New York.

8 As a consequence of the above, this
9 Council should take extra consideration to ensure that
10 the lines are not intrusive upon the residents of
11 Wallingford or upon the Wallingford landscape. Further,
12 that the health and welfare of the residents of
13 Wallingford and surrounding towns should be the No. 1
14 objective for this Council. Every effort without regard
15 to financial consequences should be made to protect the
16 integrity of the Wallingford landscape and the health of
17 the Wallingford residents.

18 There are several methods to achieve this
19 end, either the additional 345 line should be placed
20 underground or the 115 line should be placed underground
21 and the 345 line take its place on the existing poles.
22 The cost of burying the line should not be a factor. In
23 Fairfield where the project yields the greatest benefit,
24 most of those power lines are underground. Therefore, in

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 Wallingford and the surrounding towns where this project
2 has virtually no benefit, all of the additional power
3 lines should be placed underground. The wealthier towns
4 should not receive special privileges. (Applause).

5 As a State Senator and as, therefore, a
6 state policy maker, I must comment on two issues. The
7 first issue, the Council claims that it should not take
8 into account the health issues caused by power lines when
9 deciding on these types of applications. I understand
10 that the Council believes that there's significant
11 information to indicate that there is no health risks
12 with respect to power lines and that there's additional
13 information indicating that there is a health risk with
14 respect to the power lines. As a result, the Council has
15 decided not to deal with this issue because of the
16 conflict of information. In my view, that's wrong. You
17 are -- (applause) -- you are the ultimate decision maker
18 of that issue. The people of the State of Connecticut
19 can only go to you as the Council to determine the health
20 issue. By not examining the health issue and allowing
21 wires to be constructed, you implicitly have made a
22 decision that there is no health issue.

23 When each of you were appointed to the
24 Council and you decided to serve, you obligated yourself

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 to certain responsibilities that came with the job. One
2 of those responsibilities is to decide tough issues no
3 matter how difficult or complex. You are compelled to
4 examine all the evidence of weight and make your decision
5 accordingly. The health issue is complex, but it's not
6 insurmountable. If this Council needs advice, it could
7 hire its own expert. However, clearly ignoring the issue
8 is not a solution. Shouldn't the burden be placed upon
9 Northeast Utilities to prove to you, as the Council,
10 about the certainty of no adverse health effects. The
11 position taken by this Council doesn't even allow the
12 residents to offer prove that there is a harmful effect
13 caused by the power lines. This method of choice for the
14 Council in my view is not fair to the residents of
15 Wallingford or in fact for the State of Connecticut.
16 Remember, when in doubt, throw it out.

17 The second issue is the Council fails to
18 take into account that power lines have an effect upon
19 property values. Intuitively, a house which sits under
20 or near property -- or near a power line will have less
21 of a value than a house that doesn't even see a power
22 line. There's an obvious negative impact upon property
23 values from the property lines and the Council should
24 take those into consideration. This Council seems to be

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 focusing more on the negative environmental impact upon
2 birds and wildlife as a result of the power lines. While
3 I appreciate the above concern, it seems human impact has
4 been lost. We look at the negative impact upon nesting
5 birds and salamander migrations, but we dismiss with ease
6 the possible negative health effects caused to humans by
7 the power lines. The Council -- (applause) -- this
8 Council examines the power lines intrusive negative
9 effect upon the natural setting but ignores the negative
10 impact to house values. Exactly where do the people of
11 Connecticut and more importantly the residents of
12 Wallingford fit into the, quote, "impact equation".

13 We have health questions, environmental
14 questions, which this Council seems to push as a non-
15 issue. That is why as a State Senator, I will co-sponsor
16 a bill along with Representative Fritz and Representative
17 Adinolfi and Representative Mushinsky which would require
18 the Council to form a conclusion on the health and fair
19 market value issues when deciding upon such applications.
20 Such legislation will keep the focus on wildlife but
21 bring back into the focus the residents of the State of
22 Connecticut.

23 In conclusion, I want to stress to this
24 Council that Northeast Utility's lines must be placed

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 underground and out of sight. And further, that as a
2 conduit town for the benefit of the Fairfield area of
3 Connecticut, I strongly object to any interference that
4 these power lines will have upon our residents or upon
5 our landscape. Thank you very much for your attention.
6 (Applause).

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: I'd like to clarify that
8 this Council looks at EMF's, electromagnetic forces, and
9 requires the Applicant to provide us information on that
10 matter.

11 The next speaker is Diane Toolan, the Town
12 of Stratford. And I'd like to emphasize if -- anybody,
13 if I mispronounce your name, just please correct me when
14 you come up to the microphone, and if you could spell
15 your name also.

16 MS. DIANE TOOLAN: Chairman Katz and
17 members of the Connecticut Siting Council, good evening.

18 My name is Diane Toolan, T-o-o-l-a-n. I'm
19 the Director of Community and Economic Development for
20 the Town of Stratford. I'm here this evening on behalf
21 of Town Manager Michael Feeney, who apologizes for not
22 being able to attend the public hearing which you
23 recently held in Milford due to a scheduling conflict. I
24 would also like to thank the public officials from

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 Wallingford, Cheshire, and Meriden for graciously
2 allowing me to speak and for sharing their roster.

3 The Town of Stratford wishes to go on
4 record again supporting the proposed route for the
5 section of the 345-kilovolt transmission line that is
6 slated for construction within the town.

7 The proposed route is an underground route
8 that crosses under the Housatonic River just south of the
9 Moses Wheeler Bridge on I-95 and continues along Route 1,
10 Barnum Avenue, as it crosses into Bridgeport. This area
11 is a densely developed, high traffic volume, commercial
12 corridor that is anchored to the south by three large
13 retail centers encompassing over 750,000 square feet and
14 including two of the town's top 10 taxpayers. The
15 primary route from the Bridgeport city line to the edge
16 of the river is a little over 2.5 miles in length. The
17 primary route is shorter and more cost-effective than the
18 current overhead right-of-way because that is greatly
19 undersized and would result in the acquisition of
20 additional acreage and the displacement of 12 residential
21 properties.

22 The town will continue to work with the
23 United Illuminating Company and the Connecticut Light &
24 Power Company to coordinate the construction and to

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 minimize the impact on businesses and residents along
2 Barnum Avenue as this much needed project moves forward.

3 The town thanks the Siting Council for
4 sponsoring these public hearings and for allowing the
5 affected communities to come forward, participate, and be
6 heard. Thank you for the opportunity to present these
7 remarks to you this evening for the Town of Stratford.
8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
10 State Representative Al Adinolfi.

11 REPRESENTATIVE AL ADINOLFI: Good evening.
12 For the record, I am State Representative Al Adinolfi.
13 A-d-i-n-o-l, F as in Frank, i. I'm a member of the
14 Connecticut General Assembly representing the towns of
15 Cheshire, Hamden and Wallingford, three towns which will
16 be heavily impacted by this application.

17 The Siting Council on numerous occasions
18 has stated that health issues pertaining to this
19 application will receive little consideration, and I
20 thank you for correcting that --

21 CHAIRMAN KATZ: And I --

22 REPRESENTATIVE ADINOLFI: -- but we have
23 heard that from time to time and I feel much better that
24 I've heard that. So, I'm just going to skip the part

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 where I quote the statutes --

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you --

3 REPRESENTATIVE ADINOLFI: -- because
4 apparently you have. There is a question as to whether
5 or not EMF exposure is geno-toxic. Some researchers have
6 suggested that EMF is -- electromagnetic fields exposure
7 may inhibit a cell's ability to repair normal DNA damage.
8 According to the USA FDA, interference from EMF may
9 affect various medical devices, including cardiac
10 pacemakers, implantable defibrillators, and inconsistent
11 heart rates an associate with EMF exposure have been
12 reported. I received all this data by the way, it's not
13 from -- I got this all from the Connecticut State
14 Department of Health over the last few days.

15 EMF exposure and its effects on blood
16 levels have been studied. According to these studies,
17 it's possible that the EMF exposure reduces the level of
18 the hormone melatonin, which is a natural body defense
19 against cancer cells. According to the Connecticut
20 Department of Health, a link has been established between
21 EMF and childhood leukemia. Although the studies are
22 still ongoing in many places around the world, we would
23 be remiss if we did not proceed cautiously and not put
24 the health and welfare of our children at risk.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 (Applause).

2 An unusually large number of cancers,
3 miscarriages, and other adverse effects that occur in our
4 area over one period of time is referred to as a cluster.
5 Clusters could provide early warnings about certain
6 health hazards. While no proven direct link to cancer
7 clusters have been linked directly to EMF exposure,
8 cancer clusters have been found near power substations
9 and in several other locations, including one in
10 Guilford.

11 It has been stated that every report state
12 in the existence of a health hazard from EMF that there
13 is another report that states there is not a health
14 hazard. Even the remote possibility of a health hazard
15 should be given prime consideration. The health of my
16 constituency is more important than any additional
17 monetary costs associated with installing a 345-kV line
18 underground.

19 I urge this panel to error on the side of
20 caution and to rule against this application unless the
21 Applicants take action to put this line underground and
22 to avoid overhead lines in residential areas. Please
23 urge the Applicants to make technical modifications to
24 accomplish this task and perhaps use the more modern

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 technologies that will be used -- that are being used all
2 over the world. The health and safety of our communities
3 is far to -- to -- far too significant a concern, however
4 small the Applicants may claim the health risks may be,
5 this Council must make a prime -- make it a prime concern
6 in their decision making. There are certainly studies
7 and reports existing that overhead lines could pose a
8 real significant concern for public safety and health.

9 I again urge you to error on the side of
10 caution and protect us from potential health hazards
11 associated with this application. Go underground. I
12 thank you for your time.

13 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
14 Next is David Gessert, Vice Chairman of the Wallingford
15 PUC.

16 MR. DAVID GESSERT: I feel out of uniform,
17 I don't have a jacket on. Good evening and thank you
18 very much for coming to Wallingford. And the last name
19 is spelled G-e-s-s-e-r-t, like dessert with a G.

20 In the past two years Wallingford has had
21 a power plant join us, a 250-megawatt plant. The cost of
22 the plant was roughly 120 million dollars. I would like
23 to suggest that the good folks in Fairfield County look
24 into doing the same thing. (Applause). Not only would

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 it be a lot better for us, it would be a hell of a lot
2 cheaper for those people building it.

3 And if you'd look at the map we saw
4 before, the lower Fairfield County, Southwestern
5 Connecticut, we don't see any generation over there. We
6 see it in Wallingford, we see it in Middletown, we see it
7 in Montville, we see it in Hartford. So it seems from
8 the center of the State east you get the power plants and
9 the southern part gets the power. (Applause).

10 And I'd like to suggest that the property
11 of the people in Wallingford is just as important to them
12 as the property of Martha Stewart and Paul Newman is to
13 them. (Applause).

14 So if they don't want a power plant down
15 there, then please don't destroy the property values of
16 the people in Wallingford. And if they need an extension
17 cord coming through Wallingford to get them the
18 electricity, please put that cord underground. Thank
19 you. (Applause).

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is State
21 Representative Mary Fritz. (Applause). Welcome.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MARY FRITZ: Welcome. Good
23 evening, Chairman Katz and members of the Siting Council,
24 and welcome to Wallingford. I'm --

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Representative, I'm sorry,
2 could you spell your name --

3 REPRESENTATIVE FRITZ: I am State
4 Representative Mary Fritz. The name is F-r-i-t-z. I
5 represent the 90th District, which is part -- has parts of
6 Wallingford and parts of Cheshire.

7 And I also would like to compliment
8 everybody who has come out tonight from the three towns
9 and you also on the event of this big night in women's
10 basketball -- (laughter) -- where U-Conn and Tennessee
11 are playing. I think that is a supreme sacrifice.

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: And we also have a
13 request. Several of us are taping it, so please no
14 interim scores. (Laughter).

15 REPRESENTATIVE FRITZ: Thank you. Many of
16 the people here tonight are my constituents and many of
17 them live in the High Hill Road area. They will be
18 speaking to you about actual rate costs, the running of
19 an additional 345-kilovolt line in that area, scenic
20 vistas being destroyed because of clear-cutting, you
21 heard about the ridgelines from Tom Gaffey, but I'm not
22 going to talk about those things, but what I am going to
23 talk about are the interrogatories that I spent time
24 reading today and some of them -- mostly they're

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 questions. And I want the questions to be on the record
2 because I think they deserve answers.

3 The first question deals with the Beseck
4 Station. In the Interrogatory Q-D-W-046, and the witness
5 was Peter Brandien, it was stated that the physical space
6 occupied by the reactors and the switching devices is in,
7 I quote, "55,000 square feet". Last week I contacted
8 Northeast Utilities and I asked them about this 55,000
9 square feet, because as you know that's being built on
10 the corner of Carpenter Lane, and I also has recently
11 read where in Old Saybrook they're getting rid of one of
12 the Ames Department Stores, which was only 60,000 square
13 feet and replacing it with another store, so my visual
14 tells me that on the corner of Carpenter Lane we're going
15 to see a facility that's the size of an Ames Department
16 Store. And how do you protect the people in that area
17 from that visual monstrosity. The answer I got from
18 Northeast was clearly that that was not going to be the
19 situation, but what it was going to be was the five acres
20 of land that they own out there, and that's what that
21 55,000 square feet was. But as I told you in the
22 interrogatory, that's not true. So, I would appreciate
23 it if somebody would check that out.

24 And my second question is also another

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 interrogatory, and it was dated 12/30/03, and it came
2 from the Towns of Durham and Wallingford, and the witness
3 was Ann -- I can't say her name -- B -- I'll spell it
4 though, B-a-r-t-o-s-e-w-i-c-z, and John Pree. The number
5 for this one is Q-D-W-049 in the section entitled Changes
6 Made to the Primary Route under Consideration. In
7 paragraph No. 2, if you will be so kind, I would like to
8 read it to you, or part of it. It says the existing wood
9 H-frames will remain in their present locations. The
10 proposed route as illustrated in Volume 10, etcetera, has
11 both the existing structure locations and the new
12 structure locations shifted west within the right-of-way
13 toward the Bristol-Meyers Squibb Company. This was done
14 in an effort to move the structures away from the densely
15 populated residential area along High Hill Road in the
16 Town of Wallingford. This accommodation was possible
17 because Northeast Utility already owns the land in the
18 vicinity of Bristol-Meyers Squibb that allows the shift
19 without expansion of the right-of-way. And my question
20 is how far away are you moving these lines from High Hill
21 Road, or are you going to again duplicate -- I know you
22 want to stay in the right-of-way because of the expense,
23 but clearly I think the people out in that area need to
24 have more explanation than what appears in this

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 interrogatory.

2 And then my third question basically is
3 from the Attorney General's Office, and that was dated on
4 12/19/03, and it was signed by Michael Wertheimer,
5 Assistant Attorney General. And on page 5 there was a
6 very interesting statement taken from page 7 of the
7 Applicant's supplemental filing of 12/16/03. And if you
8 would bear with me, I would like to read you a little bit
9 of it, and I'm not taking anything out of context. It
10 would be preferable from an operating standpoint to
11 minimize the underground construction of 345-kV
12 transmission lines. In cases such as the portion of the
13 company's proposed route between East Devon and Norwalk,
14 operational complexity was accepted in order to
15 accommodate significant social and land use impacts that
16 would have been associated with overhead construction.
17 These impacts are avoided by underground construction
18 between East Devon and Norwalk. And the important part
19 comes now, at a minimal additional costs compared to
20 overhead construction. This -- these are the Applicant's
21 own words.

22 Over and over again we have heard a
23 million over-ground, three million underground. And
24 since Wallingford has the largest share of the miles in

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 Phase 2, I would expect, and I think Wallingford should
2 be given and must be given the same consideration as
3 Bridgeport, Weston, Norwalk and Devon, lines must go
4 underground -- (applause) -- or under-street since it was
5 at a minimal additional costs.

6 Also, a little fact you ought to know, on
7 August 14th in the blackout, not in Wallingford.
8 (Applause). I've always believed if it isn't broken, you
9 don't fix it.

10 Also, if they could put the cable under
11 the Sound, why can't they put the cable underground here.
12 (Applause).

13 And just as Tom and just as Dave and all
14 the other speakers before me, when you think about the
15 property values of the people in our towns, you have to
16 understand that not only do their property values go
17 down, but that grand list goes down. And as a result of
18 that, taxes go up. So the people who are affected by
19 these lines lose and pay twice. (Applause).

20 My charge to you, the Siting Council, is
21 to please, please make sure that you achieve the greatest
22 good with the least effect on the people of Wallingford.
23 (Applause).

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: The next speaker is

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 Stephen Knight, the Wallingford Town Council.

2 MR. STEPHEN KNIGHT: Chairman Katz and
3 members of the Siting Council, good evening.

4 My name is Stephen Knight, S-t-e-p-h-e-n,
5 K-n-i-g-h-t. I'm here both as a resident of Wallingford
6 and as a Town Councilor, one of the representatives of
7 many people in our community affected by this project.
8 I'd also like to note for the record that my comments are
9 shared by my fellow colleague, Town Councilor Jerry
10 Farrell, Jr., who is here as well.

11 I do not dispute the necessity of the
12 project that's being contemplated. An ample and
13 competitive supply of electric energy is of the utmost
14 importance to every single person in this region. And
15 I'm not in a position to challenge the technological
16 assumptions that are being made, although I am hopeful
17 and gratified that an expert in under-grounding has been
18 retained by your office, Chairman Katz, and -- but there
19 are many others as well with the background that will
20 enable them to demonstrate the feasibility of under-
21 grounding a greater percentage of the line being
22 contemplated I hope. However, I would like to speak to
23 the fact that the project as it is presently drawn up
24 allows for under-grounding 100 percent of the line in

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 Fairfield County and zero percent of the line for the
2 rest of the affected area, including the 10 plus miles in
3 Wallingford.

4 There's been a lot of political talk,
5 especially in Washington this past year using the term
6 shared sacrifice. And this concept applies to the case
7 at hand. If we are all suppose to be sharing in the
8 benefits of improved electric energy supply, then the
9 sacrifices required to achieve that goal should be shared
10 equally as well. In this case however, the residents of
11 Wallingford whose property this line will run past are
12 being asked to make all the sacrifices to their quality
13 of life and possibly their property values while hundreds
14 of thousands of others who will be the primary
15 beneficiary of this project are being asked to sacrifice
16 nothing. (Applause).

17 The people of Wallingford want this line
18 put underground to protect their quality of life. And
19 they are just as entitled to having that request honored
20 as anyone in Fairfield County. This line upgrade has
21 been made necessary by the energy appetites of the
22 residents there and they shoulder -- (applause) -- and
23 they should shoulder as much or more of the burden as the
24 rest of us.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 I do not envy your task. You have many,
2 many complicated factors to consider in making your
3 decision. If the concepts of fairness and equity are to
4 guide you, as I believe they will, you will require that
5 this portion of the line be placed underground. We are
6 all equal under the law. And that principle can lead to
7 no other conclusion. Thank you. (Applause).

8 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is David Orsini,
9 Mayor of the Town of Cheshire. Mr. Mayor.

10 MAYOR DAVID ORSINI: Good evening,
11 Chairman Katz and members of the Siting Council. My name
12 is David Orsini. That's O-r-s-i-n-i. As you stated, I'm
13 Mayor and Chairman of the Town Council of Cheshire.

14 I also want to point out that there are a
15 number of other Cheshire council members here this
16 evening. The ones I saw are Steve Carroll, Justin
17 Adinolfi, Matthew Hall, Diane Visconti. There may have
18 been more that have arrived that I haven't seen, but just
19 the names I've mentioned to you constitute a majority of
20 the membership of the Town Council. I believe that's
21 significant in showing you how important we feel as a
22 town about this application.

23 I'm here this evening to address the
24 impact this project will have on the Town of Cheshire.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 I've read numerous articles about the critical importance
2 of this electric line upgrade and the dire consequences
3 if this project doesn't move forward. I'm not here to
4 debate the need for this project. I'm happy to hear you
5 say the Utility provides information on EMF, but what's
6 still unclear for me is -- and I'm confused about it
7 because I'm led to believe that your Council cannot base
8 your decision on the impact of the EMF exposure on human
9 health and property values, and I'm extremely troubled by
10 that. I hope I'm wrong on that case.

11 As currently proposed this route would
12 follow an existing 115-kV line trail through a portion of
13 Cheshire. The simple fact is the affected neighborhood
14 in Cheshire is a residential, almost a rural area, a very
15 attractive and desirable place to live. Bordering this
16 neighborhood is a most appealing tract of 185 acres of
17 open space recently acquired by the Town in partnership
18 with the South Central Connecticut Regional Water
19 Authority and the State DEP. Without question, any
20 intrusion into this section of town will negatively
21 affect this neighborhood. There would be a disruption to
22 the ecology and nature of this area that will be forever
23 changed. The character of this neighborhood and
24 attractiveness of the open space will irreparably altered

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 and not for the better. The quality of life in southeast
2 Cheshire will be forever changed and with it the face of
3 Cheshire. That this project will have a negative impact
4 I feel is irrefutable. The nature and extent of this
5 impact can only be determined over time.

6 Therefore, I implore you to redirect these
7 power lines along the existing 345-kV line corridor,
8 which I believe was mentioned earlier by Mayor Dickinson
9 as well, from Wallingford to the East Shore Substation
10 and prevent this environmental encroachment from
11 occurring. I understand that as a part of the
12 supplemental filing submitted by CL&P and UI this
13 alternative route was proposed. I recognize this route
14 presents some engineering challenges, but I also
15 recognize the expertise and creativity that exists at
16 CL&P and UI. I'm confident they can make this solution
17 work if they are genuinely committed to do so.

18 Therefore, I urge you to give it your serious
19 consideration. If you determine that it is not a route,
20 I again want to echo the comments of all the previous
21 speakers about making sure that this project is then done
22 underground as you have determined in the other sections.

23 I also wish to recognize the many Cheshire
24 residents who have worked hard, done their homework, and

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 are well prepared to speak knowledgeably to you this
2 evening about how this project will impact this part of
3 Cheshire. Please listen carefully to their testimony.

4 I respect the fact that you, the members
5 of the Siting Council, have the most difficult and
6 unpopular role to play in a decision that will have
7 significant implications for this State. I don't envy
8 you. Thank you for your time. Best of luck with the
9 difficult decision you have before you. Thank you and
10 have a good evening. (Applause).

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next on the list is -- and
12 I'm going to mispronounce your name and you're going to
13 correct me -- Jim Vumbaco.

14 A VOICE: Vumbaco.

15 MR. JIM VUMBACO: Close, close.

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Wallingford Council
17 Chairman.

18 MR. VUMBACO: Yeah, you're close. It's
19 Vumbaco. V as in Victor, u-m, B as in boy, a-c-o.

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

21 MR. VUMBACO: As the Chairman stated, my
22 name is Jim Vumbaco, Wallingford Town Council Chairman.
23 I speak to you as an elected official as well as a
24 resident of Wallingford. I also own a home along the

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 High Hill Road area where the power lines are intended to
2 go. I have two very simple comments and concerns.

3 My first concern would be the increase in
4 the width of the right-of-way. While we were unable to
5 get the exact dimensions of what the new right-of-way
6 will consist of from Northeast Utilities, I am under the
7 impression that the right-of-way will be increased.

8 There are two areas that I am most familiar with, the
9 Mariot Circle area as well as the High Hill area, which
10 also includes Cliffside Drive. Both areas have homes
11 that presently back up to the power lines right-of-way
12 now and I am concerned about how much closer the right-
13 of-way will be and how it will affect their property
14 values. In some areas, especially on Mariot Circle, if
15 the right-of-way is extended to its maximum fullest
16 capability, it will be right on top of some of those
17 homes there. People will lose large portions of their
18 land, and at least in one case a gentleman I talked to
19 will lose his shed and his pool.

20 Along those same lines, I am also
21 concerned with what I consider sight pollution. We hear
22 about air pollution, we hear about water pollution, we
23 hear about noise pollution and all sorts of other
24 pollutions, but we never talk about sight pollution. It

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 is bad enough right now for residents along the power
2 lines to be looking at the current structures from their
3 homes. While most of us along the line have learned to
4 live with the impingement upon our horizons, the addition
5 of a whole new set of poles and lines in some areas much
6 higher than they are now is way too much to ask. To
7 widen the right-of-way and add additional poles for
8 people to look outside from their back windows and from
9 their decks is completely dead wrong as far as I am
10 concerned.

11 I urge you to require Northeast Utilities
12 to bury the power lines when they will be abutting
13 residential property. I don't believe there is one
14 person here tonight that's against increasing the
15 delivery service in Connecticut. Wallingford believes it
16 should be treated equally and fairly in this matter by
17 putting the lines underground as proposed for other
18 towns. Thank you. (Applause).

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is Diane Visconti,
20 Cheshire Town Council.

21 MS. DIANE VISCONTI: Hi. Diane Visconti.
22 That's V as in Vermont, i-s-c-o-n-t-i. I represent the
23 3rd District in Cheshire. And I just wanted you folks to
24 know that it's not just the people who live near the

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 power lines who are concerned about this, indeed it's
2 people from all over Cheshire.

3 And I want to talk about the DeDominicis
4 property, the 185 acres which abuts the proposed lines.
5 It's a beautiful piece of property. You can walk on it
6 for hours, you can bring your dog, you cannot see people
7 for a long time. It's beautiful. It's a refuge in this
8 kind of crazy world we live in. So, I'd hate to see that
9 get imperiled. And I'd really urge you to put the lines
10 underground. Thank you. (Applause).

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is Vincent Testa,
12 Wallingford Town Council.

13 MR. VINCENT TESTA: Thank you. Hi.
14 Vincent Testa. That's T-e-s-t-a.

15 Briefly, I'm just here to speak to one
16 very simple point, but one that I believe is fundamental
17 to a democratic society. I represent the people of
18 Wallingford. When I fulfill that responsibility, I try
19 to do so in a way that reflects my consideration of
20 fairness to all of those impacted by my decisions.
21 That's the cornerstone of meeting the trust placed in
22 public servants. We all look to those empowered with
23 decision making on our behalf to behave accordingly. You
24 are entrusted with an awesome authority related to the

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 well being of our community from an environmental,
2 financial, and public health perspective. I simply ask
3 that you fulfill your responsibilities in a way that
4 displays fairness. Afford us the same considerations
5 that you showed the people of Fairfield County.

6 I would also propose that as we are
7 receiving no direct benefit from this line, the scale of
8 justice warrants added consideration to our concerns.
9 Public policy involves give and take. You're asking us
10 to give, but get no take. Southwestern Connecticut gets
11 the take, but no give. (Applause). Simple fairness
12 suggests that you give something as you take from us.

13 Hear these good people here tonight and
14 fulfill their trustful expectations of fairness. Thank
15 you. -

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
17 Next is State Representative Mary Mushinsky. (Applause).

18 REPRESENTATIVE MARY MUSHINSKY: Good
19 evening, Chairwoman Katz and members of the Siting
20 Council.

21 I am Representative Mary Mushinsky,
22 spelled M-u-s-h-i-n-s-k-y, from the 85th District of --
23 that's the central part of Wallingford.

24 The question of whether there is a need to

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 upgrade the transmission lines through Wallingford is not
2 in dispute. There has been ample testimony before
3 legislative committees that portions of the State, in
4 particular the southwestern part of Connecticut, are
5 already facing peak shortages of electric power due to
6 their growth in demand, their complete reliance on out-
7 of-region generating capacity and an antiquated means of
8 transmission from these sources.

9 The southwest region has been loathed to
10 generate its own power and neighbors immediately adjacent
11 to transmission lines have argued against transmission
12 upgrade. In order to proceed with the upgrade, portions
13 of the line in Phase 1 ended up underground. In
14 contrast, Wallingford, especially my central Wallingford
15 district, has been contributing to the power grid by
16 generating electricity from an natural gas-fired power
17 plant in a residential/industrial neighborhood. It's
18 actually in my residential/industrial neighborhood. We
19 are helping to supply new power with advanced technology.

20 Wallingford residential neighbors are already helping to
21 carry the load of new electricity production.

22 In fairly balancing the equation of
23 contributors versus consumers of electricity, the Siting
24 Council should take into consideration that some

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 neighborhoods are being asked to take on an increased
2 burden for the benefit of other consumers, some will lose
3 tree cover and aesthetic value of their property. Where
4 this is measurable, the Siting Council should ensure that
5 these property owners be compensated for any lost
6 property value they may have experienced while serving
7 their fellow citizens' electricity needs. If the Siting
8 Council is unable to compensate these property owners
9 under current regulations or to replace trees to protect
10 these owners, then the Council ought to require the
11 Applicant to modify the technology or the route in order
12 to reduce the property impact on peoples' homes.

13 Thank you for listening to our plea for
14 essential fairness. (Applause).

15 CHAIRMAN KATZ: That is all the people I
16 have who identified themselves as public officials. Is
17 there any public official that I missed?

18 Before we do members of the public,
19 there's an addendum to the Applicant's video that
20 explains the East Shore alternative, a very short
21 addendum, and I'd like to take an opportunity to -- we'll
22 show that now if we can.

23

24 (Whereupon, a video presentation was

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 played for the public.)

2

3

VIDEO PRESENTATION

4

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

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One of the options originally considered for building a 345-kilovolt loop through Southwest Connecticut involved connecting the strong source in Wallingford to the substation in Milford by means of a route that passes through a New Haven substation known as East Shore. Initial evaluations of this route indicated that a second line on separate structures would be needed from Wallingford to New Haven. Connecting New Haven to Milford would require either seven miles of underground, ten miles of overhead, and two transition stations, or thirteen miles of underground and two transition stations. And this route would cost about 200 million dollars compared with the estimated 100 million dollars to connect Wallingford to Milford along that portion of the proposed route.

During the municipal consultation process,

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 the Mayor of Wallingford urged the companies to
2 reconsider using the existing 345-kilovolt line into East
3 Shore as part of the project. So the companies are
4 exploring every means for making this alternative a
5 possibility. There are two major challenges to making
6 this alternative work. The first challenge is to
7 eliminate the need to build a second line. The second is
8 to overcome all the electric system issues related to the
9 added miles of underground.

10 The companies have begun by exploring the
11 effect of making substantial changes to the East Shore
12 Substation to see if changes there could eliminate the
13 need for a second line between Wallingford and New Haven.
14 So far one reconfiguration has passed preliminary
15 screening and the companies have commissioned experts in
16 power modeling to see if this reconfiguration can pass
17 national reliability standards. If the companies develop
18 a means to avoid the need for a second line, then they
19 will begin to explore whether there is any way to
20 overcome the electric system issues related to the added
21 miles of underground.

22 You can find more information about this
23 potential alternative in the supplemental filing posted
24 on the company's websites, www.transmission-nu.com or

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 www.uinet.com.

2 END PRESENTATION

3

4 CHAIRMAN KATZ: We normally take a short
5 break about 8:30, but we do have a number of people who
6 have signed up to speak, so I'm going to ask your
7 indulgence to make this a very short break. I'd like to
8 resume in about five minutes if we could and then we'll
9 go to members of the public.

10 (Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Can you please take a
12 seat. When I call your name, please come to the
13 microphone, give your name and address, and spell your
14 name for the court reporter. We're going to ask you to
15 keep to three minutes. And please keep an eye on the
16 stoplight that we have here directly across from the
17 podium.

18 A VOICE: There's one on the podium too,
19 Madam Chairman.

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Oh. And there's a light
21 also on the podium our technician tells us.

22 The first person to sign up is W-e-i-t-a-
23 o. J-i-a is the last name. (Pause). We will pass on --
24 we'll come back. The next one is Nancy Strout. What I'm

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 going to do is I'm going to announce who's up and then
2 I'm going to also announce who's on deck. If you're on
3 deck, please come down to the front row so that we can
4 give everybody an opportunity to speak. After Nancy
5 Strout is Sudha --

6 A VOICE: (Indiscernible).

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. Go ahead.

8 MS. NANCY STROUT: Nancy Strout, S-t-r-o-
9 u-t. I live at 1000 East Center Street. Right now my
10 driveway is the right-of-way to the power lines. Pretty
11 much anything in my letter was covered except for the
12 fact that they do come by and spray pesticides and
13 herbicides along that right-of-way yearly every other
14 year. And my concern is, okay, so it doesn't go
15 underground so the towers are up and so now they're going
16 to maintain those lines, a bigger area to be sprayed
17 closer to MacKenzie than before. MacKenzie pumps into
18 Pogs. Can anybody guarantee that the food in my garden
19 and the community gardens, the cows that we drink the
20 milk, our children -- you know, they can guarantee our
21 safety that way, is another environmental concern. We
22 have an Eastern Box Turtle that's endangered, they've got
23 their home out there. What kind of impact is going to
24 happen. And what kind of guarantees are there for us

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 that even after all this, things aren't still going to
2 get ruined. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

4 Next is Sudha --

5 A VOICE: (Indiscernible) --

6 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Yeah. And on deck is Lisa
7 Berardi.

8 MS. SUDHA SHENOY: Hi, good evening. My
9 name is Sudha Shenoy, S-u-d-h-a. The last name is
10 Shenoy, S-h-e-n-o-y. 47 Cliffside Drive.

11 My family and I reside near Wetlands 44
12 and the proposed Beseck Switching Station. We along with
13 residents of this area are concerned about the risks
14 posed by vegetation spraying along the right-of-way. We
15 are especially troubled by the fact that the amount of
16 spraying already occurring in Wallingford would be
17 increased if the proposed lines were to pass overhead
18 instead of underground.

19 Pathway and Escort, two of the herbicides
20 that are currently being used to manage vegetation in
21 involved areas can contaminate groundwater. This
22 concerns those of us who have well water. Some sources
23 claim that arsenic and other chemicals being sprayed in
24 Wallingford and Cheshire should not be applied within 15

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 meters of a wetland because of toxic effects.

2 Those at CL&P and UI report treats each
3 wetland as an isolated area. This is far from the truth.
4 The Wallingford wetlands are part of a large natural
5 aquifer system that flows ultimately into the Williams
6 Reservoir. Contaminating the wetlands will thus result
7 in the contamination of the Williams Reservoir, the
8 largest fresh water basin in town.

9 Other sprayed chemicals, such as
10 garlanforinpicurlim (phonetic), can adversely affect
11 kidney and liver function in humans and in animals. The
12 kidney and liver are responsible for metabolizing and
13 detoxifying all chemicals that pass through the body.
14 The potential effects of garlanforinpicurlim are of
15 special concern to my family and me as I will be soon
16 donating a kidney to my daughter.

17 All many of the chemicals used are
18 supposedly only slightly toxic to human and animals?
19 There is no real way to foretell the combined effects of
20 all these several herbicides used together. Similarly,
21 though the risks from EMF's may be small, but the risks
22 from vegetation spraying may be small, the combined
23 effects of these and other risks caused by the lines may
24 sum together to create an unacceptable risk.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 I'm cognizant of the fact that you're
2 mandated to balance public need and environmental impact.

3 It's critical to note that the damage done to the water
4 supply, wetlands, waterways touch all aspects of the
5 environment, water, animals, birds, vernal pools, fairy
6 shrimp, and what is most critical to me the cultural
7 environment humans.

8 It's also important to note that there are
9 many affected residents who are taking various
10 prescription medications which may interact with
11 chemicals that leach into groundwater. My daughter is a
12 kidney patient, my husband a heart patient, both are
13 taking a variety of prescription medications. My
14 daughter will be taking even more medications once she
15 receives a kidney transplant, including immuno-
16 suppressants that will place her at risk for developing
17 cancer. Any additional risks from EMF's and health risks
18 from vegetation spraying, well water contamination risks
19 are too great for my family. My family and others are
20 already facing health risks caused by the current level
21 of spraying and do not wish to be faced with greater
22 health risks caused by spraying and EMF's. Please
23 minimize vegetation spraying and management by placing
24 the lines underground instead of overhead. Thank you.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 (Applause).

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: (Indiscernible) --
3 Berardi, on deck is Frank Scarpo.

4 MS. LISA BERARDI: Good evening, Chairman
5 Katz and members of the Council, my name is Lisa Berardi,
6 B-e-r-a-r-d-i, and I live at 86 Old Farms Road in
7 Cheshire.

8 Beginning some 16 years ago, Cheshire's
9 Old Farms Road neighborhood was developed unfortunately
10 around the existing 115-kV transmission lines. This
11 nine-tenth of a mile stretch from the Wallingford town
12 line to the Hamden town line consists of 32 homes, each
13 with two to four-acre parcels. It is a very attractive,
14 quiet, rural area, a neighborhood in which our homes are
15 a great source of pride and comfort. This area is home
16 to a vast array of wildlife, amphibians, and a wide
17 variety of birds, including several species of hawks.
18 Our neighborhood is host to horseback riders, walkers,
19 joggers, bikers, and includes several horse farms, an
20 alpaca farm, and six acres of Cheshire land trust
21 property. The transmission right-of-way lies adjacent to
22 185 acres of recently acquired town open space, which is
23 used for hiking and horseback riding. Old Farms Road is
24 a family neighborhood with more than 50 children living

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 and playing throughout the area. It is these qualities
2 that attracted my family to this area six years ago.

3 We do not wish to live near -- after much
4 reservation and research, we did choose to live next to
5 115 lines, but we do not choose to wish -- or to live
6 next to 345 overhead lines. We do not want our children
7 walking, playing, or riding around 345 lines. Our
8 children need to walk under these lines every day to wait
9 for the school bus. We need to walk under these lines to
10 get our mail and to go to a friend's house. We travel
11 under these lines every day several times a day.

12 NU's proposed changes to the current
13 right-of-way involves adding a monopole of approximately
14 108 feet parallel to the existing 85-foot lattice tower
15 from the Wallingford town line to Cook Hill Junction.
16 This would require significant clearing of hundreds of
17 trees and vegetation along the existing right-of-way,
18 which now serve as a buffer between the existing lines
19 and our homes.

20 The new pole housing the 345 line would be
21 approximately 75 feet closer to my home and many others,
22 encroaching on our living and playing space. The
23 alternative to this option involves burying one of the
24 existing 115 circuits, which we gladly accept, but then

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 configuring the remaining 115 and 345 lines on poles of
2 at least 130 feet. This is unacceptable. The placement
3 of 345 overhead lines on poles whether 100 feet or 130
4 feet throughout this neighborhood will completely deface
5 and devalue it, not to mention greatly impact our safety
6 and quality of life. The only acceptable solution should
7 be an underground alternative.

8 The precedent has been set in Phase 1
9 where the lines will be buried near schools and other
10 sensitive areas. There are 900,000 people affected by
11 this proposal. All people, all children deserve the same
12 consideration. As a CL&P ratepayer, I ask that my money
13 be used to fund underground technology for all towns.

14 Thank you for this opportunity to be
15 heard. We look to your leadership and expertise in
16 helping us to protect our State, its communities, and its
17 citizens.

18 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
19 Next up is Frank Scarpo, on deck is Radha --

20 A VOICE: Shenoy.

21 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

22 MR. FRANK SCARPO: Frank Scarpo, 54 Pine
23 Brook Court, Cheshire, Connecticut. S-c-a-r-p-o.

24 I would like to take this opportunity to

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 express the safety concerns I have regarding the
2 application made by Northeast Utilities and United
3 Illuminating.

4 I have owned a 24-acre farm in Cheshire
5 for almost 20 years. Originally the land I owned and
6 surrounding properties was owned by the Yale School of
7 Forestry. The area was populated with large Hemlock
8 evergreens that were anywhere from 100 to 150 years old.

9 As the need for economic development became stronger,
10 the beautiful evergreens that once served the natural
11 landscape for this area were replaced with building lots
12 and eventually new homes. Today this area is
13 predominantly populated with families who have young
14 children. The safety concerns I have are because many of
15 these yards are located in right-of-ways under with
16 Northeast Utilities and United Illuminated lines pass.
17 If you decide to approve the proposal made by these two
18 institutions, you are making the decision to put the
19 residents of these areas in danger for their safety.

20 This statement is not a prediction but
21 rather a fact based on my personal experience as in the
22 time I have resided at 54 Pine Brook Court, I have
23 witnessed the destruction that results from downed power
24 lines on four separate occasions as follows. First while

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 a contractor was clearing land, a tree fell over and
2 broke a power line. This left many of the surrounding
3 towns without power for a considerable period of time.
4 While being without power may be passed off as a mere
5 inconvenience, I stopped and wondered what would have
6 happened if the downed power line landed on one of my
7 farm animals or a family member. I could certainly see
8 how the power line had burned a tire off the log skidder
9 as it hit as it was falling and the three-foot area that
10 was scorched when it found its final resting place.

11 I also recall the power lines coming down
12 on an extremely windy day. The sound that resonated as
13 the falling power lines came in contact with the trees
14 along the right-of-way rivaled the sound of a mortar
15 round. At the time I was told that when a line comes in
16 contact with a tree or the ground, it does not
17 immediately turn off but instead tries to reenergize
18 itself to avoid an outage. It was probably just luck
19 that none of the neighborhood children were outside
20 chasing their dog.

21 There was also the time that a ceramic
22 insulation failure allowed a line to come down across the
23 main roadway and onto the power lines along the roadway.

24 Again a power outage resulted and the utility lines were

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 damaged.

2 Probably the most tragic incident occurred
3 when a line that was damaged from an earlier incident
4 failed again causing the line to come down. I understand
5 this is called a line splice failure. The power line
6 from the animal shed to my house completely burnt back to
7 the circuit breaker of my home causing the lose of my
8 electric fence. The adjoining farm also suffered damage
9 to their electric fence and a horse trailer. Of course
10 electric fences and a horse trailer can be repaired,
11 unfortunately there was no way to bring back the pregnant
12 horse and her fowl that died. The electric current from
13 the phone line was so strong that the horse's shoes
14 conducted the powerful current and she died instantly.
15 While it broke my heart to bury the mother and her fowl
16 and senselessness of their deaths made me angry. I spent
17 two to three hours a day caring for animals under these
18 lines and losing even one of them would have been
19 devastating. This having been said, we are extremely
20 fortunate and grateful that there was no loss of human
21 life. I think it is worth noting that Northeast
22 Utilities responded very quickly and we were compensated
23 for our damage. (Gavel). If all this damage can occur
24 with 115-kV lines, what danger, destruction and loss of

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 lives can we expect with 345-kV lines.

2 Thank you. (Applause). I just want to
3 say I shortened my speech 15 minutes.

4 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is -- if you could
5 pronounce your name at the microphone, I would appreciate
6 it.

7 MS. RADHA SHENOY: My name is Radha, R-a-
8 d-h-a, Shenoy, S-h-e-n-o-y, and I live 47 Cliffside
9 Drive.

10 While reviewing the CL&P/UI investigation
11 soil science and environmental services data sheets for
12 the Wallingford wetlands, I was surprised to see that
13 very few species are said to inhabit areas that will be
14 affected by the proposed lines. According to the sheets
15 only frogs, chipmunks, deer, and a few common bird
16 species live in the Wallingford wetlands. The wildlife
17 assessments for most involved areas were stated to be low
18 to moderate. These results demonstrate that one or two
19 trips to the wetlands are not sufficient to give an
20 accurate accounts of the wildlife inhabiting these areas.

21 Having lived near Wetlands 44 for nearly
22 six years, I can attest that in Wetlands 44 and
23 immediately surrounding areas alone there is an abundance
24 of wildlife that the soil science report fails to

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 mention; squirrels, foxes, opossums, rabbits, wild
2 turkeys, Canadian geese, skunks, woodchucks, hawks,
3 toads, copperheads, coyotes, and the State endangered
4 Timber Rattlesnake.

5 Similarly though the soil science report
6 does not make mention of the Peregrine Falcon living in
7 Wallingford or the Red-Shouldered Hawk living in
8 Cheshire, the Taylors of Running Brook Farm in
9 Wallingford have seen Peregrine Falcons in their backyard
10 in the right-of-way, and the Berardi's of Cheshire of
11 seen Red-Shouldered Hawks living on their land in the
12 right-of-way. Peregrine Falcons are State and Federally
13 endangered, and Red-Shouldered Hawks are of special
14 concerned species.

15 With the lines to be placed overhead, they
16 would pose an electrocution hazard to birds, especially
17 to the Red-Shouldered Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, and other
18 raptor species as government cites confirm. The CL&P/UI
19 report itself admits that electrocution concerns are
20 greatest for large raptors such as the Peregrine Falcon
21 and Red-Shouldered Hawk, whose numbers are already small.
22 In addition, raptor eggs appear to grow thinner in the
23 presence of electromagnetic fields. Exposing Peregrine
24 Falcons and Red-Shouldered Hawks to EMF's from the lines

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 may mimic the effects of a pesticide called DDT, which
2 cause the eggs of Peregrine Falcons to thin and break and
3 result in the near extinction of the Peregrine Falcon in
4 the United States. Placing the lines underground would
5 help reduce the threat that electrocution and strong
6 EMF's pose for these birds.

7 As the soil science report also concedes
8 another major mortality factor for raptors is vegetation
9 clearing and management. Government cites confirm that
10 many raptors die either through direct ingestion of
11 pesticides or through the ingestion of contaminated prey.
12 Vegetation spraying is unfortunately already a problem in
13 the Wallingford wetlands, and overhead lines would only
14 demand spraying at even higher levels. Though the
15 CL&P/UI report does promise that vegetation spraying will
16 be minimized in areas inhabited by endangered,
17 threatened, or special concerned species, the report
18 fails to recognize that the Peregrine Falcon resides in
19 Wallingford and that the Red-Shouldered Hawk lives in
20 Cheshire. Thus, there are no reduced spraying plans in
21 place for either town.

22 As we have seen, birds are not the only
23 animals living in or near the affected areas. Increased
24 spraying will affect many other species, including

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 humans. Time and time again we have placed human needs
2 ahead of environmental concerns. It is thousands of
3 decisions such as the one that may be made here that have
4 summed together to produce the environmental crisis that
5 faces our nation today. We, therefore, ask that the most
6 environmentally sound option be invoked to meet
7 Connecticut's electricity needs, please place the lines
8 underground and not overhead. (Applause).

9 I also -- I have pictures with my
10 statement -- I have pictures of the falcon with my
11 statement.

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Great, thank you.
13 (Applause). Next is Peter Foster. On deck is Jennifer
14 Gar -- you're going to -- Gargiolo -- you're going to
15 correct me when you come up to the mic. Mr. Foster.

16 MR. PETER FOSTER: Thank you. Ladies and
17 gentlemen, my name is Peter B. Foster. We reside at 1416
18 Whirlwind Hill in East Wallingford. We're along with a
19 number of neighbors on our hill. We have an expansive
20 view westward overlooking the landscape containing the
21 right-of-way proposed to be used for the new high line
22 towers.

23 Our primary reason for selecting this home
24 site was the handsome view of the rolling hills, the

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 beautiful valley of east Wallingford. The proposed
2 installation of the many tall poles and cables all the
3 way along the terrain will decidedly degrade the
4 landscape and detract from the natural appearance we now
5 enjoy each day. These huge poles and wires would be an
6 actual blight on the open space they invade -- that they
7 invade and would offend everyone whose windows reveal
8 such unsightly lines. The use of this archaic method of
9 carrying power is crude, outdated, and indifferent to the
10 environmental and aesthetic impact it would have on our
11 still remaining open space.

12 We are strongly opposed to the current
13 proposal for the reason that we believe an alternative
14 method exists which can produce even better results.
15 Underground placement of transmission lines would in
16 addition to avoiding the nagging eyesore, also avoid much
17 tree and brush removal, continual maintenance,
18 deterioration of the facilities from wind, sun, lightning
19 and rain, detour possible terrorism and vandal damage,
20 eliminate airborne noises of crackling, allay public
21 fears of electromagnetic waves, avoid radio interference,
22 and the dangers of employees who have to work at heights
23 above the ground.

24 In an age when we are exploring another

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 planet 110 million miles away and can transmit high
2 voltage under the bed of Long Island Sound, we should
3 with today's technology be able to bury offensive cables
4 as they cross 11 miles of lovely countryside and wetland
5 we treasure in east Wallingford.

6 We sincerely ask the Siting Council
7 members to intently consider the long-range benefits of a
8 larger present investment in an up-to-date installation
9 of this added service to Fairfield County. Please
10 consider the fact that this proposal is made to serve
11 what may be the highest per capita income county in our
12 country. If anywhere this project should be done in the
13 most reliable, safest, and least offensive way possible.

14 Customers in Fairfield deserve and can afford the
15 highest grade distribution system possible. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause). I
17 passed over somebody previously and I'd just like to see
18 if they're in the room now, W-e-i-t-a-o, J-a-i. Is that
19 person in the room? (Pause). Okay.

20 MS. JENNIFER GARGIULO: Hi. My name is
21 Jennifer Gargiulo, G-a-r-g-i-u-l-o. I live at 90 Old
22 Farms Road in Cheshire. I am 13 years old and I am in
23 the eighth grade.

24 How many of you have read the Lorax by Dr.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 Seuss? Dr. Seuss wanted us to respect nature.
2 Everything that happens has an effect on everything else.
3 We were put here to protect the earth. Putting power
4 lines up, is that really protecting the earth, or is it
5 answering peoples' wants. Electricity is a convenience.
6 Most of us have forgotten that.

7 I can assume that many of you are parents,
8 correct? Well, what's the most important thing in your
9 life? Your kids, right? Would you do -- you would do
10 anything in your power to protect them. Allowing these
11 lines to go up is not protecting your kids. There are
12 enough dangers in our world without also having to worry
13 about a high voltage power line falling while waiting for
14 a school bus. Lines fall every day. Sometimes they fall
15 here in Connecticut. Maybe someone's kid died because of
16 it. It could happen. Maybe one of these days it will
17 be these kids or your kid. You can't predict when it's
18 going to fall, it just does. The lines go across my
19 driveway. I know these things can happen.

20 But there is a way we can prevent people
21 from getting hurt, underground lines. I ask you now can
22 it not be done or is it that NU doesn't want to spend the
23 money. I can answer that, but I won't. But I can say
24 that I am 100 percent sure that a lot has changed in the

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 past 40 years. Music was played over the radio and on
2 record and turntable, cars didn't have automatic doors
3 and DVD players. DVD players hadn't even been invented
4 yet. TV's hadn't been in color and they had only like
5 five channels. It must have been hard to fight over the
6 show that was on because there were too few channels.
7 You see even sibling rivalry has changed. If technology
8 has changed so much in 40 years, then how come the lines
9 can't go underground, they have been around for 40 years.
10 Yes, it will cost more money in the short-term, so what.

11 If the lines go underground, there will be
12 less complaints, more satisfied customers, less outages,
13 and less wasted time debating about this, more time and
14 effort -- (applause) -- more time and effort can be put
15 into finding new things to make life better. In the
16 long-run money will be saved.

17 If the lines are underground, they get no
18 contact with birds, fallen branches, winds, and other
19 storms. I mean imagine spending millions of dollars
20 putting these lines and towers up, suddenly disaster
21 strikes or a tornado hits, the lines get ripped off and
22 the towers collapse, all that money went to waste and
23 millions more need to be spend repairing what has fallen.
24 Now imagine the same scene with the lines underground,

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 the tornado hits, the buildings still standing will have
2 electricity and those people can help others who lost
3 their houses. The reason there is still electricity is
4 because the right thing and been done and the lines had
5 been put underground. We would be better off.

6 Now, I ask again, how many of you read the
7 Lorax? The book has a lot of meaning to me, but the end
8 hits me hard. Here's part of it -- (gavel) -- I'm almost
9 done -- and although the Lorax left in this mess with a
10 small pile of rocks and one word, unless. Whatever that
11 meant, well I just couldn't guess. But now says the
12 Whensler (phonetic) now that you're here, the word of the
13 Lorax seems perfectly clear, unless someone like you
14 cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better,
15 it's not. Well, I care a whole lot and I hope you do to.

16 And I know that the Lorax's words are quite true, until
17 someone like you -- (gavel) -- I just have one more
18 sentence -- (laughter) -- cares a whole lot, nothing is
19 going to get better. I know you will do the right thing,
20 put the lines underground. Thank you. (Applause).

21 A VOICE: Hi --

22 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next -- what's your name?

23 MR. BRIAN GARGIULO: Hi. My name is Brian
24 Gargiulo. I'm eight years old and I live on 90 Old Farms

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 Road in Cheshire.

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Brian, can you spell your
3 name please.

4 BRIAN GARGIULO: G-a-r-g-i-u-l-o.

5 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

6 BRIAN GARGIULO: I'm asking you to put the
7 new power lines underground. My friends and I want you
8 to do the right thing. We play and have our houses where
9 these lines are going to be and that is dangerous. The
10 things that are up have been there for a very long time.

11 Don't build where our future is based on wires that are
12 older than my parents -- (laughter). This is very
13 important to me that you do the right thing. Please make
14 them use underground, newer, better wires to make our
15 lives healthy. Thank you. (Applause).

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: The next person who signed
17 up to speak is Pat Gargiulee -- Gargiulo.

18 MS. PAT GARGIULO: Close. Gargiulo.

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

20 MS. PAT GARGIULO: My 11-year-old wanted
21 to speak too but he's home sick, so -- and they wrote
22 their own.

23 CHAIRMAN KATZ: If you could spell your
24 name for the court reporter and give your address.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 MS. PAT GARGIULO: Sure. My name is Pat
2 Gargiulo, G-a-r-g-i-u-l-o, and I live at 90 Old Farms
3 Road, Cheshire.

4 One of the many concerns I have regarding
5 NU's proposal for overhead lines is the construction
6 process. This process would include bringing in heavy
7 load equipment for tree and brush removal. It would also
8 include the digging and concrete trucks used for pole
9 foundations, cranes, and whatever other equipment would
10 be used for bringing in and putting up the poles and
11 wires. This equipment would be used during the days on
12 our property and stored for an undetermined amount of
13 time on our street. The process would begin with the
14 widening of the right-of-way and the clearing of trees
15 and bushes from our beautiful neighborhood. It would
16 then continue with the digging for foundations of poles.

17 During this process we would be subjected to the
18 disruptions in noise and dust that go hand-in-hand with
19 this construction process. In NU's filing submitted to
20 the Attorney General's Office a graph was included that
21 showed Cheshire's segment as having the third highest
22 density of homes along this proposed route. With an
23 average of 25.6 homes per mile, our neighborhood would be
24 among the most severely impacted by this construction.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 In addition to the noise, dust, and
2 inconvenience produced by this process, there are many
3 safety concerns that alarm me. The foundation holes
4 required to support these new structures would be
5 approximately six feet wide and twenty feet deep. These
6 are a considerable danger in and of themselves for pets,
7 children and wildlife in the area. Children are curious
8 and it's just one step away between taking a peek in a
9 big hole in the ground and a 20-foot fall.

10 Another concern is the blasting. Due to
11 the large amount of ledge in our area, the digging of
12 these holes could require a considerable amount of
13 blasting. The homes among the proposed route in Cheshire
14 all have wells and septic systems that are endangered of
15 being contaminated during the blasting process. This
16 contamination could result from the blast of the shock
17 itself or through the disturbing of the dormant
18 defoliants used to kill the brush along the right-of-way.

19 I would like to know what the procedure would be if the
20 blasting ruins our wells, septic systems, or house
21 foundations. Who will rectify the damage and how long
22 will our lives be disrupted after it occurs? Who is
23 going to pay for the testing of our water before, during,
24 and after the process so we can be aware of any adverse

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 effects?

2 Most, if not all, of these concerns would
3 dissipate if the new lines were placed underground.
4 Please save our neighborhood from having to endure all of
5 this anxiety that the construction of the overhead lines
6 would cause, please make NU runs these lines underground.
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
9 Next is Susan Fox-Erlich, on deck is Laura Lytton.

10 MS. SUSAN FOX-ERLICH: Susan Fox-Erlich.
11 It's F-o-x, hyphen, E-r-l-i-c-h. I live at 101 Patton
12 Drive in Cheshire. Good evening.

13 I am particularly concerned about the
14 negative impact that the increased size of the right-of-
15 way and the height of the supporting structures of the
16 proposed transmission towers will have on the viewsapes
17 from Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden. As avid
18 hikers, my family and I have often walked the trails of
19 this park, enjoying our ability to spend some time in a
20 wild haven so close to our home in Cheshire.

21 I'm concerned that the transmission lines
22 proposal does not appropriately protect the views from
23 Sleeping Giant and other points within Cheshire. For
24 example, in the company's submission Volume 1, Section M,

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 page 31, under the Section Scenic Resources it states,
2 and I quote, "In general the height of the existing
3 structures would be no greater than the height of the
4 existing structures at any particular location along the
5 right-of-way". However, in that same document on page M-
6 38 in Table M-8, the height of monopoles replacing H-
7 frames and lattice towers along the Cook Hill Junction to
8 East Devon Substation is cited as 60 feet to 123 feet,
9 replacing structures that are 43 feet to 101 feet tall.
10 Similar increases in the heights of some of the overhead
11 transmission lines will occur in other areas. This
12 suggests that in fact there will be significant increases
13 of up to 25 percent in the heights of some of the towers.
14 This is clearly shown in some of the photographs showing
15 simulations of the proposed structures in Volume 10 of
16 the submission.

17 Because the tallest trees in our forests
18 are White Pines and White Oaks, both of which grow to at
19 most 100 feet tall, these trees when planted next to the
20 current transmission lines block their view except
21 directly along the right-of-way or from elevated
22 viewsapes. Increasing the height of the transmission
23 towers to 123 feet means that trees will no longer
24 effectively provide a screen of the towers for a much

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 greater distance. This fact contrasts with the following
2 statement made within the same document, quote, "Further,
3 the effect of the new structures on visual resources
4 would be marginal because the proposed project would be
5 aligned entirely along existing corridors". This second
6 passage ignores the effect increasing the height of the
7 towers above the tree line will have on viewsapes
8 throughout Cheshire. It also neglects to address the
9 effect the 80-foot increased width of the right-of-way
10 clearing necessary for the proposed transmission lines in
11 the Wallingford Junction to Cook Hill Junction would have
12 on viewsapes from Sleeping Giant State Park.

13 In conclusion, I believe that the
14 companies must consider the aesthetic costs of this
15 project on viewsapes, but to do so they must first
16 adequately address how overhead transmission lines may
17 increase the visual pollution in the Town of Cheshire and
18 surrounding communities. I believe the companies should
19 look at the upgrading of the transmission lines as an
20 opportunity to protect our priceless viewsapes.

21 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
22 Laura Lytton, on deck David Wilkinson.

23 MS. LAURA LYTTON: My name is Laura
24 Lytton, L-a-u-r-a, L-y-t-t-o-n. I live at the complete

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 other end of town at 25 Nob Hill Road.

2 Unlike the roadside tree-trimming program
3 that requires DPUC approval, right-of-way power line
4 maintenance requires neither State nor local approval or
5 monitoring. While the other New England states regulate
6 right-of-way maintenance, Connecticut does not monitor
7 this plan, set any pesticide standards, require soil test
8 reports, or require NU to post signs when spraying will
9 occur.

10 In Cheshire the right-of-way lies in the
11 front-yard of many of the homes. The neighborhood
12 children and their pets must walk under the right-of-way
13 every day. In the past NU has often failed to notify
14 abutting property owners before spraying. The general
15 public who walk with their pets and families on this
16 street are never notified. Consequently, our children
17 and pets can and do play in damp, newly sprayed
18 pesticides. As a homeowner, I am required by law to post
19 a sign when I fertilize my lawn. NU is not even required
20 to do this. And there is no doubt that the pesticides
21 used for this kind of use are hazardous to all living
22 things, not just the plants they are intended to kill.

23 The right-of-way in the Wallingford,
24 Cheshire, and Hamden area lies within the Mill River

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 public water supply watershed, which affects both
2 Cheshire and Hamden residents. The Town of Cheshire
3 recently purchased the DeDominicis property, which abuts
4 the proposed right-of-way, as open space. In fact,
5 Cheshire has entered into a conservation restriction with
6 South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority in
7 order to protect important watershed resources on this
8 property, yet NU can spray the land directly abutting
9 this open space with pesticides and with no oversight by
10 the property owner, by the Town, or by the State. Many
11 brooks, ponds, and streams surrounding the Cheshire power
12 lines feed directly into the Mill River and into the
13 public aquifers of Cheshire and Hamden. All of the
14 homeowners in this area obtain water from their wells.
15 The chemicals that NU dumps on the right-of-way are
16 important to all of us and should be regulated. The
17 safety of our groundwater and ultimately our drinking
18 water are at stake.

19 NU says that they will participate in the
20 EPA vegetation management stewardship plan, but that
21 program is voluntary and doesn't require any hard data.
22 NU will say that they have written specification for
23 rights-of-way vegetation control. However, without close
24 regular monitoring, including objective data and soil

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 test reports, we cannot know if what NU promises is what
2 in fact NU will do. From what I understand, most of the
3 right-of-way maintenance work is not actually done by NU,
4 but contracted to the lowest bidder. Without objective
5 data and soil test reports, there's no accountability,
6 there's no notification required, no information provided
7 regarding the pesticides and their effects, and who knows
8 anything about the lowest bidder -- the lowest bid
9 subcontractor who can do the work. What can be more
10 important than the drinking water of the residents who
11 live in the area.

12 I urge you to avoid widening the tree line
13 within this right-of-way and the increased risks it will
14 place on our water supply. Please show the same
15 consideration to the 22 towns between Middletown and
16 Milford that you have demonstrated to the Fairfield
17 County communities, please put the underground lines --
18 put the lines underground. (Applause).

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: David Wilkinson, on deck
20 is John Barry.

21 MR. DAVID WILKINSON: My name is Dave
22 Wilkinson. I live at 1783 Tuttle Avenue. W-i-l-k-i-n-s-
23 o-n.

24 With this proposal, NU is requesting a

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 significant expansion of the overhead right-of-way in
2 Connecticut. Can NU safely and properly maintain an
3 expanded right-of-way. One indicator would be how they
4 are maintaining the current overhead lines.

5 We know that vegetation management is
6 important since controlling trees and undergrowth below
7 high tension lines reduces the risk of fire. Fire
8 departments cannot and do not fight any fires involving
9 power lines. So once a fire starts on a transmission
10 right-of-way, it must burn itself out.

11 Northeast Utilities internal regulations
12 state all hardwood tree species will be cut and treated
13 if stems exceed 12 feet in height. However, on Pine
14 Brook Drive in Cheshire there are several evergreen trees
15 growing at least 25 feet high underneath the high tension
16 lines and taller surrounding them. I have included a
17 picture with my statement that clearly shows these
18 overgrown trees. The danger and the possibility of fire
19 are high. These evergreens are so tall and large that if
20 they were to catch fire, the flames will destroy all of
21 the lines on this right-of-way, and the only thing the
22 firemen can do -- or the fire department can do is watch.

23 A year and one half ago, NU sprayed the
24 right-of-way on Old Farms Road in Cheshire that is

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 currently under consideration for expansion. At that
2 time the underbrush was at least 12 feet tall under the
3 power lines. This undergrowth was left to dry and
4 decompose throughout the summer, perfect kindling to feed
5 a fire on a dry summer day. Just a passing cigarette
6 thrown from a car is all that is needed. This may
7 reflect industry standard practice for right-of-way
8 maintenance, but common sense requires more. At a
9 minimum, NU should be required to remove dead underbrush
10 to reduce the risk of fire. We have been fortunate that
11 there have been no fires on Old Farm Road in Cheshire
12 since, and any fire along this stretch of right-of-way
13 could be catastrophic.

14 The high tension lines in this area are
15 not located hundreds of feet at the back of the property
16 or off the side but lie close to the front doors,
17 garages, and side entrances. Many of these homeowners
18 must drive under the lines to leave their property.
19 According to information that NU submitted in response to
20 questions by the Attorney General, Cheshire is the third
21 densest area along the line. In other words, there are
22 more homes per mile in this area than all but two other
23 areas of the proposed expansion. If there was a fire,
24 property owners on this street could be trapped since

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 they must go under the lines to escape. The fire
2 department could not cross these lines to help those
3 trapped beyond the power lines, and the only thing the
4 fire department can do is watch.

5 NU maintains 44,700 acres of right-of-way
6 throughout Connecticut, Mass., and New Hampshire,
7 totaling more than 2,000 miles of right-of-way. If the
8 right-of-way maintenance in Cheshire is any reflection on
9 how these lines are maintained, we beg this commission to
10 stop the expansion of overhead lines. Stop the folly of
11 continuing to place human lives in harm's way and bury
12 these lines underground.

13 Now, the picture is included, it's in the
14 blue folder. You'll note that on the right-hand corner
15 there's a stop sign. It is six feet tall and these trees
16 are at least 30 feet tall underneath these high tension
17 lines. Please look at this. Thank you. (Applause).

18 A VOICE: Well done.

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is John Barry, on
20 deck is Rosemary Kuhn.

21 MR. JOHN BARRY: Good evening, members.
22 My name is John Barry, B-a-r-r-y. I live at 44 Old Farms
23 Road in Cheshire.

24 NU suggests that the best way to solve the

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 energy problems in Southwestern Connecticut is to place
2 the burden of the overhead lines not on the people who
3 need the power but upon the 22 other towns who will --
4 who will -- on -- the other 22 towns as well as ourselves
5 are going to have the burden and Southwestern Connecticut
6 is going to receive it.

7 Let's talk about burden for a minute.

8 You're all members of the Siting Council and you all have
9 accepted the position that you're in today. You could
10 have said no. You could have said no, that's okay, you
11 know I wish to decline that, however you did, you chose
12 it. I on the other hand did not accept Northeast
13 Utilities when I bought my house to bring in a 345-k
14 line. Along with this burden comes many other problems
15 along the way. I've got the burden of construction. Two
16 of the children that you saw up here earlier today are my
17 children. I've got to worry about them with the
18 construction process, I've got to worry about them with
19 the -- if a line should ever break when they're under the
20 -- waiting for a school bus. I get the burden of
21 possibly suffering the loss of the income and the value
22 of my house in Cheshire. I get the burden of watching
23 the pesticides come through. And they spray those, you
24 know, again without us really knowing what they are. And

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 you know even today by today's standards they're safe,
2 but who knows what tomorrow's standards are going to be.

3 From our -- from our house we can -- we
4 have a nice tree line that goes through there. And then
5 now we're going to raise these poles up to where the
6 aesthetic views from the sunsets and sunrises from our
7 house will be interrupted there as well. We are being
8 asked to make sacrifices. And again, they're big
9 sacrifices. You know, we're being asked to have a major,
10 major construction project come through our yard.

11 However, there are a couple of solutions,
12 and this would lighten the load on the Siting Council as
13 well. Instead of putting this burden onto the households
14 on Old Farms Road in Cheshire as well as Wallingford, if
15 you'd redirect that to the existing line going down South
16 Shore, a lot of this burden will be lifted off of our
17 chests and off of our shoulders, and it will also be
18 easier for you as well to look at this decision as we go
19 down the road.

20 We are also being asked to assume the
21 costs and risks through the power -- through the increase
22 in power should the lines go underground. I as an NU
23 payer -- a ratepayer will be more than happy to bear that
24 cost.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 We ask you to please extend the lines
2 underground if they do have to come through our
3 neighborhood because it is the right thing to do.
4 (Applause).

5 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Rosemary Kuhn. On deck is
6 Heather Vonfischer.

7 MS. ROSEMARY KUHN: Hi. My name is
8 Rosemary Kuhn, K-u-h-n. I live on 27 Old Farms Road in
9 Cheshire, Connecticut.

10 I have one question that I would hope the
11 Siting Council would examine and answer for me. My one
12 question concerns the use of an underground DC line to
13 transmit the power to Southwestern Connecticut, why isn't
14 an underground DC line a feasible alternative for the
15 proposed Phase 2 transmission line?

16 DC lines are known as an excellent method
17 of transmitting reliable power from point A to point B.
18 Even the Secretary of Energy, Spencer Abraham, recently
19 noted that if there were more DC lines, the August 2003
20 blackout could have been less severe because DC lines can
21 absorb a much higher power surge than AC lines.

22 DC lines are also known to improve
23 reliability in areas where electricity must be
24 transmitted into the region by power lines because the

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 demand for power exceeds the locally available supply.
2 This is exactly the situation here where the demand for
3 power in Fairfield County exceeds the available supply
4 and must be transmitted to them through our towns. Since
5 the proposed Phase 2 line has no off-ramps through
6 Cheshire or any other town from Middletown to Milford, an
7 underground DC line seems to be a reasonable alternative.

8 DC lines can go a long distance
9 underground. They're more energy efficient and very
10 reliable and they can prove to be more cost-effective in
11 the long-run. It won't make sense to bring an
12 underground DC line from -- it will make sense to bring
13 an underground DC line from Middletown to East Shore
14 since there is already a converter station at East Shore
15 which converts DC to AC. Thank you for your time and
16 attention. (Applause).

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Heather Vonfischer. Next
18 on deck is Mike Gargiulo.

19 MS. HEATHER VONFISCHER: Hello. I'm
20 Heather Vonfischer. It's V as in Victor, o-n, F as in
21 Frank, i-s-c-h-e-r. And I live at 59 Old Farms Road in
22 Cheshire.

23 I, along with everyone else, here tonight
24 am very concerned about the magnitude of this project and

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 the fact that this is being proposed as an aboveground
2 option when there are viable underground options.

3 To avoid any redundancy, I am just going
4 to focus on the environmental and safety issues relating
5 to Cook Hill Junction in Cheshire. As the owner of the
6 property which includes Cook Hill Junction, I feel there
7 are very specific details that have not been clearly
8 addressed within the current proposal.

9 Cook Hill Junction -- I'm sorry -- at Cook
10 Hill Junction power lines converge from three different
11 directions, from the northeast, which is coming from
12 Swabb Junction, from the southeast Tuttle Avenue
13 Wallingford Junction, and from the southwest Old Lane
14 Road.

15 The most current proposal only refers to
16 the line from the northeast as an alternative overhead
17 route. However, the structures along the section from
18 the southwest, the Old Lane Road direction, would be
19 converted from two wooden H-frames to a lattice -- and a
20 lattice tower to two monopoles. The construction of
21 these monopoles, each in excess of 100 feet tall, would
22 tremendously impact the appearance of our quiet
23 residential neighborhood and destroy the established
24 wildlife habitats and forestry.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 In regards to the lines from the
2 southeast, Tuttle Avenue, the current proposal suggests
3 burying one 115 line along the half-mile stretch and
4 replacing the current lattice tower with 130-foot
5 monopoles to carry the second 115 line along with the new
6 345 line. I ask that this carefully be researched. I
7 have attached a copy of our property map. And on it you
8 will notice that there are wetlands as you approach Cook
9 Hill Junction from the southeast. How would an
10 underground line connect to the junction without
11 disturbing the wetlands? Would a switching station of
12 some sort be constructed? If so, how sizeable would this
13 be and what additional safety risks would be imposed on
14 our family and our friends?

15 The power lines cross over our driveway.
16 One-half of our total property is impacted by CL&P's
17 easement. If an additional ground structure is added at
18 the junction, my three children would be faced with
19 another off-limits element in our property. I ask this,
20 why would only half of the 115-kV transmission line along
21 Old Farms Road be placed underground? Why not consider
22 the more responsible option of burying the 345 line, thus
23 bypassing many residential neighborhoods completely.

24 As a decision making body, I sincerely

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 hope that you, the Siting Council, will be mindful of the
2 long-term environmental and safety impact of overhead
3 345-kV lines. Thank you. (Applause).

4 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Mike and on deck Bonnie
5 Donato. Let me announce that at 9:30 we are going to
6 take about a two-minute stretch break. Normally, the
7 Siting Council adjourns at 10:00 o'clock because we have
8 members who have two-hour drives. Because of the long
9 list that we have tonight, I think we're going to try to
10 go to 10:15 to try to accommodate as many people as
11 possible. To help that effort, I'm going to ask you to
12 avoid repetition if you can in your statements. And if
13 you don't wish to make an oral statement tonight, feel
14 free to submit a written statement to us, we do read
15 them.

16 MR. MICHAEL GARGIULO: My name is Michael
17 Gargiulo. I live at 90 Old Farms Road. The last name is
18 spelled G-a-r-g-i-u-l-o.

19 Chairman Katz, Council Members, thank you
20 for letting me speak tonight -- whoa, I've got a red
21 light already -- (laughter) -- no one is questioning the
22 need for additional power in Southwest Connecticut. It
23 is the method for delivering that power that is in
24 question. As we all saw during the blackout this August,

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 a shortage of electricity can have severe human and
2 financial consequences. However, let us not forget that
3 a 345-kV overhead line precipitated this blackout.
4 Overhead lines are susceptible to outages due to weather,
5 terrorist attack, and vandalism. Underground lines
6 reduce the chance of these factors causing outages and
7 the consequences of them.

8 The Applicants cite the cost differential
9 of overhead versus underground cables as one of the
10 arguments for using overhead lines. In my opinion this
11 is very shortsighted. The proposal utilizes early to mid
12 20th Century technology to address projected needs in the
13 21st Century. It fails to consider the changes to the
14 power industry that the new technologies being developed
15 will cause. This new line could very well be obsolete
16 before it's reached its life expectancy. Not only are we
17 being subjected to having this project run through our
18 towns, but as ratepayers, we are forced to pay for it
19 also. We deserve an option that will allow the
20 infrastructure that is built to be readily adaptable to
21 the new technologies currently being developed. An
22 overhead line does not afford this capability. It is
23 unlikely that this old technology will still be
24 applicable when this new lines exceeds its useful life.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 An obsolete overhead line would need to be dismantled and
2 scrapped. Has the retirement cost of these assets been
3 considered as part of the overall project cost or is that
4 an additional expense that us ratepayers will be forced
5 to pay in the future.

6 The tunnels involved used for housing
7 underground cables however can be utilized for the next
8 generation of power cables. Power companies could do
9 something similar to what the phone companies did when
10 they replaced miles of copper cables with fiber optics.
11 New technologies such as gas insulated lines and high
12 temperature super conducting cables must be placed
13 underground. Doesn't it make more sense to build today
14 something that can be used in the future rather than
15 building something that will be scrapped.

16 The Applicant's proposal also doesn't
17 consider other technologies that may retard the projected
18 growth of power demands in the area. Items such as fuel
19 cells and micro-turbines will be commercially available
20 soon. These have the potential to drastically reduce the
21 amount of additional demands on the power grid that is
22 being projected. What we really need is a solution that
23 adequately meets our near-term energy needs utilizing as
24 much underground technology as possible. This will allow

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 us to transition our power supply methods to these new
2 technologies as they become available. I believe that
3 the option presented in Addendum 1 fits well into this
4 philosophy. The option listed in Addendum 1 not only
5 bypasses many towns listed in Phase 2, but also uses
6 underground cabling as a majority of the route.

7 Just as a newly wed couple looks to the
8 future and purchases a three or four-bedroom home, we
9 should look to the future when considering our power line
10 options. Let us not be penny-wise and pound-foolish. An
11 underground option is the intelligent approach to this
12 project. Thank you. (Applause).

13 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Bonnie Donato, on deck
14 Raymond Rys, Sr.

15 MS. BONNIE DONATO: Bonnie Donato, D-o-n-
16 a-t-o, 125 Old Farms Road.

17 Thank you very much for allowing me to
18 speak this evening, Chairwoman Katz and Chair Members.

19 A rule of the Federal Housing
20 Administration, FHA, prohibits the issuance of insured
21 loans for homes located adjacent to transmission power
22 lines. The concern is with regard to the fall distance
23 of any pole, tower, or support structure of a high
24 voltage transmission line, radio, TV transmission line,

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 etcetera. The tower height may be used as a proxy for the
2 fall distance within the analysis.

3 The properties that are adjacent to the
4 power lines in Cheshire, as well as in neighboring towns,
5 are not deserted areas. Rather these are areas of high
6 traffic for kids, pets, animals, and adults. These areas
7 are our front and backyards, space that our children,
8 pets, and animals play and graze in. During suitable
9 weather you can find many children as well as our pets
10 playing outside. We have horse enthusiasts riding their
11 horses around our properties, homeowners working on their
12 property, and this is all within harm's way based on the
13 FHA rule.

14 FHA has stated that those towers are
15 hazardous due to their fall distance and, therefore, the
16 adjacent properties are not insurable. While this
17 insurance refusal has been based on fall potential, one
18 insurance company that has been historically known to
19 insure almost anything has refused to provide insurance
20 coverage to power generating companies based on health
21 effects. On March 22, 2003 the Portugal News reported
22 that Lloyds of London, the world's largest insurance
23 body, is refusing insurance coverage to power generating
24 companies against damage to workers and consumers'

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 health. Lloyds of London has, therefore, determined that
2 the risks associated with the deliverable of these
3 companies is great enough to abandon their potential
4 profit. Along the same fare, EU plants limit power line
5 magnetic field emissions. If this is a situation with
6 Lloyds of London, when are other insurance carriers going
7 to follow suit and determine that certain properties and
8 companies are not insurable.

9 On a final note, if there is a trend among
10 insurance companies to follow the actions of Lloyds of
11 London, then those companies that continue to insure
12 these properties business, will their rates increase? Is
13 this yet another cost, another burden that property
14 owners adjacent to power lines will have to endure?
15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
17 Next is Raymond Rys, Sr., then we're going to do a two-
18 minute stretch break, and then after the break is Bruce
19 W. Anesi.

20 MR. RAYMOND J. RYS, SR.: Hi. My name is
21 Raymond J. Rys, that's R-y-s, Senior. I live at 96
22 Pierson Drive in Wallingford.

23 I was a town councilor here for 14 years
24 and I do feel for the people of Wallingford, and I also

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 am not under these lines and new lines, but I do love my
2 town and I like the people in town.

3 I just have something here that deals more
4 like with health. I hope you'll listen because all over
5 the world from New Zealand to the U.K., here in the
6 United States to Canada there's been documented leukemia,
7 brain cancer, skin disorders in areas where people live
8 near high tension wires. Conclusions usually appear on
9 the side of the power companies when the reports are
10 submitted indicating that evidence can't be found to
11 conclude that these deaths or illnesses are associated
12 with transmission lines.

13 Ph.D. John E. Molder, he's a Professor of
14 Radiation Oncology, indicates that -- cites ozone and
15 nitrogen created when high voltage lines arch may produce
16 cancer. Traffic density he indicates when lines are run
17 near busy roads may become surrogate for exposure to
18 cancer causing substances in traffic exhaust.

19 Ionizing radiation from corona discharges
20 produce heat, light in the form of small sparks and
21 audible noise may be a contributing factor to cancer.

22 A report from D. George, Transmission
23 Distribution World of 1998, indicates increasing height
24 of towers will reduce EMF field of intensity. Placing

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 multiple circuits on the same set of towers can also
2 reduce the field of intensity at the edge of the row.
3 This means higher not more. Burying transmission lines
4 will lower magnetic fields considerably.

5 I have a statement here from the
6 California Public Utilities Commission that studied EMF's
7 for eight years. It suggests that EMF's produced by
8 overhead transmission lines increase the risk of cancer
9 in children and incidents of miscarriage in pregnant
10 women. The report also claims EMF's increase the risks
11 of childhood leukemia, adult brain cancer, and cause of
12 Lou Gehrig's Disease.

13 Please look over the application this
14 evening and make them bury these lines here in
15 Wallingford. Thank you. (Applause).

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: At this point, we'll have
17 a three-minute recess. When we resume, we will go full-
18 speed ahead and do as much of the list as we can. If I
19 call your name and you feel that others have already
20 expressed your points, just -- you can just sing out pass
21 and we'll go on to the next person.

22 (Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

23 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Okay, at this point we're
24 going to resume full-speed ahead.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 What I'm going to do is I'm going to
2 request -- I'm going to request if -- some people if you
3 could try to keep your remarks to two minutes instead of
4 three minutes. I'm not going to gavel you down, but I'm
5 just going to ask that you give that consideration. And
6 again if you want to pass, just sing out when I call your
7 name. And we're on page 2 of the list and there are four
8 pages. Okay, next on the list is Bruce W. Anesi --

9 MR. BRUCE W. ANESI: Anesi.

10 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. And in -- on
11 deck is -- it looks like Maynard K. Whitehouse.

12 MR. BRUCE ANESI: Good evening. My name
13 is Bruce Anesi. That's spelled A-n-e-s-i. I live at 91
14 High Hill Road in Wallingford.

15 Our property directly abuts the right-of-
16 way south of Carpenter Lane near the site of the proposed
17 transfer station. My wife and I are vehemently opposed
18 to the proposal before the Council and ask that you
19 reject it in its current form or at the very least
20 require that it be substantially modified so that power
21 lines near residential areas are placed underground.

22 My purpose tonight is to remind the
23 Council of what's at stake and offer perhaps another
24 perspective on the proposal. I'm not qualified to argue

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 against the proposal on its technical aspects; however,
2 I'm very qualified to speak to the Council as one whose
3 family, neighbors, and neighborhood would be directly and
4 permanently affected by this proposal.

5 Many of the presentations at previous
6 hearings have mentioned the Council's responsibility to
7 balance the goals of the proposal against the needs of
8 the State's residents while simultaneously protecting the
9 environment. I submit to you that that balance needs to
10 be looked at somewhat differently. On one side of the
11 balance is Northeast Utilities and UI. They're merely
12 corporations, legal entities created to house business
13 operations, whose goals are to sell electrical power.
14 This proposal would allow them to sell more power. And
15 they want to do that as cheaply as they can. After all,
16 their underlying purpose is to generate profits and
17 wealth for their owners, nothing more. On the other side
18 of the balance are the communities and the people whose
19 properties abut the right-of-way lands. On those
20 properties we've made our homes, we watch our children
21 play and grow, the neighbors come to know one another and
22 create communities. Nothing is more important than
23 protecting that side of the balance.

24 Northeast Utilities and UI have given no

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 genuine consideration to the impact of this proposal on
2 the residents of those neighborhoods that would be most
3 directly affected by it. In their roles as public
4 utilities, I find that aspect of their proposal callous,
5 reckless, and irresponsible.

6 Therefore, while many of the other
7 speakers have asked the Council to strike a balance, I
8 challenge the Council to purposely strike an imbalance.
9 It is my belief that the Council's primary responsibility
10 should be to prioritize the concerns of the people
11 directly affected by this proposal ahead of the profit
12 driven motives of the corporations that drafted it.

13 Those of us here tonight care deeply about
14 what this proposal would do to our neighborhoods. We're
15 here trying to protect our families, our neighbors, and
16 our neighborhoods in the only way available to us. I
17 urge the members of the Council to protect our homes,
18 lives, and property from -- as if you were protecting
19 your own family members. Ultimately, that is the
20 magnitude of the decision that you will be making on our
21 behalf. If you decide to under-ground these lines, then
22 you will have properly protected our interests. If you
23 approve this proposal in its current form, then you will
24 have advocated your responsibility as an agency of public

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 trust.

2 I ask you to answer the following
3 questions for yourselves before you decide. Would you
4 approve this proposal for the 345's if they ran past your
5 homes? I've got three more questions and that's it.
6 Does your decision protect the people whose homes are
7 along those lines? Is your decision consistent with the
8 thoughts, opinions, and concerns of those who have spoken
9 before you at these meetings? And is your decision the
10 one that you would want the Council to make if you lived
11 where these people did? And I thank you. (Applause).

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Maynard K. -- Whitehouse,
13 I believe -- and on deck Dennis Carruthers.

14 MR. MAYNARD K. WHITEHOUSE: Maynard K.
15 Whitehouse, W-h-i-t-e-h-o-u-s-e, 82 Mariot Circle,
16 Wallingford.

17 In Wallingford from Route 91 to Pond Hill
18 Road to Route 5, proposed route Segments 19 and 20 of
19 Volume 9 of the application to the Connecticut Siting
20 Council there are wetlands in the path of the proposed
21 overhead transmission lines. These wetlands on the
22 Northeast Utilities properties and right-of-way and
23 adjacent properties, especially the wetlands on the
24 Brock's Meadow open space area owned by the residents of

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 Megan Lane, will be severely disturbed by the extensive
2 tree cutting, excavation, blasting, and pole installation
3 activities. This entire area is the habitat of birds,
4 animals, and various amphibia.

5 These wetlands in Segment 19 and 20 drain
6 into Wharton Brook which flows into the Quinnipiac River.
7 There is concern of ecological contamination during
8 construction and in the future from pesticides used to
9 curb plant growth under overhead transmission lines. The
10 Siting Council should not allow overhead transmission
11 lines in Segments 19 and 20.

12 The higher capacity transmission system
13 crosses over a school walkway between Mariot Circle and
14 Cardinal Drive, Segment 20, exposing children to the
15 electromagnetic fields emitted from the 345-kilowatt
16 lines that are exponentially higher than the existing
17 power lines and also to the danger of a falling high
18 voltage transmission line during or following an ice
19 storm.

20 I call to the attention of the Siting
21 Council to the material staging area delineated by
22 Northeast utilities on Segment 19 of the proposed route.

23 This material staging area is not located on Northeast
24 Utilities property, but is shown on the open space

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 property wetlands owned by the residents of Brock's
2 Meadow on Megan Lane. This area -- this error needs to
3 be corrected.

4 A view -- a review of Volume 9 of the
5 application to the Connecticut Siting Council shows that
6 much of the overhead transmission line route on Segments
7 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 encroach on
8 wetlands which are a natural habitat and which need to be
9 protected. I have an attachment which shows also the
10 watershed areas that are impacted and the ponds.

11 The proposed route through Wallingford of
12 the overhead transmission lines will do aesthetic damage
13 to many residential areas. Many of these residential
14 areas have been built since the electric line rights-of-
15 way were purchased in the 1950's and the original
16 transmission lines were constructed. Neither the
17 planning and zoning commissions who approved these
18 residential areas or the people who purchased these
19 residences foresaw the construction of a 345-kV
20 transmission line.

21 Our State of Connecticut environmental
22 regulations and the Town of Wallingford's Planning &
23 Zoning Regulations -- (gavel) -- have changed
24 substantially since the 1950's. Under today's

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 regulations, it is doubtful if these rights-of-way in
2 1950's methods of overhead transmission line installation
3 would be environmentally acceptable.

4 The Siting Council should require that
5 these new transmission lines be placed underground
6 adjacent to all residential areas. (Gavel). I urge that
7 the Connecticut Siting Council require a different route
8 be selected for these transmission lines which has less
9 environmental and aesthetic impact. If this alternative
10 route is not feasible -- (gavel) -- the Connecticut --
11 I'll be -- I have one sentence to finish -- if this
12 alternative route is not feasible, the Connecticut Siting
13 Council should require that the new transmission lines be
14 put underground in those areas adjacent to residences.
15 (Applause).

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next Dennis Carruthers, on
17 deck Paula Taylor.

18 MR. DENNIS CARRUTHERS: My name is Dennis
19 Carruthers. That's C-a-r-r-u-t-h-e-r-s. I live at 1010
20 East Center Street in Wallingford.

21 My family and I have lived in the same
22 house for some 35 years on East Center Street. It's
23 right next to the new development on Stony Brook Road.
24 Pole No. 265 is between our house and Stony Brook Road.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 New poles are plotted to go just to the east side of the
2 existing line nearer to Stony Book Road. Although the
3 existing right-of-way is about 250 feet, the pole line as
4 originally constructed went to the extreme westerly side
5 of the right-of-way causing an existing pole to be right
6 outside of one of the windows on my house, not a very
7 pleasantly aesthetic view. But now with the addition of
8 another set of poles, the situation will become even
9 worse.

10 All of the right-of-way property between
11 my house and Stony Brook Road is classified as wetlands.

12 There is a large detention pond that accepts drainage
13 from Stony Brook Road and the open space land that is
14 part of that development. We have noticed in the years
15 that we have lived here a decrease in the amount of
16 wildlife that had previously populated the area. I
17 believe the routine clearing of trees, shrubs, and the
18 use of herbicides and pesticides has contributed to this
19 decrease. Of additional concern is the fact that the
20 whole area is in the MacKenzie Reservoir Watershed, and
21 the continual use of herbicides is a danger to the well
22 being of the entire community.

23 I also noted recently an incident in
24 Milford where power lines came down into someone's

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 backyard. Living as close as I do to the power lines,
2 this is a real concern to me. We cannot have this happen
3 with a 345-kilovolt line.

4 The power companies have stated that the
5 cost of burying these lines is prohibitive, two to three
6 times as much as it would cost to string the lines on
7 poles. It is my understanding that economic issues are
8 not to be considered by the Siting Council, i.e. the
9 decrease in property values along the lines. Therefore,
10 I am sure that you will give no consideration to the
11 power companies arguments that it is too expensive to
12 bury the lines.

13 A precedent has been set by agreeing to
14 burying the lines in Fairfield County. Are the citizens
15 of New Haven and Middlesex counties any less deserving of
16 the same ruling. Thank you. (Applause).

17 A VOICE: Well done.

18 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Paula Taylor, on deck
19 Ralph Kuhn.

20 MR. WILLIAM J. TAYLOR: Hi. My name is
21 William J. Taylor, T-a-y-l-o-r. I reside at 490 Williams
22 Road, Wallingford, Connecticut.

23 Members of the Siting Council, the 345-kV
24 overhead lines proposed are of great concern to my

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 daughter, my wife, and to me as we have between us 26
2 acres of land that will be greatly impacted. According
3 to Northeast Utilities surveyors who came out to our
4 farm, we stand to lose between five and six acres of
5 forestland which contain 100 to two-year-old Oaks,
6 Hickory, and Maple trees, along with wild flowering
7 Dogwoods.

8 Our home and the proposed home of our
9 daughter are roughly one mile from Interstate 91 as the
10 crow flies. The present trees act as an environment
11 friendly sound barrier to the traffic noise coming from
12 this highway.

13 This land is also a refuge for the Red-
14 Shouldered Hawk, the Red-Tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon,
15 deer, coyote, fox, muskrat, the Blue Heron, and the Green
16 Heron, just to name a few species.

17 The proposed right-of-way will also open
18 up an unrestricted path to the wetlands and the Muddy
19 River and Spring Brook, which come together on my
20 property and then flow to the property and on to the
21 MacKenzie Reservoir.

22 Thank you for allowing us in this forum to
23 voice our concerns. (Applause).

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is Ralph Kuhn, on

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 deck is Joan DiPasquale.

2 MR. RALPH KUHN: Hi. I am Ralph Kuhn. I
3 live on 27 Old Farms Road. The last name is spelled K-u-
4 h-n.

5 Since most of the issues that I was going
6 to talk about have been addressed, I'm giving up my spot
7 to Marty Rauch, who is going to talk about something
8 other than what I was going to talk about. But I will
9 leave my report here for the Council members to read
10 please. Thank you. (Applause).

11 MR. MARTIN RAUCH: Hi, Chairman Katz and
12 the committee. My name is Martin Rauch, R-a-u-c-h. I
13 live at 508 Oak Avenue, Unit 7, Cheshire, Connecticut.

14 I've been a realtor for 18 years. I own
15 the Remax Office in Cheshire. I sell homes throughout
16 New Haven County, Middlesex County, Hartford County, I go
17 down as far as Milford, up into Litchfield County. I
18 also was the listing agent on the home that Mr. and Mrs.
19 Gargiulo bought on 90 Old Farms Road. Because the house
20 was at the end of a cul-de-sac, that would make it most
21 valuable. Real estate is all about location. And a cul-
22 de-sac at --the end of a cul-de-sac is most valuable. I
23 under-priced that house by \$40,000.00 because you had to
24 pass under power lines to get to it. It took me four

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 months to sell that house.

2 I am currently working with Mr. and Mrs.
3 Ahmed of Worchester, Massachusetts. They have specific
4 needs for a house. I took them to show them 296 Pin Oak
5 Drive in Southington last week. It's at the end of a
6 cul-de-sac, just the kind of house they would love,
7 everything in it. It was thirty-one hundred and thirty-
8 five feet, plus an additional seventeen hundred square
9 feet finished area in the basement. The home was built
10 by Ray Castle, one of the best builders in Southington.
11 Houses are flying off the shelf, particularly four-
12 bedroom colonials. This particular house has been on the
13 market since July 13, 2003. The Ahmeds wouldn't even get
14 out of their car as soon as they saw the power lines in
15 the backyard. I went into the computer and I searched
16 newer homes that sold since September 13th which would be
17 about 60 days from the time this occurred. Eleven homes
18 sold. All of them sold between 146 and \$170.00 a foot,
19 and yet Pin Oak can't be sold for \$128.00 a foot. Why?
20 It's the power lines.

21 Additionally, most buyers will tell me
22 when I interview them the first time if it's near power
23 lines, don't show it to me. Perception is reality.

24 Additionally, for the last 30 years I've

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 been involved here with the Leukemia Society locally, and
2 for the last 10 years nationally as well. Our
3 researchers continually talk about a correlation between
4 electromagnetic fields and childhood leukemia. There is
5 a problem with electromagnetic fields.

6 You tell me who on this stand -- who on
7 the committee or who at CL&P or Northeast Utilities,
8 raise your hands if you're interested in dropping 40 to
9 \$60,000.00 on your house by having power lines put near
10 it. I urge you to put the power lines underneath.
11 That's the only place they below, because none of you
12 would want to lose 40 to \$60,000.00. Thank you for your
13 time. (Applause).

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is Joan DiPasquale,
15 on deck is Beverly Juran.

16 MS. JOAN DIPASQUALE: My name is Joan
17 DiPasquale, D-i-P-a-s-q-u-a-l-e, and I live at 1276
18 Barnes Road in Wallingford, up near the High Hill area.

19 I will omit most of my repetitions. Dear
20 Sir and Madam, as homeowners our nearly three acres of
21 property is inclusive to the power line corridor. Our
22 yard would be greatly impacted by any change in the
23 corridor. My husband and I are absolutely opposed to the
24 above-mentioned proposal.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 I will briefly address just two concerns
2 since my third is repetitious. Much has been said about
3 wetlands tonight, but I will briefly address our locale
4 as a watershed area in the neighborhood in which I live.

5 The proposed changes along the CL&P power line corridor
6 will impact this region as a watershed area that provides
7 Wallingford's public water supply. People from the
8 town's water department annually inspect these properties
9 for anything that might pollute the underground waters.

10 I find it difficult to believe that so much construction
11 would even be allowed.

12 Along with this letter I've included for
13 your reference an aerial map of eastern Wallingford done
14 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation
15 Service and cooperating agencies. The map shows
16 approximately 17 smaller wetland areas along the
17 corridor, indicated by red dots on the map, that connect
18 to larger wetland regions, shown in blue, which are quite
19 significant. These larger wetlands in turn run into the
20 Muddy River that flows into the MacKenzie Reservoir, one
21 of our town's main sources of water. There are about 20
22 other identified wetland areas west of the MacKenzie
23 River -- or the MacKenzie Reservoir. And these wetlands
24 are also near the power line corridor. Along the entire

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 proposed length of 69 miles throughout the State, 134
2 wetlands and watercourses have been identified and have
3 the potential to be affected by construction activities.

4 My second concern is noise pollution.
5 These proposed power lines will create a constant humming
6 sound no matter what the weather. The present lines do
7 so more in wet weather. People living along the power
8 line corridor will be subject to a constant hum when
9 outdoors. What will happen to our natural light -- our
10 natural right to have some sense of quiet when we are
11 trying to enjoy our yard. And again, the issue of how
12 safe will we be outdoors. How will this constant noise
13 impact the birds, deer, and other wildlife that live
14 here.

15 I urge the Siting Council to listen to the
16 concerns of Wallingford citizens and those of our
17 affected neighbors before siding with big business.
18 Thank you. (Applause).

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Beverly Juran, on deck
20 Bruce Ollodart.

21 MS. BEVERLY JURAN: My name is Beverly
22 Juran and I live at 41 Valley View, and the lines will
23 actually cross through our backyard.

24 We have a significant amount of water in

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 the corner of our property beneath the current 115-
2 kilovolt lines and an active stream at the foot of the
3 mountains. My concern is the vegetation that soaks up
4 some of this water will be bulldozed, thereby producing
5 more runoff. I'm especially concerned since one of the
6 new poles will be located across the street and up a hill
7 from my property. The vegetation in this hilly
8 neighborhood functions as a necessity in helping to
9 control the water problems we already have. If NU rips
10 everything out, what are their specific plans to address
11 the resulting water problems that their actions will
12 cause? Can you require that they engage a landscape
13 architect to address this concern, certify the results,
14 and report back to our Mayor and to the folks in our
15 neighborhood?

16 I'm glad the previous lady mentioned the
17 issue about noise, because I've actually been awoken out
18 of my sleep because of the noise during humid or misty
19 days. And it's actually quite disturbing as you walk
20 under lines to hear that popping and snapping. And
21 that's just from the 115 lines. I'd be interested to
22 know how much louder the combination of the current 115-
23 kV lines plus the 340 lines how -- how loud will that
24 noise be. And can you please take into consideration the

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 thought as to how much noise a residential neighborhood
2 should have to endure from a commercial enterprise and
3 please report your findings back to our Mayor and the
4 neighborhood.

5 If NU's claim that building these lines
6 underground is prohibitively expensive, then the reverse
7 must be true. NU is actually saving a tremendous amount
8 of money by keeping them above ground. With this
9 avoided cost, can you ask whether they have any plans to
10 replace any of the 50-year growth that they intend to
11 destroy or plans to test our wells to see whether the
12 blasting has caused damage. Will there be any
13 opportunity to have NU meet with the homeowners to
14 personally explain the damage they intend to cause and
15 the timeframe involved.

16 I also agree that we live in a post-
17 September 11th world. And as I look out in the backyard
18 and I see that isolated tower upon that hiking hill, what
19 a great place to cause an attack and wipe out some of the
20 power grid.

21 NU stands to make an incredible amount of
22 money from this endeavor at the expense of homeowners who
23 will not benefit in this area. No one ever dreamed that
24 we would be put at a greater degree of risk than that

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 which we accepted when we purchased our homes or that we
2 would be forced to endure the commercial blight and
3 possible unchecked damage to our property due to their
4 bulldozing. For these reasons, NU should be held highly
5 accountable for the destruction that they will cause our
6 neighborhoods, especially in light of alternate routes
7 through commercially zoned property that they claim is
8 too expensive to pursue. Thank you very much.

9 (Applause).

10 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Before you leave the mic,
11 can you just spell your name for the court reporter.

12 MS. JURAN: J-u-r-a-n.

13 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. Next Bruce
14 Ollodart, on deck Peter Dolittle.

15 A VOICE: Pass.

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Peter Dolittle passed did
17 I hear? Thank you.

18 MR. BRUCE OLLODART: My name is Bruce
19 Ollodart. The last name is O-l-l-o-d-a-r-t. I live at
20 15 Cliffside Drive in the High Hill neighborhood.

21 My topic will be on the proposed location
22 of the new switching station, which is slightly different
23 than what we've been talking about. The proposal
24 indicates that a new switching station would be placed

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 near the intersection of High Hill Road and Carpenter
2 Lane, essentially across the street from my neighborhood
3 in an area surrounded by trees and dense thickets. This
4 compares to the current switching station which is
5 located near I-91 in a well defined industrial area.

6 The new switching station should be built
7 in another location and here's why. The proposed
8 switching station -- excuse me -- is currently home to a
9 number of wild animals, including deer, pheasant, gray
10 fox, many bird species, and wild turkeys. In addition,
11 the proposed site is in an elevated area, hence the name
12 High Hill Road, where water regularly runs off into local
13 streams and ponds. This area is a very wet area and
14 feeds into the local water tables and reservoirs. Given
15 its elevated location, water runs down through a series
16 of streams and ponds and eventually into the local
17 drinking water. During dry months these streams may dry
18 up, but through very active rainy seasons they are quite
19 active.

20 This area is in the local watershed area.

21 As an example, there's a small pond located in the woods
22 right at the corner of High Hill and Carpenter Lane that
23 would be only yards from the proposed station. This is
24 shown on your maps, I've seen it many times. If you walk

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 through there, you'll see ducks and geese and various
2 other waterfowl.

3 The soils in this area are highly rocky
4 and runoff can easily drain in the local wells and
5 reservoirs. I have firsthand experience with this myself.

6 I had to extend my own well casing 30 feet into the
7 bedrock, and I live on a sloped hill. So water does
8 drain in very easily.

9 Switching stations use a large number of
10 lubricants. Many of these are toxic. And in the process
11 of whatever they do, they give off toxic fumes, etcetera,
12 these oil containing products could easily be leached
13 into the soil and runoff with the water. We all depend
14 on well water in this neighborhood. And oil toxic
15 chemical runoff from the transformers switches will be
16 carried into the rainwater fed streams, pollute the
17 ponds, and drain into the rocky soils. There's a high
18 probability of contaminating local wells and possibly the
19 local reservoirs as well.

20 In addition, construction in this area
21 will have a disastrous impact on the natural habitat for
22 wild animals, it poses a fire threat to the woodlands,
23 and will introduce noise and machinery maintenance into
24 another wise natural setting.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 I urge the Connecticut Siting Council to
2 have Northeast Utilities move the proposed switching
3 station to another location, preferably in an
4 industrialized zone where it is less likely to pose a
5 water contamination threat. I would ask that they test
6 the local soils where they're going to -- where the
7 proposal is, look at runoff tests, and also an alternate
8 proposal to upgrade their current switching station.
9 Thank you very much. (Applause).

10 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Michael G. Kisiel, on deck
11 Sean Moore.

12 MR. MICHAEL KISIEL: Good evening. My
13 name is Michael Kisiel, K-i-s-i-e-l, and I reside at 8
14 Mulligan Drive in Wallingford. I also represent the
15 Fairways at Harbor Ridge Condominium Association,
16 consisting of a group of 31 homes along the Traditions
17 Golf Course. Right now we have transmission lines in
18 existence that are on the golf course within several
19 hundred feet of our homes.

20 Northeast Utilities has plans under Phase
21 2 to put another set of 345-kV transmission lines between
22 I-91 and the Traditions Golf Course. What impact would
23 the new lines have on the wetlands in the proposed area?
24 How would the clearing of trees and vegetation affect

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 the wildlife that lives there? I personally have seen
2 Blue Heron as well as Snowy Egrets, Red-Tailed Hawks, and
3 wild ducks. There were also -- there is also a resident
4 population of Blue Birds that are making a comeback in
5 the area.

6 What would the removal of the trees in the
7 proposed area do to the noise factor of I-95, as well as
8 the views with nothing but power line towers and trucks
9 going by?

10 I appreciate the opportunity address the
11 Council this evening and thank you for your time.
12 (Applause).

13 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is Sean Moore, on
14 deck is Gary Staiger.

15 MR. SEAN MOORE: Good evening. My name is
16 Sean Moore. That's S-e-a-n. The last name is Moore, M-
17 o-o-r-e. I live at 280 High Hill Road in Meriden. And I
18 am also the President of the Greater Meriden Chamber of
19 Commerce, an organization representing over 500
20 businesses in the Meriden area. So today I'm actually
21 here wearing two hats.

22 As a resident, I live directly across the
23 street from the East Side substation where there are
24 current transmission lines. They were there when I

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 bought the house 10 years ago. I knew they were there.
2 They are still there. I never expected them to go away.

3 And in fact, they've been very very quiet -- quiet
4 neighborhoods -- or quiet neighbors. In addition, if
5 there is any less wildlife in the area, it's probably
6 because of the 20 or so homes that were built, and I
7 really don't believe it's because of the utility lines
8 quite frankly. I love homes being built and I think
9 that's a very very good sign.

10 On the Chambers side, I represent 500
11 businesses who right now recognize that there is a
12 shortage of power here in our area. It's not a Fairfield
13 County issue. As a resident, I can take brownouts and
14 occasional blackouts. My kids can reset the VCR. I can
15 deal with the answering machine myself. But as a
16 business, when your line goes down, when your
17 communications go down, when your data goes down, that's
18 a problem that we have right now here in our community.
19 This line is designed I believe to repair that problem
20 that we have in our area so there is not lost
21 productivity, lost jobs, you don't have to send workers
22 home while you wait for your line to be fixed.

23 Next week our Board of Directors will be
24 meeting on Wednesday, it's a regular Board meeting. At

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 that time we are intending to put forth a resolution to
2 support the 345-kilovolt line. We will forward a copy of
3 that resolution to the Siting Council at that time.

4 Thank you very much for your time.

5 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is Gary Staiger, on
6 deck is David James.

7 MR. GARY STAIGER: Gary Staiger, S-t-a-i-
8 g-e-r, 210 High Hill Road in Wallingford.

9 I noticed in the visuals presented by
10 Northeast Utilities earlier they showed a conceptual view
11 of the right-of-way running north from Carpenter Lane
12 north towards Meriden adjacent to High Hill Road. It did
13 not look like it was all that unusual, somewhat benign.
14 However, I found it interesting no visual concepts were
15 shown on elevations as viewed from residential properties
16 looking across at these particular poles.

17 Now, I'd like to preface the following
18 comments that the information that I'm going to present
19 was derived from a meeting that was held here as an open
20 house a couple of months ago with some extensive
21 discussions with engineers from UI. After several
22 minutes of discussions, I tried to determine what was the
23 existing construction that's out there today. As of this
24 time, they tell me, at least two engineers, there is a

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 345-kV line there today that goes from Meriden to New
2 Haven. This somewhat disturbs me because all the
3 information and the PR that was put out by Northeast sort
4 of to focused that we don't have a 345-kV line from
5 Middletown to Norwalk, yet I'm finding otherwise as I try
6 and explore this deeper. Somewhere someone has to sort
7 out what actually exists and what does not.

8 From what I heard, the application tonight
9 before you is to add one 35 -- one 345-kV line. I'm
10 assuming that's in addition to the one that's there now,
11 plus two additional 115-kV lines that are there today.

12 The requirement to support the additional
13 345 would require more poles. Now the existing monopole
14 system that's there today has two 115-kV lines on it and
15 one 345 line. There is additional span space that exists
16 today on that monopole for additional lines. Now, I
17 suspect this concern about the engineering distance
18 between some of those lines so new construction is
19 required. There may be security compromised by putting
20 two 345's on the same monopole system. I would suggest
21 if there's so much concern about security and
22 reliability, then that adds to the argument certainly
23 underground or an alternate route would be much more
24 reliable than another pole system.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 The existing poles they plan to add have
2 to be 60 feet apart. They plan to add those poles to the
3 easterly direction, which puts them about 100 feet from
4 High Hill Road or across the street from my property. I
5 don't care to have more 130-foot poles to be viewed and
6 add to the existing proliferation of the landscape.
7 Thank you. (Applause).

8 CHAIRMAN KATZ: David James.

9 MR. DAVID JAMES: Council and Chairwoman,
10 thank you for the opportunity to speak.

11 The proposed line upgrade through Meriden,
12 as you know, traverses several --

13 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Excuse me. Before you get
14 started --

15 MR. JAMES: I'm sorry, yes. My name is
16 David James, J-a-m-e-s. I live at 11 Carl Street --

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

18 MR. JAMES: -- in Meriden. As you know,
19 the proposed line upgrade through Meriden traverses
20 several small ponds and streams and a large pond that's
21 used for public fishing, Black Pond, and the low wetland
22 that's on the north side of Route 691. This area is
23 already under a lot of stress because of ballfield
24 construction and road widening on Route 66. As a

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 fisherman and avid hiker, I need to express my concern
2 for this process which proposes to clear a roughly
3 football field sized swath through this area. I ask that
4 the recreational value of this area please be respected.

5 Of particular concern to me was that the
6 area -- the area north of 691 where the Meriden upgrade
7 ends is considered in this proposal as of little value or
8 educational worth due to its lack of public access. This
9 area is in fact traversed by a trail access to the
10 Mattabassett Trail, which is used on a regular basis.

11 I also ask that if the underground route
12 fails, that the monopole construction be considered as
13 opposed to the H-frame, which is much more imposing and
14 requires a lot more clearing. Thank you very much.
15 (Applause).

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: The Council members have
17 voted to keep going, but we're going into the one-minute
18 drill.

19 A VOICE: How many more pages do you have?

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: I'm on page 3 of 4. I'm
21 going to ask the following people to cue up behind the
22 mic, Mark Doucette, Larry Morehouse, Richard Gordon,
23 Frank Goodrich, and Ann Berman. Can you cue up in that
24 order please. Please give your name, address, and give

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 it your best shot in about a minute.

2 MR. MARK DOUCETTE: Okay. My name is Mark
3 Doucette. That's D-o-u-c-e-t-t-e. I live at 161 Mansion
4 Road in Wallingford, Connecticut. My property borders
5 the property of Blue Hill Orchards where the power lines
6 run through.

7 My proposal is for the Siting Council to
8 consider having the power lines installed underground.
9 My main reason for suggesting that the Council consider
10 an underground installation is the environmental impact
11 that putting in bigger towers would have. My property is
12 below Sleeping Giant Mountain and I have a pond in which
13 is a series of ponds that come directly from Sleeping
14 Giant and end in the Quinnipiac River.

15 Behind my property is all wetlands and
16 contains some vernal pools that fill during the spring
17 runoff. I don't know if any formal studies have been
18 done, but I'm sure that throughout the area of the power
19 lines there are numerous vernal pools. I have seen the
20 Blue-Spotted Salamander in the area behind my property
21 and near my pond. There is a big pond in Blue Hill
22 Orchards in which the power lines run right by. This
23 pond directly feeds my pond. This pond is a habitat for
24 many fish and birds, it is a main gathering area for

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 migratory geese and a food source for the Great Blue
2 Heron and the Red-Tailed Hawk. The pond is also a
3 watering source for deer and coyotes. Of these animals,
4 I know the Blue-Spotted Salamander is a threatened
5 species.

6 Blue Hill Orchards produces apples and
7 fruits that go all over the country. And to put down any
8 kind of pesticide or defoliant that could seep into the
9 ground and get into the trees and water is nothing short
10 of criminal. Please consider the installation of the
11 underground lines as an alternative so that we can
12 preserve the environment and everything in it so that our
13 children can see things like the Blue-Spotted Salamander
14 and the Great Blue Heron.

15 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

16 MR. DOUCETTE: Thank you. (Applause).

17 MR. LARRY MOREHOUSE: Good evening. My
18 name is Larry Morehouse, M-o-r-e-h-o-u-s-e. I live at 25
19 Valley View Drive, which is in the High Hill area.

20 Most of what's already been said covers
21 what I'd like to say. I do have however three -- or two
22 questions. Question No. 1, have there been any estimates
23 made that would determine the increase in the
24 electromagnetic field strength at homes located adjacent

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 to the transmission line right-of-way as a result of
2 increasing transmission voltage from 115-kV to 345-kV?

3 And No. 2, which I think has been broached
4 in earlier comments, have any statistical studies been
5 performed in recent years that would indicate that EMF
6 could be a cause of leukemia in children or if not the
7 causes of some cancers, that EMF suppresses the
8 production of melatonin, a hormone that seems to suppress
9 cancerous tumor growth? Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Mr. Morehouse.

11 MR. RICHARD GORDON: Good evening.

12 Richard Gordon, 93 High Hill Road, G-o-r-d-o-n. Many of
13 the issues and concerns have already been addressed by
14 other speakers this evening.

15 My property is on the High Hill Road side
16 due east of Bristol-Meyers. One issue that I am
17 concerned with that wasn't mentioned yet this evening was
18 that there is a heliport on the Bristol-Meyers property.

19 And I would ask what consideration has been given to
20 aeronautical safety issues related to helicopters
21 regularly flying in a residential area in close proximity
22 to two sets of 90-foot towers and power lines.

23 Lastly, I attended the recent Siting
24 Council meeting in Weston where all the speakers praised

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 the underground solution as aesthetically and
2 environmentally irresponsible. Several speakers said --
3 and thanked the Council saying that it would preserve the
4 rural character of that area and the quality of life.
5 The Council should be aware that there is a perception in
6 the communities outside Fairfield County that to date the
7 siting process has not been equitable. This is
8 reinforced by the radical disparities of the overhead and
9 the underground plans.

10 Fairfield County receives all the benefits
11 of the upgrades but suffers none of the negative
12 environmental or economic consequences. Communities such
13 as Wallingford bear the brunt of the blight the overhead
14 plan brings and we must also live with the ecological and
15 the financial damage for years to come. The comments
16 made in Weston were very valid by the people who live
17 there, but they're no less applicable to Wallingford,
18 Cheshire, Meriden, or other towns outside of Fairfield
19 County. I urge the Council to use the option that was
20 praised and adopted in Fairfield County, bury the lines.

21 Thank you. (Applause).

22 MR. FRANK GOODRICH: Hello. Frank
23 Goodrich, G-o-o-d-r-i-c-h. I am also on Milford's City
24 Planning & Zoning Board. I can't talk in just a minute.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 I'm going to request three minutes like everyone else
2 this evening.

3 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Uh -- you're from Milford?

4 MR. GOODRICH: Yes, I am.

5 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Yeah, you're going to get
6 a minute.

7 MR. GOODRICH: At the beginning of the
8 public hearing in Milford on January 15th, you said there
9 might be brownouts. Was that due to the extreme cold and
10 power lines being above ground? I've also got a copy
11 here of an article in yesterday's Connecticut Post, the
12 power lines went down because of the weather, EMF.

13 EMF, I went for an MRI. The technician,
14 who was an adult, left the room. Why? Health industry
15 has determined that there is a real or potential danger
16 with magnetic fields.

17 Now I need to address -- there's some
18 issues -- ISO New England, they were in the movie
19 tonight. They regulate all the power -- all the power
20 companies in New England. The question is, is this line
21 actually for Connecticut customers or is it going to be
22 to Long Island?

23 Website, isone.com, Document 2003, NEPOOL
24 Project, listing second quarter, 09/29/03, shows that

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 Northeast Utilities has proposed to replace the line from
2 Norwalk Harbor to Northport, New York. Power line from
3 New Haven Hower -- from New Haven Harbor, that power only
4 goes to Long Island, it is not for Connecticut residents.

5 Here's another document, 2002, NE/NY Firm
6 Out Service Assessment, the document shows -- states that
7 the overall objective is to transfer power from
8 Connecticut to New York.

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Sir, you're going to have
10 to -- (indiscernible) --

11 MR. GOODRICH: Okay. I have referenced
12 other documents found on this website that specifically
13 state that they're building -- Cross Sound Cable, this
14 power to Long Island. Their only goal is to increase the
15 profits of the utility companies.

16 As to the cost of putting them
17 underground, did you know that in the document 03 power
18 grid in utility -- yeah -- electricity market key facts,
19 six and a half million electricity customers population
20 14 million -- this is in New England -- 4.5 billion total
21 market value, 1.5 billion cleared in the stock market. A
22 couple of million dollars for burying power lines is not
23 a lot of money when they have billions per year --

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you --

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 MR. GOODRICH: -- in profit.

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

3 I'm going to ask the following people to cue at the mic
4 behind Miss Berman, Robert Bertowski, Cornell Krechoweck
5 -- you know who you are -- and Christine -- Bob Birdsey
6 and Robert A. DeMarco.

7 MS. ANN BERMAN: Good evening. My name is
8 Ann Berman, B-e-r-m-a-n, and I'm also from Milford.

9 I spoke before, but my statement is
10 concerned for the environment and not just for one town
11 but all of Connecticut and beyond. I just want to say
12 that I suggest that the Siting Council adopt the
13 alternative East Shore plan, which involves virtually no
14 new overhead construction.

15 Moreover, I'd to advocate that whenever
16 the lines are above ground, that power companies do not
17 use pesticides, that the soils be organically treated,
18 that these right-of-ways be landscaped and planted with
19 native plants, shrubs, and even trees that mature around
20 20 to 30 feet, that these spaces should no longer look
21 like barren places, and that the soils be healthy
22 ecosystems, places for wildlife, wild flowers, birds, and
23 yes even places for us too. Thanks.

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. Next Robert --

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 A VOICE: Bertekap --

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Berte --

3 MR. ROBERT BERTEKAP: I think that's me.

4 Robert Bertekap. The last name is spelled B-e-r-t-e-k-a-
5 p. I live at 7 Vumbaco Drive in Wallingford.

6 I'm just here because I live in a
7 development that borders the right-of-way of the proposed
8 transmission line upgrade. I'm concerned about the
9 impact that the new towers would have on the area. We
10 live on a hill and the area enjoys a spectacular view of
11 Sleeping Giant Mountain. It's virtually unobstructed
12 except by the low-lying current towers. Doubling the
13 size of these towers will immediately and drastically
14 degrade this viewshed. The negative impact from the
15 viewscape point of view will be uncalculable.

16 All the other points that I have, have
17 been duplicated, so I'll just submit my report. Thank
18 you.

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you very much, sir.
20 (Applause). Cornell --

21 MR. CORNELL KRECHOWECKYJ: Krechoweckyj --

22 CHAIRMAN KATZ: -- you're going to
23 pronounce your last name.

24 MR. KRECHOWECKYJ: Cornell Krechoweckyj,

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 K-r-e-c-h-o-w-e-c-k-y-j. I live on 44 Valley View Drive

2 --

3 CHAIRMAN KATZ: The court reporter asked
4 one more time.

5 MR. KRECHOWECKYJ: Oh, sorry. K-r-e-c-h-
6 o-w-e-c-k-y-j. I live on 44 Valley View Drive in
7 Wallingford in the High Hill area.

8 In 1998 the legislative commissioner
9 approved an act concerning the protection of
10 Connecticut's ridgelines. By law towns are allowed to
11 regulate development near the crest of their trap rock
12 ridges. One of the State's trap rock ridges is Beseck
13 Mountain, which is located in the Town of Wallingford.
14 Beseck Mountain has been listed as being part of a nearly
15 continuous lava ridge which runs the length of the State
16 from Branford into North Hampton, Massachusetts.

17 Northeast Utilities currently has a
18 proposal before the Siting Council to add a proposal
19 tower of 105 feet in height in the right-of-way of 125
20 feet on top of Beseck Mountain. The installation of such
21 a mammoth tower on the peak of the ridge can only be
22 viewed as being the destruction of another of
23 Connecticut's natural and scenic areas. The Regional
24 Plan Association, along with the Connecticut Land Use

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 Coalition Developed Community Design Handbook supports
2 this fact. Therefore, the Siting Council should deny the
3 proposal from NU to develop through the Beseck Mountain
4 area of Wallingford. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

6 Next.

7 MS. CHRISTINE KRECHOWECKYJ: I'm Christine
8 Krechoweckyj.

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Spell it please.

10 MS. CHRISTINE KRECHOWECKYJ: K-r-e-c-h-o-
11 w-e-c-k-y-j. I'm also on 44 Valley View Drive.

12 I understand that a delegation of your
13 group had gone up to our neighborhood, so you understand
14 a little bit about what I'm talking about. I live of
15 course in close proximity to Beseck Mountain.

16 Beseck Mountain and any power lines
17 located on Beseck Mountain are within the watershed of
18 the MacKenzie Reservoir. Beseck Mountain is the
19 essential watershed for the Town of Wallingford. And any
20 runoff from Beseck Mountain goes into the MacKenzie
21 Reservoir. I'm, therefore, against these power lines
22 because it will have a negative impact on our water
23 supply in Wallingford.

24 The other concern I have is about the

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 substation. I'm against that too. There's only one way
2 to get in and out of our neighborhood and that's High
3 Hill Road. If anything happens at that substation,
4 especially concerning terrorist activities, fires,
5 explosions, whatever, there is only one way for us to get
6 out of our neighborhood, and that is on High Hill Road.
7 And I want to know what plans Northeast Utilities has for
8 us to evacuate if that road is shut down. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
10 The final speakers tonight, and please cue in the one
11 minute drill, Bob Birdsey, Robert DeMarco, William
12 Hutchinson, Loretta Fox, Sherri Woronick, Diane Saunders,
13 and Daniel Kupratis.

14 MR. BOB BIRDSEY: Thank you. Bob Birdsey,
15 112 High Hill Road. I'm on the east side of High Hill
16 Road. My property faces the power lines that are already
17 there.

18 And by the way as a correction, those
19 power lines are already 345-kilovolt. There's -- the
20 largest portion of the power lines in Wallingford are
21 already 345 according to the material they left out here.

22 Cutting any trees down on that side of the
23 road would open up the front view of my yard to the power
24 lines and all my neighbors too. So that makes a big

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 difference there.

2 Another point I'd like to point out is
3 that this is a massive power project, a massive
4 construction project, maybe the most massive project in
5 the City of Wallingford, either past or hopefully future.

6 It's been kind of promoted as being some sort of an
7 upgrade. Now when I think of upgrade, and I think when
8 most of the people today think of an upgrade, you think
9 of getting a cell phone that has more features, maybe a
10 smaller size. The papers have pulled this story out of
11 the realm of upgrade and in my mind I think the people
12 just don't understand what a tremendous effect this
13 change is going to have on them just because of the fact
14 that it's been promoted as an upgrade, alright.

15 And I'm going to leave my paper here.
16 Unfortunately, I'll try to get this in the record
17 hopefully and --

18 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you --

19 A VOICE: Sir --

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: And everyone feel free to
21 submit written statements to us.

22 A VOICE: Sir, would you please spell your
23 name for us.

24 MR. BIRDSEY: That would be B-i-r-d-s-e-y.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 A VOICE: Thank you.

2 MR. WILLIAM HUTCHINSON: Good evening. My
3 name is William Hutchinson, H-u-t-c-h-i-n-s-o-n, 39
4 Valley View Drive. My property abuts right next to the
5 power lines, that is the single longest span between
6 poles from the top of Valley View Drive to the top of
7 Beseck Mountain, those lines run right next to our house,
8 approximately 75 feet away.

9 One problem I have that nobody brought up
10 tonight, as reported by CNN the blackout -- one of the
11 largest problems that caused the blackout was that the
12 lines were aboveground and they arced when a branch
13 touched two of them together. I -- in my mind, one of
14 the best things to do then would be to put the lines
15 underground.

16 I know we're not suppose to talk about the
17 health concerns tonight, but as a parent of four children
18 that's my biggest concern. I know there's so many
19 conflicting reports just the same way there are
20 conflicting reports in regards to smoking and lung
21 cancer, asbestos, shingles on houses, landfills because
22 we all thought anything we threw away would never corrupt
23 our drinking water. Please take that into your
24 consideration when you make your decision.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

2 MR. HUTCHINSON: Thank you. (Applause).

3 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next -- are we out of
4 order? Sir?

5 MR. ROBERT DeMARCO: I think we might have
6 been. Robert DeMarco.

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: You're next.

8 MR. DeMARCO: Thank you. Good evening.
9 I'm Robert A. DeMarco, D-e-M-a-r-c-o. I live at 85 High
10 Hill Road in Wallingford.

11 The 345-kV lines are behind my property.
12 And as the name suggests, High Hill is a Hill and it's --
13 from my house it's downhill in every direction. So there
14 is a substantial precipitous drop on the other side of
15 the property where Bristol-Meyers is located. The
16 cutting down of trees in that area will result in a
17 substantial erosion problem. Those trees -- after 12
18 years of living there, I've finally become accustomed to
19 these hulking brutes in my backyard because the trees
20 essentially hide them. And with the tree cutting that's
21 going to have to take place to widen the right-of-way to
22 add another one of those hulking brute H-frame towers,
23 there's no question that the noise from 91 is going to be
24 substantially increased, it's not going to be blocked any

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 more. The wind that comes up that ridge from 91 in that
2 area will not be blocked any longer. The chance of
3 erosion both by water and wind are going to be
4 substantially increased. There are wetlands to the north
5 of me and there's no question that the runoff can go that
6 way.

7 I would like to add my voice to those who
8 would request the alternate underground be the
9 recommendation of the Siting Council.

10 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

11 MR. DeMARCO: Thank you. (Applause).

12 MS. DIANE SAUNDERS: Diane Saunders, S-a-
13 u-n-d-e-r-s, 72 Northford Road, off of East Center
14 Street.

15 I'll not read what I wrote, you can have
16 it, but I think the most important thing is the graphic.

17 I made a larger picture for Chairman Katz, everybody
18 else gets the small one, but she'll share.

19 This is Pond Hill School in Wallingford,
20 an elementary school. The -- this is the power lines.
21 This is their playground apparatus 30 feet from the power
22 line. The corner of the building is the kindergarten
23 wing.

24 On the other end of the power line -- I

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 believe there's a triangle in Wallingford that you need
2 to look at, and it's summarized in my report -- from East
3 Center -- from Route 68 down to the bottom of Pond Hill
4 there's a slope, the three water -- the three reservoirs
5 in that area -- all wetlands. I've walked it 38 years
6 since my parents would let me go hiking alone. Vernal
7 pools, I've named all the species in here. I'm, you
8 know, an avid outdoorsman.

9 But right next to the power lines on the
10 East Center Street side are our town's open space parcels
11 that we've purchased with local tax dollars for the most
12 part. And on any given night from spring through fall
13 there are literally hundreds of kids playing under --
14 right next door to that area.

15 So, I do feel there is an issue with the
16 power lines next to the schools and the playgrounds in
17 those two areas in the triangle and the watershed area.
18 Thank you very much.

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. If you'll give
20 the photo to Mr. Phelps, I'll make sure I see it.

21 MS. SAUNDERS: Okay. (Applause).

22 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next.

23 MS. SHERRI WORONICK: Hi. My name is
24 Sherri Woronick. It's W-o-r-o-n-i-c-k. I reside at 1309

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 Durham Road.

2 COURT REPORTER: Spell your first name
3 please for me.

4 MS. WORONICK: Sherri, S-h-e-r-r-i. I'm
5 not going to read my speech. I had left a copy here with
6 a copy of a map of our property. We currently have the
7 power lines running through our property. They are in my
8 backyard. If you do the proposal, that you're talking
9 about, I probably can walk out my backdoor and be maybe
10 all of 20 feet from what you're talking about.

11 With the original meeting that we had down
12 at the town hall, I asked Northeast Utilities to give us
13 a report as to how this would impact my property and my
14 neighbors' property and the property value, we never
15 received that report. I feel that that's a poor follow-
16 up by NU. And I would say please don't devalue my
17 property, nor my neighbors, and endanger our health. Put
18 the ground -- put the lines underground.

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

20 MS. WORONICK: Thank you. (Applause).

21 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Last, but not least.

22 MR. DANIEL KUPRATIS: I hope not. My name
23 is Daniel Kupratis, K-u-p-r-a-t-i-s. I live at 12 Sunset
24 Drive in Wallingford.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 I'm not really very close to your power
2 lines. I'm asking the 10 of you to consider in your
3 voting the ramifications of your decision seven to ten
4 years down the road. You are voting on a transmission
5 path and an infrastructure.

6 The gentlemen of Northeast Utilities and
7 their associates have laid out a plan to upgrade their
8 line seven, ten, fifteen years in the future. I submit
9 to you that their cost data for their underground lines
10 considers that but their cost data for their aboveground
11 lines does not. So if you are being swayed by cost data,
12 I think they're overstating the costs of burying the
13 lines and understating the costs of keeping them above
14 ground. That transmission path 10 years from now may be
15 through putting three times the current that they're
16 proposing now. If you have any reservations whatsoever
17 about EMF, at 345-kVa now multiply that by three. In
18 fact, if they want to transmit it more efficiently,
19 they'll do it at a million kVa. And a million kVa is far
20 more dangerous than 345-kVa. On top of that, their
21 towers for 345-kVa are actually too low if you're worried
22 about EMF concerns. Think of what the problem will be at
23 a million.

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you --

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

1 MR. KUPRATIS: So, I ask you to please
2 consider your cost basis and where you're getting the
3 data from. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
5 I'd like to thank everybody who spoke tonight and for
6 hanging in there.

7 The listening tour continues. Our next
8 stop is in Woodbridge, Monday, February 9, 2004. Right
9 now we are scheduled to start at 7:00 p.m., but we may
10 start at 6:30, please check our website on Monday. That
11 meeting will be held at the gymnasium at the Center, 4
12 Meeting House Lane, Woodbridge, Connecticut.

13 Thank you for your participation and
14 please drive safely.

15

16 (Whereupon, the hearing adjourned at 10:35
17 p.m.)

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

INDEX OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

	PAGE
Adinolfi, Al (Representative, 103 District)	30
Dickinson, William (Mayor, Wallingford)	16
Fasano, Leonard (Senator, District 34)	23
Fritz, Mary (Representative, District 90)	34
Gaffey, Thomas (Senator, District 13)	19
Gessert, David (V. Chairman Wallingford PUC)	33
Knight, Stephen (Wallingford Town Council)	40
Mushinsky, Mary (Representative, District 85)	49
Orsini, David (Mayor, Cheshire)	42
Testa, Vincent (Wallingford Town Council)	48
Toolan, Diane (Town of Stratford)	28
Visconti, Diane (Cheshire Town Council)	47
Vumbaco, Jim (Wallingford Council Chairman)	45

INDEX OF SPEAKERS

Anesi, Bruce	100
Barry, John	85
Berardi, Lisa	59
Berman, Ann	133
Bertekap, Robert	134
Birdsey, Bob	137
Carruthers, Dennis	106
DeMarco, Robert	140
DiPasquale, Joan	112
Donato, Bonnie	95
Doucette, Mark	127
Foster, Peter	68
Fox-Erlich, Susan	77
Gargiulo, Brian	73
Gargiulo, Jennifer	70
Gargiulo, Michael	92
Gargiulo, Pat	74
Goodrich, Frank	130
Gordon, Richard	129
Hutchinson, William	139
James, David	125
Juran, Beverly	114
Kisiel, Michael	120

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 5, 2004

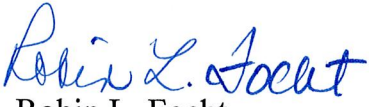
Krechoweckj, Christine	136
Krechoweckj, Cornell	134
Kuhn, Rosemary	88
Kuhn, Ralph	110
Kupratis, Daniel	143
Lytton, Laura	79
Moore, Sean	121
Morehouse, Larry	128
Ollodart, Bruce	117
Rauch, Martin	110
Rys, Raymond	97
Saunders, Diane	141
Scarpo, Frank	61
Shenoy, Radha	65
Shenoy, Sudha	56
Staiger, Gary	123
Strout, Nancy	55
Taylor, William J.	108
Vonfischer, Heather	89
Whitehouse, Maynard	103
Wilkinson, David	82
Woronick, Sherri	142

CERTIFICATE

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

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

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and do so attest to the above, this 13th day of February, 2004.


Robin L. Focht,
Vice President

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