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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SITING COUNCIL

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* * * * *
CONNECTICUT LIGHT & POWER COMPANY
AND UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY
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
* * * * *

FEBRUARY 9, 2004
(7:05 P.M.)

DOCKET NO. 272

TRANSCRIPT OF ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS
OF SPEAKERS TAKEN OUTSIDE OF HEARING ROOM

BEFORE: PAMELA B. KATZ, CHAIRMAN

BOARD MEMBERS: Colin C. Tait, Vice Chairman
Gerald J. Heffernan, DPUC Designee
Brian Emerick, DEP Designee
Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.
Edward S. Wilensky
Brian O'Neill

STAFF MEMBERS: S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director
Fred O. Cunliffe, Siting Analyst
John Haines, AAG

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1 . . .Verbatim proceedings of a hearing
2 before the State of Connecticut Siting Council in the
3 matter of an application by Connecticut Light & Power
4 Company and United Illuminating Company, held at the
5 Community Center, 4 Meeting House Lane, Woodbridge,
6 Connecticut, on February 9, 2004, at 7:05 p.m., at which
7 time the parties were represented as hereinbefore set
8 forth . . .

9
10

11 MS. GEORGIANNA F. PASSARIELLO: My name is
12 Georgianna Passariello. I am a resident of the Town of
13 Orange since 1972. I live on 270 High Plains Drive.

14 The reason I'm here is due to the fact
15 that UI is looking to construct a larger tower throughout
16 most of Connecticut. I am an individual resident who
17 will be highly affected by this. What I don't understand
18 is we have the technology to bury lines, yet none of that
19 is -- or very select places have received buried power
20 lines.

21 It not only affects children or houses of
22 worship, I'm highly offended that they're not including
23 homeowners. As I said, I have about an acre and three-
24 quarters which is useless. I can use approximately maybe

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1 a third of my property due to the power lines as it is --
2 as it sits right now.

3 In 1972 I had no idea about the adverse
4 effect of power lines. I was uneducated regarding
5 picking out that particular lot. I know a lot more now.

6 And I cannot understand why, again as I said before,
7 they would not even think about burying the power lines.

8 They think about doing what is cost-effective, not what
9 is the primary concern for property values, for health
10 for everybody, not only children, not only houses of
11 worship, not only public officials.

12 I think the Mayor of the Town of Milford
13 who has had the guts to stand up, and was the only one at
14 first to stand up and go to bat for his residents, I wish
15 the rest of the selectmen would have done the same, but I
16 guess better late than never.

17 More than that I can't say. I don't know
18 if this would have any effect. I hope that it does. I
19 hope they listen to the people and bury the lines as they
20 should. That would be the right thing to do. Thank you.

21 My address is 270 High Plains Drive.
22 Thank you for your time.

23 MR. LELAND TORRENCE: Hello. My name is
24 Leland Torrence. I live at 17 Vernon Court in

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1 Woodbridge, Connecticut. I'm a member of the Planning &
2 Zoning Commission for Woodbridge. We are in the process
3 right now of writing a new conservation and development
4 plan for the town.

5 Whereas I cannot speak for the entire
6 commission, I am speaking for myself in saying that the
7 general statutes require that our development plan be
8 consistent with the State's plan. And I would like to
9 make the point, as many others will make the point, that
10 there are health and safety issues to the public for
11 having aboveground lines. I would like to speak in favor
12 of burying all of the lines underground.

13 And I would also like to state that the
14 draft for the State conservation and development plan for
15 2004/2009 is -- states unequivocally that the type of
16 development for energy use and lines that would entail
17 having aboveground lines is not consistent with their
18 plan. Albeit it's a draft at this point, but it has been
19 submitted to the General Assembly. I will quote from the
20 Growth Management Principle No. 4 that their policy is to
21 fulfill the responsibility of each generation as trustee
22 of the environment for succeeding generations. Point 2,
23 ensure for all residents of the State safe, healthful,
24 productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing

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1 surroundings. Attain -- (3) Attain widest range of
2 beneficial uses of the environment without degradation,
3 risk to health or safety and other undesirable and
4 unintended consequences. (4) Preserve important
5 historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our
6 Connecticut heritage and maintain them where possible.
7 And Point No. 7 is practice conservation and the use of
8 energy, maximize the use of energy efficient systems, and
9 minimize the environmental impact of energy production
10 and use.

11 I would also like to say from a
12 conservation standpoint that lines above the ground will
13 be affecting ridge lands and sight lines. And I would
14 also state that I am in favor of the removal of all
15 existing aboveground lines while burying new lines.
16 Thank you.

17 COURT REPORTER: Alright, go ahead.

18 MR. ANDREW DANZIG: Hi. My name is Andrew
19 Danzig, Environmental Engineer. I live in Woodbridge,
20 Connecticut.

21 My main concern is what is spurring the
22 need for these power lines. And that is an immense
23 amount of energy demand.

24 And my question to the people who oppose

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1 the power line is what are they willing to do to reduce
2 demand for electricity in terms of using more energy
3 efficient appliances, turning down their thermostats,
4 whatever it takes to reduce the demand for electricity,
5 using energy efficient lighting. There are numerous ways
6 to reduce demand through conservation measures which
7 would obviate the need for expanding the power line.

8 My question for the power company is what
9 they're willing to do to promote energy conservation?
10 Hard core active programs to produce power and energy in
11 sustainable ways through green power, to promote energy
12 conservation, incentives for energy efficient appliances.
13 To me those are the real threats to the environment and
14 to human health, are what are the source of the power
15 going through the line rather than the lines themselves.

16 The studies on EMF are mixed. I'm not convinced that
17 they're going to pose more of a risk than what is already
18 there along the existing routes. My main concern is what
19 is the source of the power going through the lines and in
20 terms of the health of this community and the nation and
21 the planet that the power is produced in a sustainable
22 way, in a clean way, and that things are done to reduce
23 the demand so that less is needed.

24 MR. JAMES URBANO: Hi. James Urbano, 52

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1 North Pease Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut. I'm a member
2 of the Woodbridge Conservation Commission, speaking as an
3 individual though. I have two questions. (1) Why are we
4 putting 2004 19th Century technology overhead power lines.
5 We've progressed since the 19th century, we've put most
6 utilities underground. It just seems it's time now to do
7 it the right way.

8 Secondly, not a question but a statement.

9 Stringing overhead power lines, especially through
10 Woodbridge, a town prominent topographically with ridges
11 along the ridge is inconsistent with the State plan of
12 conservation which asks that the ridgeline -- the sight
13 lines across the ridges be preserved. This is contrary -
14 - this proposal is contrary to the State conservation
15 plan. Wet -- the wetlands is involved. But my primary
16 opposition is based on aesthetic concerns.

17 On the health issue, we should give the
18 children the benefit of the doubt. Thank you.

19 MS. SUSAN LARKIN: Hello. My name is
20 Susan Larkin and we recently purchased a home in
21 Woodbridge on Maplevale Drive. My son will be entering
22 kindergarten next year. My daughter is also at the
23 elementary school, Beecher Road School where the proposed
24 route goes right by. And we just moved here from

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1 California where there is legislation protecting children
2 in schools from this sort of power increase. And I'm
3 just definitely concerned and very dismayed at finally,
4 you know, moving here and purchasing a home and then
5 dealing with this problem right now. So, I'm opposed to
6 this.

7 And our First Selectman Amy Marrella has
8 said that there are viable alternatives and I would urge
9 the Council to look for those viable alternatives and
10 keep our children safe. Thank you. Is that okay?

11 MS. ESTHER NASH: My name is Esther Nash
12 and I'm a long-time resident of Woodbridge, Connecticut,
13 and I want to voice my disapproval and discontent with
14 the proposed overhead power line, which is going to run
15 through schools and playgrounds and places of worship and
16 will affect over 3,000 children who go to school and
17 summer camps and day care in this area. Viable solutions
18 and alternatives exist to this and I urge the Council to
19 explore every other alternative other than putting these
20 high voltage power lines through a residential community
21 with schools and subjecting children to unknown risks of
22 cancer. There is an association with childhood leukemias
23 and other malignancies. And until a causal relationship
24 is ruled out, these lines should be buried underground.

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1 Thank you.

2 REVEREND BOYD JOHNSON: Okay. Do I give
3 my name and -- alright -- I'm Boyd Johnson. I reside at
4 20 Newton Road. I am a minister at -- (indiscernible) --
5 hmm?

6 COURT REPORTER: You don't have to be that
7 close.

8 REVEREND JOHNSON: Okay.

9 COURT REPORTER: Okay.

10 REVEREND JOHNSON: But I am speaking of
11 course as an individual. I am very opposed to the
12 prospect of a 345-k, the electric transmission line that
13 would be aboveground. I feel it's very important to look
14 at alternative solutions such an underground approach.
15 Anything that would present a hazard to our children I
16 feel we should be certainly opposed to.

17 Many of our residents over the years have
18 worked very hard to preserve our environment, to make it
19 a very healthy atmosphere in which to raise children.
20 And I feel at all costs we have to stand firm in
21 maintaining this wonderful heritage that we have. And I
22 would certainly support anything that Amy Marrella has
23 presented from our Board of Selectmen in opposition to an
24 aboveground approach. Thank you.

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1 DR. JOHN KRYSTAL: Hi. My name is John
2 Krystal, K-r-y-s-t-a-l. I am the Robert McNeil Professor
3 of Psychiatry and Deputy Chairman of the Department of
4 Psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine. I am
5 also a parent of two children at Beecher Road School and
6 a member of the B'Nai Jacob Congregation.

7 This power line raises both professional
8 and personal concerns for me. Professionally, I am well
9 aware that we know too little about the negative health
10 consequences of high power electric wires to our young
11 children who would be exposed to long-term radiation as a
12 result of placement of these high powered lines. There
13 is substantial literature which raises a question about
14 the risk for hematologic cancers and -- as well as
15 melanoma, perhaps birth defects.

16 As a psychiatrist and neuroscientist, I am
17 particularly aware since my own research addresses the
18 effects of magnetic stimulation upon brain function, that
19 there is reason to be concerned that long-term exposure
20 to high powered lines could affect electrical activity in
21 the brain, which would be detrimental potentially to our
22 children. While this has not yet been demonstrated,
23 associations between high powered lines and increased
24 suicide rates has been described in literature. We know

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1 too little to be -- to take for granted the potential
2 neuro-psychiatric health risks of the high powered line.

3 On a personal level, with two children at
4 Beecher Road School, with our children involved in Sunday
5 School at B'Nai Jacob and participating in activities at
6 the Jewish Community Center, we are very concerned about
7 the negative consequences of the high powered line for
8 each of these institutions and believe that there are
9 superior alternatives that do not ignore the personal and
10 environmental risks of these high powered lines. And we
11 hope that these alternative approaches will be pursued.
12 Thank you for listening to my comments.

13 MR. LEWIS MERRITT: Okay. My name is
14 Lewis Merritt and I live at 368 Hitching Post Drive in
15 Orange. The current power lines go through the back
16 portion of my property and I would like to speak in favor
17 of going with the two monopole design approach that
18 they're -- the utility is proposing. I don't think it's
19 going to adversely affect my property value. I currently
20 look out the back and I see two wooden sets of towers in
21 my backyard and I don't think it's going to be worse with
22 the new proposed configuration.

23 I'm not concerned about safety. I would
24 rather have 50 feet of the worst air over my head than

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1 five feet of squishy water over buried power lines.

2 And as far as the disruption, probably the
3 replacement of the existing structures will be the least
4 disruptive to the area where I live. That was -- that
5 was all. Thank you.

6 MR. BOB BONVICINI: My name is Bob
7 Bonvicini. I'm at 26 Hall Drive in Orange. And I'd like
8 to state my concerns regarding the right-of-way through
9 my property.

10 I do have small children and I also have
11 my father-in-law who for medical reasons can't be exposed
12 to the high tension wires, so those are just some of my
13 personal concerns, as well as the property concerns of
14 the disruption of the neighborhood and being on my
15 property to change the lines to the monopoles. I'd like
16 to see any alternative and urge the Siting Council to
17 consider the underground or the alternate along the East
18 Shore route or along the major thorough-ways. That would
19 be the preferred way by myself and on behalf of my
20 neighbors. So again, I'd like to just urge them to
21 strongly reconsider that and without the unsightly towers
22 in the neighborhood, I think that would be very welcomed
23 in my neighborhood. And thank you for the time.

24 MR. ANDREW BEDFORD: Hi. My name is

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1 Andrew Bedford. I'm a resident of Woodbridge,
2 Connecticut and I'm speaking on behalf and under
3 instruction of my eight-year-old daughter Talya. Talya
4 is a second-grade student at Beecher Road School.

5 And her statement is my name is Talia, I'm
6 an eight-year-old, second-grader at Beecher Road School
7 and I have not met one person that wants the power lines
8 to come through near our school. Thank you very much.

9 MS. CAROL R. GOLDBERG: My name is Carol
10 Goldberg, 5 North Humiston Drive, Bethany, Connecticut.
11 I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to give you
12 this testimony at this time.

13 I strongly urge you to seriously consider
14 the alternative proposal of burying the lines
15 underground. It's my understanding that the communities
16 along the East Shore route are willing to allow this.
17 And since so many other communities don't want it, it
18 would make sense to do that.

19 I live in Bethany. It's my understanding
20 also that in order to get in to build these new towers,
21 you would have to cut substantial roads through the
22 virgin forest that's there and through some of the water
23 company property that's there. There's no plan to
24 replace any of that, there's no plan to replace anything

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1 that might be taken down, and I'm very concerned about
2 that. So by putting the towers in the way that's
3 proposed, it would certainly destroy the environment.

4 I'm also very concerned about the drilling
5 and the blasting, especially around the dam in Bethany.
6 It is a very old dam that is set in bedrock and anything
7 can disturb that. It's currently being restored and
8 we're very concerned about any problems there.

9 Of course I understand the health and
10 safety concerns, but the environmental impact of this is
11 really what concerns me.

12 I ask you please to consider the future
13 not just now, but the plan for the future. It's not a
14 quick fix for now. We want to do something that will
15 work for a long time in the future. There are many
16 states throughout this country that do have their power
17 lines underground. It was a plan that they decided way -
18 - a long time ago, and I ask you to consider this for
19 some point in the future. It's the better plan. It's
20 safer underground, it is more stable underground at this
21 point, and I strongly urge you to consider that. Thank
22 you.

23 MS. HANNAH SOKAL-HOLMES: Hi. My name is
24 Hannah Sokal-Holmes and I live in New Haven; however, I'm

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1 the parent of children who have gone to school at Ezra
2 Academy and I have children who go to camp at the JCC in
3 the summer. I have many friends who work full-time in
4 all of the buildings, the large school buildings that are
5 there. And even if I had no children in the schools, it
6 seems inappropriate to me that such a health risk should
7 be placed right through a residential area and right
8 against schools where such a vulnerable population works
9 and is on a daily basis.

10 I believe that our representatives, our
11 governmental representatives have to protect the rights
12 of citizens against the interests of big business. If
13 there is a way of protecting the area by burying the
14 lines, if that is proven to truly protect us, then that
15 is something that could be an option, I'm sure there is
16 some way of protecting us from the potential damage to
17 our children's health, otherwise the lines should be
18 redirected or not used at all. And that's my statement.

19 MS. SIEW CHENG CHIA: HI. My name is Siew
20 Cheng Chia. I live on 453 Downs Road, Bethany in
21 Connecticut.

22 The existing transmission lines run right
23 through my backyard and any upgrade of these lines will
24 affect my property. I'm concerned that the property

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1 value will go down because the transmission structures
2 are so intrusive and ugly. If the proposal goes through,
3 I will like the structures to be placed further away from
4 my house.

5 I will like NU to assure me that any
6 damages to my septic, leaching field will be covered by
7 NU. I am also concerned about the quality of the well
8 water caused by the blasting. NU should be responsible
9 for any damages that may occur to the upgrade of the
10 transmission lines. Thank you. Thank you.

11 DR. DAWN KOPEL: My name is Dawn Kopel and
12 I am a new Woodbridge resident. I moved here very
13 recently with my family. And I am a physician in
14 obstetrics and gynecology here in the State of
15 Connecticut.

16 And my concern are primarily the health
17 issues with respect to the electromagnetic fields. In
18 particular the effects on our children, in quotes, "and
19 other sensitive populations". We already know that the
20 relationship between electromagnetic field and the -- and
21 leukemia, excuse me, is very poorly defined. But as one
22 of our State Representatives mentioned tonight, the
23 toxicity of chemicals buried at the sites that would then
24 be surfaced during the placement of these larger towers

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1 is of great concern to me. We are already No. 1 in the
2 entire United States for breast cancer incidents. Do we
3 want to be No. 1 in something else. My answer to that
4 question would be most definitively no. Thank you.

5 MR. LAWRENCE GREENBERG: My name is
6 Lawrence J. Greenberg. I reside at 7 Tumble Brook Road,
7 Woodbridge, Connecticut, and I am making this statement
8 in my capacity as a citizen of the Town of Woodbridge and
9 also as a member of the Oak Lane Country Club where your
10 facilities go right through the site.

11 I truly appreciate the need of Northeast
12 Utilities and of United Illuminating Company to provide
13 more power to the region, but at what cost? If the issue
14 is only money as opposed to the safety of our citizens
15 and of our children, I truly believe that the best course
16 of action is to bury the lines. Until it is conclusively
17 proven that your lines do not cause any harm to either
18 young people, people with pacemakers, or ordinary
19 citizens, it is foolhardy to do anything that would
20 jeopardize the health of any of our citizens and of our
21 children. I would urge you to consider the additional
22 cost of burying the lines. Thank you for the opportunity
23 to make this comment.

24 DR. ALAN REZNIK: Okay. I'm Alan Reznik.

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1 That's A-l-a-n, R-e-z-n-i-k. I am an orthopedic surgeon
2 practicing in the New Haven area with offices in Hamden,
3 Woodbridge, and Branford. I'm also a member of the
4 clinical faculty at Yale University's Department of
5 Orthopedics. I currently practice taking care of
6 children and adults in orthopedic surgery and sports
7 medicine and I've had 20 years of experience studying
8 orthopedics, including the treatment of bone tumors and
9 growth deformities in children.

10 I'm speaking today to bring up an
11 additional issue that isn't brought up typically in most
12 meetings, and that is to the fact of the electric
13 currents effect on bone and bone growth. It is well
14 documented for the past 20 years that electricity can be
15 used to stimulate or alter bone growth. And particularly
16 at certain low levels it's been utilized to promote bone
17 healing. Obviously, there's been no studies to date to
18 determine its effect on children's growth. However,
19 there's sufficient evidence from more than one source
20 that bone is in fact dependent upon electric currents for
21 maintenance and those electric currents can be altered or
22 disturbed by external fields. My concern primarily is
23 that high electromagnetic fields would ultimately in an
24 undetected way affect the growth of children. I'd like

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1 to thank you for your time.

2 MS. ELAINE ALBOM BRAFFMAN: As a resident
3 of Woodbridge, I urge the committee to reject the power
4 companies' plans to increase the electricity wattage in
5 Woodbridge. The health of our children is far too
6 important for this project to go forward as it is. Just
7 the very possibility of increasing the risk of childhood
8 leukemia is so scary and the statistics are so appalling,
9 that for the power company to consider its own profits
10 rather than the health of our children is simply
11 unacceptable. Thank you.

12 MR. GERALD BRAFFMAN: My name is Gerald
13 Braffman, B-r-a-f-f-m-a-n. I'm an Attorney at law with
14 an office in Orange and I reside at 55 Brookridge Drive,
15 Woodbridge, Connecticut.

16 I have three children who attended Ezra
17 Academy in Woodbridge, Connecticut. I have served on the
18 Board of Directors and as a vice president of Ezra
19 Academy in past years and am very concerned about the
20 continued viability of the school and the health of its
21 children.

22 I also have a position as a member of the
23 Connecticut State Department of Education binding
24 arbitration panel which is concerned with the Board of

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1 Education collective bargaining process and how it
2 affects public schools. So my entire adult life -- I've
3 been on this panel since 1979, having been first
4 appointed by Governor Grasso, and have served on it
5 continuously for the past 25 years, and I have to say
6 that my point of view when it comes to public schools and
7 children is if there's any errors to be made, it's to
8 error on the side of caution, on the side of safety, and
9 on the side of benefiting the public children.

10 I think the plan of the power companies to
11 upgrade the amount of power in such close vicinity to the
12 schools in Woodbridge is a reckless disregard of human
13 life, and I urge the panel to deny the application as
14 presented and to grant it only if the power lines are
15 rerouted or preferentially put underground. Thank you
16 very much for listening.

17 MS. NELLY RABINOWITZ: I am Nelly
18 Rabinowitz, 15 Sherwood Farms Lane in Westport. I have a
19 kid at Ezra in Woodbridge. I once refused to let my
20 first daughter 10 years ago to attend Ezra Academy
21 because the EMF's behind the school. And that may be yes
22 or no the coincidence of a kid with a brain tumor in that
23 class. Since then another kid had a brain tumor. Is
24 there a relationship or is it a coincidence, I do not

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1 know.

2 Nonetheless, one solution would be to have
3 people use alternative energy to get their daily needs.
4 I support solar power, wind's mill idea. Can you -- at
5 least that Connecticut Light looks at that. It is the
6 way of the future to save this earth. When God said let
7 there be light, I don't think he was talking about the
8 Connecticut Light Company, was he.

9 Now my child is at Ezra Academy. And I do
10 know that if the Connecticut company -- if you let the
11 Connecticut Light Company build more EMF's behind the
12 school, I will take my kid out of the school.

13 Thank you very much for your
14 consideration. I know how hard this is for you, but good
15 luck with the choices. Thank you.

16 MR. JAMES HILL: Hi. My name is James
17 Hill and I live at 18 Old Farm Road in Woodbridge,
18 Connecticut. I'm the father of three young children who
19 will be attending Beecher Road School here in Woodbridge.

20 I'm also a public school educator who teaches Civics.

21 I'd like you to consider burying the
22 proposed lines or rerouting them and the under-street
23 program would also be an option. I think we should be
24 very concerned about the health risks on this. And I do

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1 also understand that there is an economic situation
2 there, but we do need to put the health of our children
3 and our communities first. Thank you for your
4 consideration on this matter.

5 MR. BEN LIPKA: This concerns Connecticut
6 power in Connecticut. One of the things I am aware of is
7 that Connecticut sends a lot of power to Long Island
8 through that Long Island cable which is very
9 controversial. My question is why don't we use that
10 power -- since we're talking about a shortage in
11 Fairfield County and in New Haven County, why don't we
12 use that power, I don't know whether it comes from
13 Milford or Norwalk, and redistribute it to Fairfield and
14 New Haven County rather than bring power down from
15 Wallingford through Bethany and Woodbridge and Orange,
16 and save ourselves a lot of problems. What is wrong with
17 considering that as the power source rather than sending
18 it to New York at the demand of the Federal Government
19 which Connecticut is fighting at this point. Okay.
20 That's it.

21 MS. DIANE D'ANDREA: Okay. My name is
22 Diane D'Andrea. I live on Darley Drive in Hamden.

23 Environmental concerns are often regarded
24 as fuzzy thinking, the catchall for opposition to any

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1 technological progress. On the contrary,
2 environmentalists seek to guide technology, not impede
3 it. We want to see best management practices used to
4 minimize the environmental impact of power lines just as
5 BMP's, best management practices, are followed in any
6 building construction.

7 The BMP's also known as environmental
8 preferences for routing power lines have been specified
9 as followed: For least environmental harm build the
10 lines underground under public roads or other rights-of-
11 way like airport runways, tunnels, railroads, etcetera,
12 that are already disturbed. Lines built overhead in the
13 current right-of-way are not constructed according to
14 best management practices since they do harm the
15 environment during construction and maintenance. The
16 greatest environmental harm is done by building the lines
17 underground in the current row.

18 The above BMP's or environmental
19 preferences are contained in a report written for
20 Governor Rowland entitled Comprehensive Assessment and
21 Report, Energy Resources and Infrastructure of SWCT,
22 January 1, 2003. The group that wrote it, the Working
23 Group, was appointed by the Governor to study
24 transmission lines during last year's moratorium and

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1 consisted of environmentalists, state agency
2 representatives and Northeast Utility representatives.
3 The environmental standards were agreed upon by all these
4 groups and do not present only a tree hugger point of
5 view. The standards present a consensus point of view.

6 NU's decision to propose the transmission
7 line underground from Norwalk to Milford abides by the
8 BMP's or environmental preferences. Its own people
9 agreed upon and should be commended. But the line from
10 Milford to Middletown is only second best. We want the
11 whole line to be built responsibly according to best
12 management practices and that means putting the whole
13 line underground. Thank you.

14 DR. ED GOGLIA: Okay. Dear Madam Chairman
15 and members of the Siting Council and fellow citizens of
16 Connecticut. Five years ago three of my animals and a
17 member of my family developed severe eye inflammations of
18 unknown origin which required medical attention. Two
19 weeks later the cause of these eye inflammations became
20 quite evident when the foliage on the back part of my
21 property turned brown and died as a result of herbicidal
22 use by CL&P. As we often hike and exercise our dogs on
23 the right-of-way, it was obvious to me that the
24 herbicides were the cause of these problems. We were

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1 never notified of the use of herbicides on our property,
2 property that we pay taxes on, nor were any signs or
3 flags placed warning us that chemicals were sprayed as
4 dictated by law and by the EPA's consumer's right to know
5 act.

6 In a letter addressed to Representative Al
7 Adinolfi dated July 16, 2003, Mr. Anthony Johnson of
8 Northeast Utilities stated that, quote, "The rights
9 granted to Connecticut Light & Power Company when the
10 areas where the lines are present were established under
11 the active easements allow us, that is CL&P, to use
12 herbicides to control vegetation". However, the original
13 deed dated June 7, 1927 that grants the CL&P an easement
14 privilege and right-of-way of 160 feet on my property
15 clearly gives CL&P, quote, "the right to trim, cut, and
16 remove trees, parts of trees, limbs, branches, and
17 underbrush that may interfere with or endanger poles,
18 wires and towers". This document also reserves, quote,
19 "to myself and to my heirs and assigns the right to
20 cultivate the ground within this right-of-way". I do not
21 find any mention of the use of herbicides being allowed.

22 My concern is that when the massive bases
23 which will be needed to support the proposed monopoles
24 are constructed, the disturbance of the subsurface soils

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1 and the possible need to blast will release herbicide
2 residuals into our wells, rivers, and aquifer. It has
3 already been shown that some wells have been contaminated
4 by these herbicides. The harmful effects of herbicides
5 are well known to everyone in this room and need not be
6 elaborated on here. Our veterans of the Vietnam War can
7 attest to that. Though CL&P claims that the newer
8 herbicides being used today are much safer than the Agent
9 Orange like substances used in the 70's, some of which
10 had a half-life of 12 years, the side of caution must be
11 exercised, especially when they have been shown to be
12 dangerous by numerous scientific studies. Many of the
13 toxic reactions are due to the addition of other
14 substances such as the surfactant POEA, which do not have
15 to even be listed in the safety data sheets. If another
16 route can be found that is much safer for our children,
17 our pregnant mothers, and even our pets, why not go that
18 route.

19 As a concerned citizen of Connecticut, I
20 would like to see the preservation of the beauty of this
21 great state for all the future generations to come.

22 When your Council is ready to deliberate
23 after you have heard all of the expert testimony in the
24 months to come, I would like you to remember that the

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1 power companies have been very evasive in what
2 information they disseminate to us. I liken them to a
3 girl wearing a bikini, they show us what is essential,
4 but they hide what is vital. Thank you.

5 MR. MARK EDWARDS: Almost everyone agrees
6 there is a need for additional electric transmission
7 capacity in Connecticut. Electric customers do not care
8 how power is delivered as long as the light or computer
9 goes on when needed. The utility company is in the
10 business of providing electricity to its customers. It
11 is not a benevolent organization or a charity, it is a
12 business. It is in the business to make money, to
13 improve the bottom line for its investors. Is that
14 wrong? No, it's good business. The information provided
15 to date and in the future by the utility company will by
16 its very nature support its business plan to provide more
17 product, that is electricity, and earn greater profits.

18 The towns and their citizens have a
19 position which differs from the utility company. The
20 citizens are concerned about the environment, real estate
21 devaluation, and the health and safety of their family.
22 Are they wrong? No. It is reasonable to be concerned
23 about the place that they live, the home that they have
24 worked so hard for and the people that they love.

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1 Simply put, it is a question for the
2 committee, profit or people. If you choose the wrong
3 course of action, it will be impossible to undo the harm
4 caused. To sacrifice the well being of a few for the
5 benefit of many sounds good unless you are one of the
6 unfortunate few. That does not have to be the situation
7 here. We are lucky here with your approval to have a
8 win/win solution. That does not happen often in life.
9 To allow transmission lines, the utility company wins by
10 being able to provide additional transmission capacity.
11 By requiring the lines to be placed underground in those
12 areas which wouldn't adversely affect the environment,
13 homes, and individuals and safety, the towns win as does
14 the citizens. It is so simple, put people over profit,
15 put the transmission lines underground. Thank you.

16 MS. EVE JACOBS: Okay. I just wanted to
17 say that I'm a New Haven resident and I have two
18 daughters, they're actually fully grown, they don't even
19 live here any more, one is married, one lives in New
20 York, but we got this flyer in the mail about, you know,
21 the power lines and everything, and I was so outraged to
22 think that these companies would just -- you know, they
23 just don't consider anyone's health, they just consider
24 whatever is cost-effective or whatever is convenient, and

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1 -- and my husband and I, you know, decided we should just
2 come today because -- to sacrifice even one human life,
3 you know one person's health or life is -- to me is an
4 affront to God and man. That's it.

5 MR. WILLIAM FOX: I would just like to say
6 that if one were to map the most -- the areas most
7 densely populated by our children and then connect the
8 dots, what you would find is a series of lines that very
9 closely resembles the proposal for the transmission power
10 lines -- power line transmission. Now we can negotiate
11 and argue back and forth what would be a better plan, but
12 one would be hard pressed to find a plan that would be
13 worst with respect to the potential impact that this has
14 on the area's children. If you consider the possibility
15 for side effects, it does not seem to me to be worth the
16 risk of putting the next generation and their health for
17 the sake of potentially saving a few dollars. Thank you.

18

19

(Adjourned 10:40 p.m.)

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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.

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In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and do so attest to the above, this 17th day of February, 2004.


Robin L. Focht,
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