

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

SITING COUNCIL

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CONNECTICUT LIGHT & POWER COMPANY
AND UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY

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

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND
PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
OF A NEW 345-kV ELECTRIC
TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED
FACILITIES BETWEEN THE SCOVILL ROCK
SWITCHING STATION IN MIDDLETOWN
AND THE NORWALK SUBSTATION IN
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

DOCKET NO. 272

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* * * * *

BEFORE: PAMELA B. KATZ, CHAIRMAN

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 CHAIRMAN PAMELA B. KATZ: Good evening.
12 My name is Pam Katz. I'm Chairman of the Siting Council.
13 On behalf of the entire members of the Siting Council,
14 I'd like to make a few welcoming remarks before I read
15 our more formal opening statement.

16 The mission of the Siting Council is to
17 protect the environment while providing for needed public
18 utilities. Our statute also cites public health and
19 safety.

20 This -- you are the sixth stop on a
21 seventh stop listening tour as part of this docket. And
22 we do these because we want to hear how you feel this
23 application affects you and your neighborhood. This is a
24 listening tour where you speak and we listen. And I

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1 think in hindsight our silence has been misconstrued, so
2 I want to clarify what we're -- how we're going to
3 approach three issues in this docket when we get to the
4 evidentiary phase, which will be in March, April, and
5 May. And those three issues are under-grounding, EMF's,
6 and property values.

7 The Siting Council is in the process of
8 hiring our own under-grounding expert. When we did Phase
9 1, this is the line that goes from Bethel to Norwalk, we
10 became aware of how important under-grounding was. And
11 the question is how much of this line can be underground.
12 Therefore, we are hiring our own under-grounding expert.

13 And that person will be onboard by the time we start our
14 evidentiary hearings.

15 And the second issue I want to cover is
16 EMF's, electromagnetic fields. If you've been -- if
17 you've had the chance to read the application and you've
18 gotten as far as Volume 6 -- (laughter) -- you're aware
19 that we require information on EMF's. And we have that
20 information as part of the application. What we're going
21 to be doing is we're going to be sending that part of the
22 application over to the Health Department of the State
23 and we are going to be asking them to provide us an
24 opinion on those levels of EMF's and we're going to ask

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1 them if they are willing to provide a witness for our
2 evidentiary hearings so that we can cross-examine on the
3 issue of EMF's. And that request will be going over to
4 the Commissioner of Health this week.

5 The third issue that we get a lot of
6 questions on is what is our jurisdiction on property
7 values. Please be rest assured that the Siting Council
8 realizes that a transmission line can affect properties.
9 And our approach will be we will look at the aesthetics
10 of the proposed structures versus those of the existing
11 structures. And we will be making judgments whether the
12 proposed structures are for the better or the worst than
13 the existing structures. And that will be our approach
14 on property values.

15 So tonight I hope that you will share with
16 us your thoughts. We do not know your neighborhoods as
17 well as you do. And the more site-specific information
18 you can get on how you feel this application affects you
19 is helpful to us.

20 We have a stoplight mechanism, which
21 you'll see up here in the front. We are asking public
22 officials, which we will do first, to limit their remarks
23 to five minutes. We are asking members of the public to
24 do three minutes. After two minutes, the stoplight goes

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1 to flashing green, then to yellow, then to red. You'll
2 figure it out -- you'll figure it out fairly quickly.

3 So at this point what I'd like to do is
4 I'd like to read our opening statement and then we're
5 going to have a short video by the Applicant and then we
6 will begin with public officials.

7 Ladies and gentlemen, this hearing is
8 called to order at 7:00 p.m., February 9, 2004.

9 My name is Pamela B. Katz, Chairman of the
10 Connecticut Siting Council. Other members of the Council
11 are Colin C. Tait, Vice Chairman; Brian Emerick, designee
12 for Commissioner Rocque of DEP; Gerald J. Heffernan,
13 designee for Commissioner Downes of DPUC; Edward S.
14 Wilensky; Brian O'Neill; Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.

15 Members of the staff are Derek Phelps,
16 Executive Director; Fred Cunliffe, Siting Analyst for
17 this docket; John Haines, Assistant Attorney General.

18 The court reporter is Tony Vanacore and
19 the audio technician is Ed Chamberlain.

20 This hearing tonight is held pursuant to
21 the provisions of General Statutes 16-50g through 16-50aa
22 and Sections 16-50j-1 through 16-50j-34 of the
23 Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies on an
24 application of The Connecticut Light and Power Company

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1 and United Illuminating for a Certificate of
2 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the
3 construction of a new 345-kV transmission line and
4 associated facilities between the Scovill Rock Switching
5 Station in Middletown and the Norwalk Substation in
6 Norwalk. This includes construction of a Beseck
7 Switching Station in Wallingford, an East Devon
8 Substation in Milford, and a Singer Substation in
9 Bridgeport, and modifications to the Scovill Rock
10 Switching Station and the Norwalk Substation and certain
11 interconnections. This application was received by the
12 Council on October 9, 2003.

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

18 As required by law, ex parte or off-the-
19 record communication with a Council member or a Council
20 staff member on the merits of this application is
21 prohibited.

22 This hearing held tonight is solely for
23 the public to make brief oral statements into the record.
24 Specifically, this is an opportunity for citizens, who

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

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

7 In fairness to everyone who wishes to
8 speak, I wish to limit the statements of public officials
9 to five minutes and to members of the public for three
10 minutes. A sign-up sheet is available for those who wish
11 to participate located next to the easel in the back
12 there as Mr. Phelps indicated. These statements will
13 become part of the record for Council consideration.

14 In addition, written statements sent to
15 the Council within 30 days after the last hearing session
16 in this proceeding will be given the same weight as
17 spoken statements. The mailing address for the Council
18 is 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut 06051,
19 and this address appears on the easel.

20 As an alternative there is a second
21 transcriptionist available to the record for spoken
22 statements by individuals who may have statements longer
23 than three minutes or have other obligations. This
24 transcriptionist is located in the lobby. So if you

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1 cannot stay before your time to speak or you have more
2 than three minutes to tell us, feel free to go out into
3 the lobby and use this second opportunity to dictate your
4 statement.

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

14 After all the public hearings in the
15 municipalities have concluded, the Council will continue
16 hearings for the purposes of cross-examination of
17 evidence by the Council, its staff, and parties and
18 intervenors. The date, time and location of the
19 evidentiary hearings will be noticed to the parties and
20 intervenors and posted on the Council's website,
21 ct.gov/csc. And again, the website is posted on our
22 easel.

23 At the end of each hearing session of this
24 proceeding, I will announce the date, time, and place of

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1 the next session.

2 For the benefit of the public in
3 attendance to tonight's hearing, we have asked the
4 Applicant to explain the general nature of this
5 application, its proposed benefits, its alleged needs,
6 and what alternatives were explored. In response to that
7 request, the Applicant has compiled a short video that
8 addresses those issues in summary form. And I will ask
9 that the Applicant show that video now.

10 MR. JOHN PRETE: Thank you, Chairman Katz.
11 My name is John Pret. P as in Peter, r-e-t. I'm the
12 Project Director for UI Company for this project. And on
13 behalf of UI and CL&P, we do indeed have a video.

14 Welcome to the Council, distinguished
15 officials, and members of the public.

16 The video is a summation. It talks
17 globally about the need. It talks a high level summary
18 of the solution. It gets into specifics about the towns,
19 Hamden, Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge. And at the
20 conclusion of that video, we have an additional one, it's
21 an addendum, it talks about a solution called the East
22 Shore alternative. The companies are feverishly working
23 on that alternative, which you will see. So with that,
24 I'll ask the video to start.

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

3 VIDEO PRESENTATION
4

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 To strengthen this source and make these

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1 connections, CL&P and UI looked at a variety of overhead
2 and under-street options for each section of the upgrade.
3 After evaluating each option and each combination of
4 options according to its system and technical merits, its
5 property and environmental impact, and its cost to
6 consumers, the highest ranked solution was a combination
7 of overhead and under-street segments.

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

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

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1 In Hamden the proposed route is an
2 overhead solution along the existing three and a half-
3 mile right-of-way that consists of replacing the current
4 three rows of structures with two rows of monopoles, one
5 row with a typical height of 80 feet, the other row with
6 a typical height of 85 feet. There would be a net
7 reduction in the number of structures and no expansion of
8 the right-of-way would be necessary. For Hamden,
9 Alternatives A and B are the same as the proposed route.

10 In Bethany the proposed route is an
11 overhead solution along the existing 2.6 mile right-of-
12 way that consists of replacing the current three rows of
13 structures with two rows of monopoles, one row with a
14 typical height of 80 feet, the other row with a typical
15 height of 85 feet. There would be a net reduction in the
16 number of structures and no expansion of the right-of-way
17 would be necessary. For Bethany, Alternatives A and B
18 are the same as the proposed route.

19 In Woodbridge the proposed route is an
20 overhead solution along the existing 6.2 mile right-of-
21 way that consists of replacing the current three rows of
22 structures with two rows of monopoles, one row with a
23 typical height of 80 feet, the other row with a typical
24 height of 85 feet. There would be a net reduction in the

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1 number of structures and no expansion of the right-of-way
2 would be necessary. For Woodbridge, Alternatives A and B
3 are the same as the proposed route.

4 And in Orange the proposed route is also
5 an overhead solution along the existing 5.8 mile right-
6 of-way that consists of replacing the current three rows
7 of structures with two rows of monopoles, one row with a
8 typical height of 80 feet, the other row with a typical
9 height of 85 feet. There would be a net reduction in the
10 number of structures and no expansion of the right-of-way
11 would be necessary. And in Orange, Alternatives A and B
12 are the same as the proposed route.

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

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1 The Connecticut Light & Power Company and
2 the United Illuminating Company thank the Connecticut
3 Siting Council for the opportunity to present this
4 information. Additional project information is available
5 on our websites, www.transmission-nu.com or
6 www.uinet.com.

7 The following is a brief summary of the
8 companies' investigation of a potential East Shore
9 alternative prepared at the request of the Connecticut
10 Siting Council.

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

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1 the proposed route.

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

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

24 You can find more information about this

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1 potential alternative in the supplemental filing posted
2 on the companies' websites, www.transmission-nu.com or
3 www.uinet.com.

4 END PRESENTATION

5 MR. S. DEREK PHELPS: Folks, we're about
6 to begin. The first speakers will be elected officials.
7 But before we begin with that, I just want to explain
8 one thing. Just to make this again very clear, and this
9 is a source of concern by the fire marshal, just outside
10 this auditorium or gymnasium, through that doorway near
11 the entrance doors there is a second court reporter,
12 persons who can hear me who are out in that lobby area
13 but are unable to enter because of the crowd, you are
14 free -- you are invited to make statements to the court
15 reporter that's outside sitting at the desk by the easel
16 that's near the front door. If you are asked to leave or
17 step outside, please arrange to leave your public
18 statement with that court reporter before doing so if at
19 all possible. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: To begin this session, we
21 will first take public officials and then members of the
22 public.

23 First the Siting Council would like to
24 thank the Town of Woodbridge and First Selectman Amy

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1 Marrella for providing us this venue and being such a
2 good host to us here, we appreciate that. And we're
3 going to have her make the initial remarks. We're asking
4 public officials to limit themselves to five minutes so
5 that we can get as many people as possible to the
6 microphone tonight. First Selectman -- Selectwoman
7 Marrella, welcome.

8 MS. AMEY MARRELLA: Thank you. Thank you,
9 Chairman Katz. My apologies for my back to everyone.
10 And thank you for your patience. This is the biggest
11 space we have in the Town of Woodbridge, so thank you for
12 your patience with that.

13 Good evening. My name is Amey Marrella
14 and I have the honor to serve as the First Selectman of
15 Woodbridge.

16 On behalf of the residents of Woodbridge,
17 I want to thank the members of the Siting Council for
18 holding this hearing. As you can see, many residents of
19 Woodbridge and our neighboring towns of Bethany, Orange,
20 and Hamden are here tonight because they are concerned
21 about the Applicants' proposal to run a new 345-kV
22 transmission line aboveground through our towns.

23 I speak here tonight on behalf of the
24 Woodbridge Board of Selectmen. We firmly believe that

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1 viable alternatives exist that would be better for both
2 our town and our region and we urge the utilities to work
3 with us to achieve a better solution to meet increasing
4 energy needs.

5 The Applicant's proposal, if approved,
6 would damage Woodbridge irrevocably. How would it do so?
7 Let me offer just a few thoughts. First and foremost,
8 the proposed aboveground route raises serious concerns
9 about the potential adverse health effects on children
10 closest to the new 345-kV line. More than 3,000 children
11 attend schools, camps, and day care facilities within
12 Woodbridge that are situated close to the proposed 345-kV
13 right-of-way. The proposed route runs within 100 feet of
14 Congregation B'Nai Jacob, Ezra Academy, and the Jewish
15 Community Center known as the JCC. And within twelve
16 hundred feet of Beecher Road School and Trinity
17 Evangelical Free Church. I am certain that many here
18 tonight will speak to the health concerns passed -- posed
19 by a 345-kV line and its increased electromagnetic field.

20 Second, all of these child center
21 institutions are vital to the character of Woodbridge.
22 Many, many residents have told me that they moved to
23 Woodbridge because of one or more of these institutions -

24 -

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1 A VOICE: Stop the meeting or this room
2 will be cleared. This aisle needs to be opened up now
3 people.

4 MS. MARRELLA: Excuse me. That is our
5 fire marshal for the Town of Woodbridge. So if you would
6 do your best to comply, I would appreciate it so we can
7 continue the meeting. Okay.

8 As I said, second, all of these child
9 center institutions are vital to the character of
10 Woodbridge. Many, many residents have told me that they
11 moved to Woodbridge because of one or more of these
12 institutions. The Jewish Community Center, Beecher Road
13 School, Congregation B'Nai Jacob, Ezra Academy, and
14 Trinity Evangelical Free Church are integral to the
15 fabric of our community. If the proposed route is
16 approved, we face the prospect that enrollment and
17 membership of the institutions closest to the 345-kV line
18 would decline. Thus, whether or not we currently have
19 children attending one of these institutions, all
20 Woodbridge residents would be harmed should the proposed
21 route be approved.

22 Third, the new industrial style monopoles
23 that exceed tree level and would run for over six miles
24 through Woodbridge would clash hideously with the natural

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1 beauty of our town and diminish it forever. The
2 disruption of construction would harm extensive wetlands
3 within and adjacent to the proposed right-of-way.
4 Woodbridge residents care deeply about our town's
5 environment and we do not want it to be harmed. Over the
6 years taxpayers have invested heavily in open space
7 preservation and in order to protect -- excuse me -- in
8 order to protect the small town wooded character of
9 Woodbridge. We have developed miles of hiking trails and
10 walking paths for everyone to enjoy. Woodbridge has
11 resisted the trend toward suburban sprawl and its
12 resistance has been recognized as an asset for our
13 region. What harms the environment of Woodbridge will
14 harm not just Woodbridge but our region as a whole.

15 The Woodbridge selectmen are confident
16 that better solutions are available, solutions that
17 protect Woodbridge and our neighboring towns while
18 meeting energy needs. For example, the East Shore
19 alternative would continue the 345-kV line underground
20 from Milford to New Haven.

21 In the end, underground technology is the
22 best solution for Woodbridge, for our neighbors, and for
23 our State. Whatever is built will last a lifetime --
24 (applause) -- thank you -- whatever is built will last a

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1 lifetime. Let's invest in a solution that is safest for
2 our children and for our environment. Thank you.
3 (Applause).

4 CHAIRMAN KATZ: The next speaker is
5 Mitchell Goldblatt, the First Selectman of Orange.

6 COURT REPORTER: Could you spell --

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Oh, yes. And I'm sorry, I
8 was suppose to announce this -- this is where I get in
9 trouble with the court reporter -- everyone who comes up
10 to the microphone, please give your name, if you're a
11 public official, please give your title, and please spell
12 your name for the court reporter. And members of the
13 public please also give your address.

14 MR. MITCHELL GOLDBLATT: Thank you, Madam
15 Chairman. Mitch Goldblatt, G-o-l-d-b-l-a-t-t, the First
16 Selectman, the Town of Orange.

17 Chairman Katz, Executive Director Phelps,
18 thank you very much for holding this hearing. And first
19 of all, let me thank you also for changing the date of
20 the original hearing. The Mayor of Hamden -- (applause)
21 -- the Mayor Hamden, the First Selectman of Woodbridge
22 and Bethany and myself had requested a change of that
23 date because the original hearing was during school
24 vacation, and we do appreciate your accommodating

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1 everyone here with that change.

2 I speak tonight on behalf of many of my
3 residents living in the Town of Orange through the 5.8
4 miles that this line currently traverses our community,
5 5.8 miles -- which by the way Orange is the most densely
6 populated town on this route. Yet every proposal that's
7 come through so far, with the exception of the East Shore
8 that shows the last alternative going underground, every
9 other alternative shows Orange will remain aboveground.

10 I ask you tonight that we all recognize
11 the need for additional power, but we may disagree on
12 what the solution for that is. We feel very strongly
13 that under-streeting is the way to go for all power
14 lines, 115 and 345. (Applause). Let us begin here
15 tonight to start to reformulate and reshape what our
16 communities look like, not just mine, but the communities
17 around us. For well over 50 years all of our residents
18 have been subjected to the sight of ugly towers and the
19 concerns. The concerns of EMF did not begin with 345.
20 The concerns are evident by property values, the concerns
21 are evident by people who just are afraid to move towards
22 these areas where they see these lines. Let's begin
23 tonight to not just look at under-streeting the 345, but
24 to move the 115's with it when we do it so we can do it

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1 once and do it right. (Applause).

2 I -- (applause) -- I have heard from
3 dozens and dozens of people, many of whom are in this
4 room, people who go to the schools in this area, attend
5 places of worship in this area, and just plain old live
6 in this area who are very concerned about what our future
7 will look like. We should not damage the environment any
8 further by under-grounding utilities through the existing
9 right-of-way, although that's not proposed, a lot of
10 people are concerned about under-grounding in the
11 existing right-of-ways. We should not also go in and
12 build these strong -- these tall monopoles in the
13 existing right-of-ways because of the damage to the
14 environment that will be done to bring in the gallons and
15 gallons and truckloads and truckloads of concrete to
16 build those monopoles.

17 The 24 towns that are involved have been
18 meeting regularly. We've gotten together. We look for
19 your help now to do the right thing. We've put together
20 our collective energies and we're looking for your help.
21 The utilities have resisted going underground for years.

22 But look at the difference not in what you'll see but in
23 what you will not see, that's the important thing today.

24 You have been entrusted by the State of

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1 Connecticut and by us with this decision. Please make
2 this decision for the common good, make it for everyone,
3 all the towns involved, and I urge you to look at the
4 East Shore alternative, the one that goes underground.
5 We're willing to look at the under-streeting in the Town
6 of Orange, but please don't go under-streeting everywhere
7 else and then come back up over the Town of Orange.
8 Thank you very much. (Applause).

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Mr. Goldblatt, can you
10 come back to the microphone for a minute. I've been
11 informed that there are many people who can't get into
12 the building tonight because of the number of people who
13 are interested in attending this hearing. Mr. Goldblatt,
14 would you be willing to host a hearing in the Town of
15 Orange?

16 MR. GOLDBLATT: Absolutely. (Applause).
17 Chairman Katz, we've held, as you know, two information
18 sessions in the Town of Orange at High Plains Community
19 Center. I'm sure we can make that available. We can
20 discuss what time and date that would available. And I
21 thank you very much for that offer. I would be more than
22 pleased to accommodate you.

23 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Okay. (Applause). If
24 there are people in the Town of Orange who would rather

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1 attend that hearing, and we will post that on our
2 website, and again you can check the easel for our
3 website, at a date to be announced, so that we can try to
4 accommodate everybody. And please let that word get out
5 to the people outside and in the hallway that we will
6 have -- we will continue -- the seven-stop listening tour
7 has become an eight-stop listening tour and we'll now
8 include a public hearing in the future in the Town of
9 Orange. And I thank the First Selectman for doing that.
10 (Applause).

11 We're going to take a two-minute recess so
12 that if there's anybody who wants to get up and leave, to
13 allow them to do that at this time.

14 (Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

15 CHAIRMAN KATZ: I'm going to ask the
16 residents of Orange who may wish to speak at the upcoming
17 public hearing, to please not speak at both so that we
18 can get as many different people as possible up to the
19 microphone and into the record.

20 Next to speak is the First Selectwoman of
21 Bethany, Derrylyn Gorski.

22 MS. DERRYLYN GORSKI: Hi. I'm the First
23 Selectwoman of Bethany, Derrylyn Gorski. I'll spell my
24 first name, that's the one that gives people troubles. D

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1 like David, e-r-r-y-l-y-n. Gorski, G-o-r-s-k-i.

2 Chairwoman Katz and members of the Siting
3 Council, thank you for this opportunity to address this
4 issue.

5 As the First Selectwoman of the Town of
6 Bethany, I wish to express our grave concerns about the
7 proposed upgrade of electric transmission lines in our
8 community. The entire right-of-way in Bethany in on
9 South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority
10 property in close proximity to the West River system that
11 supplies public drinking water to residents of Greater
12 New Haven. The greatest impacts on Bethany and the West
13 River system will be caused by the construction project
14 itself. In addition, this construction will impact a
15 large natural area in the last remaining rural town in
16 New Haven County.

17 The greatest areas of concern include very
18 steep rocky slopes, Mountain Laurels, Connecticut's state
19 flower, an important botanical feature, the Quinnipiac
20 Trail, a component of the Connecticut Forest & Park
21 Association's Statewide Blue Blaze Trail System, and Lake
22 Watrous which feeds directly into the RWA filtration
23 plant and would become a collection point for silt and
24 construction pollutants. Any siltation or pollutants

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1 from the construction process could materially impair the
2 West River system.

3 There is no mention of the Lake Bethany
4 Dam in Volume 3 of the application Historic and
5 Archeological Resources. This dam, currently being
6 renovated, is more than 100 years and is anchored in
7 bedrock. Bethany has an obligation to protect water
8 supplies. The current proposal section on the
9 identification and evaluation of alternative routes,
10 that's Volume 1, page 5, places insufficient emphases on
11 the protection of public water supply watershed lands and
12 private wells. I urge an in depth analysis of
13 alternatives.

14 I've enumerated these environmental
15 concerns unique to Bethany. I also share the universal
16 concern for the health and safety of the residents in
17 close proximity to these power lines who will be impacted
18 by the construction, noise, and electromagnetic
19 radiation.

20 In addition to those Bethany residents
21 living near the power lines, many Bethany children attend
22 schools and/or day care or camp at those Woodbridge
23 facilities near these lines. I wonder if there is any
24 other community like Woodbridge where every school or day

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1 care center serving our youngest and most vulnerable
2 residents is under or very near these power lines. Even
3 if there was not one Bethany child attending these
4 facilities -- (applause) -- even if there was not one
5 Bethany child attending these facilities, I would stand
6 with our neighbors in opposition to this route.

7 While I have not read the entire
8 supplemental application filed in December, that route
9 would protect more people than it would hurt. I urge the
10 Siting Council to give it careful consideration. Thank
11 you.

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
13 Next speaking for U.S. Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro is
14 Allison Dodge.

15 MS. ALLISON DODGE. Good evening. My name
16 is Allison Dodge. It's A-l-l-i-s-o-n, D-o-d-g-e. I'm
17 here on behalf of Congressman Rosa DeLauro, who has asked
18 me to submit the following statement into the record.

19 "Chairman Katz and members of the Siting
20 Council, thank you for this opportunity to voice my
21 concerns with regard to the joint application by
22 Connecticut Light & Power and United Illuminating to
23 upgrade the current transmission system serving Southern
24 Connecticut.

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1 This proposal impacts 13 towns throughout
2 my district. Over the course of the last year my staff
3 and I have met with the elected officials of those towns
4 as well as a number of community groups who have serious
5 concerns with this proposal. The idea of under-
6 grounding, the benefits and consequences has been at the
7 forefront of each of these conversations.

8 The need for our transmission system to be
9 upgraded has already been established. Improvements in
10 technology and the growth of our communities have created
11 an increased demand on our energy system. I think all of
12 the communities impacted by this proposal understand that
13 and are willing to work with you and the power companies
14 to address this issue. However, their voices must be
15 heard and you must do all that you can to assure them
16 that their concerns have been considered if not
17 mitigated.

18 In reviewing the proposal, I do have some
19 concerns about the proposed route of this project. In
20 utilizing the current right-of-way, while cost-effective,
21 this project will impact residential neighborhoods,
22 schools, community centers, parks, recreational areas,
23 and wetlands. I understand that there are some issues
24 which the Siting Council cannot consider as they move

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1 forward. However, I would argue that the social impacts
2 perceived or otherwise of such a proposal greatly impact
3 the ability of our communities to continue to prosper and
4 I hope that there is room for your consideration of these
5 matters.

6 We are here more to discuss the merits of
7 how additional capacity is brought to our communities.
8 Additional capacity cannot come at the expense of the
9 environment or the quality of life of neighboring
10 communities. If the lines can be placed underground
11 throughout Fairfield County, I have to believe that there
12 is an opportunity to do so elsewhere." (Applause).

13 "This may mean small changes in the current proposed
14 route or necessitate a new route all together. In any
15 case, there must be room for consideration of viable
16 alternatives, each of which must be weighed on their own
17 merits.

18 You are charged with an awesome task,
19 balancing the needs of these communities with the demand
20 for energy. I urge you to look at viable alternatives
21 and give every possible consideration to a proposal that
22 would truly balance Connecticut's future power needs
23 while maintaining the unique character of our
24 communities."

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1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

2 Next is State Senator Crisco.

3 A VOICE: (Indiscernible).

4 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Together? And with
5 Representative Klarides.

6 SENATOR JOSEPH CRISCO: Beauty and the
7 beast. (Laughter).

8 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Klaridees -- Klarides?

9 REPRESENTATIVE THEMIS KLARIDES: Klarides.

10 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. And please
11 anyone else, if I massacre the pronunciation of your
12 name, when you come up to the microphone, please correct
13 me.

14 REPRESENTATIVE KLARIDES: Well, unlike
15 First Selectwoman Gorski, I have trouble with both names,
16 so I will spell both. I am State Representative Themis
17 Klarides, T-h-e-m-i-s, K-l-a-r-i-d-e-s. I represent the
18 towns of Woodbridge, Orange, and Derby. And I thank you
19 for listening to us today, Chairwoman Katz and the rest
20 of the Siting Council.

21 I stand before you today in opposition of
22 the proposal before you. The proposed overhead power
23 line route for Woodbridge will require the line to pass
24 through or very near the campuses of Trinity Evangelical

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1 Church, the Congregation B'Nai Jacob, which houses Ezra
2 Academy Grammar School and Gan Hayered Nursery School,
3 the Greater New Haven Jewish Community Center, and the
4 only elementary school in Woodbridge, Beecher School. At
5 present there is no definitive link between childhood
6 leukemia and EMF. However, there is strong evidence of a
7 cause and effect relationship. Until this relationship
8 is clearly understood, don't you think we should avoid
9 placing power lines in residential areas where children -
10 - (applause) -- where there is a high group of children.

11 The EMF readings on this section of the
12 line near the B'Nai Jacob Congregation are of serious
13 concern. For example, at B'Nai Jacob campus the 345-
14 kilovolt line would emit an average load of 25.3
15 milligauss and a peak load of 96.5. Evidence shows that
16 a, quote/unquote, "healthy" milligauss is 3 to 4. This
17 is simply unacceptable to us. (Applause).

18 I understand that the Siting Council does
19 not at this time permit firm judgments about possible
20 health effects of EMF exposures from electric generation
21 substation and transmission facilities. However, the
22 peak load of 96.5 milligauss and, quite frankly, the
23 average load of 25.3 around B'Nai Jacob campus should be
24 seriously taken under consideration. That is why along

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1 with Senator Joe Crisco, we have introduce legislation
2 prohibiting power lines from being constructed within a
3 certain distance of places where children congregate.
4 (Applause).

5 I thank you all for hearing us on this
6 matter and appreciate my remarks being taken into
7 consideration as you deliberate the application.

8 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

9 SENATOR JOSEPH CRISCO: Thank you very
10 much. Senator Joe Crisco, C-r-i-s-c-o. And we come
11 together to expedite the process because there are so
12 many people here who have so much to say. And let me
13 commend, you know, the Council for your commitment to
14 public service, and to the hundreds of people who are
15 here this evening. I think this speaks well of democracy
16 and the concern that people have.

17 And more importantly, in addition to
18 including my -- to coincide my remarks with
19 Representative Klarides, the issue goes beyond overhead
20 transmission lines and energy supply for the region, this
21 is an issue about the quality of life for residents in
22 Bethany, Hamden, Orange, Woodbridge, and the rest of
23 Southwestern Connecticut.

24 No one is oppose to progress. And I

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1 certainly realize the public need for affordable access
2 to electricity, but building high voltage power lines
3 through our communities is not the way to go.

4 (Applause). These huge towers will damage the landscape
5 and the environment. And we also obviously, as stated,
6 have major concerns about the health of children.

7 Let me just state that the people of the
8 Amity District have had their share of environmental
9 issues, whether it be indoor quality at the high school
10 or one of our junior high schools, anything that we can
11 do to alleviate their burden would greatly be
12 appreciated. Our parents have more than enough to worry
13 about in regards to providing for their families. But we
14 are concerned about these health risks, but perhaps -- as
15 Themis mentioned, the potential health risks -- may I
16 leave just one thought with you, every society has always
17 strived to make life better for the next generation. I
18 ask you to consider the impact of your decision, the
19 impact of your decision upon the children of this area,
20 the children of Woodbridge and the surrounding towns.
21 Let your legacy be that you have not only helped protect
22 the health of children, but also enhanced the quality of
23 their life. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Senator.

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1 (Applause). Before I call on the next speaker, I just
2 want to remind any public officials who wish to speak,
3 need to sign up on the list in the back. Next is State
4 Representative Al Adinolfi.

5 REPRESENTATIVE AL ADINOLFI: Thank you,
6 Madam Chairman.

7 Good evening. For the record, my name is
8 Al Adinolfi. That's A-d-i-n-o-l-f-i. And I am the State
9 Representative of the 103rd District, which includes parts
10 of Hamden, Cheshire, and Wallingford, three towns that
11 are heavily impacted by this application. I appear
12 before you in opposition to the proposal before you
13 tonight.

14 There are a number of compelling reasons
15 for the application as presented before the Siting
16 Council to be rejected. The primary reasons are the
17 concerns for the health of our children, which should
18 come above all others. The risks that electromagnetic
19 fields can pose to the health of the community have
20 already been enumerated before this body.

21 Also of concern will be the impact of the
22 clearing of the location for the construction.
23 Defoliation has a number of short-term and long-term
24 health risks with the sprays used to clear brush. Prior

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1 to the outlaw of the chemical 245-T was used as a
2 herbicide for stump removal, I inquired from the -- to
3 the utilities of what other chemicals were used, and I
4 did get a list. However, according to the Applicant,
5 they did not have records of what chemicals were used
6 prior to 1970. What other chemicals are in the ground
7 that will surface during construction.

8 Over this past weekend, I received dozens
9 of e-mails from area residents outlining their concerns
10 for health risks to our children. Many of these concerns
11 were echoed from professionals in the health field. That
12 really impressed me. I am sure that they will be
13 addressing you soon.

14 But if that is not enough a reason for the
15 Council to reject this proposal, there are other major
16 concerns. Installation of taller towers, widening of
17 right-of-ways, and an increase in the current of these
18 overhead power lines has a negative impact on property
19 values. One who lives in a community that has these
20 unsightly power lines and towers installed can expect to
21 see their property values plummet. It is unfair to
22 homeowners in the area impacted to expect them to absorb
23 this financial hardship for the benefit of others. The
24 end result will also lead to the reduction in the grand

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1 list and higher taxes for the people that live here. The
2 Applicants claim that they will add to the grand list by
3 putting up these beautiful new towers -- (laughter) --
4 but they do not tell you that the assessed value of the
5 lines depreciates in time. In contrast, the loss in
6 residential value increases with time.

7 Another important concern is that the
8 installation of these lines are inherently unfair as the
9 benefit for increased power service will mostly be
10 realized in the Fairfield County region while the people
11 in this region are asked to accept the health risks,
12 deterioration of the quality of life -- (applause) -- and
13 property value erosion. Why can't Fairfield County
14 sustain a new power station? (Applause). I'm almost
15 done.

16 One can also not help but recognize that
17 when these structures are added, the aesthetics of the
18 community as well as any local charm a region might have
19 or might have had is immediately destroyed. This is not
20 a light concern. The people that live in the impacted
21 areas purchased their homes and moved into these
22 communities with certain expectations about the nature
23 and the character of their neighborhood. It is
24 fundamentally unfair for homeowners to be expected to

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1 welcome this invasion into their neighborhoods and to
2 stand by and see one of the chief reasons they moved to
3 where they are eliminated.

4 After reading volumes of questions and
5 answers and report after report as an intervenor, I am
6 disappointed that all I have read is why not and not much
7 of what it would take to go underground. I would like to
8 know what it would require in costs to implement the East
9 Shore approach not in place of what it is replacing, but
10 how much it would cost in comparison to the whole line.
11 I don't think that's too much.

12 In closing, Mr. Applicants, bury those
13 lines. (Applause).

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: The next speaker is Leslie
15 Martini, Chairman of the Woodbridge Board of Education.

16 MS. LESLIE MARTINO: Good evening. My
17 name is Leslie Martino, L-e-s-l-i-e, M-a-r-t-i-n-o. I am
18 the Chairperson of the Woodbridge Board of Education.

19 I'd like to start off by thanking you for
20 the opportunity to address you this evening.

21 I represent 155 district employees and 905
22 elementary school children attending Beecher Road School
23 located at 40 Beecher Road, Woodbridge. Beecher, the
24 single elementary school in town, serves the public

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1 education needs of all Woodbridge families.

2 A school district's first priority is to
3 provide a safe and healthy environment where children
4 spend a minimum of eight hours a day. Parents expect
5 that their children are safe in their learning
6 environment. While the Town of Woodbridge is concerned
7 with a multitude of effects of the proposed plan,
8 environmental, economic, health, and a host of others,
9 we, the Woodbridge Board of Education, are concerned with
10 any health impact that may result from the increased
11 electromagnetic fields of the proposed 345-kV line along
12 the current route through Woodbridge.

13 As noted in the response to State Attorney
14 General Richard Blumenthal's interrogatory, Beecher Road
15 School as well as Ezra Academy, the JCC, and Trinity
16 Preschool has been designated as falling within twelve
17 hundred feet of the proposed route. Beecher Road
18 School's campus is 440 feet and our building is 910 feet
19 from the route. Why is the Attorney General concerned
20 about increased electromagnetic fields for schools within
21 twelve hundred feet of the route? Why are local
22 legislators from Derby, Woodbridge, Wallingford, Cheshire
23 and North Haven working to safeguard our neighborhoods?
24 Why have Senator Joe Crisco and Representative Themis

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1 Klarides recently entered as legislation to restrict the
2 routing of these lines near schools, day care centers,
3 playgrounds, and religious institutions? With any
4 potential health impact of increased electromagnetic
5 fields, shouldn't children's health and safety be first
6 on everyone's agenda. Thank you. (Applause).

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. Next is State
8 Representative Brendan Sharkey.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BRENDAN SHARKEY: Good
10 evening, Chairperson Katz and members of the Siting
11 Council, it's good to see you again.

12 The name is Brendan Sharkey, S-h-a-r-k-e-
13 y. I'm the State Representative for the 88th District in
14 Hamden.

15 As you may remember, it's kind of good to
16 see you all because prior to my election to the General
17 Assembly, I was a regular practitioner before the Siting
18 Council on behalf of the telecommunications industry.
19 And I come to you tonight with some of that experience as
20 an applicant -- a former applicant before you.

21 Knowing what I do about how applicants
22 typically do come before you with issues of this
23 magnitude, one of your most difficult tasks I think is
24 determining when an applicant is making a presentation to

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1 you, whether you have in fact all the facts and whether
2 there is additional information that you need from the
3 applicant to make a thorough determination as to whether
4 or not this is the best and most feasible alternative
5 that's available to you. And in that context as I've
6 watched the Phase 1 and Phase 2 proceedings be undertaken
7 by the Siting Council, I've been somewhat concerned
8 frankly about the utilities -- of what I perceived to be
9 the utilities' tendency to view this as somewhat of an
10 adversarial application in that there are -- as though
11 the applicant in this case needs to come up with the most
12 inexpensive, the least intrusive for their own bottom
13 line, but not necessarily the best application that could
14 be presented to you on behalf of the public. It --
15 (applause) -- and as a former -- having represented
16 applicants before that's perfectly understandable. On
17 behalf of your applicant, you want to come up with what
18 is typically the easiest and best for your client that
19 costs the least, and that's -- that's a common and
20 understandable approach.

21 But this, I think -- this application is
22 more than just a typical application that you usually
23 see. This is an application that has wide ranging impacts
24 on communities throughout the State of Connecticut not

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1 only in terms of power reliability, but also obviously on
2 the impact of this proposal on the quality of life of the
3 communities that it touches. And in that context, it
4 seems to me that we have not an adversarial scenario
5 between utility companies and the communities, but
6 actually an opportunity, an opportunity to reflect the
7 fact that in this day and age Connecticut residents
8 throughout the State are recognizing that open space,
9 that preservation of the quality of the visual impacts on
10 our community are most important for our communities.
11 We're in a state right now where our public lands and
12 open space is being taken away in record proportions due
13 to the growth of our communities. And here we have an
14 opportunity to look at a replacement and an upgrade to
15 utility lines, an event which happens once every 50 or 60
16 years, and we are not approaching it, it seems to me,
17 with a sensitivity and an awareness of the fact that this
18 is something that's going to affect the next 60 years.
19 We have the technology right now and the ability to come
20 up with something other than wiping out swaths of open
21 land for that blight of the landscape in an effort to
22 bring utilities and utility transmission lines from one
23 end of the State to the other. We have the technology,
24 we have the ability. It may cost a little bit more and

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1 there may be other alternatives available to us, but for
2 God sake, this is the time to do it. If we don't do it
3 now, we won't have the opportunity again.

4 So, I urge you to look forward to those
5 proposals -- (applause) -- and I look forward -- and I
6 thank you for your efforts and the time that you spent
7 looking at all of these. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. Next is the
9 Mayor of Hamden, Carl Amento. Mr. Mayor.

10 MAYOR CARL AMENTO: Thank you and good
11 evening, Chairman Katz, Executive Director Phelps, and
12 members of the Siting Council.

13 My name is Carl Amento. That's Carl with
14 a C. And Amento is A-m-e-n-t-o. And I'm the Mayor of
15 the Town of Hamden.

16 I want to thank you, the Siting Council,
17 for hosting these public hearings and having such an open
18 process so that all of us can be heard. And I think
19 you'll hear unanimity among all of the public officials
20 and the residents as you listen to what's going to occur
21 this evening. This issue is important to all of us, to
22 Hamden residents, and to our children.

23 The north part of our town where the
24 proposed line would go through contains residential

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1 neighborhoods and also sensitive wetlands and woodlands
2 that are habitats for wildlife. The town in fact is so
3 interested in this habitat area and this wetland and
4 woodland area to be protected, that we just are about to
5 buy it. We've just had that approved by the legislative
6 council, buying 183 acres that would be under these power
7 lines. There are trails for hikers. This is a great
8 recreation area. We don't want it to be spoiled any
9 further.

10 The Town of Hamden fully supports the
11 Hamden underground group HUG. This is terrific
12 organization of people who have been dedicated to working
13 on this issue and I want to tip a hat to them.
14 (Applause).

15 The Town's position and that of our
16 residents is quite simply that you should approve a
17 location for an underground route that's acceptable to
18 the townspeople of the entire region. We encourage the
19 utilization of the alternative route along a major
20 highway or along rail right-of-ways, especially we know
21 that you are giving consideration, and we think it should
22 be seriously considered, the East Shore route, as such an
23 important and such an attractive alternative route since
24 it already has a 345 line and the route has the least

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1 impact upon residents and children.

2 Hamden has been working closely with the
3 other 23 affected communities in attempting to find a
4 viable alternative, preferably underground, route
5 acceptable to all the towns involved and having the least
6 impact on our citizens and on our children. The
7 overriding consideration should be minimizing impact to
8 our residents, to our children, to our neighborhood
9 institutions, and to our quality of life.

10 We're concerned about health and safety
11 impacts. We know that the adverse effects of
12 electromagnetic fields may take many decades to reveal
13 themselves. This has occurred before with lung gestation
14 periods for cancers. The jury is still out and we think
15 that you should error on the side of caution on this
16 instead of risking especially -- (applause) -- children's
17 young immune systems and bodies that are particularly
18 vulnerable.

19 We're very concerned about the use of
20 herbicides and pesticides that have been used
21 historically and that would, as other speakers have
22 pointed out, be stirred up by the erecting of new poles
23 in these areas for the transmission lines.

24 We're very concerned about the danger to

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1 the habitats, sensitive wetlands and woodlands that would
2 occur again from the proposed construction of
3 transmission poles.

4 We're concerned about reduction in
5 property values and the quality of life of our residents.

6 We applaud the legislative initiative
7 that's been put forward by Representative Klarides and
8 Senator Crisco. We think that that's a great idea --
9 (applause) -- to legislatively protect our children.

10 We understand the importance of minimizing
11 costs. We know that that is a factor, but we think that
12 factor should pale in comparison to the issues of
13 protecting the safety and health of our children, to
14 protecting property values, to protecting the quality of
15 life of our neighborhoods. And we think that these
16 impacts can be minimized by using the alternative route
17 that has been discussed. And we hope that the
18 consideration and further investigation will be done. We
19 know that there are technological solutions that will
20 make this work and make it have the minimum impact on the
21 citizens of the entire region. I think you'll find that
22 there is unanimity among the officials in the area. We
23 are not looking to cast it on another community and away
24 from our community. We are trying to find the best route

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1 for the region, as you are, and we believe that that can
2 be found. And the best thing to do is to error on the
3 side of safety and health in protecting our residents.
4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.
6 (Applause).

7 MR. PHELPS: Madam Chairman, if I may,
8 we're advised by the Woodbridge Police that there are two
9 vehicles that need to be moved or they will be towed, one
10 is a Toyota, Marker 414KUC, the other is a Subaru, Marker
11 187MKM, they're over by Tall Hall.

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next to speak is Leslie
13 Creane, Acting Town Planner, the Town of Hamden.

14 MS. LESLIE CREANE: Thank you. I'll be
15 very brief. My name is Leslie Creane, C-r-e-a-n-e. I'm
16 the Acting Town Planner in the Town of Hamden.

17 I'd just like to read to you a motion that
18 was made and passed by the Natural Resources and Open
19 Space Commission in our town.

20 The Natural Resources and Open Space
21 Commission takes the position that our preference is for
22 underground lines, but for aboveground poles because we
23 value scenic vistas as a natural resource to be
24 protected, we would object to the installation of any new

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1 poles taller than the existing 115-kV poles. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

3 The final public official who has signed up to speak is
4 Ken Martin, I believe, Chairman of the Bethany
5 Conservation Commission.

6 MR. KEN MARTIN: I'm tall. My name is Ken
7 Martin. I'm Chairman of the Conservation Commission of
8 the Town of Bethany. The last name is spelled M-a-r-t-i-
9 n.

10 My comments will primarily augment those
11 already made by our First Selectperson Derry Gorski. I
12 do have some maps as part of my presentation, so I think
13 it would be helpful if I gave the Council three copies
14 now, so I'll scoot around --

15 CHAIRMAN KATZ: If you want to put them in
16 that bin there, they'll be -- below the podium -- oh,
17 okay, you can do either. Thank you.

18 MR. MARTIN: As previously mentioned, the
19 entire right-of-way in Bethany and in the Northeast
20 corner of Woodbridge is in the watershed of the Regional
21 Water Authority's West River public water supply system.

22 And moreover, not is it only on the watershed, but it's
23 very -- in very close proximity to the reservoirs and
24 streams. I do have three maps to help you visual that.

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1 I'll just go over them very quickly. Map Exhibit 1-A
2 shows the five reservoirs that are part of the West River
3 system. All of the area to the left of the dotted blue
4 line, which is the ridge, is the watershed area.

5 Exhibit 1-B shows in greater depth the --
6 where the power lines goes in the Town of Bethany. As
7 you can see, it's very close to Lake Bethany, and crosses
8 over the West River, which connects Lake Bethany with
9 Lake Watrous.

10 Exhibit 1-C shows the power line going
11 through the Town of Woodbridge just in the northeast
12 corner, again on water company land, drainage in the West
13 River system.

14 As was said, the greatest possible impact
15 will be on the danger to the environment that would occur
16 during the construction project. There will be --
17 siltation and pollutants from the construction process
18 could cause material impairment of the West River system.
19 The existence of steep rocky slopes will necessitate
20 blasting to construct the footings of the towers and the
21 road system required by the construction equipment.
22 Construction will harm a large natural area in the only
23 rural town in New Haven County.

24 And lastly, construction and blasting may

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1 harm the wells of existing homes in close proximity to
2 the right-of-way. Bethany does not have any public water
3 or sewers, so all of our residents have wells and septic
4 systems. As you can see by the map, the right-of-way in
5 some instances passes very close to these homes. The
6 blasting that will occur during the construction could
7 fracture the bedrock and significantly impact the quality
8 and the volume of water.

9 I did review specific portions of Volume 1
10 of the municipal consultation for more information on
11 what the construction process would be like. I went to
12 the website to download Volume 1 from the portion for the
13 Siting Council. It was seven and a half megs. And when
14 my browser said it was going to take two and a half
15 hours, I decided to pass. But I did look at the
16 supplemental filing and I could see no evidence that it
17 had -- that had addressed the impact on the public water
18 system. But just to bring these to your attention, on
19 page 25 of the municipal consultation, the roadway that
20 will be -- that will have to be constructed to get the
21 equipment in will be 12 to 15 feet in width, have a
22 maximum grade of 10 percent, and have the capacity for
23 oversized tractor-trailers, flatbed trailers, and
24 concrete trucks. Since much of the area in Bethany has

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1 slopes well in excess of 10 percent, this will require
2 blasting of the bedrock in order to put these roads in.
3 On page 27 of that filing, it mentions that the
4 construction will require the use of mechanical
5 excavators, pneumatic hammers, drilling and blasting.

6 Exhibit 2 shows six areas of very specific
7 concerns in the Town of Bethany, and I'll just go over
8 them very quickly. The first area, Item No. 1, is at the
9 intersection of Downs and Hoadley Roads up at the ridge,
10 they're very steep rocky slopes, there's a large amount
11 of Mountain Laurel there. And Exhibit 3 has a photograph
12 of that area. It contains the Quinnipiac Trail, which a
13 component of the Connecticut Forests & Parks Association
14 Blue Blaze Trail System, and there are numerous residents
15 close by.

16 No. 2 is Raccino Drive, again potential
17 impact on residential wells.

18 Item 3 is the Lake Bethany Dam. That is
19 anchored in bedrock. Any blasting that would occur could
20 possibly damage the foundation of that dam, which is over
21 a hundred years old and is being -- going through a rehab
22 process now.

23 Area 4 is the West River gorge, a little
24 bit south of the dam, very steep slopes, only one mile up

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1 stream from Lake Watrous. Any siltation and construction
2 debris that would go down those steep slopes would
3 probably wind up in the public water supply.

4 Item 5, Mountain View Road, again close
5 homes -- oops --

6 CHAIRMAN KATZ: To conclude --

7 MR. MARTIN: To conclude, I have two
8 recommendations. First, move the proposed route so that
9 it does not include the watershed of the Regional Water
10 Authority West River System, the major supply of drinking
11 water for South Central Connecticut. And if the route is
12 not changed, determine the anticipated and worse case
13 scenarios of the impact of construction on the West River
14 system, create a contingency plan and calculate the costs
15 if the West River drinking water system had to be
16 temporarily removed from service.

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you --

18 MR. MARTIN: Thank you. (Applause).

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: At this time, I'll call on
20 members of the public. You have three minutes. I've
21 been informed that we have a number of people next door
22 in the senior's center who would like to come over and
23 sit, so I'm going to ask you would you please consider
24 after you have spoken, to please give up your seat and

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1 allow someone else to enter the room.

2 And when you come up, please give your
3 name, give your address, and spell your name for the
4 court reporter. The first on the list is Allan Deyoung.

5 MR. ALLAN DEYOUNG: Good evening. My name
6 is Allan Deyoung, A-l-l-a-n. Deyoung, D-e-y-o-u-n-g. 10
7 Stonewall Lane, Woodbridge.

8 I'm a father of three children who attend
9 schools in Woodbridge and the first of many of alarmed
10 parents here tonight who have formed the Concerned
11 Parents Against the Power Line Upgrade Plan. We are a
12 grassroots group. We are doctors, professionals, we are
13 professors, we are statisticians, we are clergy, and we
14 are all concerned parents.

15 The people who are here tonight represent
16 only a small fraction of the parents who have raised
17 their hand and signed our petition against the proposed
18 plan. In fact, over twelve hundred have signed in just
19 10 days and we expect more to come. I will submit this
20 to you in just a moment.

21 We are for the upgrade, but we are against
22 the proposed location of the power lines. Why? We are
23 here tonight because of our children. Are children
24 cannot become the unwitting victims of an experiment.

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1 Woodbridge is unique because there are 3,000 children
2 within a critical distance, some within 30 feet, some
3 within twelve hundred feet from the proposed line. All
4 are unacceptable.

5 We have had scientists and doctors review
6 the documents made available by the power companies.
7 There are many aspects of the application that concern
8 us. For example, there are flaws in the scientific
9 analysis, there are critical omissions of environmental
10 effects, and there is non-compliance with the Siting
11 Council's best management practice. Moreover, there is a
12 withholding of safer, better alternatives that have been
13 promised to Fairfield and Stamford counties. We don't
14 understand, we don't understand why the power companies
15 have admitted to submitting two alternative routes which
16 were the same as the proposed routes, hmm, after saying
17 there can't be alternatives. Only after input from the
18 public, did you, the Siting Council, request real
19 alternatives. And low and behold they generated 18 more.

20 We applaud you for challenging them and
21 coming up with mutually agreeable solutions. And we
22 applaud you for hiring an underground expert moving
23 forward. We applaud you for now exploring the East Shore
24 alternative. Yet there are still implications for

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1 Woodbridge. There will be an increased load on our
2 existing power lines generating higher milligauss levels,
3 which lead to greater risks. There are many unanswered
4 questions. Wouldn't you rather challenge the power
5 companies again today versus challenging doctors to treat
6 the looming side effects in our children. Tell them to
7 sharpen their pencils. In fact, my kids have donated a
8 starter kit of 12, which I'm happy to submit as well.
9 (Applause).

10 We look forward to this Council --
11 (applause) -- we look to this Council as our children's
12 protector. We are putting our trust in you. Take
13 precaution. You cannot afford not to. We are relying on
14 you to safeguard our children. You have their fate in
15 your hands. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
17 Next is Dr. Jeffrey Humphrey. Dr. Humphrey.

18 DR. JEFF HUMPHREY: My name is Jeff
19 Humphrey, J-e-f-f, H-u-m-p-h-r-e-y. I reside at 50 Penny
20 Lane in Woodbridge, Connecticut.

21 Madam Chairwoman, I am a physician, a
22 cancer doctor and a medical researcher. I develop
23 experimental cancer drugs for Pfizer. I have
24 professional expertise in cancer biology, the conduct of

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1 medical research, as well as experimental treatments for
2 cancer, and I am routinely and frequently asked by
3 friends, families, and acquaintances to help their loved
4 ones with incurable cancers. This includes children with
5 leukemia, a cancer of the blood.

6 As a physician and a scientist, I am very
7 concerned that exposure of children to high voltage power
8 lines may cause leukemia.

9 I have reviewed the literature data. In
10 studies children exposed to high level EMF were twice as
11 likely to have developed leukemia. Children who were
12 exposed to high levels of EMF were twice as likely to
13 have developed leukemia. EMF may cause the cell
14 mutations that cause leukemia. Children are at greater
15 risk because their cells are rapidly dividing and growing
16 and very few cell mutations are required to cause
17 leukemia.

18 These power lines may double the risk of
19 leukemia in children. As such, children who would
20 otherwise grow uneventfully into adulthood may suffer and
21 possibly die from leukemia. Causing even one child to
22 suffer from leukemia is unacceptable. (Applause).

23 Madam Chairwoman and members of the
24 Council, finally as a father of two children who play at

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1 Ezra and JCC playgrounds next to the site of these
2 proposed power lines, I am very concerned. Please
3 reroute or bury these power lines. You can make a
4 difference. The children of Woodbridge demand safer,
5 better alternatives. Thank you. (Applause).

6 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Dr. Henry Cabin. On deck,
7 Dr. Peter Rabinowitz. Would the on deck people please
8 move down toward the front.

9 MS. LAURA CABIN: Good evening. Dr. Henry
10 Cabin couldn't be here tonight, he's ill. So, I am Laura
11 Cabin at 154 Peck Hill Road in Woodbridge. I'm here on
12 behalf of Dr. Carl Baum, who resides at 156 Peck Hill
13 Road in Woodbridge. He is the leading expert on
14 pediatric environmental toxicology in Southern
15 Connecticut. Unfortunately, Dr. Baum could not be here
16 because he had a death in the family. He asked me if I
17 would read this letter to the Siting Councilor and the
18 town.

19 "Dear members of the Siting Council, my
20 name is Carl Baum, I am a resident of Woodbridge and have
21 two small children who attend schools in the vicinity of
22 the power lines in question. As a pediatrician and a
23 medical toxicologist, I have a professional interest in
24 the interaction between children and any potential hazard

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1 in their environment from biological agents, to chemical,
2 to radiation. The risk of a particular hazard may vary
3 according to multiple factors and risk assessment must
4 take into account critical differences between children
5 and adults. For example, children have rapidly dividing
6 cells and are therefore usually sensitive to certain
7 hazards. The typical child has many more years of life
8 ahead than the average adult, a fact that is important in
9 cases of hazards that occur over long periods of time.

10 In my role as the Director of the Center
11 for Children's Environmental Toxicology at Yale New Haven
12 Children's Hospital, I provide information regarding
13 environmental hazards to children. It is my duty to
14 provide information that is evidence-based. In other
15 words, I review the available medical literature on a
16 subject in order to provide a balanced opinion and to
17 allow health care professionals, public officials, and
18 parents an opportunity to make appropriate risk benefit
19 decisions for the children in their care.

20 I have reviewed the medical literature on
21 the subject of power lines and the electromagnetic fields
22 they generate. I believe the following are true. The
23 medical literature does support an association between
24 electromagnetic fields and childhood leukemia that is

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1 unlikely due to chance. The actual cause and effect
2 relation ship between the two however has yet to be
3 determined. Furthermore, the National Institutes of
4 Health have concluded that exposure of children to a
5 electromagnetic fields cannot be considered safe.

6 I believe the Siting Council has the
7 responsibility to consider all scientific evidence on the
8 effects of electromagnetic fields. In the face of
9 uncertainty about health hazards to children, it seems
10 prudent to choose alternative routes for power lines in
11 order to mitigate the intensity of electromagnetic fields
12 in areas where children spend significant time. The
13 children of Woodbridge demand better, safer options."

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you --

15 MS. LAURA CABIN: Thank you for your
16 attention.

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Before you leave the
18 microphone -- (applause) -- before you leave the
19 microphone, can you spell your name for the court
20 reporter.

21 MS. LAURA CABIN: Laura, L-a-u-r-a.
22 Cabin, C-a-b-i-n.

23 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

24 MS. LAURA CABIN: Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: The next speaker is Dr.
2 Peter Rabinowitz. On deck is Dr. Lennie Bell.

3 DR. PETER RABINOWITZ: Hi. Members of the
4 Siting Council, my name is Peter Rabinowitz. That's
5 spelled R-a-b-i-n-o-w-i-t-z. I live at 15 Sherwood Farms
6 Lane in Westport. My child goes to school in Woodbridge.

7 I'm an Assistant Professor of Medicine at
8 the Yale University School of Medicine and I'm Director
9 of Clinical Services at the Yale Occupational and
10 Environmental Medicine Program.

11 As a Board certified specialist in
12 occupational and environmental medicine, I'm concerned
13 for the children of Woodbridge because what the power
14 companies have proposed goes against the recommendations
15 of top scientific authorities, including the National
16 Institutes of Health and the World Health Organization.
17 The World Health Organization's international agency for
18 research in cancer has labeled EMF as possibly
19 carcinogenic. The NIH's National Institute for
20 Environmental Health Sciences recently concluded that
21 because of a possible link with childhood leukemia, ELF -
22 - EMF exposure cannot be recognized as entirely safe.
23 That's a quote, ELF -- "EMF exposure cannot be recognized
24 as entirely safe". The NIH's report called for, quote,

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1 "continued emphasis on educating both the public and the
2 regulated community on means aimed at reducing
3 exposures".

4 So what does reducing exposures mean?
5 Background EMF exposures for the general population have
6 been estimated in the range of less than one milligauss
7 averaged over a 24-hour period. And as you've heard
8 several times tonight, in studies of children, EMF daily
9 exposures of 3 to 4 milligauss have been associated with
10 the doubling of leukemia risk. But according to the
11 plans proposed by the power companies, EMF exposures at
12 the Ezra Academy School in Woodbridge will increase
13 substantially, well in excess of the 4 milligauss level
14 that has been associated with an elevated cancer risk.
15 And you've heard estimates that have come from the power
16 companies of up to 25 or 96 milligauss depending on the
17 load on the line. Children at the school could spend
18 hours and hours being exposed at these levels.

19 And it's important for you to know that
20 scientific studies of children going to school near power
21 lines have found that school EMF exposures contribute
22 significantly to a child's daily exposure to EMF.
23 Therefore, this increase in children's EMF exposure that
24 the power companies are proposing goes against all these

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1 recommendations of our top scientific and public health
2 authorities. And it's unclear to me why this is planned
3 to go ahead.

4 So, I urge the Siting Council to do the
5 right thing, protect the children of the State by not
6 allowing the power companies to increase EMF exposures
7 near schools and playgrounds. The children of Woodbridge
8 deserve better and safer alternatives. Thank you.

9 (Applause).

10 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is Dr. Lennie Bell
11 and then we're going to have a five-minute recess. Dr.
12 Bell.

13 DR. LEONARD BELL: Yes, thank you. It's
14 B-e-l-l, and I live in Woodbridge.

15 My name is Leonard Bell. I am a
16 physician, a researcher, and a CEO of a publicly traded
17 biotech company. Like others here, I have substantial
18 expertise in interpretation of large sets of clinical
19 data with thousands and thousands of patients and also a
20 clear understanding of the federal regulatory criteria
21 required for proof of safety.

22 There have been over a dozen clinical
23 studies of EMF and children, many different health
24 effects have been measured. In these individual clinical

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1 studies the one health problem that consistently has been
2 found to be associated with EMF exposure is acute
3 childhood leukemia. As Dr. Humphrey said, it's a rare
4 and potentially fatal disease. When clinical scientists
5 are trying to study rare or infrequent clinical events,
6 these scientists must often use an approved scientific
7 technique called a MEDA (phonetic) analysis, where they
8 combine the subjects from many individual trials together
9 into one large group. With this approach, clinical
10 scientists can then measure in a single large group
11 whether there's an increase or a decrease in the
12 likelihood of very infrequent events such as childhood
13 leukemia.

14 At least three major scientific MEDA
15 analyses have been performed examining whether EMF is
16 associated with childhood leukemia. Each of these
17 published studies has shown similar results. Exposure
18 levels of 3 to 4 milligauss and above, the risk of
19 childhood leukemia doubles. As you've heard, these
20 findings have been described as unlikely to be due to
21 chance. It's important to quantify that. In fact in one
22 study with over 13,000 subjects, it concluded that the
23 likelihood that EMF is associated with childhood leukemia
24 is 99.8 percent, 99.8 percent. As regards to this

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1 particular siting application under consideration here
2 tonight, levels currently projected to be present
3 adjacent to the schools in our community are 800 percent
4 to 3,200 greater than the level associated with the
5 doubling of the risk of childhood leukemia.

6 Further, Presidential Executive Order No.
7 13045, enacted in the United States in April 1997,
8 explicitly requires that each agency, quote, "shall
9 ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and
10 standards address the disproportionate risks to children
11 that result from environmental health risks or safety
12 risks", end quote. Given this regulatory mandate that
13 you have to protect children together with the 1999
14 National Institutes of Health's conclusion that EMF
15 cannot be considered to be safe for humans, how can
16 policy bodies allow power companies to continually expose
17 children to high levels of EMF. The answer is they
18 shouldn't.

19 The power companies have the burden, they
20 have the burden to first prove beyond any reasonable
21 doubt that EMF is safe -- (applause) -- to the
22 satisfaction of not just to one scientist but the panel
23 of independent experts and also the government before,
24 before they expose children to continuous high levels of

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1 EMF.

2 I urge you to focus now, as is your duty,
3 on protecting the health of all of the children in the
4 State of Connecticut. Thank you. (Applause).

5 CHAIRMAN KATZ: After the five-minute
6 recess, the next two speakers will be Louise DiCocco and
7 Professor Alan Gerber. We're in recess for five minutes.

8 (Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

9 MR. PHELPS: Ladies and gentlemen, please
10 take your seats so we can begin again. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: The next speaker -- and I
12 ask that you extend this person every courtesy -- the
13 next speaker is Louise DiCocco. On deck is Professor
14 Alan Gerber.

15 MS. LOUISE DiCOCCO-BEAUTON: Good evening,
16 Chairman Katz and members of the Siting Council. My name
17 is Louise DiCocco-Beauton and I am the Director of
18 Governmental Affairs for the Greater New Haven Chamber of
19 Commerce. I have submitted written testimony, so I will
20 keep my comments brief.

21 I am here today on behalf of the Chamber
22 and its members to support the Middletown/Norwalk
23 proposal upgrading our electric transmission system.
24 Member businesses consistently rank energy as their top

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1 concern in the Chamber's annual survey because
2 Connecticut's power needs are outpaced by its ability to
3 deliver it. The Chamber supports an energy policy that
4 balances environmental concerns with our need for an
5 affordable and reliable energy supply. This proposal
6 achieves both objectives.

7 The Chamber respectfully urges community
8 support for this plan to extend the existing 345-kilovolt
9 transmission system. I thank you for your time and
10 consideration.

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you --

12 MR. PHELPS: Spell -- (boos) -- spell your
13 name.

14 MS. DiCOCCO: The last name is DiCocco, D-
15 i-C-o-c-c-o, Beauton, B-e-a-u-t-o-n.

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is Professor Alan
17 Gerber, on deck is Dr. Eric Grubman. And again I'd like
18 to remind speakers to please give your name and address
19 and spell your name for the court reporter. Thank you.

20 MR. ALAN GERBER: Sure. Alan Gerber, G-e-
21 r-b-e-r. My address is 132 Northrop Road, Woodbridge,
22 Connecticut.

23 My name is Alan Gerber. I am a Woodbridge
24 resident and my three young children attend Ezra Academy.

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1 When I first heard about the utility companies' plans, I
2 vaguely remembered reading that the claims of adverse
3 health effects had been discredited. I have a Ph.D. in
4 economics from MIT. I am currently a professor of
5 Political Science at Yale and I teach statistics to the
6 graduate students. My research involves quantitative
7 analysis and I regularly evaluate technical material. I
8 decided to take a look for myself at what the statistical
9 studies show. What I found shocked me. Study after
10 study associates childhood leukemia with exposure to
11 elevated EMF levels.

12 In a New Haven Register article a utility
13 company spokesman called a parent's statement that
14 sustained exposure to elevated EMF levels is associated
15 with higher rates of children leukemia untrue and
16 unfounded. In fact, I quickly learned that the
17 spokesman's view was, to put it polite, mistaken.

18 I've examined several recent MEDA
19 analyses, studies that combine the results of many
20 previous studies, in order to draw more precise
21 conclusions. These studies all demonstrate a strong
22 association of 3 to 4 milligauss EMF exposure in
23 childhood leukemia. There's also some evidence that
24 lower levels of EMF exposure are harmful to children.

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1 One recent MEDA analysis reported in the
2 British Journal of Cancer, based on the data collected in
3 nine previous studies, found that exposures in the range
4 of 4 milligauss and over are associated with a
5 statistically significant doubling of the risk of
6 childhood leukemia.

7 Another recent MEDA analysis appearing in
8 the Journal of Epidemiology examined the results of 12
9 previous studies. Eleven of the studies showed increased
10 risk of leukemia at the 3 milligauss or greater exposure
11 level. A positive association this strong is produced by
12 chance only one time in 300. Yet another recent analysis
13 appearing in Bio-Electric Magnetism reviewed 19 previous
14 studies. The results also support the link between
15 leukemia and EMF's and suggest that exposure levels even
16 lower than 3 milligauss are suspect.

17 A panel of three scientists from the
18 California Department of Health Services conducted a very
19 careful review of the evidence linking health effects to
20 EMF's. Their June of 2002 report states the conclusions
21 after reviewing all the evidence to one degree or
22 another, all three of the DHS scientists are inclined to
23 believe that EMF's can cause some degree of increased
24 risk of childhood leukemia, adult brain cancer, Lou

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1 Gehrig Disease, and miscarriage.

2 To summarize, the epidemiological evidence
3 shows a very clear association between elevated EMF
4 exposure and childhood leukemia. Based on the utility
5 companies' own filings, during a typical day it is easy
6 to predict that many children will receive average EMF
7 exposure levels at levels associated with the elevated
8 risks.

9 Given the potential danger, going ahead
10 with a plan which will increase the EMF exposure of
11 children is extremely irresponsible and fails to show
12 proper regard for our children's health and safety.
13 (Applause).

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. Next is Dr.
15 Eric Grubman, on deck is Rabbi Richard Eisenberg.

16 DR. ERIC GRUBMAN: My name is Eric
17 Grubman, G-r-u-b-m-a-n. I live on Fox Den Way in
18 Woodbridge. I'm a cardiac electro-physiologist, which is
19 a physician that specializes in heart rhythm
20 disturbances, and I work in the New Haven area.

21 I'm not actually here to defend the
22 children of the area, I'm here to defend my patients.
23 Many of these patients are at risk for fatal heart rhythm
24 disturbances. To prevent their death, they have

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1 undergone the implantation of implantable defibrillators,
2 known as ICD's. The Vice President as an ICD. The
3 device when working properly can deliver a lifesaving
4 shock in the event that the heart stops beating
5 correctly. Approximately, 100,000 defibrillators are
6 implanted in the U.S. every year.

7 Large electric fields will produce
8 radiated electrical fields which can be detected by
9 defibrillators as the device is attempting to monitor the
10 patient's normal hearty rhythm. Developers of ICD's have
11 long recognized this potential problems and the devices
12 have filters installed in them in an attempt to filter
13 out this sort of electrical energy. However, high enough
14 levels of electrical interference can exceed the
15 capability of even the best filter. This will -- can
16 cause the ICD to erroneous interpret the heart's
17 activity. And if this happens, the device will respond
18 by delivering a painful electric shock to the patient.
19 In addition to the pain that the shock will cause, it may
20 cause the device to deliver further shocks in an attempt
21 to correct the heart rhythm at that point.

22 These high voltage power lines which are
23 proposed will produce radiated electrical fields which
24 may be detected by ICD's. Field intensities greater than

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1 1,000 volts per meter are in the range that can cause
2 inappropriate ICD shocks. The table in Chapter 6 of the
3 utilities' application reports the calculated value for
4 the electrical field produced by the proposed lines to be
5 2,720 volts per meters -- per meter, sorry. That's
6 roughly three times the intensity that could cause an
7 inappropriate ICD shock. A number of my patients are
8 members of the synagogue in Woodbridge, others exercise
9 regularly at the JCC. They will all be at risk of
10 receiving painful unnecessary ICD shocks from parking
11 under the lines, being on the property, or taking a walk
12 directly under the lines. This is a very serious risk.

13 The proposed plan is a serious concern for
14 patients with ICD's and I would ask you to consider these
15 serious ramifications when you evaluate the utilities'
16 proposal.

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
18 Next is Rabbi Richard Eisenberg, on deck is Father Gene
19 Gianelli.

20 RABBI RICHARD EISENBERG: I'm Rabbi
21 Richard Eisenberg, spiritual leader of Congregation B'Nai
22 Jacob in Woodbridge. My name is spelled E-i-s-e-n-b-e-r-
23 g. And I thank the Siting Council for allowing us to
24 make our voices heard this evening.

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1 Our Congregation B'Nai Jacob was founded
2 in 1881 and we have occupied our current home on Rimmon
3 Road since 1961. B'Nai Jacob's membership consists of
4 over 700 family units. Over the years we have grown into
5 a vibrant educational center. Within our walls you will
6 find Gan Hayered, a daily preschool program for children
7 ages 2 through 5, Ezra Academy, the Jewish day school,
8 enrolls well over 200 children from grades K through 8.
9 Approximately, 200 children attend our religious school
10 on Sunday mornings and two afternoons per week. On
11 Wednesday evenings over 300 students from throughout New
12 Haven County gather here for Maqom, our community's
13 Jewish high school program. In addition, many of our
14 adult members frequent our premises regularly for prayer,
15 study, and synagogue activities. B'Nai Jacob is a place
16 brimming with life and energy.

17 The proposed power line is within 30 to 50
18 feet from our classrooms and directly above the nursery
19 school playground and basketball court. The actual and
20 perceived health risks posed by these power lines are of
21 grave concern to our congregation. Our Judeo Christian
22 tradition places the highest value on human life,
23 physical well being, and especially the health and well
24 being of our precious children. The current proposal

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1 runs counter to these values. It challenges our sense of
2 safety and comfort in our current spiritual home.
3 Moreover, if implemented, it would severely threaten the
4 viability of our institution as parents would likely
5 hesitate sending their children to our educational
6 programs. Vital and active churches and synagogues
7 greatly enhance communities. If these power lines are
8 installed next to our campus, the adverse effect on our
9 synagogue would in turn have a negative effect on the
10 community of Woodbridge as a whole.

11 We at B'Nai Jacob hope that you will hear
12 the voices of over 700 children asking for protection
13 from the proposed power lines. The children of B'Nai
14 Jacob demand better and safer options. Thank you.
15 (Applause).

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is Father Gene
17 Gianelli, on deck is Pastor Miles Ahrens. I think I'm
18 seeing a trend here. (Laughter).

19 FATHER GENE GIANELLI: We're ganging up on
20 you. I'm Gene, G-e-n-e, Gianelli, G-i-a-n-e-l-l-i, of 81
21 Center Road, Woodbridge, the pastor of Our Lady of the
22 Assumption Church, which is comprised of 1,481 families,
23 5,643 individuals with the Town of Woodbridge, Bethany,
24 and with a smaller number coming from Hamden, Orange,

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1 Ansonia and Derby.

2 I humbly submit that the present proposal
3 to install the 345-kV line above ground is ill-conceived
4 as it was in the past to install the 115 line above
5 ground. The faith community of Our Lady of the
6 Assumption is in solidarity with our sisters and brothers
7 who will be directly affected by the proposed plan. I am
8 aware of the debates as to the effect this may have upon
9 young people, but the present plan would affect directly
10 the Jewish Community Center, Congregation B'Nai Jacob,
11 Ezra Academy, Trinity Church, Beecher School, and the
12 quality of our town's life.

13 I am here for really one purpose --
14 (applause) -- we have heard from many experts in the
15 medical profession, but I am here solely as a priest. I
16 believe that the creator has entrusted to us to nurture
17 and to sustain the gifts he has given us, to protect the
18 wetlands, the forests, open spaces. These are all our
19 charge. But more importantly, he has given us the
20 responsibility to protect the most precious gift, the
21 procreation, the gift that he gives us so that we might
22 sustain and nurture our children and love and in good
23 health.

24 I join my Jewish friends, my friends and

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1 other ecclesial communities in thanking you for being
2 with us tonight to give consideration to our proposals.

3 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

4 Next is Pastor Miles Ahrens, on deck is Lynn Cermola.

5 PASTOR MILES AHRENS: Good evening. My
6 names is Miles Ahrens --

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

8 PASTOR AHRENS: -- spelled M-i-l-e-s, A-h-
9 r-e-n-s. I am the senior pastor at Trinity Evangelical
10 Free Church located at 33 Center Road in Woodbridge. Our
11 church attendance has grown 45 percent in the last three
12 years. Much of this growth is from families with young
13 children who are looking for a safe place where their
14 children can grow and learn about God. The proximity of
15 the proposed power lines threatens that growth. We have
16 over a hundred children in Sunday school classes and
17 nursery every week, as well as 60 children in our
18 Wednesday night club's program. Every summer we hold a
19 vacation bible school for 80 to 90 children. Also, we
20 are the site for Trinity Community Preschool. Currently,
21 we have 46 children aged 2 through 5, who play outside
22 every day on our property. Many parents of the children
23 at our school have asked me to express their concern over
24 the proposed power lines.

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1 As you have heard tonight, the proposal to
2 increase the high voltage to three-fold to what it is
3 currently may pose health risks to our children in our
4 community by increasing the level of EMF's. Although the
5 power lines do not cross our property directly, we are
6 within the twelve hundred foot zone of concern suggested
7 by the Attorney General. We stand in support of our
8 friends and neighbors who are at even greater risk than
9 we are.

10 I realize that there may be questions
11 about the scientific evidence on the risk factors of
12 exposure to various levels of EMF, but why take the risk
13 if it is unnecessary. You need to ask yourselves the
14 question if you could choose between living under a power
15 line or not, what would you choose. Are you convinced --
16 (applause) -- are you convinced it really would be
17 harmless to your children. Thank you for your time and
18 your concern for our community.

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
20 Next is Lynn Cermola, on deck is Betsy Hoos.

21 MS. LYNN CERMOLA: Good evening. My name
22 is Lynn Cermola --

23 CHAIRMAN KATZ: You can turn that down a
24 little bit -- yeah.

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1 MS. CERMOLA: Thanks. C-e-r-m-o-l-a. I
2 live at 253 Peck Hill Road in Woodbridge. I want to
3 thank Chairman Katz and members of the Connecticut Siting
4 Council for holding this hearing in Woodbridge and for
5 listening to our questions and our concerns.

6 I have come before the Council as
7 representative of the Beecher Road School PTO, I'm
8 currently co-president, and I request that the power
9 lines be buried for the following reasons.

10 Beecher Road School is the only public
11 elementary school in the Town of Woodbridge. As stated
12 before, we have 905 students attending school in the
13 Beecher campus, grades pre-K through 6. Our children
14 also extend -- attend the recreation department
15 activities and summer camp. The extended day program and
16 the summer enrichment program are all located on the
17 Beecher campus, all with a lot of outside activities.
18 Many of our children also attend activities, religious
19 programs, and camps at the Jewish Community Center,
20 Congregation B'Nai Jacob, and the Trinity Evangelical
21 Church. The lines cut right across areas where our
22 children go to school and play.

23 Attorney General Blumenthal has requested
24 information from the Applicants regarding all school

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1 campuses, playing fields, and similar property located
2 within twelve hundred feet of the right-of-way for the
3 proposed 345-kV transmission line. The Beecher Road
4 School campus is 440 feet from the right-of-way of the
5 proposed line. At its closest, the school building is
6 approximately 910 feet from the right-of-way of the
7 proposed 345-kV line. Our cafeteria, our library, and
8 many of our primary grade classrooms sit at the closest
9 point to the right-of-way.

10 We care about all of the children in our
11 community along the proposed aboveground route. The
12 proposed 345-kV transmission line raises serious concerns
13 about potential adverse health effects on our children
14 learning and playing near the line. We ask that you
15 employ the precautionary principle and require the
16 Applicants to bury the proposed transmission line. The
17 risk of having one additional case of childhood leukemia
18 due to increased voltage in aboveground power lines is an
19 unacceptable risk to take. (Applause).

20 The utilities propose to bury the new
21 transmission lines in Fairfield County. Please, please
22 require them to bury the new line in New Haven County
23 too. The children -- (applause) -- the children in our
24 community deserve better and safer options. Thank you

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1 for listening. (Applause).

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: The next speaker is Betsy
3 -- and you're going to correct me I'm sure -- Betsy Hoos.
4 And on deck is Jonathan Perkins.

5 MS. BETSY HOOS: That's just fine --

6 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Oh.

7 MS. HOOS: Betsy Hoos, H-o-o-s.

8 CHAIRMAN KATZ: I'm doing pretty good
9 tonight.

10 MS. HOOS: Thank you so much for this
11 opportunity. I am here tonight in my capacity as
12 Chairwoman of the Board of the Jewish Federation of
13 Greater New Haven. Our offices are located at 360 Amity
14 Road, Woodbridge in the Jewish Community Center. We
15 provide funding for agencies in our community that
16 provide programs and services for our residents.

17 Tonight I am here to speak on behalf of
18 the hundreds of children who we help to nurture and
19 educate on a daily basis. Our Jewish Community Center,
20 one of our constituent agencies, houses a day care center
21 for 99 children from six weeks to four years, 46 of whom
22 are under the age of two. These children arrive early in
23 the morning and are often there until early in the
24 evening. They are entrusted to us so that their parents

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1 can go to work with peace of mind knowing that they are
2 safe and secure. Part of the day, weather permitting,
3 includes outdoor play and outdoor walks.

4 In addition to our day care program, each
5 afternoon buses arrive bringing 119 children from area
6 schools who participate in our afterschool program.
7 There are 706 additional children throughout the week
8 participating in classes of all kinds. Outdoor play and
9 recreation is an essential part of our children's
10 programming. The proposed high voltage power lines are
11 in very close proximity to our toddler playground and
12 travel directly over our outdoor recreation areas.

13 During the summer, our JCC host a premiere
14 day camp for 365 youngsters staffed by 74 teens and young
15 adults where the majority of the activities are held
16 outdoors. The proposed high voltage power lines are
17 directly over our campsite. This too is meant to be a
18 safe and healthy place for children to enjoy the
19 outdoors.

20 Ezra Academy, also a constituent agency of
21 the federation, is on the B'Nai Jacob campus on Rimmon
22 Road. Two hundred students from kindergarten through
23 grade 8 attend school five days a week. The proposed
24 high voltage lines travel very close to Ezra's

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1 playground. B'Nai Jacob offers religious school to 200
2 kids on two afternoons and Sunday mornings. Our B'Nai
3 Jacob nursery school provides preschool education two,
4 three, and four-year-old children. Three playground
5 areas on the B'Nai Jacob property are within a short
6 distance of the proposed high voltage lines. B'Nai Jacob
7 also hosts our Hebrew High School Maqom where 150 young
8 people gather each week to learn and socialize.

9 I also speak as the mother of three
10 daughters. We moved to Woodbridge so that our children
11 could go to a great public school. It's saddens me that
12 now Beecher Road School, a short distance from the
13 proposed high voltage lines, will no longer be the
14 attractive option for young families looking to settle in
15 a town with a great school. The children of Woodbridge
16 deserve better, safer options. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
18 Next up is Jonathan Perkins, on deck is Kiki Kennedy.

19 MR. JONATHAN PERKINS: Good evening. My
20 name is Jonathan Perkins, P-e-r-k-i-n-s.

21 My family and I reside at 19 October Hill
22 Road in Woodbridge. I practice law with the firm of
23 Perkins & Associates, a principle Connecticut location of
24 which is at 1 Bradley Road in Woodbridge. I'm speaking

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1 tonight as a resident of Woodbridge and on behalf of the
2 Jewish Community Center.

3 The JCC is a major cultural, recreational
4 and social gathering institution in Woodbridge. It
5 offers members of the community who come from all over
6 the Greater New Haven area a wide variety of cultural,
7 enrichment, recreational, fitness, and social programs.
8 It also offers activities for every age from infancy
9 through the elderly, including toddlers, children, teens,
10 adults, and seniors. There are approximately 5,500
11 members of the JCC, including members of many different
12 faiths. Over 1,000 people visit the JCC every day.

13 The services offered include a day care
14 center with 99 children attending, an afterschool program
15 with 119 children enrolled, a summer camp catering to 365
16 children with an additional 75 teenagers and young adults
17 and staff, as well as a school vacation camp and snow day
18 camp that accommodates 80 children. The JCC also runs
19 additional classes providing services to over 700
20 children. The JCC leases space to a number of other
21 community based organizations, including the Greater New
22 Haven Jewish Federation, a youth organization known as
23 B'Nai B'rith, and the Offices of Camp Laurel Wood. It
24 also houses a rehabilitation center affiliated with

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1 Gaylord Hospital.

2 Tonight there will three other members --
3 JCC members speaking to you after I have concluded, Tom
4 Handler and Emily Resnik-Conn, both parents of children
5 who will be impacted by the installation of 345-kV power
6 lines along the proposed route which runs through the
7 campus of the JCC as you've heard. They are
8 representative of the many families that will be
9 impacted. The proposed power lines will run through the
10 right-of-way, the edge of which is almost literally
11 within spitting distance of classrooms where many young
12 children spend upwards of 10 hours per day, and also run
13 directly over the playing areas of the summer camp.

14 The third JCC speaker following me will be
15 John Lichtman, President of the Jewish Community Center,
16 who will address the almost inevitable deleterious effect
17 which the installation of these lines as proposed will
18 have on the future financial viability of the JCC, a non-
19 profit institution, which has such a substantial impact
20 on the lives of many of the members of this community.

21 We ask that you do all within your power
22 as Council members to ensure that the power lines at
23 issue are either rerouted to avoid the Town of Woodbridge
24 where it would impact so many children or else bury it

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1 underground. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

3 Next is Kiki Kennedy. On deck is Tom Handler.

4 MS. KIKI KENNEDY: Hi. My name is Kiki
5 Kennedy, K-i-k-i. Kennedy, K-e-n-n-e-d-y. Post Office
6 Box 578, Branford, Connecticut.

7 I represent a grassroots environmental
8 organization called Connecticut Stop the Pipeline, which
9 is located in Branford, Connecticut. These 345-kV lines
10 will not directly impact Branford's environment or
11 Branford's children, but that doesn't mean that we feel
12 these lines won't impact our lives because we're
13 concerned about all of the children of Connecticut and
14 not just our own -- (applause) -- and we care about all
15 of our State's environment and not just the shoreline.
16 We care about the preservation of all of our State's open
17 space and all of our fragile watershed areas. We
18 wholeheartedly endorse the efforts of the Woodlands
19 Coalition and keep our children safe.

20 As you are aware in the spring of 2002,
21 Governor Rowland and the Connecticut General Assembly
22 asked for a six-month moratorium on transmission lines so
23 that a specially selected task force could more
24 thoroughly assess the environmental impacts. Their

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1 January 2003 final report called for all transmission
2 lines to be placed under existing roadways whenever the
3 result would have less environmentally harmful impacts.
4 As you know, this has been termed under-streeting. This
5 proposal before you fails to meet the working groups two
6 primary routing criteria. (1) It does not follow
7 existing roadways, and (2) from Middletown to Milford, it
8 is not underground. (Applause). We echo many people in
9 this room tonight when we urge you to evaluate this
10 proposal in light of the working group's January 2003
11 recommendations, reroute these transmission lines along
12 existing road or railways, and we encourage you
13 specifically to keep these lines outside of the South
14 Central Regional Watershed -- watershed area -- watershed
15 areas. And whenever environmentally possible, please
16 place these lines underground.

17 We know that -- (applause) -- we know that
18 under-streeting may cost the Applicants, United
19 Illuminating and CL&P more money, but cost-effectiveness
20 should not come at the expense of Connecticut's
21 environment or our children's health. (Applause).

22 We hope that you under the capable and
23 long awaited leadership of Pamela Katz will do the right
24 thing and under-street these lines. Thank you very much

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1 for the opportunity tonight. (Applause).

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: We have just concluded
3 page 1 and we have four more pages. What I am going to
4 do is ask you people if you've prepared remarks, get out
5 your pencils right now and self-edit, and see if we can
6 get as many people as possible. If someone has already
7 made your point, feel free to edit that out and make a
8 new point and that way we can get as many people as
9 possible to the microphone.

10 If you do not get a chance to speak
11 tonight, you may speak at Orange, and that date will be
12 on our website. And you also may submit written
13 statements to the Council within 30 days after our last
14 hearing.

15 A VOICE: (Indiscernible) --

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: And we also have -- out in
17 the lobby we have a transcriptionist. We would be glad
18 to have you dictate your statement to that person with no
19 time limit and then those written statements will be made
20 available to the Council members.

21 So please let's -- let's see if we can
22 avoid some repetition and get as many people as possible
23 to speak tonight, and we'd appreciate that. And next on
24 the list is Tom Handler and on deck is Emily Resnik-Conn.

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1 DR. TOM HANDLER: Thank you. My name is
2 Tom Handler. I reside at 14 Old Quarry Road in
3 Woodbridge, Connecticut. And I will try and edit some of
4 my responses.

5 Madam Chairman and members of the Siting
6 Council, thank you for coming to Woodbridge and for
7 allowing me the opportunity to speak before you. I'm
8 here tonight, as many others are, because I'm a physician
9 and I'm the father of two young girls. I am deeply
10 concerned about the proposal to place the 345-kilovolt
11 transmission lines through our community in very close
12 proximity to facilities where numerous children are
13 present.

14 My oldest daughter is a second-grader at
15 Beecher Road School and attends the JCC afterschool
16 program and the religious school at B'Nai Jacob. She
17 takes classes at the JCC and goes to vacation and summer
18 camp there as well. My youngest daughter is in the full
19 day care program at the JCC. Clearly my family and as
20 you've heard many others will be impacted by the proposal
21 before you.

22 I'm going to focus on the Hayered, the day
23 care center, at the JCC. You've heard that there are 99
24 children there, 46 of them are under the age of 2, and

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1 that they're there for most of the day, over nine to ten
2 hours. What I want you to understand is that while there
3 area a number of day care centers in this area, few, if
4 any, can match the JCC's program in terms of the
5 excellent standard of care delivered, the features of the
6 enrichment programs and the physical layout. (Applause).

7 As -- as you can see, the playgrounds and classrooms are
8 within less than 50 feet of the power lines, so the EMF
9 exposures are very much of a concern. I won't go into
10 the evidence of what you've heard on leukemias.

11 Understand that these kids are very close to these lines
12 and the likelihood of the new power lines if they go
13 through as proposed, will be a significant increase in
14 the EMF exposure to those children.

15 Based on my reading of the scientific
16 literature, the power -- if the power companies are
17 allowed to place the new 345-kiovolt lines along the
18 existing right-of-way near the JCC, B'Nai Jacob and
19 Beecher Road School, the EMF levels will be so high that
20 my wife and I will be forced to carefully reexamine our
21 use of these facilities.

22 I will conclude by saying that we should
23 not be gambling with our children's health. The prudent
24 course of action, and as a parent I would respectfully

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1 say the only course of action is to place the new 345-
2 kilovolt transmission lines in such a place or manner as
3 to minimize the exposure to the susceptible populations.

4 I respectfully request and urge you to
5 choose one of the options that do not involve placing the
6 lines near the Trinity Church, the Jewish Community
7 Center of Greater New Haven, B'Nai Jacob Synagogue, Ezra
8 Academy, or Beecher Road School. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
10 Emily Resnik-Conn, on deck John Lichtman.

11 MS. EMILY RESNIK-CONN: Good evening. My
12 name is Emily Resnik-Conn, E-m-i-l-y, R-e-s-n-i-k, a new
13 word C-o-n-n. I reside at 14 Castaway Road, Woodbridge
14 with my husband and two young sons. I am also an
15 attorney with my practice based in Woodbridge at 270
16 Amity Road, but it is in my capacity as a mother that I
17 am here to speak with you tonight and to urge you to use
18 the alternatives to the present plan for the new high
19 voltage power lines through Woodbridge. My family spends
20 the greater part of its lives engrossed in the activities
21 offered by the facilities that are so close to the
22 proposed route of lines.

23 My son Jordan is three and a half years
24 old. He attends the Hayered Child Care Center at the

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1 Jewish Community Center. He has been attending day care
2 there since he was three months old and it is his home
3 away from home. He is there nine hours a day, four days
4 a week. His classroom this year looks out over the power
5 lines which are to be affected. The playground on which
6 he plays brings them even closer to the lines, and they
7 often go for nature walks along the grounds of the JCC.

8 My son Jeremy is six years old, he is in
9 first grade at Beecher Road School. Three to four days a
10 week he attends the afterschool program at the JCC. We
11 selected this program because he had attended Hayered for
12 four and a half years since he was three months old and
13 he was extremely comfortable and at home in that
14 facility. He attends vacation camp days and snow days at
15 the JCC. He also attends religious school at
16 Congregation B'Nai Jacob, which is also on the route of
17 the proposed power lines. Last summer he attended the
18 summer camp at the JCC. The power lines run right over
19 the campgrounds. As of right now I expect to be sending
20 him to the camp again this summer. In addition, my
21 children spend many more hours of their time
22 participating in the many enrichment, recreational,
23 social, and cultural programs that the JCC offers.

24 I am not a doctor. I am not a scientist.

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1 I cannot visualize what an additional 345-kV means and
2 of what electromagnetic radiation consists, but I have
3 learned that there is reason to be concerned that the
4 health effects of high voltage lines especially on young
5 children should be of concern. That is all I need to
6 hear to know that I do not want my children to be used as
7 the guinea pigs. Right now we are being told that the
8 studies are inconclusive. For me, as a mother, that is
9 as much of a red flag as I need. I do not want to be the
10 one 20 years from now who finds my child dangerously ill
11 and it is then connected to his exposure to the power
12 lines.

13 I need quality day care and afterschool
14 programs and I need a good summer camp not only for
15 enrichment purposes but for summer child care. I
16 selected the JCC because it provided all of that and we
17 have been very happy with it. That being said, I know
18 that if the high voltage power lines were installed, I
19 would have to reconsider sending my children to the JCC.

20 Will my children get sick, I don't know, but I don't
21 want them to be the guinea pigs for future studies of the
22 effects of high voltage lines. Would you want your
23 children to be? I, therefore, urge you to make use of
24 your alternatives, bury the lines or reroute the lines,

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1 but please don't place them above the heads of my sons at
2 their homes away from home. Thank you. (Applause).

3 MR. JOHN LICHTMAN: Good evening. My name
4 is John Lichtman. That's L-i-c-h-t-m-a-n. And I might
5 say, Madam Chairman, you're batting a thousand on
6 pronunciation.

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Well before you start, can
8 I announce that Dr. Suzanne Hecht is on deck. Go ahead.

9 MR. LICHTMAN: Good evening. My name is
10 John Lichtman. I reside in the Town of Woodbridge and I
11 am the President of the Jewish Community Center of
12 Greater New Haven.

13 The JCC has served the role as a primary
14 community resource for more than 90 years and we are
15 proud of the programs and services that we provide to the
16 entire community. Our membership is comprised of more
17 than fifty-five hundred community individuals who
18 frequent the center regularly. The JCC has a unique
19 mission to provide quality services and act as a cultural
20 hallmark for the community. Services and programs such
21 as senior adult nutrition, Soviet immigrant resettlement,
22 our day care, our afterschool programs, our camps and our
23 scholarship and financial assistance programs fulfill a
24 communal need among our Jewish and non-Jewish families.

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1 These vulnerable populations rely on the JCC to be there
2 for them.

3 As a non-profit agency, the JCC relies on
4 program fees and membership dues to support the operation
5 of the agency. You have heard tonight from our members
6 about their concerns regarding their children if the high
7 voltage lines are installed through the JCC parking lot
8 and summer camp. They are only the tip of the iceberg.
9 The professional staff of the JCC has fielded hundreds of
10 telephone calls from concerned parents indicating they
11 would not keep their children in programs at the JCC if
12 the power line upgrade is permitted to occur.

13 I am not here to address the studies on
14 the effects of electromagnetic fields on the human body
15 and I cannot tell you whether these studies are
16 conclusive. What I am certain about is that our members
17 are demanding that we convey the message to the Siting
18 Council that they are unwilling to place their own health
19 and the health of their children at risk. (Applause).
20 The reality for the JCC is that these children leaving
21 our -- is that these children leaving our programs would
22 have a catastrophic effect on the stability and long-term
23 viability of our agency and our ability to deliver the
24 community services that we provide. There are more than

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1 thirteen hundred children who use our programs. These
2 programs generate more than 2.4 million dollars in
3 income, which represents 43 percent of our operating
4 revenue. If even a fraction of these children leave, the
5 Jewish Community Center's institutional survival could be
6 at stake.

7 I ask you tonight on behalf of more than
8 6,000 members, more than 300 employees and more than
9 thirteen hundred children and countless future
10 generations that you seriously consider rerouting and
11 burying the power lines. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
13 Next is Dr. Suzanne Hecht, on deck is Dr. -- Ravski? You
14 know who you are.

15 DR. SUZANNE HECHT: My name is Suzanne
16 Hecht and I reside at 11 Hunter's Ridge, Woodbridge,
17 Connecticut. Hecht is H-e-c-h-t.

18 My interests in this issue reflects the
19 fears and concerns of many community members. Two of my
20 three young children attend Beecher Road School and B'Nai
21 Jacob Religious School. I am on the Board of B'Nai Jacob
22 Synagogue and my children participate in many activities
23 at the JCC.

24 My primary reason for addressing you this

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1 evening is to represent Gan Hayered Nursery School as I
2 am a board member and the youngest of my three children
3 is a student there. The students of this school need me
4 to speak on their behalf because they are hopefully
5 already sleeping soundly now unaware of the potential
6 dangers that they may face if this proposed increase in
7 the power lines on their campus is not stopped. Our
8 nursery school is one of the few local schools that
9 offers programs for the young with children ranging in
10 age from two to five. Gan Hayered offers its students an
11 opportunity to learn in a secure loving and currently
12 safe environment. We have more than 70 children that
13 attend our school. The proposed power line would be
14 directly above our playroom -- playground where our
15 children play virtually every day. The line is also
16 within 30 feet of our classrooms. From B'Nai Jacob, our
17 students ages two to five ask that the additional power
18 lines so close to their school not be approved. I urge
19 you to consider our opposition.

20 I also believe that the burden of proof
21 should not fall on our concerned citizens to prove to you
22 that these lines are unsafe, but rather the power company
23 to prove to all of us that they are in fact safe to our
24 children. (Applause). They are proposing to increase

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1 the voltage on our campus to unprecedented levels. We
2 would not allow anyone to put poison in our drinking
3 water and hope that it is not a lethal level. We would
4 not -- given the current health data regarding EMF
5 effects on children, any increased EMF level near our
6 nursery school is clearly unacceptable.

7 The children of Gan Hayered Nursery School
8 deserve better, safer options. Thank you. (Applause).

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Dr. Ravski. On deck Dr.
10 Karl Watsky.

11 DR. NORMAN RAVSKI: My name is Norman
12 Ravski, R-a-v-s-k-i. I live at 28 Robin Road in
13 Woodbridge, Connecticut.

14 I come before you today with many hats. I
15 am a board member of the Department of Jewish Education
16 of the Federal of New Haven. I have been president of
17 Ezra Academy. I am a physician. I am a resident of
18 Woodbridge.

19 I'd like to tell you that Maqom is a
20 Jewish high school that rents space from Congregation
21 B'Nai Jacob. Maqom provides the only Jewish education --
22 a venue for Jewish education for children after
23 traditional Hebrew school ends at the age of 13. We have
24 more than 275 students from eighth grade to twelfth grade

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1 that attend our programs. The proposed lines will be
2 within 30 feet of our classrooms. Maqom is the only
3 afterschool Jewish program in a radius of 30 miles. We
4 are concerned that the additional power line will
5 negatively affect our current students and the potential
6 to drawn new students.

7 On a personal note, I am a physician, I am
8 an obstetrician/gynecologist. Many of the 3,000 children
9 that are possibly affected by the increase in power lines
10 and EMF are children that I have helped deliver. I have
11 spent countless nights with many of these families trying
12 to -- helping them deliver a child in a safe and
13 responsible way. When each of you goes to your
14 physician, you ask them to listen, you ask them to
15 analyze, and you ask them to recommend a treatment. And
16 the one standard that we are held to is the Hippocratic
17 oath. And the one thing in the Hippocratic oath that
18 stands out is above all do no harm. (Applause). I ask
19 you above all do no harm. (Applause). The children of
20 Woodbridge, the children of Connecticut deserve a better
21 and safer option. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
23 Dr. Karl Watsky and then following that Shelly Kreiger
24 and then we're going to take a two-minute stretch break.

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1 DR. KAL WATSKY: My name is Kal Watsky. I
2 live at 38 Richard Sweet Drive in Woodbridge.

3 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Spell it.

4 DR. WATSKY: W-a-t-s-k-y. The first name
5 K-a-l.

6 My name is Dr. Kal Watsky and I've lived
7 in Woodbridge since 1992. I have two children who have
8 attended Beecher Road School, the B'Nai Jacob School, and
9 programs at the JCC. I work in New Haven as a Board
10 certified dermatologist in private practice and as a
11 section chief of dermatology at the Hospital of St.
12 Raphael.

13 Tonight I am here to represent the
14 children of the B'Nai Jacob School as their chair of the
15 religious school committee. Our school, which has an
16 excellent reputation in the community, has nearly 200
17 children enrolled who spend from three to six hours per
18 week in the building. The proposed power line will be
19 located within, as you've heard, 30 feet of our
20 classrooms. From the information which I've been
21 provided, the proposed lines will emit a peak load of
22 96.5 milligauss at the B'Nai Jacob campus. The filing
23 also indicates that, as you've heard, the data result in
24 a statistical association with leukemia for exposures

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1 greater than 3 to 4 milligauss. I do not present myself
2 as an expert in the health effects of EMF, but I'm quite
3 certain that the potential risks that are posed by this
4 new line will be detrimental to our school and our
5 community.

6 I'm especially concerned about the
7 potential financial consequences to the school and the
8 synagogue in the event of decreased enrollment given
9 parents' understandable concerns about this proposal
10 before you. I beseech you to consider alternatives that
11 will not expose our children to such high levels of EMF.

12 The children of the B'Nai Jacob School demand a better,
13 safer option. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

15 MS. SHELLY G. KREIGER: Chairwoman Katz
16 and members of the Siting Council, my name is Shelly G.
17 Kreiger, K-r-e-i-g-e-r. I reside at 56 Vixen Road in
18 Trumbull, Connecticut. I serve as the head of school for
19 Ezra Academy on the B'Nai Jacob campus.

20 Ezra Academy is an independent day school
21 with accreditation from the Connecticut Association of
22 Independent Schools in the Solomon Schechter Day School
23 Association. For more than 30 years Ezra Academy has
24 been a special tenant at B'Nai Jacob. There is a unique

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1 family relationship between our two institutions. We
2 have approximately 213 students who are on our campus for
3 more than eight to ten hours daily. Our school begins at
4 8:00 and ends at 3:10, but like many schools we have a
5 breakfast club at 7:00 for early drop-off, as well as
6 afterschool clubs, activities, and an intra-scholastic
7 sports program.

8 The proposed line is within 30 to 50 feet
9 of our classrooms, above our outdoor basketball court and
10 soccer fields, and it is adjacent to our existing
11 playground. Many of our parents have expressed their
12 concern to me regarding the health and safety of their
13 children. I take their concerns seriously and I ask you
14 too as well. I know personally what it is like to have a
15 child who dies from cancer, one of my children was one of
16 the statistics that you heard the potential of tonight.
17 I don't wish that pain and suffering on another child or
18 another family.

19 In addition to echoing their concerns and
20 sharing those with you, I must also share the concern for
21 my staff and faculty and their well being, many of whom
22 are at school and work hard many hours, 12 to 14 hours
23 daily, giving of their time, energy, and commitment to
24 the children of this community. As the head of school, I

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1 must also share my concern for the health of our school.

2 We do not want any increased exposure either in the new
3 proposed line or in the existing lines.

4 I have the blessing of hearing the happy,
5 healthy voices of children every day. I hope you can
6 hear their voices tonight in going forward as you make
7 this decision. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
9 At this point, we will take a two-minute stretch break.
10 After the stretch break, I'm going to ask the following
11 people to cue at the mic, we are going to have Dr. Harry
12 Schwartz, followed by Jeanette Kuvin, Harry Reis, Rabbi
13 Brody. You're going to cue at the mic and make brief
14 remarks in that order after the break.

15 (Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Would you please either
17 take your seat or exit. Could we please have those four
18 people cue up and please give your name, spell your name
19 for the court reporter, and give your address. And
20 again, you do have the option of dictating your statement
21 directly to the court reporter who is stationed out in
22 the lobby. And you may also submit written remarks
23 directly to the Siting Council. So first Dr. Schwartz.

24 DR. HARRY SCHWARTZ: Thank you. My name

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1 is Dr. Harry Schwartz, S-c-h-w-a-r-t-z. I'm a resident
2 of Woodbridge and I'm also President of the board at Ezra
3 Academy and I speak on behalf of our students.

4 As you walk into and around our building,
5 it is virtually impossible to ignore the current power
6 line. The new line as proposed will be closer, larger,
7 and more powerful than the current structure. And as
8 pointed out by the previous speakers, the increased EMF
9 will have potentially adverse health effects on our
10 student population.

11 We have heard the unrest among our parent
12 body. They are worried about the putative health risks
13 associated with augmentation of the power lines. Our
14 parents are not prone to hysteria. As a whole, they are
15 a highly informed group. Among them are many
16 academicians, researchers, educators, physicians, and
17 other professionals. Many are community leaders. Many
18 have moved to our area, some from out of state in order
19 to enroll their children in our school. Our school
20 community has a significant impact on the larger
21 Woodbridge and New Haven area community. Our parents do
22 not generally react in a knee-jerk reaction. They
23 carefully study even the most controversial issues and
24 they interact with our administration and board in a

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1 wonderfully cooperative and positive manner. Their
2 depiction as misinformed folk by the power company
3 spokespeople is disingenuous. Our parents are
4 appropriately concerned about the potential upgrade of
5 the lines.

6 Over the years, in spite of our excellent
7 program, we have indeed lost potential students because
8 of the existence of the towers. Our school budget is
9 almost entirely tuition driven. A financial loss
10 incurred as a result of a decline in enrollment would
11 greatly imperil our existence. We anticipate that the
12 new line will further erode our recruitment efforts and
13 we fear that the new line with its imposing presence and
14 its high EMF will destroy our school.

15 Therefore, for both reasons of health and
16 economic viability, we ask the Siting Council to consider
17 alternatives to the routing of 345-kV lines on the very
18 edge of our campus. The children of Ezra Academy deserve
19 better, safer options. Thank you for your consideration.

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

21 Next.

22 MS. JEANETTE KUVIN-OREN: My name is
23 Jeanette Kuvin-Oren, J-e-a-n-e-t-t-e, K-u-v-i-n, O-r-e-n.
24 I live in Woodbridge and I'm a member of both the Ezra

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1 Academy Board and B'Nai Jacob Board.

2 I'd like to bring up a new issue which you
3 haven't heard tonight. I represent a parent of Ezra
4 named Darcy McGraw, who cannot be here tonight. Darcy's
5 daughter, Anna, is one of a small but significant
6 population at both Ezra and B'Nai Jacob, not to mention
7 all the other community schools and churches in our area,
8 who wear hearing aids.

9 The Federal Government has shown that
10 hearing aids are disrupted by EMF. And I would like to
11 ask the Siting Council would you like to be a student who
12 can't hear because the hearing aid is raised the decibel
13 level up to that of an airplane taking off? Would you
14 like to be an elderly person trying to pray at a
15 synagogue and you can't hear because the hearing aid has
16 interfered with the power lines outside? Those are -- is
17 a very significant population in our community. And on
18 their behalf, I ask you to reroute or bury the power
19 lines. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

21 MR. HARRY REIS: Hi. My name is Harry
22 Reis, H-a-r-r-y, R-e-i-s. I live at 4 Brook Road in
23 Woodbridge. As I said, my name is Harry Reis. I'd like
24 to thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

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1 As an Ezra Academy graduate and Maqom
2 student and JCC member, I'm concerned about the health
3 and safety of my fellow students. These new lines would
4 deliver a dose of electromagnetic radiation that would
5 pose a health risk to the children at Ezra, Maqom, B'Nai
6 Jacob, Gan Hayered Nursery School, Beecher Road School,
7 and the Trinity Church. The previously mentioned studies
8 that prove the link between electromagnetic radiation and
9 childhood leukemia point out the unethical nature of such
10 a move. Even a trace of a threat to the safety of these
11 children is reason enough to bend in this plan. For
12 concerning children's safety we must error on the side of
13 caution rather than pay high prices years later.

14 I see the need to replace these lines with
15 an opportunity. We have the chance to reroute these
16 lines or bury them to keep us safe from their harmful
17 effects. Children play every day under these potential
18 health risks. To increase the voltage of these lines
19 would be irresponsible and unethical. If the voltage
20 were increased, parents would be deterred from sending
21 their children to a school with such a risk. If these
22 institutions suffer, children will be denied the
23 educational experience that I have been privileged with.

24 It is a sad day when people dismiss the safety and

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1 education of children for the arbitrary placement of
2 wires.

3 On behalf of the students of Maqom,
4 graduates of Ezra Academy, and all the residents of this
5 town, I urge you to reject this proposal and demand
6 better and safer alternatives. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
8 Following the Rabbi, we will have Doug -- please cue
9 behind the mic -- Doug Skalka, Linda Spivack, Dr. Rachael
10 Humphrey and Jill -- Schalter? I don't -- go ahead.

11 RABBI AMANDA BRODY: Good evening,
12 Chairman Katz and the Siting Council. I'm Rabbi Amanda
13 Brody. I live in Trumbull, Connecticut.

14 I have children both at Ezra Academy and
15 Hayered at the JCC. In June, I went to a utility
16 presentation about the proposed line. I was never told
17 by the utilities that there is any evidence of an
18 association of childhood cancer and EMF exposure. I was
19 also never told that the NIH and World Health
20 Organization recommended reducing exposures to children.
21 I was never told, in spite of the Siting Council
22 direction, what the actual exposure fields were
23 contemplated and calculated by this new line. I was
24 shocked to learn that the actual proposed numbers ranging

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1 as high as 96 milligauss had been calculated and
2 disclosed in an obscured regulatory filing. I am outraged
3 that the utilities came to our community with an
4 intention to whitewash the degree of exposure. My
5 children play and learn at Ezra and Hayered and should
6 not be exposed to such high EMF levels as predicted by
7 the utility companies' own data. I am saddened by the
8 fact that they tried to pull the wool over my eyes.
9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

11 MR. DOUGLAS SKALKA: Good evening -- I
12 apologize -- there we go. My name is Douglas Skalka. I
13 reside at 67 Dogwood Circle here in Woodbridge.

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Spell it please.

15 MR. SKALKA: S-k-a-l-k-a. I am a
16 Woodbridge resident and the father of three young girls.
17 I have a slightly different perspective on the power
18 line proposal that you've heard from -- than you've heard
19 from other concerned parents this evening.

20 My family moved here to Woodbridge just
21 three years ago. We moved here largely because of
22 Woodbridge's well known outstanding educational and child
23 care institutions such as Ezra Academy, the JCC, the
24 Trinity Free Evangelical Church, Beecher Road School and

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1 B'Nai Jacob. We moved here from Westport. I understand
2 the need to improve power to lower Fairfield County
3 having lived there for 12 years. I do not understand the
4 need to put my new hometown, its institutions, and most
5 importantly its children at risk. Therefore, I'm here
6 tonight to ask you to deny that part of the application
7 that calls for a 460-kilovolt power line to run through
8 our schools, our camps, our day care centers, and our
9 nursery school facilities.

10 In my view, you're being asked to approve
11 a power line proposal that could put our children in
12 harm's way. The effects of EMF can and probably will be
13 debated by scientists far smarter than me for years to
14 come. No matter your viewpoint, I believe it's fair to
15 say that the debate continues, and there's not been any
16 conclusive evidence that EMF generated from the voltage
17 lines of the size proposed here, 460 kilovolts, is
18 perfectly safe for our children. And I believe that it's
19 fair to say that unless the public can be convinced that
20 it is perfectly safe for their children to be under or
21 near these high voltage power lines, then the
22 institutions that attracted me and my family to
23 Woodbridge will be decimated and the vibrant character of
24 this community will be destroyed. What I'm suggesting

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1 should be obvious. The perceived risk or the actual
2 risk, I don't believe it makes a difference, from these
3 power lines will force parents to make difficult
4 decisions. I believe Ezra Academy will be forced to move
5 or close when parents refuse to send their kids to play
6 under power lines.

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

8 MR. SKALKA: Thank you. (Applause).

9 MS. LINDA BERGER-SPIVACK: Good evening.

10 My name is Linda Berger-Spivack, B-e-r-g-e-r, S-p-i-v-a-
11 c-k. I reside at 100 Santa Fe Avenue in Hamden,
12 Connecticut.

13 Chairwoman Katz and members of the Siting
14 Council, I am the Vice President of Patient Care Services
15 at Mid State Medical Center in Meriden, Connecticut. I
16 am a registered nurse certified in oncology nursing and I
17 am the concerned mother of two children who attend
18 school, afterschool activities and summer camp here in
19 Woodbridge.

20 I want to offer a historical perspective
21 to the utilities' proposal. In the 2003 application
22 filed the utilities state, quote, "There results of
23 latest studies of childhood cancer do not provide
24 sufficient convincing evidence to support the hypothesis

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1 that exposure to electric or magnetic fields or power
2 lines near the home are a cause of leukemia". Now I ask
3 you to flashback to 1959 when the following statement was
4 made, and I quote, "My contention would be that one
5 should not feel under any compulsion to make a scientific
6 judgment if the evidence does not warrant it. A person
7 of true scientific discipline would never make a final
8 judgment one way or the other on the type of evidence
9 presented". This statement was made by Dr. Baum, a
10 scientist hired by tobacco companies disputing a
11 correlation between cancer and cigarettes. The
12 similarities between these two statements are convincing
13 and alarming. Back in 1959 who would have ever thought
14 that in the year 2004 smoking cigarettes in public places
15 would be illegal, that it is illegal to advertise
16 cigarettes on TV, and that Attorney Generals throughout
17 this country would be suing cigarette companies for
18 damages related to cancer.

19 I come to you tonight as a mother and a
20 nurse to ask you to look at the utilities' application in
21 light of the example set by cigarette companies 40 years
22 ago with financial greed of those companies overpowered
23 by any ethical stance that could have taken with respect
24 -- they could have taken with respect to health of their

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1 customers. The burden of proving the power lines are
2 safe to our children should rest on UI and CL&P. It is
3 clearly the less expensive alternative. It seems clear
4 to me that the utilities are more concerned about their
5 financial health than the adverse health effects that
6 these lines may have on our children. The burden should
7 be on them to prove that these are safe.

8 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

9 MS. BERGER-SPIVACK: Thank you.

10 (Applause).

11 DR. RACHAEL HUMPHREY: Good evening. My
12 name is Rachael Humphrey, H-u-m-p-h-r-e-y. I reside at
13 50 Penny Lane. I am probably the last of the 10
14 practicing physicians who will greet you tonight to at
15 least make the point that the medicine is compelling.

16 I -- I'm a practicing physician, a cancer
17 specialist. I trained at Harvard, Case Western Reserve,
18 John Hopkins Hospital and the National Cancer Institute.
19 I practice medicine once a week where I volunteer at the
20 St. Raphael's Hospital taking care of patients who don't
21 have insurance. The rest of the week I spend at Bristol-
22 Meyer's Squibb Pharmaceuticals where I dedicate my life
23 to design, run, and analyze international studies for the
24 -- of new and upcoming anti-cancer therapies.

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1 Specifically, most of my time is focused on determining
2 whether clinical data are true or not. I have three key
3 messages, I'm editing it down for time.

4 First, small negative studies can miss
5 important findings, but studies -- or reviews of groups
6 of studies, MEDA analyses that show statistically
7 significant results are less often wrong. If I had found
8 no positive studies in my review of the literature, I
9 would not be here tonight.

10 Two key messages. (1) There are enough
11 data to suggest an increased risk to my children, ages 13
12 and 10 to attend schools in Woodbridge, that I feel there
13 is no debate in my mind, the lines must be buried or
14 diverted. What was the utility company thinking when
15 they thought to put lines over schools. (Applause)

16 (2) -- and this is my final point -- in my
17 medical practice where I volunteer to take care of cancer
18 patients, my patients ask of me to put myself and my
19 family in their place. I do not ask patients to take
20 chemotherapy unless I'm willing to give it to myself or
21 my husband or my child in the same situation. I ask you
22 in this vein to treat my children as you would your own.

23 Given the alarm of 10 physicians, well trained
24 individuals who looked at these data critically and

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1 concluded there was an increased risk, I ask you would
2 you place your own child under the power lines, would you
3 experiment with your own child.

4 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
5 Following Jill Schaefer would the following people please
6 cue behind the mic, Ally Madlener, Dr. Heidi Gold-
7 Dworkin, Constance Ecklund, Lawrence S. Walters, Jr., and
8 Henry Miller.

9 MS. JILL SCHAEFER: Good evening. My name
10 is Jill Schaefer, S-c-h-a-e-f-e-r, and I live at 12 Twin
11 Brook Drive, Woodbridge, just north of the existing power
12 lines. Thank you for coming here to listen to our
13 community.

14 My children go to school at Ezra Academy
15 and we are members of the Jewish Community Center where
16 our family spends time six days a week. We are also
17 members of Congregation B'Nai Jacob where we attend
18 services.

19 The current power lines are 600 feet from
20 my children's bedrooms. I am concerned about the
21 increased electromagnetic field that will result from the
22 proposed new towers. Can anyone assure me that my
23 children will not be at risk when they spend seven hours
24 at school at Ezra, then go to the JCC for afterschool

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1 sports, and then home to do homework, play outside and
2 sleep, all while being exposed to a potential health
3 contaminate. We require our kids to wear seatbelts and
4 helmets, to eat well, exercise, and not to smoke to
5 promote good health. We don't know what is waiting out
6 there that may rob them of quality of life, but we do our
7 best to prevent things that we have some control over.
8 These aboveground power lines and the resulting concerns
9 are something that you can help us to avoid.

10 In May of 1973 we applied for approval to
11 develop what is now Twin Brook Drive. The subdivision
12 was planned to have 17 building lots. In December of
13 1973 the inland/wetlands agency of Woodbridge was created
14 with the purpose of preserving the wetlands by regulating
15 disturbances created by construction. There are very
16 specific guidelines as to activity and setback
17 requirements. Because of the great care that the
18 wetlands agency took with regard to approving building
19 lots and subdivisions, we finally received approval for
20 seven building lots in April of 1991, 18 years after
21 initial application, down from the 17 lots originally
22 applied for. Many of these lots contain substantial
23 wetlands areas, and as a result are as large as seven and
24 a half acres so as to have sufficient buildable area.

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1 The townspeople have been very committed
2 to preserving and maintaining wetlands. Because of their
3 diligence, Woodbridge remains characteristics of a --
4 characteristic of a rural New England town with the
5 wildlife and wooded areas that have been eliminated
6 throughout the commercial world. If these new towers are
7 constructed for the 345-kV power lines, there will be
8 substantial disruption of the wetland areas with heavy
9 equipment digging and most likely blasting. Having built
10 several homes in the immediate area, I know firsthand
11 that there is ledge throughout this land. I also know
12 that it is impossible to know where ledge will be found
13 until you begin to dig.

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. I'm going to
15 ask you to conclude there. Next. (Applause).

16 MS. LOUISA CUNNINGHAM: My name is Louisa
17 Cunningham. I'm a resident of Woodbridge, but I'm
18 reading for a woman who had to leave, Alejandra Madlener.
19 Her last name is spelled M-a-d-l-e-n-e-r. The first
20 name is A-l-e-j-a-n-d-r-a. She's a resident at 9 Twin
21 Brook Drive.

22 She asked me to read just a section of her
23 statement and she writes: I'm here -- or was here -- as
24 a licensed real estate appraiser. I work mainly in this

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1 area, Woodbridge, Orange, Bethany, Cheshire and Hamden.
2 All of these towns will be affected by the proposed power
3 lines. Based on my research in this matter and
4 consulting with senior appraisers and national studies,
5 real estate is adversely affected by power lines contrary
6 to what people think. When I do an appraisal on a house,
7 I'm looking for power lines, proximity to a waste plant,
8 an industrial site, a highway, or a busy road, or a
9 commercial area.

10 An appraisal is an opinion of value.
11 Therefore, when doing an appraisal, we look for
12 comparable sales with similar characteristics such as
13 size, age, location and view to arrive at an opinion
14 value. It is common in our profession to adjust
15 comparable properties that abut power lines or with close
16 views of power lines anywhere between 2.5 percent and as
17 much as 10 percent of the original sale price.

18 While some may not be concerned about the
19 property values of homes along the lines, we should be
20 concerned about the effect on the town economy. If these
21 power lines are built above ground, homeowners affected
22 by their proximity will surely be asking the town for
23 reduced taxes. This will result in a sizeable loss of
24 revenue for Woodbridge. Thank you very much.

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1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

2 COURT REPORTER: Ma'am, would you please
3 give us your name again and spell it.

4 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Louisa, L-o-u-i-s-a,
5 Cunningham, C-u-n-n-i-n-g-h-a-m, and I'm a resident of 89
6 Pease Road.

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

8 MS. CATHY SHUFRO: My name is Cathy
9 Shufro. I live at 9 Beecher Road, about a quarter mile
10 from Beecher Road School.

11 I'm here to tell you about my daughter
12 Sarah. When Sarah started kindergarten a few years ago
13 and began learning to read, she delighted in her new
14 skill. She wrote her first words and then her first
15 sentences. I scheduled my work at Yale so I could join
16 her for lunch at kindergarten and share her enjoyment at
17 being among her classmates, her fellow adventurers. In
18 the evenings she drew elaborate pictures in a big blank
19 book and asked me to write down what was happening in
20 each picture. Then as the days grew shorter, when I went
21 to pick her up, she'd be isolated from the other
22 children, curled in a big chair because her head hurt.

23 On February 23, 2000 a neurosurgeon told
24 me that Sarah had an inoperable brain tumor. The

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1 palliative radiation that began immediately made her
2 hands shake and soon she gave up trying to write. She
3 loss the use of her legs. Although being moved from her
4 bed to her wheelchair hurt her legs terribly, she asked
5 to go to school and see her friends a few times each
6 month. During her last days in May 2001, she was
7 bedridden, hooked to a morphine pump, she could only
8 communicate by blinking her eyes, she was six years old.

9 Now when I look at the power lines in my yard, I feel
10 sick. I wonder if the electromagnetic fields from those
11 lines contributed to the development of her cancer, and I
12 will never know.

13 I ask each of you who compose the Siting
14 Council for the good of the community and for your own
15 well being not to make a decision to build more lines
16 near people's homes and schools and places of worship. I
17 ask you not to make a decision that carries with it any
18 possibility that your actions might contribute to the
19 suffering of another child. Thank you.

20 COURT REPORTER: Could you --

21 MS. SHUFRO: I didn't spell my name.

22 Cathy with a C, S-h-u-f-r-o, 9 Beecher Road.

23 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

24 At this point, the cue should be Dr. Heidi Gold-Dworkin,

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1 Constance Ecklund, Lawrence S. Walters, Jr., Henry
2 Miller, Judy Cooper.

3 MS. CONSTANCE CRYER-ECKLUND: Constance
4 Cryer-Ecklund, C-o-n-s-t-a-n-c-e, C-r-y-e-r, E-c-k-l-u-n-
5 d, 27 Cedar Road.

6 Madam Chairwoman and members of the
7 commission, there are times in the life of a town when a
8 turning point is made visible, that time is now. We have
9 the opportunity to make to make Woodbridge better,
10 assessing a new and improved power grid, which we realize
11 is needed, yet doing so in a way that will make
12 aboveground power lines everywhere a thing of the past.
13 We realize that the proposed new lines would follow and
14 replace the old, putting monopole structures like
15 climbing Everest because it is there. However, if the
16 lines were buried, there would be safety for those who
17 live near the lines, the town greenscape would be
18 beautified, the wildlife would be more abundant, and when
19 one stood on West Rock and looked down, Woodbridge would
20 not be signaled by man's march of pylons but by gentle
21 lines in verger.

22 I live on Cedar Road. I've put, as all my
23 neighbors have, my whole heart and pocketbook into living
24 here. We love our town. We're thinking young children

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1 and their schools, but also at home, adults, wells,
2 wildlife, the quality of our country life, property
3 values, loss of revenue, and even the ease of a terrorist
4 siting down the massive new lines. And I know that this
5 is extraordinary, it comes in a year of the brave new
6 world of Dr. Strangelove, we don't want to get used to
7 loving the lines. Look at this meeting, it's filled with
8 people who love their town. Believe me, if Will
9 Shakespeare were standing here tonight, he'd rewrite it
10 once, his great dramatic lesson on government which does
11 not heed the people, and he would say friends,
12 countrymen, we come not to raise power, but to bury it.

13 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

14 MS. CRYER-ECKLUND: Thank you for your
15 attention. (Applause).

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Normally the Siting
17 Council adjourns at 10:00 p.m. We have members who
18 literally have a two-hour drive. But we've elected
19 tonight to say until 10:30, so we'd like to get as many
20 members of the public as we can between now and 10:30.
21 So again I'm going to ask you to edit your remarks so
22 that we can get as many people as possible.

23 MR. HENRY MILLER: My name is Henry
24 Miller, M-i-l-l-e-r. I live at 30 Derby Avenue, Orange,

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1 where the power line right-of-way crosses the eastside of
2 my house as it heads across Route 34 and pass the Malty
3 Lakes to the Woodbridge town line.

4 Concerned as I am about the proximity of
5 my house to the overhead transmission lines, my statement
6 is -- to the Siting Council focuses on a request that --
7 to ask the applicant electric companies to tell us in
8 Orange what the extra amount of expense would be to run
9 the lines underground in our town. And I made -- in the
10 absence of any published or otherwise available
11 information in this regard, I've undertaken to prepare
12 for myself some imagined and hypothetical cost guesses as
13 follows.

14 Cost estimate for overhead lines in Orange
15 as proposed: Pole line, 108 monopoles at \$11,000.00 each
16 installed, \$1,200,000.00. On an annual basis of a
17 protected life of 70 years, that would be an annual cost
18 of 17,000. Installed cost of 50 miles of transmission
19 cable at \$37,000.00 a mile, \$1,850.00 -- \$1,850,000.00,
20 annual cost 26,000, annual maintenance costs of \$100.00
21 per pole, \$11,000.00. Total for the overhead lines,
22 54,000.

23 The estimated cost to the underground
24 line, for that I've taken the cost of the pole line --

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1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Sir, will you please try
2 to conclude --

3 MR. MILLER: -- and multiplied it by four
4 -- well, anyway, I've come up with a difference per year
5 of \$44,000.00

6 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

7 MR. MILLER: I want to tell you what that
8 amounts to. As a way of getting a feel for the
9 affordability of running the lines underground in Orange,
10 I've calculated that the above estimated cost of
11 \$44,000.00 amounts to a trivial one percent of the total
12 monies paid annually by Orange residents for their
13 electricity.

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, sir.
15 (Applause). If this works out right, you're Judy Cooper?

16 MS. JUDY COOPER: Right.

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Okay. After Judy Cooper,
18 please have the following people cue, Maria Kayne,
19 Alexander Schaefer, Lois Goglia -- oh boy, you're going
20 to correct me on that one -- and Mark Edwards.

21 MS. COOPER: My name is Judy Cooper, C-o-
22 o-p-e-r. I'm a real estate agent who has lived and
23 worked in Woodbridge for 24 years. Prior to that, we
24 lived in Orange for 10 years and both of our properties

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1 are within close proximity of the right-of-way of the
2 power lines. Our son Jonathan died in April of 2001.

3 I am here today because I have never seen
4 the level of anxiety and concern in this town the way it
5 is now because of the what you are proposing. The
6 concern for our children and the lack of credible
7 information from the utilities company has unified this
8 community in opposition to the utility plan. First and
9 foremost must be the safety of all of our children. Do
10 not let them use this community and our children as your
11 experiment.

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

13 MS. MARIA KAYNE: Good evening. My name
14 is Maria Kayne --

15 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Lower it --

16 MS. KAYNE: -- K-a-y-n-e, and I live at
17 1891 Litchfield Turnpike in Woodbridge.

18 I'm here tonight speaking on behalf of the
19 Woodbridge Conservation Commission. The plan changes and
20 designs for the power lines directly impact town owned
21 and land trust properties, which are the scenic rural
22 parts of Woodbridge that we are trying to protect. The
23 Conservation Commission was established in 1963 to make
24 recommendations to the Board of Selectmen on matters that

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1 concern of preservation, development, and conservation of
2 natural resources, including water resources within the
3 town. It has been the focus of the commission to
4 preserve the rural character of our town and its small
5 town atmosphere. We plan for its physical landscape, the
6 protection of the water, wildlife, vegetation,
7 environment, and the quality of life of our citizens. We
8 must ensure for future generations the existence of
9 undeveloped spaces that will provide recreation and
10 leisure time activities.

11 For almost -- for 40 some years the
12 taxpayers of Woodbridge have generously voted funds for
13 the purchase of open space. We are proud of the amount
14 of open space, including scenic landmarks and historical
15 landmarks that we have been able to preserve. A recent
16 town-wide survey confirmed overwhelmingly that we
17 maintain the rural small town character of Woodbridge,
18 and a great majority of respondents favored open space.
19 This proposal and design of the new power lines will
20 destroy what the town has held for generations and will
21 undo our work and the strong desire of the Town of
22 Woodbridge to keep its small town atmosphere. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

24 MR. ALEXANDER SCHAEFER: My name is

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1 Alexander Schaefer, S-c-h-a-e-f-e-r, and I'm a senior at
2 Amity Regional High School. Thank you for this
3 opportunity to speak.

4 I live at 12 Twin Brook Drive in
5 Woodbridge, very close to the right-of-way containing the
6 current aboveground electrical power lines. I am here to
7 voice my concern regarding the proposed new and bigger
8 towers for the 345-kV power lines. I am a third-
9 generation Woodbridge resident and my family has a long
10 history here and hopes to continue the pleasure of living
11 here for a long time to come.

12 I'm currently taking Mr. Bouchard's AP
13 Environmental Science class at Amity High School. I took
14 this science class because I am interested in the
15 preservation and enhancement of the environment. In this
16 class we have undertaken extensive studies of our natural
17 surroundings and are learning what is detrimental and
18 what preserves our habitat. The proposed new towers will
19 not only be damaging to the environment, but will also
20 impair its aesthetic value. The new lines that will be
21 20 to 40 feet taller than the tree line will affect the
22 natural beauty of Woodbridge. Visually these lines will
23 be very unappealing, and this is not the image we want to
24 project of our town.

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1 The line's harm to the environment starts
2 with the desecration they cause to the wetlands during
3 the construction process. The preservation of wetlands
4 is necessary and healthy for our town. Wetlands are
5 helpful in reducing the risk of flooding by collecting
6 excess rainfall. They also help to improve our water
7 quality by removing nutrients, pesticides, and sediments
8 from surface water. Wetlands are also essential for
9 wildlife. They are a natural habitat for nesting,
10 breeding and feeding for birds, fish, plants and many
11 endangered mammals. There are many endangered species
12 that live right here in Woodbridge. Wetlands allow us
13 humans the spectacular opportunity to observe, study and
14 photograph the wonders of nature.

15 Progress and development in human life
16 must be particular sensitive to what type of natural
17 world we leave to our descendants. As a resident
18 environmental student, the EMF -- so the EMF that puts
19 the surrounding wildlife at danger scares me. I don't
20 want to see my local wildlife decimated by human hands.
21 I would hope that my family and neighbors could enjoy our
22 lives and homes and not have to worry about the potential
23 harm that could come from the increased voltage.

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

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1 MR. ALEXANDER SCHAEFER: Thank you.

2 (Applause).

3 MS. LOIS GOGLIA: My name is Lois Goglia,
4 L-o-i-s, G-o-g-l-i-a, and I live in Hamden. And I have
5 something for you to look at as well as to listen to.

6 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Is your group going to
7 distribute chocolate HUGS as part of your -- (laughter) -
8 -

9 MS. GOGLIA: I was hoping you would do
10 that -- (laughter) --

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: I don't think I'm allowed
12 to.

13 MS. GOGLIA: My husband, Edward Goglia,
14 recalls that when he was a youngster, he would visit his
15 father's place of business at Southern New England
16 Typographic Service. This business was located on
17 Dixwell Avenue diagonally across the street from Hamden
18 High School where Sleepy's Mattress Store is today. My
19 husband remembers apple orchards where the Hamden Plaza
20 now stands and cornfields in the strip mall that
21 currently houses the Gap and Party City. At the present
22 time congested streets, heavy traffic, and shopping
23 centers back-dropped with a skyline defined by apartment
24 houses replace the bucolic scenery my husband recollects.

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1 No one can deny that urban sprawl has transformed
2 Hamden. Businesses along Dixwell Avenue, apartment
3 houses along Nix Avenue, housing developments along
4 Shepherd Avenue now reflect Hamden's rural to urban
5 character change. The only section of Hamden to retain a
6 country-like atmosphere are now in northern Hamden and
7 those on and near Gaylord Mountain Road, the two areas
8 directly affected by the Phase 2 power upgrade.

9 The existing transmission line right-of-
10 ways that would be accessed in the power company's plan
11 are regularly used by horseback riders, hikers, and
12 snowshoers. These trails on the Hamden/Cheshire border
13 are contiguous with the trails on Cheshire's newly
14 acquired 180-acre DeMuse's (phonetic) recreational
15 property. Now miles and miles of continuous trails, some
16 on the power companies' right-of-way are available for
17 various forms of recreation.

18 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Please summarize.

19 MS. GOGLIA: Uh -- the Phase 2 plan also
20 calls for towers carrying 345-kV lines to pass along a
21 route -- oh, I'm sorry -- that cuts -- alright, I'll go
22 to the next page -- if an alternative route for the power
23 companies' upgrade is not found, monopoles ranging from
24 80 to 105 feet will breach Sleeping Giant.

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1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, we'll end on
2 that thought.

3 MS. GOGLIA: Thank you. (Applause).

4 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next behind -- cueing up
5 should be Mark Edwards, Diane D'Andrea, Ed Goglia, Alan
6 Bradoff. Are any of those people present?

7 A VOICE: Some of us made our comments --

8 A VOICE: We read them on the tape.

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Hmm?

10 A VOICE: Some people already read theirs.

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Okay. Well if -- what
12 I'll do is I'll read -- I'm going to read ten names and
13 if you're one of those 10 people, please come up to the
14 mic. Mark Edwards, Diane D'Andrea, Ed Goglia, Alan
15 Redoff, John Morrison, Marlan Hildiego, Rosemary Kuhn.
16 Are any of those 10 -- are any of those people here?
17 Please come up to the mic to make brief remarks.

18 MR. JOHN MORRISON: Okay, my name is John
19 Morrison. I live at 1692 Whitney Avenue in Hamden,
20 Connecticut. I am Vice President of Spring Glen Civic
21 Association and I am here tonight as their
22 representative. We have a membership of over 500
23 households and our homes straddle Whitney Avenue just
24 south of the route where the 345-kV electric transmission

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1 line would go. We oppose those lines going in and we
2 support placing those lines underground.

3 The land to the north of us in Hamden is
4 largely open space. In the east we have Sleeping Giant
5 State Park, in the west Brooksvale Park, the state
6 forest, and 183 acres of open space. The Town Council
7 voted to purchase last Monday, which will link Brooksvale
8 Park and the state forest. The north of Hamden is our
9 recreation area. We have picnic grounds, playing fields,
10 hiking trails, fishing areas, flowing streams and brooks.
11 These are the areas where we take our children on weekend
12 and on summer evenings or on snowy days for sleigh riding
13 and this is where the Northeast Utility proposes to put
14 monstrous towers of steel carrying 345-kV electric
15 transmission lines.

16 You only have to drive up Whitney Avenue
17 from Spring Glen to the north to see the damage the
18 utility companies have already done or to drive through
19 our neighborhood. You see bending, breaking, and
20 strapped together telephone poles that were designed over
21 a century ago to carry quarter-inch electrical wires or
22 telephone lines at the top of the T. Now they carry a
23 spider-web of heavy cables going in all directions. This
24 is the type of thing we are seeing, poles with two-inch

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1 cables at the center, all kinds of electrical equipment.

2 We're creating a situation where when we look up all

3 we're going to see is wires and cables in a gray sky.

4 And now on top of that, the utility companies are

5 bringing gigantic, gargantuan towers of steel and wire up

6 to the north in our recreational areas.

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

8 MR. MORRISON: Thank you. (Applause).

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Please -- again, I know
10 it's late, and I appreciate everybody's efforts to
11 expedite, but we do need for you to give your name, spell
12 your name, and give your address. Next.

13 MS. STEPHANIE TICE: Hi. My name is
14 Stephanie Tice. I'm at 90 Darley Drive in Hamden. I'm
15 reading this for Julian and Marlan Hildiego who had to
16 leave, they have a three-month old baby.

17 Dear Siting Council Members, my husband
18 Marlan and I have lived in our current home in Hamden for
19 the past two years. Northeast Utilities' power lines,
20 which are constructed on an easement located on our
21 property, the power lines are about a hundred feet from
22 our home. We are addressing you tonight because we have
23 a great concern about Northeast Utilities' proposal to
24 remove the current power lines and construct larger and

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1 more powerful ones in Connecticut, which will include
2 those power lines located on our property. We believe
3 that you should be aware of your concerns as you prepare
4 to make an important decision which would greatly affect
5 the health and safety of Connecticut residents.

6 About a year and a half ago I was on my
7 way home from work one evening about 6:00 p.m. I was
8 about a quarter of a mile from our home when I heard a
9 loud explosion and saw the entire sky light up. I rushed
10 home fearing the worst and found Marlan outside talking
11 on the phone with the Hamden Fire Department. He was
12 stunned. Marlan had been cooking dinner when he heard
13 three loud explosions and saw flashes of light by the
14 power lines. The fire department arrived and told us
15 there was no sign of fire. They shined flashlights on
16 the wood structures of the power lines and said that they
17 couldn't see any damage. They told us that this happens
18 all the time with the power lines and that it's not
19 really a concern. Of course this was not very comforting
20 to us knowing that these explosions could happen at
21 anytime. That night Marlan contacted Northeast Utilities
22 to tell them about the incident. They did not address
23 the problem until the next day when a helicopter came to
24 assess the situation. It was quite obvious in the

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1 daylight that the explosion had occurred on one of the
2 wood structures. Half of it was left hanging with wires
3 dangling in the air. Shortly after, big trucks entered
4 our property and began repairing the power lines, which
5 took them a larger part of the day.

6 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Does he have a sentence in
7 his statement that starts in conclusion?

8 MS. TICE: Oh, I'm sorry. Okay. Okay,
9 the bottom line is that -- that it was a risk. Those
10 power lines were hanging there and we were -- they were
11 in fear of their health and safety.

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

13 MS. TICE: Thank you. (Applause).

14 COURT REPORTER: Please -- spell your last
15 name please.

16 MS. TICE: T-i-c-e.

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next.

18 DR. JOHN KRYSTAL: Hello. My name is John
19 Krystal, K-r-y-s-t-a-l, of 119 Maplevale Drive. I'm the
20 parent of two children at Beecher Road School. I'm also
21 the Robert McNeil professor and Deputy Chairman for the
22 Department of Psychiatry at Yale University School of
23 Medicine. I'm a physician, but I'm a different kind of
24 physician than you've heard from, I'm a psychiatrist, and

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1 I'd like to raise a couple of different kinds of points.

2 The first is that as the Director of the
3 Clinical Neuroscience Division of the National Center for
4 Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, I integrate -- I have
5 reviewed in detail the psychiatric and psychological
6 impact of people who live in close proximity to natural
7 environmental hazards. And I'd just ask you to consider
8 the potential long-term negative psychological
9 consequences that emerge when people live in an
10 environment that they believe is fundamentally unsafe.
11 Research suggests that the negative consequences could
12 include emotional distress, sleep disturbances, and
13 impaired concentration. Other medical consequences of
14 this stress, independent of the magnetic field that have
15 been discussed today, could include increases in stress
16 hormone levels, increases in heart rates, impairments in
17 immune function. And I ask you to consider the potential
18 negative impact on the psychological life of our
19 community.

20 Secondly, as a neuroscientist who studies
21 in part the effects of magnetic fields on the brain, I
22 hope that you understand that the brain, which is the
23 most protested organ in our entire body, is uniquely
24 sensitive and unprotected from the effects of magnetic

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1 fields. I'm very concerned that we do not know the
2 impact of EMF on brain function. In our research we can
3 change mood, disrupt learning and memory, and affect
4 hallucinations by stimulating areas of the brain using
5 magnetic fields. And if these effects are anything like
6 -- if there are any parallels between these kinds of
7 effects of high magnetic fields and the long-term
8 consequences of lower magnetic fields, particularly
9 people who are trying to learn, our children who are in
10 schools --

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you --

12 DR. KRYSTAL: -- then we must be
13 concerned.

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, sir.

15 (Applause). Next. I'm going to ask -- is -- can I have
16 a show of hands of people who would still like to speak
17 tonight. Great. Could you people cue at the mic and we
18 will get to you. Would you identify yourself please.

19 MR. YEDIDYA BEN-AVIE: Hi. My name is
20 Yedidya Ben-Avie, Y-e-d-i-d-y-a, B-e-n, dash, A-v-i-e.

21 And I think this is one of the points
22 somewhat mentioned. I go to a school, a pretty small
23 school of a hundred kids and it's not in the EMF range,
24 but if you mention Ezra Academy or JCC to any kid who is

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1 above second grade in my school, they will know what you
2 are talking about, either from snow delays or from
3 hearing it -- hearing about it. At vacation child care
4 when we have numerous breaks, you are usually offered to
5 go to JCC to do any range of activities from basketball
6 to just watching a movie in one of the rooms. I go there
7 at least twice a day with my family. And if there were
8 going to be high power voltage lines, I'm not sure if 50
9 percent of the kids in my school would still go, would
10 still live in this community. I would not go to JCC
11 myself because I just don't like -- what happens. And
12 that's as plain as I can get. I know more kids who will
13 go like that. And if they would learn that by going to
14 one of the most well known community places in this area
15 you could get leukemia or any other disease from just
16 going there, they would probably move, and so would I.
17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

19 MR. DONALD CELOTTO: Hi, good evening. My
20 name is Donald Celotto, C-e-l-o-t-t-o. I'm Chairman of
21 the Woodbridge Town Plan & Zoning Commission. You should
22 know that right now we're engaged in the formulation of a
23 new town plan of conservation and development. In so
24 doing, we've had a town-wide survey commissioned. And

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1 not surprisingly the survey indicates that the people in
2 our town love and want us to maintain, preserve, and
3 enhance the rural atmosphere and quality of life in our
4 town. You've heard many, many people tonight talk about
5 that, and learned people talk about health matters. And
6 we know what we're doing here is kind of a sign of
7 progress. Father Gianelli talked about some progress 50
8 or 60 years ago when the first overhead lines were
9 installed. That seemed like progress. Also 50 or 60
10 years ago what seemed like progress was having lead in
11 our paint, in our gasoline, using asbestos as a fire
12 retardant and an insulator, having mercury in
13 thermometers, and burning leaves in the fall. We don't
14 do those things any more because we're more enlightened,
15 progress has progressed.

16 We're asking that you do for the towns
17 that are affected here tonight what you're doing with
18 enlightened progress in Fairfield County, bury the lines,
19 preserve our character and the quality of life that we
20 cherish in these towns. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

22 DR. MICHAEL BRODERICK: My name is Dr.
23 Michael Broderick and that's --

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Spell it please.

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1 DR. BRODERICK: B-r-o-d-e-r-i-c-k. And
2 I'm a veterinarian in town as well as on the Planning &
3 Zoning Commission. And I find that the Siting Council
4 should have respect for what we as a town would like to
5 have happen with the environment. And we are very aware
6 from surveys what people like in preserving the
7 environment. Open space, etcetera, is probably at the
8 top of the priority list. And we, as a commission, and I
9 can speak, you know, for myself in this regard, would
10 really ask the Siting Council that Woodbridge be treated
11 in the same respect as Fairfield County towns which have
12 very similar demographics, by the way, as this town. And
13 we hope that, you know, in fairness the commission takes
14 that into account because I can't see any difference
15 between Weston and Westport and Woodbridge in our
16 environmental look. And we hope you will also see that
17 point as well.

18 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

19 MR. WILLIAM FOX: Hi, good evening. My
20 name is William Fox, F-o-x. I'm a resident of Woodbridge
21 and a member of the Woodbridge Town Plan & Zoning
22 Commission.

23 What occurs to me is if one were to map
24 out the areas of highest density of children and then

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1 draw a line connecting the dots through them, they would
2 have mapped the proposed plan of these power lines. And
3 so while if the objective is to have as little impact on
4 the environment, as little impact on potential health
5 risks, it would seem that one would be hard pressed to
6 find a plan that would be worse than this because this
7 hits every educational institution -- not every --
8 largely every educational and religious and social
9 institution in the Town of Woodbridge. Those are the
10 things that make this town attractive. That's what the
11 town members have expressed in previous surveys as we
12 complete our town plan. And it seems with one stroke, we
13 could wipe that out. It doesn't seem to me to be worth
14 the economic savings to put our children's health and the
15 entire town at risk. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

17 MR. DON MENZIES: Good evening. My name
18 is Don Menzies. That's M-e-n-z-i-e-s. I'm a member of
19 the Executive Board of the West Rock Ridge Park
20 Association, also a member of the West Rock Ridge Park
21 Advisory Council. The Park Association is a grassroots
22 group of several hundred citizens from all around West
23 Rock Park, Hamden, New Haven, Woodbridge, Bethany, and
24 we've been involved with issues concerning the park and

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1 the conservation area around it for over 30 years. And I
2 would like to read into the meeting tonight a letter from
3 our president, William Dahannie (phonetic).

4 Connecticut Siting Council, regarding the
5 proposed transmission line improvements, gentlemen, the
6 West Rock Ridge Park Association was formed --

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Whoa, they started off on
8 the wrong foot right here.

9 MR. MENZIES: What -- oh -- ladies and
10 gentlemen -- (laughter) -- I will take this up with our
11 president when I get home tonight -- ladies and
12 gentlemen, for the record, the West Rock Ridge Park
13 Association was formed in 1974 partly to protect West
14 Rock Ridge from becoming a tower farm. To further this
15 goal, we are also concerned about protecting the view
16 from the ridge down. To date we have been successful in
17 preventing the top of our ridge from becoming a source of
18 visual pollution, and we will have to pass the ball to
19 you to prevent these higher towers from becoming a source
20 of visual pollution to its neighbors on the ground and
21 those of us forced to view them from the ridge top. Very
22 truly yours, William Dahannie, Jr.

23 So as you study this proposal, we would
24 ask that you give serious consideration to the disruptive

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1 impact these new structures would have on our
2 environment. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
4 And you can tell the president I don't think West Ridge
5 Rock has enough cell towers and we'll take care of that.
6 (Laughter).

7 MR. WILLIAM ROOT: Good evening. My name
8 is William Root. I live with my family at 18 Center Road
9 in Woodbridge. My last name is Root, R-o-o-t.

10 We are one of the closest homes to the
11 power lines in this part of Woodbridge. My background is
12 as an environmental scientist and I'm also a professional
13 soil scientist. I specialize in wetland ecology and I
14 routinely work on projects like this one that take a long
15 time to study and evaluate potential impacts. In fact, I
16 was one of two researchers from my firm who assisted
17 towns in western Connecticut to review the first phase of
18 this project. But I'm not here to talk on behalf of my
19 firm tonight, I'm here to give you some of my personal
20 impressions of the project.

21 You've heard a lot about EMF. I don't
22 want to spend time on EMF except to say that my family
23 and I spend a lot of time outdoors. I have a young
24 daughter. We are very close to the lines and she also

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1 spends a lot of time at JCC. I'm very worried about her
2 peak and long-term exposure to EMF.

3 I also know that fear impacts property
4 values. And my property value will be seriously impacted
5 if these lines are approved and installed.

6 There are a lot of private wells nearby.
7 Blasting will likely impact many of them as well. And
8 there's no guarantee that we will not lose our water
9 supply as a result of the blasting that will take place
10 to install the caissons for the monopoles.

11 In this part of Woodbridge there is a very
12 interesting wetland and watercourse system that drains
13 down to Konold Pond. There's a forested wetland, there
14 are shrub swamps. It's a very diverse habitat. It's
15 very good for wildlife. It provides a lot of very
16 important functions and values that we all rely upon,
17 pollutant trapping, flood control, and wildlife habitat
18 as I said.

19 The existing wetlands were built -- the
20 existing power lines were built through wetlands in this
21 area and they have stabilized since that time, but there
22 are still many unanswered questions in this proposal
23 about access roads, power lines, the storage of
24 equipment, and things like that, and those are things

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1 that need to be answered in order to really truly
2 evaluate the impacts of this proposal.

3 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

4 MR. ROOT: You're welcome. (Applause).

5 MR. SKIBA: My name is Witold Skiba.

6 That's W-i-t-o-l-d, S-k-i-b-a --

7 COURT REPORTER: Wait --

8 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Wait --

9 MR. SKIBA: Too fast? The last name is S-
10 k-i -- b like in boy -- a. My wife and I live in
11 Woodbridge.

12 Well overhead -- overhead power lines
13 clearly pose many serious disadvantages to our community,
14 several of which were mentioned tonight, but there's only
15 one advantage to overhead power lines, and it seems that
16 it's the cost to the power companies.

17 The proposed lines in Fairfield County are
18 entirely underground. I don't want New Haven County and
19 its residents to be treated as second class. If
20 underground power lines are good enough in Fairfield
21 County, I think they are good enough for us. Please
22 don't let the companies -- (applause) -- please don't let
23 the power companies save money at our expense. Thank
24 you.

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1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

2 MR. JEFFREY AXT: Good evening or else
3 good morning. Very -- I'll try to be as brief as
4 possible -- very quickly, my name is Jeffrey Axt, A-x-t.

5 I live at 3 Fieldstone Drive in Woodbridge.

6 I come to you in part due to the fact that
7 I am involved in clinical research at the Hospital for
8 Special Care in Connecticut. I deal with some science
9 things. And one of the things that came out here and in
10 a lot of the research that I've done, rather than
11 rehashing what already has been said many times is the
12 evidence that you will get back from CL&P and UNI -- or
13 UI, excuse me, on the research that had been done with
14 regard to the linkage between diseases and EMF, just to -
15 - that again you understand clearly that just because
16 there is no evidence of linkage does not mean that the
17 scientific study process did not eliminate the chance of
18 such a linkage. Indeed, all science is based on
19 probabilistic estimates, often referred to as confidence
20 intervals, whereby the likelihood of an event is shown to
21 be rare -- so rare as to be discounted, thus establishing
22 -- this becomes problematic when the parameters of the
23 scientific study are exceeded in the events or situations
24 encountered. Examples are what happened with the NASA

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1 space shuttles, that there was good science done, but the
2 information was flawed because there were parameters that
3 just weren't included in that. And that's what I want
4 you to please be aware of.

5 Basically, to summarize, if I were a
6 gambler and were given statistical information available
7 regarding EMF and human disease, I would not be making a
8 best guess offer, but I'd be asking exactly what am I
9 gambling. Human lives and even more so those of children
10 need to be placed in a special category of consideration.
11 Speaking for myself, I would have little objection to
12 incurring additional costs for electrical service if this
13 player could demonstrate that a conservative approach is
14 being taken to avoid such risks.

15 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

16 MR. AXT: Thank you very much.

17 MR. MICHAEL GARGULIO: My name is Michael
18 Gargulio. I live at 90 Old Farms Road in Cheshire.

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: I'm sorry, did you speak
20 the other night in Wallingford?

21 MR. GARGULIO: I did and I have --

22 CHAIRMAN KATZ: I'm going to ask you to
23 pass then --

24 MR. GARGULIO: I have a different point if

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1 you wouldn't --

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: I'm going to still ask you
3 to pass --

4 MR. GARGULIO: Okay, thank you --

5 CHAIRMAN KATZ: -- if you have already
6 spoken. At this time, I'd like to announce that the
7 listening tour continues. Our next hearing is February
8 24, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Middletown High School
9 auditorium, 370 Hunting Hill Avenue in Middletown. We
10 also will have a hearing in Orange at a date to be
11 determined. And can we have them contact the Orange Town
12 Hall, plus the website --

13 MR. GOLDBLATT: Absolutely.

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. We really
15 appreciate your input and please drive safely. We're
16 adjourned.

17

18 (Whereupon, the hearing adjourned at 10:35

19 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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