

ORIGINAL

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SITING COUNCIL

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

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND
PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
OF A NEW 345-kV ELECTRIC
TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED
FACILITIES BETWEEN THE SCOVILL ROCK
SWITCHING STATION IN MIDDLETOWN
AND THE NORWALK SUBSTATION IN
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT
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* FEBRUARY 23, 2004
* (7:05 P.M.)
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* DOCKET NO. 272
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BEFORE: PAMELA B. KATZ, CHAIRMAN

BOARD MEMBERS: Colin C. Tait, Vice Chairman
Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.
Edward S. Wilensky
Brian O'Neill
James J. Murphy, Jr.

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

APPEARANCES:

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BY: LINDA L. RANDELL, ATTORNEY
BRUCE L. McDERMOTT, ESQUIRE

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

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 Mary
5 L. Tracy School, 650 Schoolhouse Lane, Orange,
6 Connecticut, on February 23, 2004, at 7:05 p.m., at which
7 time the parties were represented as hereinbefore set
8 forth . . .

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11 CHAIRMAN PAMELA B. KATZ: Good evening.
12 Could everybody please take a seat, we're going to get
13 started. (Pause).

14 Good evening. My name is Pam Katz,
15 Chairman of the Connecticut Siting Council. On behalf of
16 all the members of the Council, I'd like to welcome you
17 to our public hearing here in Orange.

18 Before I read our formal opening
19 statement, I'd just like to make a few brief remarks.
20 This is the seventh stop in our eighth stop listening
21 tour on this application for a 345 transmission line from
22 Middletown to Norwalk. And we do this listening tour
23 because we don't know your towns as well as you do, and
24 we'd like to come to the towns and have you tell us how

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 you think this application is going to affect you.

2 There's three issues that we get a lot of
3 questions about and I'm going to briefly explain how
4 we're going to approach those; under-grounding, EMF's
5 (electromagnetic fields), and property values.

6 When we did Phase 1, which was the
7 transmission line from Bethel to Norwalk, the Siting
8 Council came to realize how important the issue of under-
9 grounding and how much of a line could be underground is
10 important. Therefore, in this document we've decided to
11 hire our own under-grounding expert, who will help us
12 cross-examine the Applicant, as well as perhaps providing
13 some direct testimony on the issue of how much of this
14 line can be underground. We're in the process of hiring
15 that person and they'll be on board by next month.

16 The other issue that has come up is
17 electromagnetic fields, EMF's. And as you've known, if
18 you've gotten as far as Volume 6 in the 12-volume
19 application, you know that we do look at EMF's, and the
20 Applicant has provided information on that. Thursday,
21 March 25th, is going to be EMF evidence day at the Siting
22 Council in New Britain. What we're going to do is spend
23 that day on cross-examination on the EMF issue for
24 parties and intervenors and for the Siting Council. To

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 help you who are parties and intervenors if you want to
2 prep for that, we've created an EMF sub-page on our
3 website. If you go to the front page of the Siting
4 Council website, and our web address is on the easel
5 there, look for the red writing there and it will say
6 EMF's under Docket 272, and what we've done on that sub-
7 page is we've carved out the section of the application
8 having to do with EMF's. We've also put on that sub-page
9 the -- all the documents concerning EMF's that the
10 Council is taking administrative notice of. And as other
11 things come up concerning EMF's that are part of our
12 docket, we'll be posting them on that EMF page. So
13 again, go to our website.

14 The third issue that comes up is property
15 values and we always get the question well does the
16 Council look at property values. Well, with respect to
17 property values, I'd like to explain that the Council is
18 sensitive to the concerns of residents that an
19 application could affect their property values and we
20 look at it to the extent that we look at the proposed
21 structures under this application versus the existing
22 structures.

23 I'd like to -- I'd like to sort of remind
24 members of the public tonight when you get up to speak

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 that you're not just speaking to us. The Applicants,
2 Northeast Utilities and United Illuminating, are also
3 here, and you're speaking to them too. They have members
4 of their staff here who want to know what the public
5 concerns are. So you're not just speaking to us, you're
6 also speaking to the Applicants on that, and please keep
7 that in mind.

8 At this point, I'd like to read our
9 opening statement. Ladies and gentlemen, this hearing is
10 called to order 7:00 p.m., February 23, 2004.

11 My name is Pamela B. Katz, Chairman of the
12 Connecticut Siting Council. Other members of the Council
13 here are Vice Chairman Colin C. Tait; Edward S. Wilensky;
14 Brian O'Neill; Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.; and James J. Murphy,
15 Jr.

16 Members of the staff here are Derek
17 Phelps, Executive Director, and Fred Cunliffe, Siting
18 Analyst on this docket.

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

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

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

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

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

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

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

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 Specifically, this is an opportunity for citizens, who
2 are not formally participating in the process as parties
3 or intervenors, to make their views known to the Council.

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

8 In fairness to everyone who wishes to
9 speak, I'm going to limit statements to five minutes for
10 public officials and three minutes for members of the
11 public. And we have a stoplight right here. After --
12 after -- when you have about one minute left, the
13 stoplight goes to flashing green to yellow to red. A
14 sign-up sheet is right over there by the easel for those
15 who wish to participate.

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

22 A verbatim transcript will be made of each
23 hearing session, and all hearing transcripts will be
24 deposited with the town and city clerks within the

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 municipalities of Middletown, Middlefield, Haddam,
2 Durham, Meriden, Wallingford, Cheshire, Haddam, Bethany,
3 Woodbridge, Orange, West Haven, Milford, Stratford,
4 Bridgeport, Fairfield, Westport, Norwalk, Easton,
5 Trumbull, Weston, Wilton, North Haven and New Haven.
6 (Applause). At the Woodbridge hearing I said that was my
7 gadola (phonetic) moment, but only a few people got that,
8 so. (Laughter).

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

17 First I'd like to recognize for some brief
18 opening remarks the First Selectman of Orange, Mitchell
19 Goldblatt, and then we will have a video. And then
20 afterwards, the First Selectman and other public
21 officials will speak.

22 MR. MITCHELL GOLDBLATT: Thank you,
23 Chairman Katz.

24 I'm First Selectman Mitch Goldblatt, Town

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 of Orange. To the Connecticut Siting Council, on behalf
2 of the Town of Orange, I want to welcome you here this
3 evening. I expect to have some interesting testimony to
4 come before you this evening, but I certainly want to
5 thank you because you said this is the seventh of eight,
6 but it really is the eighth because this particular
7 hearing was not planned. This hearing is as a result of
8 the overwhelming numbers that came out to Woodbridge two
9 weeks ago tonight and expressed a desire for an
10 additional hearing. And instead of not allowing people
11 to speak and instead of pushing people away, we agreed to
12 set up this additional public hearing. And it's my
13 thanks to you Chairman Katz and the members of the Siting
14 Council for having this hearing this evening for everyone
15 to participate. Thank you very much. (Applause).

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: For the benefit of the
17 public in attendance tonight, we have asked the Applicant
18 to explain the general nature of this application, its
19 proposed benefits, its alleged need, and what
20 alternatives were explored. In response to that request,
21 the Applicant has compiled a short video that addresses
22 those issues in summary form. And I'll ask that the
23 Applicant introduce that video now.

24 COURT REPORTER: Give your name and spell

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 it please.

2 MR. JOHN PRETE: My name is John Prete, P
3 as in Peter, r-e-t-e. Good evening and thank you,
4 Chairman Katz, members of the Council, and distinguished
5 officials, and of course the public.

6 As I said, my name is John Prete, I'm the
7 Project Director for UI Company, I oversee the project
8 that's in front of us. And on behalf of UI and CL&P, we
9 have indeed prepared a video. The video, as Chairman
10 Katz has stated, is a summary. It talks about the need,
11 the expressed need that faces Southwest Connecticut. It
12 talks about on a high level the solution. It gets into a
13 lot of detail on how that solution affects Orange as a
14 town.

15 In addition to that video, there's an
16 addendum video that we call the East Shore Alternative.
17 It is an alternative that the companies are diligently
18 working on, an alternative that was expressed from the
19 First Selectman of Wallingford. So with that, I'll ask
20 the video to start.

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

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VIDEO PRESENTATION

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

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

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

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

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Most of Connecticut's imported power enters and moves around the State on a 345-kilovolt or a 345-kV system. There are nearly 400 miles of 345-kV

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

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

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

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

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

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

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

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

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

22 In Hamden the proposed route is an
23 overhead solution along the existing three and a half-
24 mile right-of-way that consists of replacing the current

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 three rows of structures with two rows of monopoles, one
2 row with a typical height of 80 feet, the other row with
3 a typical height of 85 feet. There would be a net
4 reduction in the number of structures and no expansion of
5 the right-of-way would be necessary. For Hamden,
6 Alternatives A and B are the same as the proposed route.

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

16 In Woodbridge the proposed route is an
17 overhead solution along the existing 6.2 mile right-of-
18 way that consists of replacing the current three rows of
19 structures with two rows of monopoles, one row with a
20 typical height of 80 feet, the other row with a typical
21 height of 85 feet. There would be a net reduction in the
22 number of structures and no expansion of the right-of-way
23 would be necessary. For Woodbridge, Alternatives A and B
24 are the same as the proposed route.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

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

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

22 The Connecticut Light & Power Company and
23 the United Illuminating Company thank the Connecticut
24 Siting Council for the opportunity to present this

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 information. Additional project information is available
2 on our websites, www.transmission-nu.com or www -- (video
3 failure) --

4 The following is a brief summary of the
5 companies' investigation of a potential East Shore
6 alternative prepared at the request of the Connecticut
7 Siting Council.

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

23 During the municipal consultation process,
24 the Mayor of Wallingford urged the companies to

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

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

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

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

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

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END PRESENTATION

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MR. PRETE: I would like to update you on where the companies stand with those studies since this video was made. We have completed three sets of rather complex studies. The two first sets can be found on the websites that you saw, both UI's and CL -- or NU's, as well as the Siting Council's. The third set of studies was filed electronically hours ago this afternoon, and you will be able to find that particular study electronically as public also on the websites tomorrow. Thank you.

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(Off the record)

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CHAIRMAN KATZ: First I'm going to call on public officials. And we're going to ask the public officials to keep their remarks to five minutes. And then after that, we'll go to the residents who signed up to speak.

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When I call your name, please come up to the podium, give your name, give your -- for public officials give your title, for residents give your address, and please spell your name for the court reporter. And the first is the First Selectman of

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 Orange, Mitch Goldblatt.

2 MR. MITCHELL GOLDBLATT: Mitch Goldblatt,
3 First Selectman, Town of Orange, G-o-l-d-b-l-a-t-t.

4 Chairman Katz, Executive Director Phelps,
5 and members of the Siting Council, welcome back to the
6 Town of Orange. Thank you for holding this additional
7 public hearing in Orange after the overflow of crowd who
8 attended the gymnasium at the center in Woodbridge on
9 February 9th.

10 The Town of Orange has the most densely
11 populated community within the right-of-way of Northeast
12 Utilities' 115-kV power lines. Well, obviously, people
13 have chosen of their own free will to purchase homes
14 there. The proposal under Docket 272 by Connecticut
15 Light & Power and United Illuminating to upgrade the
16 current transmission system to 345 kilovolts is frankly
17 something that no one expected nor anticipated. With the
18 plethora of documentation presented in other public
19 hearings that I have personally attended in both Milford
20 and Woodbridge, I ask you to order these lines to be
21 placed underground. (Applause). The lines should be
22 buried under existing streets and highways so that this
23 issue is put to rest once and for all. The 115-kilovolt
24 lines should be buried beside the 345-kilovolt lines.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 The -- (applause) -- the East Shore
2 alternative that follows an underground route from New
3 Haven to Milford could address this proposal. Route 1 in
4 Orange is slated for major construction work beginning
5 next year to add a fifth lane. If the Siting Council
6 were to bring this underground line to Route 1, the
7 Boston Post Road, I would be willing to seek a delay in
8 that major construction so that we could coordinate this
9 effort with the road widening. (Applause).

10 In addition, as Chairman of the South
11 Central Regional Council of Governments, at the request
12 of First Selectwoman Amey Marrella of Woodbridge, I am
13 adding an item to our agenda this Wednesday to support
14 Raised Bill No. 5418, AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRIC
15 TRANSMISSION LINES SITING CRITERIA, introduced by Senator
16 Joseph Crisco and State Representative Themis Klarides,
17 which would legislate that these lines be placed
18 underground. I would expect support from our neighboring
19 communities for this bill and enter that into testimony
20 at this Thursday's public hearing in Hartford.

21 In -- (applause) -- in today's society
22 where we try to recapture our environment, where we are
23 more aware of the dangers of our own technologies and
24 where there is a heightened concern over homeland

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 security, there is only one answer, choose the most
2 direct route under our roads and instruct Northeast
3 Utilities to under-street these lines. Let -- (applause)
4 -- let Southwestern Connecticut be a leader in addressing
5 the need for upgrading our transmission system. This
6 solution would be one that meets the needs of our
7 communities, our State, and our region with a forward
8 thinking answer to this complicated issue.

9 Madam Chairman, with your permission, I
10 also have a letter from someone who is unable to attend
11 this evening that I'd like to read, and I think I can do
12 it within my allotted time.

13 This is from Marilyn Zimmerman of 405 Old
14 Country Road in Orange: I have lived at the above address
15 for 38 years. There is a right-of-way on my property and
16 I have a well. Their street is a cul-de-sac. My main
17 objection regarding the increase to the existing 115-
18 kilovolt power line to 345-kilovolt is a health concern,
19 which I believe to be well founded since no studies have
20 been able to provide conclusive evidence that there is
21 not a correlation between the power lines and an unusual
22 frequency of cancer in families living where those lines
23 are situated. On my particular street 11 families that I
24 know of have been touched by cancer, and my own 16-year-

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 old son died of leukemia. I find it hard to believe that
2 this is a coincidence without a common cause. Without
3 conclusive evidence to the contrary, wouldn't it seem to
4 be suspect that power lines, even as they presently are,
5 are a contributing factor. Secondly, property values are
6 of great concern to those of us who live on the right-of-
7 way on our property. We have a major liability when it
8 comes to the value of our homes and a limited market
9 willing to purchase our homes with magnetic towers and
10 poles in their backyard. It is my hope that the Siting
11 Council will make their decision on the utilities'
12 application based on very real concerns of the citizens
13 and taxpayers whose lives will be impacted by this major
14 issues. It is signed Marilyn Zimmerman, 405 Old Country
15 Road.

16 Thank you very much for allowing us to
17 testify and coming back to Orange. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
19 As I read off these names tonight, I'm going to massacre
20 a few pronunciations. And I'm just going to ask when you
21 get up to the microphone, please correct me. And this
22 next one is probably going to be my first, Michael --
23 Follini?

24 MR. MICHAEL PAOLINI: Paolini.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Hmm?

2 MR. PAOLINI: Paolini.

3 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. Chairman of
4 the Orange Town Planning & Zoning Commission.

5 COURT REPORTER: Spell your last name for
6 me.

7 MR. PAOLINI: That's Paolini, P-a-o-l-i-n-
8 i. I'm just going to speak very briefly. I'm Michael
9 Paolini, I'm Chairman of the Town Planning & Zoning
10 Commission in Orange. We held a meeting on this subject
11 and we were asked to just give some -- our opinion -- I
12 believe approximately six or seven months ago, and if I
13 remember correctly, I think Mr. Prete was the presenter -
14 - however, I just want to just briefly for the record
15 detail what we -- what we concluded at that meeting.

16 We had a presentation by your
17 representatives, who at that time had a different number
18 of increase in power usage in the last -- I guess I'll
19 put a specified time period -- your video said
20 approximately a 33 percent increase I believe in
21 Southwestern Connecticut over the last 10 years, and the
22 number we heard was approximately 15 percent. I'm not
23 sure if my parameters are about the same not looking back
24 in my notes, but I'd just have to openly question that,

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 that disparity in the numbers.

2 Also at that meeting we concluded that we
3 also, as the Town Planning & Zoning Commission in this
4 town, would like you to bury these power lines, consider
5 putting them underground. We think that's the best for
6 the health, safety, and welfare of the Town. We
7 encourage it. We would like to examine that or at least
8 have complete details in the burying of the power grounds
9 in relationship to those individuals who have wells and
10 if there's any effect on wells. So we'd like to -- we'd
11 like to consider that before there's a decision made on
12 this, but -- but the conclusion that we've -- or at least
13 the recommendation that we have on this matter is that
14 you do go underground with these lines.

15 And based upon that, I thank you for
16 allowing me to have some comments.

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
18 Next is Edmund Tucker, Chairman of the Orange
19 Conservation Commission.

20 MR. EDMUND TUCKER: Good evening.

21 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Could you spell your name
22 to start off.

23 MR. TUCKER: My -- Tucker, T-u-c-k-e-r.
24 I'm Chairman of the Conservation Commission and also

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 President of the Orange Land Trust, and I appreciate this
2 opportunity to comment on the proposed 345-kilovolt
3 electric transmission line.

4 I intend to limit my remarks to
5 environmental considerations. As far as we're concerned,
6 the proposal to replace the three present power lines
7 with two sets of monopoles, one for 115 and the other for
8 345 kilovolts has some environmental uncertainties; in
9 fact, it has quite a few. The present towers have to
10 be dismantled and monopoles installed. The monopole
11 installation involves digging and drilling a hole for the
12 base, pouring concrete, and then assembling the monopole.
13 In Orange there are 54 monopoles in each line and one in
14 West Haven to make the 55 required to get from Milford to
15 Woodbridge. The height varies from 70 to 108 feet. The
16 current lattice towers average just over 84 feet. So the
17 -- both the lines would be probably higher on the average
18 than the current lattice towers. We've seen the
19 foundation for the cell towers and we know these towers
20 are not as tall; they have smaller bases. The
21 construction is however significant; after all, they
22 carry very substantial cables, they must withstand ice
23 storms and hurricane winds. This is a major construction
24 project which would have, we feel, a deleterious effect

POST REPORTING SERVICE
HAMDEN, CT (800) 262-4102

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 on the right-of-way and on the town.

2 Although we'd get use to the towers,
3 they'd clash aesthetically with the more traditional
4 farms, fields, and forests which we associate with
5 Orange. They're like a big slash from the northeast to
6 the southwest.

7 Now, there's been considerable discussion
8 of burying the 345-kilovolt cable. However, burying it
9 in the present right-of-way through wetlands, uplands,
10 bedrock, and the multi-lakes would be a nightmare, and we
11 certainly would oppose that approach.

12 It would appear that over the long-term,
13 Mitch Goldblatt's proposal to burying both the 345-
14 kilovolt and the 115-kilovolt line as well along the
15 existing roads would be the best solution. These are
16 already public-ways, they already have been
17 environmentally disturbed by road construction. This
18 would free up the right-of-way -- the present right-of-
19 way for consideration for a number of possible future
20 uses. A number of them are rather interesting, such as a
21 linear park with trails for walking, for cycling, roller-
22 blading, horseback riding, etcetera. These situations
23 are really not quite equivalent and I realize that, we're
24 dealing here with an easement rather than with ownership;

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 however, it's an interesting concept to think about. I
2 understand that CL&P would want to retain the right-of-
3 way easement for some time, but I would hope that in time
4 buried lines will become a way of life and that easement
5 no longer necessary. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
7 Next is State Senator Win Smith, Jr. Senator.

8 SENATOR WIN SMITH, JR.: Thank you. And
9 I'd like to commend the Siting Council on its listening
10 tour, coming out and hearing what the different
11 communities have to say, and especially for this extra
12 one here in Orange.

13 As you may recall, I was before you once
14 before in Milford, perhaps you recall my comments. My
15 position really hasn't changed since then.

16 We're not here tonight saying that
17 Southwest Connecticut does not need a grid enhancement or
18 update. We're not saying the not in my backyard, the
19 NIMBY argument. We already have these ugly, dangerous,
20 unhealthy lines in our communities and we have had them
21 there for years. If these things really are necessary
22 however, what we are saying is at least have them
23 installed in the least intrusive environmentally way. In
24 other words, bury them, all of them, all the way.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 (Applause).

2 I found your recommendation that you're
3 going to be having an expert to help you with the under-
4 grounding outstanding, and I want to commend you on that
5 as well. I -- (applause) -- it's indicative to me that
6 you're not going to be simply taking the Applicant's
7 representations at face value, something of a concern
8 that I've had in earlier Siting Council applications.
9 Not -- no one is right all the time, certainly these
10 companies aren't. By the same token, no one is wrong all
11 the time, even those people who are speaking to you
12 anecdotally.

13 There is a credibility problem with
14 these Applicants, as many of the applicants. Initially
15 we were told that nothing could be buried, none of these
16 lines could go underground and then somehow they got
17 Phase 1 underground, but that was it, no more than that.

18 And then when they tried to do Phase 2 and they
19 discovered that through 20 miles it would be difficult,
20 if not impossible, for them to place it aboveground, they
21 suddenly discovered they actually could put another 22
22 miles underground. I suspect that if you were to tell
23 them to bury the entire line, they would discover a way
24 to bury the entire line. (Applause).

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 And I've heard some arguments about gold-
2 plating, that FERC might not like that. You know what,
3 if you do the right thing, you just might be surprised
4 and FERC just might agree with you.

5 We've heard some things about health. You
6 know, when there's a health question, I would urge you
7 all please to error on the side of caution, not to say
8 well it's a jump-ball, we can't figure it out, so we're
9 going to let folks just have their overhead lines like
10 they've always had. When you have concerns, error on our
11 side please.

12 And there are real life safety issues. As
13 you all recall in Milford some of these lines actually
14 came down in peoples' yards. There's going to come a
15 time when someone is going to get horribly hurt or worse
16 when these things go in.

17 I'd also like to note for you as well,
18 I've heard some comments from some of the intervenors and
19 parties in this, they've made some discovery requests to
20 the Applicant and those discovery requests have not been
21 complied with. You all have a fairly compacted hearing
22 scheduled. And it's been my experience that the
23 applicants in these things tend to respond, if at all,
24 late. And then when they respond late, they hit you with

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 truckloads of stuff, which will make it of course
2 impossible for the parties and intervenors to
3 appropriately go through the documents they need to go
4 through to see if what, from their perspective, the
5 applicants are saying is true. I would urge you to help
6 those intervenors and parties get what they need in a
7 timely fashion.

8 And I also don't want to let the
9 opportunity go, that you should indeed look at the
10 property tax impact to all the residents of these
11 communities. When this -- when these things go in, of
12 necessity everyone's property values are going to go down
13 all around them, which means the town's grand list is
14 going to go down. They're going to have to make up that
15 money somewhere, which means everybody else's taxes are
16 going to have to go up. I would urge you not to error on
17 the side of this kind of selective tax increase that is
18 only being foisted upon the communities that have these
19 lines.

20 I thank you for your time and I look
21 forward to your decision. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
23 Next is Selectman Joe Blake.

24 COURT REPORTER: Spell your last name

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 please.

2 MR. JOE BLAKE: The last name is Blake, B-
3 l-a-k-e, Selectman Town of Orange, but more important
4 than that a resident of the Town of Orange.

5 The -- I just want -- I'll make my remarks
6 very brief, and that is that I fully support all the
7 statements presented before I came to this podium.

8 I would like to say that one thing I -- I
9 get kind of -- kind of get a little gut feeling when I
10 look at your map and I see down in Fairfield County it
11 looks like all the lines are going to be buried and when
12 we come further up our way, it looks like there's the
13 possibility, and I hope not, that there will be overhead.

14 I fully support that they should all be underground
15 everywhere possible. That's the full support that I hope
16 you make that decision on.

17 There's an old cliché and I hope it
18 doesn't hold true in this, and that is -- and I'll change
19 it around a little it for obvious reasons -- and I see
20 Fairfield County and I see up the line where we are, and
21 I hope the old cliché isn't that money talks and small
22 towns walk. Thank you. (Applause).

23 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is Gail Slossberg,
24 Minority Leader Milford Board of Aldermen.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

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

3 MS. GAIL SLOSSBERG: Slossberg. It's Gail
4 Slossberg. S as in Sam, l-o-s-s-b-e-r-g. I am the
5 Minority Leader for the Board of Aldermen in Milford and
6 I am also a member of the Connecticut Energy Advisory
7 Board.

8 And I'm here before you today -- I had
9 spoken as well at the Milford hearing on that very, very,
10 cold, cold night, which I thank you for coming that night
11 and thank you for having this night as well. So, I spoke
12 to you then about some of my significant concerns, but
13 there were a few additional items that have come up since
14 I last spoke to you.

15 On February 9th at your hearing in
16 Woodbridge, you heard significant testimony by doctors
17 and researchers and scientists who are preeminent in
18 their field with regard to electromagnetic fields. And
19 some of the things that they told you was that EMF's
20 above four milligauss are linked -- have statistical
21 correlations to childhood leukemia. And it is quite
22 disheartening to hear an Orange resident coming before
23 this panel to share through her letter that her 16-year-
24 old had died from leukemia.

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 Here in Orange there is a nursery school
2 and a recreational building right next to the right-of-
3 way, and that's High Plains Community Center. It is an
4 area that is used all the time quite frequently,
5 especially in the summer, and that right-of-way is right
6 next to it. I find it very significant and troubling
7 that in the application there is no proposed EMF data on
8 that site. There is -- there is another site in Orange
9 that is looked at, but not on this site, which I believe
10 is the closest site to the right-of-way and the place
11 where most children congregate here in Orange. Please
12 have the Applicant make a proposed finding of EMF at that
13 site.

14 The Applicant says to us that they have to
15 provide the lowest cost alternative, but the reality is
16 its lowest reasonable cost. And it is not reasonable to
17 put our children's lives at risk. (Applause). Please
18 make sure that this line is rerouted or buried away from
19 our children, away from the places that they play. It is
20 unacceptable to have the East Shore alternative
21 suggestion that comes all the way to the Orange line and
22 then continues overhead Orange through Milford. We need
23 it buried all the way. (Applause).

24 I have -- I have one last point and that

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 is they talk about costs, that the costs of under-
2 grounding is -- there is a difference between 200 million
3 to 100 million, it's an additional 100 million dollar
4 cost. But in their application they never compare the
5 lifecycle costs of overhead versus underground. They
6 tell you the lifecycle costs of overhead, but they never
7 make a comparison. And we know that lifecycle costs for
8 underground are going to be less over time because we
9 know that there are a lot of problems with overhead.

10 They also don't address conservation
11 methods, which is very important here in Connecticut
12 because we know at the last ISO New England -- the draft
13 report of the RTEP-03 came out and told us that even if
14 they put this in -- if Phase 2 is put in, we still have a
15 transmission problem in Southwestern Connecticut, and
16 they are now going to tell us we need another 345-kV line
17 coming from south -- from southern Massachusetts through
18 Rhode Island all the way to Connecticut. So this
19 solution is not the solution. Please make them consider
20 a better alternative. Thank you. (Applause).

21 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Just two points I'd like
22 to bring up. Today I signed a letter to Commissioner
23 Galvin of the Connecticut Department of Public Health
24 asking him to provide the expert to give an opinion to

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 the Siting Council on the health effects of EMF's.

2 And also one of the previous speaker
3 mentioned our maps. They're not our maps. We're sort of
4 the judges up here. They're the Applicants' maps. And
5 so we look at them the same way you do.

6 Next is First Selectwoman of the Town of
7 Woodbridge, Amey Marrella.

8 COURT REPORTER: Spell your last name.

9 MS. AMEY MARRELLA: I will. In fact, I
10 should spell both. Amey is A-m-e-y. My parents did that
11 to me. And Marrella is M-a-r-r-e-l-l-a, and that's my
12 husband's responsibility -- (laughter).

13 Okay, I'm here to not repeat what I said
14 the other evening at Woodbridge, but to make three points
15 in addition to what I said on the Woodbridge hearing.
16 The first is I want to say thank you. I want to thank
17 the Siting Council and I want to thank the staff for your
18 attentiveness throughout what was a long hearing in
19 Woodbridge. And I appreciate that very much, as I know
20 do the many people who came to that hearing wanting to be
21 heard and wanting to have the attentiveness which you --
22 the attentiveness which you gave them. So thank you very
23 much.

24 The next thing I'd like to say is thank

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 you for your close consideration of the EMF health
2 issues, including the commitment which you just
3 mentioned, Chairman Katz, to confirm with the State
4 Department of Public Health on this very important issue.

5 And the last is a statement to the
6 Applicants. Before I was First Selectman of Woodbridge,
7 I worked in the Office of General Counsel at the U.S.
8 Environmental Protection Agency and I had the honor to
9 work for five years on Clean Air Act issues. And while I
10 am no expert on environmental history, I can tell you
11 from my brief tenure at EPA that our 30-year plus year
12 history in the United States of America is replete with
13 examples of where American ingenuity can meet
14 technological challenges if there's a willingness to pay
15 attention to environmental concerns. So this is a
16 statement to the Applicants to say please do what you can
17 do, do what I know American ingenuity can do, make this
18 the time when Connecticut and your utilities make a
19 commitment to under-grounding technology. It's a future,
20 it's right for the Phase 2 towns, it's right for
21 Connecticut, it's right for America. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
23 Next is Trish Pearson, a member of the Board of Selectmen
24 of the Town of Orange.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 COURT REPORTER: Spell your name please.

2 MS. TRISH PEARSON: P-e-a-r-s-o-n. Thank
3 you. And I also want to echo my thanks for your coming
4 back again. I came to the meeting in Woodbridge and it
5 was overflowing and I met half my neighbors walking out.
6 And we greatly appreciate your willingness to come and
7 listen to us.

8 As Senator Smith said, this, in my
9 particular case, is not a case of NIMBY'ism because this
10 is in my backyard. In addition to being a member of the
11 Board of Selectmen, I live adjacent to and the lines run
12 through my backyard. And several of my neighbors are
13 here this evening, and there are is grave and great
14 widespread concern among them. And they have made it
15 their business to educate themselves on this matter as we
16 are all aware that your decision is not just based upon
17 feelings, it cannot just be based upon looks, it is based
18 upon environmental concerns and health concerns, and we
19 share those concerns.

20 We have and do live beneath these lines
21 both in terms of the unsightliness of them as well as the
22 sound. And in the summertime you can measure how hot it
23 is by how hard they sizzle. And the thought of
24 increasing that voltage by several times will, I know,

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 increase the sizzle as well. These are things that
2 impact the value of our homes and they also impact what
3 we live with on a daily basis.

4 And I know that the health concerns are
5 not conclusive and I also am very pleased to hear that
6 you are going to do some more research on that instead of
7 brushing it aside. And I know that you may not even find
8 some conclusive evidence. We've done readings, we've
9 done research, but why risk it. We have two families in
10 my neighborhood both of whom have had children who have
11 had cancer and we don't want to parade them through this,
12 but they have very grave concerns and they can give --
13 they're not sure how their children or why their children
14 got it, but they do live beneath those lines. Why risk
15 it? And why risk it when we have alternatives. Mitch
16 told you -- Goldblatt referred to a project that is
17 coming -- Route 1 is going to be widened, they're going
18 to dig the hole. And in the construction language, as
19 long as you're there digging the hole, couldn't we just
20 include this in the project?

21 You know there's widespread concern
22 throughout the area. And I am very appreciative to our
23 neighbors. There are people here from Woodbridge and
24 Hamden who have come to support our cause this evening.

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 And we are a whole community and I would hate to see us
2 end up putting -- pitting one community against another
3 where it's -- we already have a situation if it was okay
4 in Southeastern Connecticut, it was okay for Fairfield
5 County, and now we're moving up the line and well we can
6 avoid Woodbridge, and maybe we'll just do it to Orange.
7 Don't -- don't separate us, don't pit one against the
8 other, because I think we do serve as one united
9 community. (Applause). It's important to all of us, we
10 are -- we are organized, we'll work together, and we'll
11 do what we need to do to protect our children and our
12 homes and our environment. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

14 MR. S. DEREK PHELPS: Madam Chairman, if I
15 may. We've been advised by the local police department
16 that there are a number of cars parked on Schoolhouse
17 Lane on the side of the road that they are not permitted
18 to be parked on. If you were to leave this building and
19 travel out, we're talking about the side that is on the
20 right, anybody who is parked on that side of Schoolhouse
21 Lane, you must move your car soon or somebody will move
22 it for you.

23 MR. GOLDBLATT: Might I suggest for those
24 who aren't familiar with the area that may be from out of

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 town, there is additional parking at the Congregational
2 Church, which is across Orange Center Road. There should
3 also be some parking at Town Hall or Case Memorial
4 Library. I know it's a little bit of a walk, but it's a
5 mild night.

6 A VOICE: (Indiscernible) -- parking right
7 in the back.

8 MR. GOLDBLATT: There's parking in the
9 back?

10 A VOICE: There's at least half a dozen
11 spaces back --

12 MR. GOLDBLATT: And I've been told there's
13 some spaces on the back side of the school as well.
14 Thank you for your cooperation.

15 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Is there any public
16 official who came in later who I did not call who wishes
17 to speak? (Pause).

18 Okay, at this time I'm going to call on
19 members of the public. Dan, can you get me that list.
20 When I call on you, you have three minutes, please come
21 up to the podium, give your name, give your address, and
22 spell your name for the court reporter. First on the
23 list is Jack Larkin.

24 MR. JACK LARKIN: Good evening and thank

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 you. Mr. --

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: I'm sorry, Mr. Larkin, my
3 mistake, you're on page 2 -- (laughter) --

4 MR. COLIN C. TAIT: Let him speak.

5 CHAIRMAN KATZ: But since you're already
6 there --

7 MR. LARKIN: Thank you --

8 CHAIRMAN KATZ: -- please continue.

9 COURT REPORTER: Spell your name please.

10 MR. LARKIN: The last name is Larkin, L-a-
11 r-k-i-n. I live at 325 Pine Tree Drive in Orange.

12 I have power lines at the back end of my
13 property. And my wife is a great gardener. She loves to
14 garden. And about -- her garden from these power lines
15 is maybe 50 to 75 feet.

16 And we're basically very healthy people.
17 We're into vitamins and nutrition and good health and
18 good eating and diet and exercise. And 15 years ago she
19 came down with a rare autoimmune disease. The doctors at
20 Yale New Haven said they'd never seen anything like it,
21 they couldn't even figure out what caused this. So it's
22 still no reason for it, except her gardening I think in
23 the backyard. I've often meant to go out and buy myself
24 a gauss meter, but I've never got around to it because

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 very few stores carry them, so I could just do my own
2 readings back there.

3 And like a former speaker said, you can
4 hear the cracking of those wires. And to triple that
5 amount, the electromagnetics out there, not only do they
6 cause leukemia, I'm also -- I spent 50 years in real
7 estate and 30 years as a hobby in nutrition and
8 preventive medicine and the -- not only is leukemia a
9 factor, there's also -- brain tumors is another condition
10 that can be caused by these magnetic radiations, so much
11 to the point where they're warning women to be -- when
12 they do their hairblowers, to hold them at least three or
13 four feet from their heads because that little tiny
14 electric motor in there can cause brain tumors. This
15 isn't publicized too much, but it's a fact.

16 The other thing is we have to remember
17 these towers are going to be almost the height of a 10-
18 story building and they're going to be a lot more
19 conspicuous than the existing poles that are out there
20 now that tend to blend in with the trees because they
21 have the same brown colors.

22 As far as property values go, I can tell
23 you it's very difficult to sell houses that are near
24 these power lines.

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 And I would recommend -- or I don't agree
2 with them all the time, but tonight our First Selectman
3 is right when he says these lines should be buried.

4 What would happen if in the future it turn
5 out we have a Love Canal situation in Orange where all
6 the people along these rights-of-ways end up with all
7 kinds of cancers? Are the utility companies going to
8 take these towers down and then bury them? They won't do
9 that. So the people would just have to move out like
10 they did in Love Canal up in New York State.

11 The last thing I want to comment is I've
12 done a lot of subdivisions in my lifetime up in Oxford
13 and Woodbridge and why is it all the builders are advised
14 by the utility companies to bury all their power lines,
15 so when you go in all these new subdivisions, you don't
16 see any more telephone poles -- (applause). My
17 understanding is they do this -- I'm not sure completely
18 why, but my understanding is the reason why they do this
19 is for over the years the utility companies will have
20 less maintenance because we're in hurricane territory,
21 ice. We won't have to worry about ice storms in the
22 future and power going off and all these other things
23 that affect our computers and everything. But all the
24 new subdivisions that I've been in, the phone lines, the

1 cable lines, and all the electric lines are all
2 underground. And it does make the whole area a lot more
3 appealing. And I think the answer --

4 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you --

5 MR. LARKIN: -- thanks for your time. And
6 again, bury, bury, bury. (Applause).

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: I apologize to page 1.
8 I'm back on the right list now. Next is Dr. Alan Klotz.

9 COURT REPORTER: Spell your last name
10 please. And your first name too please.

11 DR. ALAN KLOTZ: It's Alan, A-l-a-n. The
12 last name is Klotz, K-l-o-t-z. 821 Tall Timber Road,
13 Orange. Good evening and thank you for allowing me to
14 speak before you.

15 The segment of the human population most
16 susceptible to mutations is the young, namely those
17 individuals between the ages of conception and 16 years
18 of age. It is here we find the developing human immune
19 system assaulted by terrestrial and solar background
20 radiations, as well as chemical agents found in the home,
21 school, day care center, and other places a youngster is
22 likely to be. The developing human immune system is also
23 exposed to low levels of electromagnetic field radiation
24 in the home, school, day care center, medical and dental

1 facilities, anywhere there are electrical devices. The
2 human immune system develops and becomes robust in the
3 late teenage years.

4 Two weeks ago at the Connecticut Siting
5 Council meeting held in Woodbridge, numerous citizens
6 expressed concern for the safety of the many children in
7 Woodbridge currently exposed to EMF from the 115-kilovolt
8 overhead power lines. The EMF exposure levels to the
9 children in Woodbridge will dramatically increase if the
10 proposed 345-kilovolt power lines are built above ground.
11 I heard Drs. Jeffrey Humphrey and Leonard Bell of
12 Woodbridge state that they reviewed the EMF studies and
13 it was clear to them that elevated EMF exposure was
14 associated with elevated incidents of childhood leukemia.

15 The segment of the human population that
16 is next most susceptible to mutations is the old, namely
17 those individuals 55 years of age and older. It is here
18 we find --

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Excuse me. Fifty-five is
20 old? (Laughter).

21 DR. KLOTZ: Yes -- if you're not taking
22 away from my time -- the human body is designed to live
23 approximately 50 to 55 years. Beyond that we are old.

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: We'll give you an extra 30

1 seconds for that. (Laughter).

2 DR. KLOTZ: Thank you very much. It is
3 here we find the declining human immune system assaulted
4 by terrestrial and solar background radiations as well as
5 chemical agents found in the home, workplace, and other
6 places -- and other places an oldster is likely to be.
7 The declining human immune system is also exposed to low
8 levels of electromagnetic field radiation in the home,
9 workplace, medical and dental facilities, anywhere there
10 are electrical devices. The human immune system declines
11 and becomes increasingly susceptible to the induction of
12 cancer as part of the normal aging system -- or normal
13 aging process. The additional assault on a senior's
14 declining immune system from overhead 345-kilovolt power
15 lines could trigger somatic changes, the most serious of
16 which is cancer. Here in Orange we have a large
17 population of senior citizens who live within 250 feet of
18 the current overhead power line right-of-way.

19 Michael Morris, the Chief Executive
20 Officer of Northeast Utilities, is fond of exhorting all
21 Northeast Utilities employees to do the right thing. I
22 hope you will also do the right thing and insist that the
23 utility applicants bury the new 345-kilovolt power lines
24 through Orange and Woodbridge as well as the existing

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 115-kilovolt power lines if they are to remained
2 energized. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
4 Next is Peter K. Bertine.

5 COURT REPORTER: Spell your last name
6 please.

7 MR. PETER BERTINE: Bertine, B-e-r-t-i-n-
8 e. Good evening.

9 Actually, I'm from the Norwalk area, and I
10 was unable to attend the session that was held previously
11 as I was unaware of the Applicants' proceedings and
12 proposal at that time.

13 At this time, I'd like to read into the
14 record a statement on behalf of Riverside Cemetery
15 Association. My name is Peter K. Bertine and I am the
16 President of Riverside Cemetery Association, which
17 operates a 40-acre cemetery at 81 Riverside Avenue,
18 Norwalk, Connecticut.

19 We recently became aware that Connecticut
20 Light & Power and United Illuminating Company have
21 applied for the placement of a new 345-kV electric
22 transmission line on Riverside Avenue directly in front
23 of our cemetery. The proposed route of this line as
24 shown on the aerial photograph made in the spring of

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 2001, Segment 242, involves the placement of a jacking
2 area on cemetery property at its northeast corner at the
3 intersection of Route 123, Riverside Avenue and Ponus
4 Avenue, which extends eastward as New Canaan Avenue
5 towards the utilities' substation in Norwalk. A jacking
6 area, as you know, is where they place the equipment that
7 will --

8 CHAIRMAN KATZ: We know, so I suggest you
9 don't use your valuable time.

10 MR. BERTINE: I don't have much more.

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Oh, okay.

12 MR. BERTINE: The proposed location of the
13 jacking area is unacceptable to our association inasmuch
14 as it would unlawfully and improperly desecrate the
15 graves of deceased persons and disturb the peace and
16 quiet of the cemetery. Alternative locations for the
17 jacking area must be made available in order to prevent
18 needless damage to cemetery grounds and violation of the
19 final resting places of the dead.

20 Riverside Cemetery Association is
21 dedicated to the preservation of the sanctity of all
22 graves within its boundaries and to the perpetual care of
23 all cemetery grounds. Under no circumstances will our
24 association allow or agree to the placement of

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 construction equipment on its property which would
2 violate the cemetery's responsibilities and policies duly
3 granted under charter by the Connecticut State
4 Legislature in 1886, nor will Riverside Cemetery
5 Association allow or agree to the disinterment of
6 remains and/or relocation of graves to merely enable said
7 jacking area or any other equipment or construction work
8 to facilitate the proposed project by the Applicant. It
9 is imperative that alternatives be found for the
10 placement of the jacking area at a site which will not
11 adversely affect the cemetery's property or disturb the
12 graves or remains therein. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
14 Next is Charles L. Flynn.

15 MR. CHARLES L. FLYNN: The last name F-l-
16 y-n-n. Ladies and gentlemen, I reside at 311 Hotchkiss
17 Road in Orange. I do not live near one of these power
18 lines. I don't want to.

19 The Town of Orange for more than 10 years,
20 maybe even 20 years, has had a requirement that any
21 development in town the lines be buried under the ground.
22 It seems to me that in light of that fact, in
23 consideration of this application that these power lines
24 should be consistent with our current practices and be

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 placed under ground.

2 I -- when I came here tonight, the only
3 thing I was going to talk about was that, but I noticed a
4 map which started out here with -- it looked like a power
5 line coming in from Danbury, or approximately Danbury on
6 the map, and extending a short distance in, and instead
7 they got this thing coming all the way across the State
8 to go to Norwalk, and there's just a little run from the
9 end of that line to Norwalk on that map. I wonder what's
10 going on and why this has to be done rather than that
11 short run that showed up on the map. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
13 And there's members of the Applicants' people here,
14 probably if -- out in the hallway -- if you'd like to ask
15 them that question. Next is Jody Ellant.

16 COURT REPORTER: Spell your last name.

17 MS. JODY ELLANT: E-l-l-a-n-t. And Jody
18 is --

19 A VOICE: Speak into the microphone, so we
20 can --

21 MS. ELLANT: E-l-l-a-n-t. And Jody is J-
22 o-d-y.

23 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

24 MS. ELLANT: My name is Jody Ellant and I

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 live at 67 Deer Run Road in Woodbridge, Connecticut. I
2 come to you tonight -- I did not speak at the Woodbridge
3 hearing.

4 I am the co-chair person of Keep the
5 Children Safe. I am here today to speak to you about
6 what I find to be a breach by Connecticut Light & Power
7 and United Illuminating in their duty to provide
8 electricity safely without harming the children of the
9 State of Connecticut. Their current proposal that the
10 route of the power lines run directly over schools and
11 community centers does not adhere to the corporate safety
12 standards set by power companies in other states in our
13 country. Power companies who operate in the states of
14 Florida, Wisconsin, Alabama, Tennessee, Virginia,
15 Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, and North Carolina have
16 made the ethical corporate decisions not to site high
17 voltage power lines -- transmission lines near schools.

18 In fact, the Tennessee Valley Authority,
19 our country's largest power transmission company states
20 the desirable distance between transmission lines of a
21 similar voltage and schools is twelve-hundred feet, a
22 desirable distance between transmission lines and schools
23 is twelve-hundred feet. Yet here in Connecticut,
24 Connecticut Light & Power and United Illuminating have

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 proposed that 460 kilovolts of power run directly over
2 the campuses of B'Nai Jacob, the Jewish Community Center,
3 and High Plains Community Center, exposing our children
4 to EMF levels between 25 and 96 milligauss. In sharp
5 contrast the application filed by the utilities with this
6 Council acknowledges that there is a statistical
7 association between EMF and childhood leukemia with
8 radiation levels of over 4 milligauss. In fact, United
9 Illuminating's 2002 annual report states, and I quote,
10 "litigation expenditures may also increase as a result of
11 scientific investigations and speculation and debate
12 concerning the possibility of harmful health effects of
13 electric and magnetic fields".

14 The power companies have concerns albeit
15 with their bottom lines. We are concerned about the
16 health and safety of our children. There are ways to
17 bring power to Connecticut and safely -- and safety to
18 our children. We implore you to require the utilities to
19 do so.

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause). I
21 was doing really well on pronunciations, but the next is
22 Georgianna Passariello.

23 A VOICE: (Indiscernible).

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Pretty good? Thank you.

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 COURT REPORTER: And spell --

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: And you're going to spell
3 both your first and your last for the court reporter.

4 MS. GEORGIANNA PASSARIELLO: First and
5 last, okay.

6 A VOICE: Push that down a little bit.

7 MS. PASSARIELLO: I'm a short person. G-
8 e-o-r-g-i-a-n-n-a. Passariello, P-a-s-s-a-r-i-e-l-l-o.

9 I will keep my statement brief and
10 hopefully to the point. My name is Georgianna
11 Passariello and I currently reside at 270 High Plains
12 Drive in Orange. I have been a resident since 1972. I
13 have lived with a huge tower and UI having a right-of-way
14 since that time. My property is severely impacted, as
15 even though I have an acre and a half, I only have the
16 use of approximately one-third of an acre.

17 Back in '72 no one explained that the UI
18 would have the right to subject me to a tower two to
19 three times the size that is currently adorning my
20 property, that they could expand the right-of-way at
21 will. Isn't it bad enough that they use pesticides, cut
22 down all the natural vegetation; and by doing so deprive
23 the wildlife that remains their domicile.

24 For all of this, the Town of Orange

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 assesses my home \$10,000.00 less than comparable
2 properties. This will change. As you are aware, land
3 has become almost as valuable as the home that is on top
4 of it. How can you in good conscience not put as many
5 sections as possible underground irrespective of cost.

6 I'm not speaking for the elderly, although
7 I'll be one soon. I'm not speaking for the children,
8 although I empathize. I'm speaking for all the people.
9 I do not reside on town property, a house of worship, or
10 playgrounds. The difference is I pay taxes, and more
11 than my fair share. If rates have to go up to pay for
12 it, so be it. I am not exempt from subsidizing the
13 public school system, which I have never used. My
14 education has always been private.

15 In closing, I implore the Siting Council
16 to look long and hard at the impact of your decisions.
17 Close your eyes and walk in our shoes, the people who are
18 really affected, imagine being us. All wires should be
19 buried underground. We have the technology, why don't we
20 use it. Ignorance is no longer an excuse. To the UI,
21 please bury the lines, do the right thing, don't bury us.

22 If you do bury me and put a tower on top, I don't care.

23 Thank you for your time and thanks
24 especially to the First Selectman and everyone else who

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 has come out. I feel now finally my taxes have gone to a
2 good cause. (Applause).

3 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is Martha Weishart --
4 Weishart?

5 MS. MARTHA WEISBART: It must be my
6 writing. It's Weisbart, W-e-i-s-b-a-r-t.

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: There was a little
8 flourish there on the B there.

9 MS. WEISBART: I know. And it's Martha.
10 And I'm over 55. I have lived in Orange for 38 years.

11 I am pleading with you tonight on behalf
12 of the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven on
13 whose property these power lines are adjacent, and I
14 speak on behalf of my two grandchildren who play at the
15 JCC where annually thirteen-hundred youth, infants, and
16 children, the majority from the Bethany, Orange and
17 Woodbridge area come through the doors. These same
18 grandchildren together with many from Orange are schooled
19 at Ezra Academy and attend Congregation B'Nai Jacob in
20 Woodbridge, another site adjacent to the power lines.
21 These new high voltage power lines will impact on tens of
22 thousands of developing youth in the years ahead. Many
23 of the JCC's spend eight to ten hours there daily. I've
24 consulted with physicians who have studied the impact of

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 high voltage power lines on children. There are studies
2 that show children exposed to high levels of EMF are
3 twice as likely to have developed leukemia. That means
4 our children may incur double the risk.

5 Kids count on adults to protect them.
6 They count on us, on you and on me. The quality of their
7 lives cannot be counted in dollars. They count on us to
8 do the right thing. Please act to bury these lines.

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause). I
10 have three more people on the list of who have signed up
11 to speak. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak who
12 has not signed up, please do this now.

13 Next is Janet Stratton, followed in Dr.
14 David Astrachan, followed by Howard Reiter. Would you
15 spell your name please.

16 MS. JANET STRATTON: My name is Janet
17 Stratton, S-t-r-a-t-t-o-n. I am a resident and a
18 taxpayer in the Town of Orange. I live at 351 Timberlane
19 Drive.

20 The Council has a very difficult job
21 before it and I thank you for the attention and the care
22 that you are showing tonight. I would ask that you step
23 very carefully around this issue because once you get it
24 on your shoe, it's very hard to scrape it off.

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 The UI put power lines in my backyard in
2 1926 pursuant to their easement. For a perspective, I
3 would ask the Council to recall that in 1926 there were
4 certain facts that we knew for certain. We knew in 1926
5 that tobacco smoking was a harmless pursuit, safe, non-
6 addictive. We knew that lead was a harmless additive.
7 We put it paint, ceramic dishes, crystal glasses, water
8 pipes. We knew that asbestos was a harmless and
9 effective insulator. It fireproofed over 5,000 products,
10 including kitchen table placemats and draperies. And we
11 knew that DDT was a miracle chemical that could rid the
12 world of mosquitoes. The same thing for chlordane. We
13 knew that radium used in x-rays was a miracle element
14 that would allow doctors to see inside the human body, a
15 new technology then. And we knew that 115-kilovolt power
16 lines were a safe and efficient means to transport
17 electrical power through my kids' preschool, through
18 their summer camp, their playground and our yards. We
19 know now that the folks who touted those products as
20 harmless were, oh, so wrong and, oh, so shortsighted, and
21 they charged ahead and took chances, leaving future
22 generations to be infected by and to solve the problems
23 they created.

24 Shortsightedness did not stop in the

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 20's and 30's either. In the 1970's computer programmers
2 did not plan their programs to track dates beyond the
3 year 1999. Why? Because they thought that future
4 generations would surely have replaced their work by the
5 year 2000. This shortsightedness lead to the Y2K
6 debacle. Remember that? Thousands of hours to repair
7 computer programs, thousands of hours of lost
8 productivity and billions of dollars for businesses to
9 fix the problems that were totally avoidable by planning
10 for the future.

11 Like the 70's programmers, power planners
12 thought 115-kilovolt lines would provide ample
13 electricity, but they don't. And they probably thought
14 they were safe, but now we know they're not.

15 No, we can't yet prove that the suspected
16 links to devastating childhood illnesses such as leukemia
17 and subtle cellular mutations and hormonal changes such
18 as melanin -- melatonin levels -- we can't prove that
19 causal link yet, not with current technology. But as
20 with tobacco and asbestos and lead and DDT, some day we
21 will have the technology to prove that link.

22 For now the power industry tells us that -
23 - just as Owen Corning told us and Dupont Chemical told
24 us these lines are going to be safe, you will be

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 protected. But to triple those transmission lines to 345
2 kilovolts if scientists questioned the safety of the
3 lower voltage lines, is folly. Please know you'll be
4 taking an enormous risk for the future and you will be
5 affecting future generations of children. The system you
6 enact today will still be in use a hundred years from
7 now, and it will surely become inadequate then, and it
8 will surely need to be further expanded --

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you --

10 MS. STRATTON: -- bury the lines under
11 open roadways where there will be ease of access and no
12 risk of damage, sabotage, ice, danger of accidents for
13 construction --

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you --

15 MS. STRATTON: -- cranes, etcetera. Thank
16 you for your attention and time. (Applause).

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: I think 1926 was also
18 prohibition. (Laughter).

19 A VOICE: (Indiscernible, not near mic) --
20 the things we didn't know that we know now.

21 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is Dr. David
22 Astrachan, followed by Howard Reiter.

23 DR. DAVID ASTRACHAN: My name is Dr. David
24 Astrachan, A-s-t-r-a-c-h-a-n. I'm an ear, nose, and

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 throat physician and surgeon. I'm a resident of Orange.
2 I have offices in Milford and Hamden. And I have a nine-
3 year-old son who attends Ezra Academy in Woodbridge.

4 Today in preparation for this meeting, I
5 preformed a MED-line computer search looking at papers
6 dealing with the health effects of electromagnetic fields
7 and high voltage power lines. Over 300 papers were found
8 in the search, some of them talking about issues such as
9 childhood leukemia, brain tumors, mutated effects, some
10 of them saying and warning of the dangers, and some of
11 them saying no statistical effects could really be seen.
12 Papers can be found on both sides of this health effects
13 issue.

14 And Madam Chairman, I understand that
15 you're going to be bringing in an "expert",
16 quote/unquote. And I'm sorry to tell you that an expert
17 is only as good as what you hope the expert will say.
18 Experts can be found who are pro, who find problems, and
19 experts can be found who find that there are no problems.

20 What we do know however is that there is a controversy.

21 My patients when they're sick or when
22 they're ailing, they rely on me to present them with
23 options for treatment. If two options for treatment
24 exist, one less expensive but potentially risky, the

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 other more expensive but completely safe, I guarantee you
2 that they will choose the safe alternative every time. I
3 ask that you make the right decision here and the only
4 right decision here is the guaranteed safe decision, bury
5 the lines. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

7 And the last person to sign up is Howard Reiter.

8 COURT REPORTER: Spell your last name.

9 MR. HOWARD REITER: It's R-e-i-t-e-r.

10 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

11 MR. REITER: I'm Howard Reiter. I live at
12 67 Deer Run Road in Woodbridge. I'm President of Rome
13 Mag (phonetic) Fasteners of Orange and Rome Fasteners in
14 Milford. I'm a mechanical and aerospace engineer with
15 degrees from Princeton and MIT. For the past 10 years I
16 have been designing and developing magnetic devices. And
17 the company I started based on my patented magnetic
18 devices employs twelve-hundred people around the world
19 today.

20 I am expert in static magnetic fields, but
21 not in dynamic ones, such as the ones generated by power
22 transmission lines. So when this line was proposed, I
23 did what all engineers do and I cracked the books and
24 began to study something about AC magnetic fields and

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 their effects on health as well. At the beginning I
2 believed, as the utilities would have us believe, that
3 magnetic fields are safe. I wanted to believe that. I
4 grew up in New Haven. I went to school at Ezra Academy in
5 Woodbridge. I go to the JCC. And here I am as an adult
6 back at those same two campuses where my four children
7 also spend their days. Having read numerous recent
8 studies and articles about the subject of magnetic fields
9 and their effect on health, I am thoroughly convinced
10 that the AC magnetic fields to be generated by the new
11 power lines are the source of increased risks of
12 childhood leukemia.

13 I'm an engineer and I looked at the data
14 dispassionately and analytically. And now I can say
15 without any doubt these lines present a danger to our
16 children. Please bury them. Please find other
17 alternatives and keep them away from our kids.

18 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).
19 That concludes everyone who signed up to speak.

20 The Siting Council would like to thank the
21 Town of Orange, especially First Selectman Mitch
22 Goldblatt for hosting our hearing tonight.

23 Our next public hearing and last on the
24 listening tour is tomorrow night, February 24th, 7:00

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HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

1 p.m., at Middletown High School Auditorium, 370 Hunting
2 Hill Avenue in Middletown, Connecticut.

3 Thank you for your participation and
4 please drive safely.

5
6 (Whereupon, the hearing adjourned at 8:30
7 p.m.)

HEARING RE: CL&P and UI
 FEBRUARY 23, 2004 (7:05 PM)

INDEX OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

	PAGE
Blake, Joe (Selectman, Orange)	32
Goldblatt, Mitchell (First Selectman, Orange)	20
Marrella, Amey (First Selectman, Woodbridge)	36
Paolini, Michael (Orange Planning & Zoning)	23
Pearson, Trish (Board of Selectmen, Orange)	38
Slossberg, Gail (Milford Board of Aldermen)	33
Smith, Win (State Senator)	28
Tucker, Edmund (Orange Conservation Commission)	25

INDEX OF SPEAKERS

Astrachan, David	60
Bertine, Peter	48
Ellant, Jody	51
Flynn, Charles L.	50
Klotz, Alan (Dr.)	45
Larkin, Jack	41
Passariello, Georgianna	54
Reiter, Howard	62
Stratton, Janet	57
Weisbart, Martha	56

CERTIFICATE

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

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

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and do so attest to the above, this 27th day of February, 2004.


Robin L. Focht,
Vice President

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