

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SITING COUNCIL

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

CONNECTICUT  
SITING COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 24, 2004  
(7:10 P.M.)

DOCKET NO. 272

BEFORE: PAMELA B. KATZ, CHAIRMAN

BOARD MEMBERS: Colin C. Tait, Vice Chairman  
Brian Emerick, DEP Designee  
Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.  
Brian O'Neill  
James J. Murphy, Jr.

STAFF MEMBERS: S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director  
Fred O. Cunliffe, Siting Analyst  
Robert L. Marconi, AAG

APPEARANCES:

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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 Middletown High School, 370 Hunting Hill Avenue,  
6 Middletown, Connecticut, on February 24, 2004 at 7:10  
7 p.m., at which time the parties were represented as  
8 hereinbefore set forth . . .

9  
10

11 CHAIRMAN PAMELA B. KATZ: Good evening.  
12 My name is Pam Katz. I'm Chairman of the Connecticut  
13 Siting Council. I wanted to make a few welcoming remarks  
14 before I read our more formal opening statement.

15 On behalf of all the members of the Siting  
16 council, I wanted to welcome you to our public hearing  
17 tonight.

18 The mission of the Siting Council is  
19 pretty simple. Our job is to protect the environment by  
20 providing needed public utilities. Our statute also  
21 cites public health and safety.

22 You are the final stop on our eighth stop  
23 listening tour for this docket for a 345-transmission  
24 line. And we do this listening tour simply because we

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1 want to hear from the residents on how they think this  
2 application affects them and their neighborhoods. We're  
3 going to have evidentiary hearings in New Britain at our  
4 headquarters in March, April, and May on this. And we do  
5 the listening tour because, frankly, we don't know your  
6 neighborhoods as well as you do, even though we did drive  
7 the route today. And that's why it's important that we  
8 hear from you.

9 There's three issues that have come up  
10 pretty consistently and I just wanted to briefly describe  
11 how the Siting Council is going to approach them. Those  
12 issues are under-grounding, EMF's (electromagnetic  
13 fields), and property values.

14 First, the Siting Council is going to hire  
15 their own expert -- we're in the process of doing that --  
16 our own expert on under-grounding. When we did Phase 1,  
17 which was the Bethel to Norwalk line, it became very  
18 apparent to us the importance of knowing how much of a  
19 transmission line can be put underground. So we've  
20 decided to hire our own expert, who is going to advise us  
21 on this matter.

22 And if you've gotten up to Volume 6 in the  
23 application, you know that we do look at EMF's  
24 (electromagnetic fields). In fact, we've done a couple

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1 of things on this. First, we're sensitive to the  
2 concerns raised by residents about this. And we've asked  
3 the Department of Public Health -- the State Department  
4 of Public Health to comment on the Applicant's testimony  
5 relating to EMF emissions. And we've also asked DPH to  
6 make available a staff member to be at our evidentiary  
7 hearings and to present testimony on this subject and to  
8 take questions from the Council and the parties and  
9 intervenors in the proceeding on EMF's.

10 The other thing we've done on EMF's is  
11 we've set as Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, as EMF evidentiary day.  
12 We're going to spend one day in our evidentiary hearing  
13 just on EMF's so that parties and intervenors can cross-  
14 examine on that topic. And to sort of help parties and  
15 intervenors prep on that, we've created on our website --  
16 and our website address is on the easel -- we've created  
17 an EMF page. And on that EMF page we've put the links  
18 that have the part of the application having to do with  
19 EMF's and also government documents that the Siting  
20 Council has taken administrative notice of concerning  
21 that.

22 The third topic that often comes up is  
23 asking well do you guys have jurisdiction on property  
24 values. And again, we understand that some people

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1 believe that the proposed structures may adversely affect  
2 the value of their homes. And to that end, the Council  
3 will scrutinize the proposed structures relative to their  
4 appearance to the present structures and compare them.  
5 And we invite people who feel that property values are  
6 affected, to present testimony during the evidentiary  
7 phase on property values.

8                   Tonight when you get up to speak, please  
9 remember you're not speaking just to the Siting Council,  
10 the Applicant is also here, and you can bring up  
11 questions and things that you would like them to consider  
12 and take up during our evidentiary phase. So you're not  
13 just speaking to us, you're also speaking to United  
14 Illuminating and Connecticut Light & Power.

15                   At this point, I'd like to read the  
16 opening statement and then the Applicant has a short  
17 video, which describes the route.

18                   Ladies and gentlemen, this hearing is  
19 called to order 7:00 p.m., February 24, 2004.

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

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1 Members of the staff here are Derek  
2 Phelps, Executive Director; Robert Marconi, Assistant  
3 Attorney General; and Fred Cunliffe, Siting Analyst on  
4 this docket.

5 The court reporter is Tony Vanacore and  
6 the audio technician is Ed Chamberlain.

7 This hearing tonight is held pursuant to  
8 the provisions of the General Statutes 16-50g through 16-  
9 50aa and Sections 16-50j-1 through 16-50j-34 of the  
10 Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies on an  
11 application of The Connecticut Light and Power Company  
12 and United Illuminating Company for a Certificate of  
13 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the  
14 construction of a new 345 electric transmission line and  
15 associated facilities between the Scovill Rock Switching  
16 Station in Middletown and the Norwalk Substation in  
17 Norwalk. This includes construction of the Beseck  
18 Switching Station in Wallingford, the East Devon  
19 Substation in Milford, and the Singer Substation in  
20 Bridgeport, and modifications to the Scovill Rock  
21 Switching Station and the Norwalk Substation and certain  
22 interconnections. This application was received by the  
23 Council on October 9, 2003.

24 This proceeding is a contested case under

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1 the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA) and will  
2 be conducted in accordance with the applicable provisions  
3 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and  
4 the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

5 As required by law, ex parte or off-the-  
6 record communication with a Council member or a Council  
7 staff member on the merits of the application is  
8 prohibited.

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

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

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

18 In fairness to everyone who wishes to  
19 speak, I'm going to limit the statements of public  
20 officials to five minutes and to citizens to three  
21 minutes. And we have a stoplight up here, which will  
22 show you about -- it will start blinking about a minute  
23 before your time is up. A sign-up sheet is available  
24 over there by the easel for those who wish to



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1 participate. And there's one sign-up sheet for public  
2 officials and another one for residents. These  
3 statements will become part of the record for Council  
4 consideration.

5 In addition, written statements sent to  
6 the Council within 30 days after the last hearing session  
7 in this proceeding will be given the same weight as  
8 spoken statements. The mailing address for the Council  
9 is 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut 06051,  
10 and that address is on the easel.

11 As an alternative, there's a second  
12 transcriptionist available to record spoken statements by  
13 individuals who may have statements longer than three  
14 minutes, or who have other obligations. And that  
15 transcriptionist is located in the lobby, and you passed  
16 her on the way in.

17 A verbatim transcript will be made of each  
18 hearing session, and all hearing transcripts will be  
19 deposited with the town and city clerks within the  
20 municipalities of Middletown, Middlefield, Haddam,  
21 Durham, Meriden, Wallingford, Cheshire, Haddam, Bethany,  
22 Woodbridge, Orange, West Haven, Milford, Stratford,  
23 Bridgeport, Fairfield, Westport, Norwalk, Easton,  
24 Trumbull, Weston, Wilton, North Haven and New Haven.

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1           After all the public hearings in the  
2 municipalities have concluded, the Council will continue  
3 hearings for the purpose of cross-examination of evidence  
4 by the Council, its staff, and the parties and  
5 intervenors. The dates, times, and locations of the  
6 evidentiary hearings will be noticed to the parties and  
7 intervenors and also posted on the Council's website,  
8 ct.gov/csc.

9           First, I'd like to recognize Deputy Mayor  
10 Gerald Daley. Deputy Mayor Daley is going to make some  
11 brief welcoming remarks at the outset of our hearing and  
12 then we're going to have a video by the Applicant.  
13 Deputy Mayor.

14           DEPUTY MAYOR GERALD DALEY: Thank you,  
15 Miss Katz.

16           On behalf of Mayor Thornton, who is out of  
17 town on vacation this week and unable to be here, I want  
18 to extend a welcome on behalf of the City of Middletown  
19 to all of you who have taken your time to come out to  
20 this hearing, to both Miss Katz and members of the Siting  
21 Council, Mr. Phelps, and the staff, but most importantly  
22 to the public officials and citizens of the surrounding  
23 communities who are here to make their viewpoints known.

24           Mayor Thornton has already submitted

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1 written comments expressing the official opinion of the  
2 City. We're here -- Deputy City Attorney Tim Lynch will  
3 also reiterate the City's official position tonight, as  
4 well as some members of our Conservation Commission. In  
5 a nutshell, while we recognize the importance and  
6 desirability of reliable power distribution systems, we  
7 remain concerned about not only the property values, but  
8 also, and more importantly, the health and safety of our  
9 families and our neighborhoods and communities that will  
10 be affected by this project.

11 So we appreciate your coming here tonight  
12 to both give your comments and for the Siting Council to  
13 receive your comments about the impact of this project.  
14 Thank you very much and good evening.

15 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).  
16 That reminds me, I would like to thank the City of  
17 Middletown for providing us this large venue for this.  
18 We had a smaller venue and Mayor Thornton made one phone  
19 call and then we were here.

20 For the benefit of the public in  
21 attendance at tonight's hearing, I have asked that the  
22 Applicant explain the general nature of this application,  
23 its proposed benefits, its alleged need, and what  
24 alternatives were explored. In response to that request,

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1 the Applicant has compiled a short video that addresses  
2 these issues in summary form. And I'll ask that the  
3 Applicant introduce that video now.

4 COURT REPORTER: If you could spell your  
5 last name.

6 MS. ANN BARTOSEWICZ: Yes. Thank you,  
7 Chairman Katz. My name is Ann Bartosewicz, B-a-r-t-o-s-  
8 e-w-i-c-z. I'm the Project Director for Northeast  
9 Utilities on this project.

10 As Chairman Katz mentioned, we've been  
11 asked to prepare a brief power point presentation, which  
12 we will show you. It does have an audio with it. It  
13 explains the application.

14 And attached to this is an additional  
15 slide. At the request of the City of Wallingford, we've  
16 been asked to re-look at an alternative called -- what we  
17 call the East Shore alternative. So in part of this  
18 presentation you will see at the end an explanation of  
19 what this East Shore alternative is. And with that, why  
20 don't you play the video.

21 CHAIRMAN KATZ: I'd just like to announce  
22 that license plate 679RXP, you left your lights on.

23

24 (Whereupon, a video presentation prepared

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1 by the Applicant was played for the public.)

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VIDEO PRESENTATION

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

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

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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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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 overhead option.

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1           In Haddam the proposed route is an  
2 overhead solution long the existing right-of-way between  
3 Oxbow Junction on Oxbow Road and the Durham town line.  
4 The two rows of existing H-frame structures would be  
5 replaced with one row of monopoles with a typical height  
6 of 105 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. For Haddam, Alternatives A and B are  
9 the same as the proposed route.

10           In Middletown the proposed route is an  
11 overhead solution. From Scovill Rock Substation on  
12 Freeman Road to Chestnut Junction on East Mount Road, a  
13 row of H-frame structures, typically 80 feet in height,  
14 would be added to the two rows of H-frame structures  
15 already there. The width of the existing right-of-way  
16 would need to be expanded by 85 feet from its current 250  
17 feet to 325 feet. On the right-of-way along the Durham  
18 border, the two rows of H-frames would be replaced by one  
19 row of monopoles with a typical height of 105 feet.  
20 There would be a net reduction in the number of  
21 structures and no expansion of the right-of-way would be  
22 necessary. For Middletown, Alternatives A and B are the  
23 same as the proposed route.

24           In Durham the proposed route is an

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1 overhead solution along the existing 5-mile long right-  
2 of-way. It consists of replacing the current two rows of  
3 H-frame structures with a row of monopoles with a typical  
4 height of 105 feet. There would be a net reduction in  
5 the number of structures and no expansion of the right-  
6 of-way would be necessary. For Durham, Alternatives A  
7 and B are the same as the proposed route.

8 In Middlefield the proposed route is an  
9 overhead solution along the existing right-of-way that is  
10 seven-tenths of a mile long. It consists of replacing  
11 the existing two rows of H-frame structures with one row  
12 of monopoles with a typical height of 105 feet. There  
13 would be a net reduction in the number of structures and  
14 no expansion of the right-of-way would be necessary. For  
15 Middlefield, Alternatives A and B are the same as the  
16 proposed route.

17 As the blackout on August 14<sup>th</sup> showed us, a  
18 weakness anywhere on the grid can affect an area much  
19 larger than where the weakness is. Because the  
20 Middletown/Norwalk Project will provide significant  
21 reliability and economic benefits to customers anywhere  
22 on the New England regional grid, the companies  
23 anticipate that the \$604 million dollar cost of the  
24 proposed solution will be shared by customers throughout

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1 New England. And according to a December 2002 ruling by  
2 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, completion of  
3 the project by 2007 at reasonable costs will greatly  
4 assist in obtaining this regionalized rate treatment.

5 The Connecticut Light & Power Company and  
6 the United Illuminating Company thank the Connecticut  
7 Siting Council for the opportunity to present this  
8 information. Additional project information is available  
9 on our websites, [www.transmission-nu.com](http://www.transmission-nu.com) or  
10 [www.uinet.com](http://www.uinet.com).

11 The following is a brief summary of the  
12 companies' investigation of a potential East Shore  
13 alternative prepared at the request of the Connecticut  
14 Siting Council.

15 One of the options originally considered  
16 for building a 345-kilovolt loop through Southwest  
17 Connecticut involved connecting the strong source in  
18 Wallingford to the substation in Milford by means of a  
19 route that passes through a New Haven substation known as  
20 East Shore. Initial evaluations of this route indicated  
21 that a second line on separate structures would be needed  
22 from Wallingford to New Haven. Connecting New Haven to  
23 Milford would require either seven miles of underground,  
24 ten miles of overhead and two transition stations, or

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1 thirteen miles of underground and two transition  
2 stations. And this route would cost about \$200 million  
3 dollars compared with the estimated \$100 million dollars  
4 to connect Wallingford to Milford along that portion of  
5 the proposed route.

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

16           The companies have begun by exploring the  
17 effect of making substantial changes to the East Shore  
18 Substation to see if changes there could eliminate the  
19 need for a second line between Wallingford and New Haven.  
20 So far one reconfiguration has passed preliminary  
21 screening, and the companies have commissioned experts in  
22 power modeling to see if this reconfiguration can pass  
23 national reliability standards. If the companies develop  
24 a means to avoid the need for a second line, then they

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1 will begin to explore whether there is any way to  
2 overcome the electric system issues related to the added  
3 miles of underground.

4 You can find more information about this  
5 potential alternative in the supplemental filing posed on  
6 the companies' websites, [www.transmission-nu.com](http://www.transmission-nu.com) or  
7 [www.uinet.com](http://www.uinet.com).

8  
9 END PRESENTATION

10  
11 MS. BARTOSEWICZ: This presentation was  
12 prepared weeks ago and so I'm just here to update you on  
13 this East Shore alternative. Yesterday the companies  
14 filed their third addendum to our supplemental filing on  
15 East Shore. That information can be found on both the  
16 Siting Council's website, on United Illuminating's  
17 website, and on the Connecticut Light & Power website.  
18 Thank you.

19 (Off the record)

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: I'll be calling on public  
21 officials at this time. When I call you up, please give  
22 your name, your title, and spell your name for the court  
23 reporter. And we're going to ask the public officials to  
24 please limit their remarks to five minutes. And the

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1 first public official to speak is Secretary of State  
2 Susan Bysiewicz. Madam Secretary, welcome.

3 STATE SECRETARY SUSAN BYSIEWICZ: Thank  
4 you, Madam Chairman and Members of the Siting Council --  
5 (indiscernible) --

6 AUDIO TECHNICIAN: Whoa --

7 COURT REPORTER: Spell your last name.

8 STATE SECRETARY BYSIEWICZ: Thank you and  
9 good evening, Madam Chairman and members of the Siting  
10 Council.

11 For the record, my name is Susan  
12 Bysiewicz. I am Secretary of the State of Connecticut.  
13 And I've been asked to spell my name for the record. I  
14 do that about 200 times a day. It's B-y-s-i-e-w-i-c-z.

15 And I am here in two capacities. First as  
16 an elected statewide official. And let me tell you that  
17 I hear about many different constituent issues, but this  
18 particular issue of the upgrade of the power line from  
19 Norwalk to Middletown has been one that has been keeping  
20 my telephone lines and my e-mails very very busy. I am  
21 also here as a lifelong resident of Middletown and as a  
22 parent of three children and as the former State  
23 Representative representing Middletown, Durham and  
24 Middlefield. And less I thought that some of my

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1 constituents from my State Representative days forgot me,  
2 I was reminded that they still have me in mind, and I am  
3 here for them as well.

4 I understand the need for more power and a  
5 reliable source of power, but I am very concerned about  
6 the impact of aboveground power upgrades, particularly  
7 around densely populated areas, and particularly around  
8 areas where there are many children and elderly people  
9 who are particularly sensitive to EMF's.

10 So, I want to urge you to consider  
11 alternative placements away from densely populated areas,  
12 from neighborhoods where children play and where families  
13 live. And I also want to encourage you if that is not  
14 possible, to please bury the power lines particularly  
15 around residential neighborhoods like Royal Oak Park, I  
16 think that that is very important. (Applause).

17 Madam Chairman and members of the Siting  
18 Council, I think you are in for a very lively hearing.  
19 And as you will soon find out, I have and the State of  
20 Connecticut has some very passionate energetic and  
21 enthusiastic people here.

22 And my final point is only that I want to  
23 urge you to listen carefully to their concerns. They  
24 have done a lot of research. They feel very passionately

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1 about this issue. And I thank you in advance for your  
2 attention and for your addressing of their many concerns.

3 So with that, I'm going to yield the  
4 podium to the next public official and I thank you so  
5 much for your attention.

6 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).  
7 The next speaker speaking for the host town, the City of  
8 Middletown, will be Timothy Lynch, Deputy City Attorney.  
9 Mr. Lynch. And again, your name, your title, and spell  
10 your name.

11 MR. TIMOHTY LYNCH: Good evening, Madam  
12 Chairwoman and members of the Council.

13 My name is Timothy Lynch, L-y-n-c-h, and  
14 I'm the Deputy City Attorney for the City of Middletown.

15 Mayor Thornton has asked me to come here  
16 tonight to present the City's official position. The  
17 City is opposed to the project unless all the lines go  
18 underground.

19 With me tonight as well -- (applause) --  
20 thank you -- with me tonight as well are members of the  
21 City's Conservation Commission, who will discuss in  
22 greater detail the City's objections to the project on  
23 environmental and other grounds. Thank you very much.

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

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1 Next is First Selectwoman of the Town of Durham, Maryann  
2 Boord.

3 COURT REPORTER: Spell your name please.

4 MS. MARYANN BOORD: Maryann Boord, B-o-o-  
5 r-d. The first name is all one name.

6 Good evening, nice to see you all again.  
7 Welcome to our area of the State of Connecticut and thank  
8 you for changing the location of the hearing so that it  
9 was more essentially located for those four towns being  
10 represented this evening.

11 Durham has expressed serious concerns  
12 about this project since its inception. Town government  
13 and our residents have demonstrated a fervent effort to  
14 become as knowledgeable as possible about this complex  
15 issue in order to be able to participate effectively in  
16 this onerous process; however, the more we learn, the  
17 more we question.

18 The first question is how can the Phase 2  
19 towns in Docket 272 expect or receive a fair hearing on  
20 the issue of need? The issue of need was determined  
21 during Phase 1 with towns in Docket 217. The Phase 2  
22 towns were not allowed to participate in that docket, nor  
23 were our needs, desires, or specific circumstances  
24 considered. I believe that the Siting Council should



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1 consider the entire loop so that the impacts of the  
2 entire line can be balanced against the need for the  
3 entire line.

4 Durham reserves its objections to  
5 splitting this project up for siting purposes and offers  
6 the following additional concerns:

7 Why is the proposed line only partially  
8 underground? In Phase 1 most of the line will be buried  
9 by an agreement with CL&P. Why not in Phase 2 as well?  
10 Is the Applicant willing to do additional under-grounding  
11 in our communities under an agreement similar to that  
12 reached with Phase 1?

13 Is the under-grounding already approved in  
14 Phase 1 going to in any way limit or affect the under-  
15 grounding in Phase 2? If so, shouldn't Phase 1 be  
16 reopened?

17 The EMF limits projected for our community  
18 are the highest levels and the closest in proximity to  
19 homes in the entire project. Are the projected increases  
20 in EMF levels safe for people, especially children who  
21 live nearby? Are there other lines in Connecticut with  
22 EMF levels as high as those projected in our community?

23 An obvious solution would be to bring the  
24 line directly from its power source at Millstone Point to

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1 New Haven. Has the Applicant explored this possible  
2 route? If not, would the Council be willing to direct  
3 the Applicant to explore this route? In the interest of  
4 administrative economy, would the Council be willing to  
5 delay reviewing the application components north of the  
6 East Shore Substation until that evaluation is complete?

7 The Town of Durham would appreciate a  
8 response to these questions from the Siting Council at  
9 your earliest possible convenience so that we can  
10 determine where to direct our efforts and limited  
11 resources in further participation in this process.

12 Again, I thank the Siting Council for  
13 providing this important opportunity and for your  
14 consideration of these comments. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).  
16 The next speaker is State Representative Ray Kalinowski.  
17 (Applause).

18 COURT REPORTER: Spell your last name  
19 please.

20 REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND KALINOWSKI:  
21 Kalinowski, K-a-l-i-n-o-w-s-k-i.

22 My name is Ray Kalinowski. I'm the State  
23 Representative for the 100<sup>th</sup> District, which is the Towns  
24 of Middlefield, Middletown, and Durham.

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1 I'm going to present some information -- a  
2 little background information on the Phase 1 project and  
3 explain how that may relate to Phase 2. The Northeast  
4 Utilities Service Company on behalf of Connecticut Light  
5 & Power Company initially proposed that the upgrades for  
6 the Bethel to Norwalk route, known as Phase 1, were to  
7 place the 345-kilovolt and 115-kilovolt lines on steel  
8 monopole towers with average heights of 130 feet.  
9 Alternatives also proposed included, No. 1, a 345-  
10 kilovolt overhead transmission line on wooden poles and  
11 steel towers with average heights of 90 and 108 feet  
12 respectively; secondly, placing a single 115-kilovolt  
13 solid dielectric cable underground within existing  
14 roadways; third, or leaving the existing 115-kilovolt  
15 line as is and placing 345-kilovolt solid cables  
16 underground in existing roadways.

17 The company favored the overhead options,  
18 arguing that the electric industry has extensive  
19 experience in constructing, operating, maintaining, and  
20 improving overhead transmission systems. It claimed that  
21 overhead transmission systems are very reliable because  
22 most faults are self-correcting. They also raised  
23 technical concerns about the underground options in  
24 addition to their higher costs. These included concerns

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1 about the reliability and environmental impacts of  
2 underground technologies, as well as emphasizing that  
3 while underground lines are less susceptible to  
4 interruptions from external forces than overhead lines,  
5 problems on overhead lines are easier to locate and  
6 repair.

7           The affected towns as well as various  
8 groups and individual citizens raised a number of  
9 concerns regarding the companies' favored route. These  
10 included the lines possible health and property value  
11 effects, as well as the issue of visual pollution.  
12 Consequently, the towns and CL&P engaged in extensive  
13 negotiations in the towns' proposal to bury parts of the  
14 line in the most sensitive locations.

15           The final outcome, in short, was that the  
16 Siting Council rejected the negotiated settlement between  
17 the towns and CL&P and instead independently developed  
18 its own alternative. That alternative ordered for  
19 several short segments of the line to be placed  
20 underground and for several of the overhead segments of  
21 the line to use shorter towers than were originally  
22 envisioned. Those underground segments were specifically  
23 designed to avoid several residential areas and schools.

24           It seems only fair that if the Council can

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1 unilaterally make that decision for the towns of  
2 Southwestern Connecticut, surely the people of Durham,  
3 Middlefield, and Middletown deserve the same  
4 consideration. (Applause).

5 This evening you will hear from many  
6 people who will passionately appeal to this Council as to  
7 why the proposed line should be buried. You have it in  
8 your power to make that happen. You have it in your  
9 power to act in the best interests of the people. I ask  
10 that you do so. Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).  
12 The next speaker is State Senator Bill Aniskovich.  
13 (Applause).

14 SENATOR WILLIAM ANISKOVICH: Aniskovich is  
15 A-n-i-s-k-o-v-i-c-h.

16 Good evening, Chairwoman Katz and members  
17 of the Council. I am Bill Aniskovich and I represent the  
18 12<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District, which includes in relevant part  
19 the Town of Durham. I have in my 14 years also  
20 represented the Towns of Middlefield and Wallingford, so  
21 I am equally here on behalf of those former constituents  
22 as I am of my current constituents.

23 I would like to thank the Council tonight  
24 for the opportunity to testify on the matter before you,

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1 whether to grant a certificate of environmental  
2 compatibility and public need filed by two applicants,  
3 Northeast Utilities and United Illuminating Company.

4 I would like to go on record very simply  
5 as saying that I unequivocally oppose the application  
6 under consideration by the Siting Council to allow a 345-  
7 transmission line to be built aboveground along any  
8 portion of the proposed right-of-way from Middletown to  
9 Milford. (Applause).

10 I understand that Chairwoman Katz today or  
11 yesterday has asked for an opinion from the Connecticut  
12 Department of Public Health as to the potential health  
13 concerns of aboveground lines. I applaud that request as  
14 a prudent measure in this process. My office has been in  
15 touch today with the State Department of Health and has  
16 been assured that a careful deliberative opinion will be  
17 rendered in a timely fashion for your consideration.

18 Having said that, however, I must register  
19 my own concerns about the health and safety that this  
20 application poses if the two utilities are allowed to  
21 construct more than 45 miles of overhead lines from  
22 Middletown to Milford through numerous towns. At least  
23 two dozen municipalities and tens of thousands of  
24 residents could potentially be affected by this project.

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1 The Applicants' argument is that there is no clear and  
2 compelling evidence that the overhead lines pose a health  
3 threat. I believe -- and I think you should concern  
4 yourselves with the fact that the jury is still out in  
5 this regard and that the record is far from complete.  
6 You are aware of studies that have been cited by various  
7 citizens' groups and others that have indicated higher  
8 rates of leukemia in children that have been exposed to  
9 elevated levels of radiation generated by the enhanced  
10 power lines.

11 We all understand that there is no  
12 question about the need for more power, particularly in  
13 Fairfield County, and the more densely populated areas of  
14 the State. How we get that power to those areas is  
15 obviously the question. The lines should be buried  
16 period. (Applause).

17 Finally, there is the additional issue of  
18 fairness. These questions of where to locate power lines  
19 and how to locate them can often dissolve into not in my  
20 backyard debates that are not helpful and windup  
21 penalizing one group over another. That is not the case  
22 here. The rights-of-way already exist and wind through  
23 numerous communities. The only issue is how to protect  
24 the safety of the public while providing power.

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1 Virtually all of the enhanced power line construction in  
2 Fairfield County would be placed underground from Milford  
3 to Norwalk, about 24 miles. To eliminate the health  
4 concerns altogether, the 45-mile section throughout much  
5 of New Haven County should also be buried.

6 The Siting Council by statute must  
7 consider the public benefit the construction would  
8 provide. And in the case of new construction lines, what  
9 part, if any, should be located overhead. It is clearly  
10 within your discretion to require that the transmission  
11 lines be entirely underground. And I ask you tonight to  
12 use your discretion to so require. (Applause).

13 Thank you for this opportunity to address  
14 -- (indiscernible because of applause).

15 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is Probate Judge Joe  
16 Marino. (Applause).

17 JUDGE JOSEPH MARINO: That's Marino, M-a-  
18 r-i-n-o. That's a little easier to spell than the prior  
19 names that you've had.

20 In the interest of full disclosure, I'm  
21 not here as a probate judge, because in and of itself  
22 that has no real particular meaning for you probably.  
23 But I live in Royal Oak Park and that's the reason why  
24 I'm here, so I'll start from the beginning as far as my



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1 presentation. That was the shorter list and that's why I  
2 signed my name onto the public official list, so --  
3 (applause).

4 But good evening. My name is Joseph  
5 Marino and I live at 38 Ash Court in Middletown. My  
6 southerly property line -- it actually borders the CL&P  
7 easement, which runs through Royal Oak Park. My wife and  
8 I are original owners, having purchased our home there  
9 over 18 years ago. And we have raised three children,  
10 ages 11, 14, and 16 in this great neighborhood. I have  
11 had the privilege to be the probate judge for the  
12 Middletown District, which includes Cromwell, Durham,  
13 Middlefield and Middletown for the past 17 years. As  
14 such, I deal with state statutes quite a bit. That's  
15 what I do for a living, I have to read the statutes, I  
16 have to interpret statutes, I have to figure out where  
17 the statute places burdens.

18 As you know, the Connecticut Siting  
19 Council was created in Chapter 277a of the Connecticut  
20 General Statutes, and that's entitled the Public Utility  
21 Environmental Standards Act. But this chapter attempts  
22 to strike a balance, uneasy at best, between power and  
23 the environment. However, these statutes do not ignore  
24 public health and safety. Specifically, Section 16-50p

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1 states that you, the Siting Council, shall not grant a  
2 certificate unless it shall find -- shall being mandatory  
3 -- that the location of the line will not (not) pose an  
4 undue hazard to persons or property along the area  
5 traversed by the line. You need to make a positive  
6 finding that there's no adverse health effects. I don't  
7 think you can do that.

8 As you -- (applause) -- as you know --  
9 I'm not naïve, there are studies on both sides of the  
10 issue. The Utility is going to give you studies showing  
11 that there are no health risks and the opponents will  
12 show you studies that there are, but they cancel each  
13 other out. They often cancel each other out. Meeting  
14 your statutory burden is not a 50/50 proposition. Our  
15 statutes place the burden squarely upon the Utility and  
16 not the property owners to prove that these transmission  
17 lines will not pose an undue hazard.

18 If you take a look at Phase 2, it clearly  
19 shows that Royal Oak Park is, if not the most, one of the  
20 most population dense areas in all of Phase 2. There's  
21 100 homes, count them. I've lived there for 18 years.  
22 One hundred homes. And the CL&P easement cuts right  
23 through the heart of Royal Oak Park. It doesn't nibble  
24 around the edge, it's right up the middle. And I submit

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1 to you that the Utility has failed to meet their burden.  
2 Please do not allow them to destroy our neighborhood.  
3 Thank you. (Applause).

4 CHAIRMAN KATZ: The next speaker is the  
5 First Selectman of Middlefield, Charlie Augur.

6 MR. CHARLES AUGUR: Thank you, Chairperson  
7 Katz. I'm Charles Augur, A-u-g-u-r.

8 Chairperson Katz and members of the Siting  
9 Council, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to  
10 address the Council on this most important issue that  
11 could have a draconian impact on our communities.

12 The Town of Middlefield is not conceding  
13 that an additional 345-kV cable is needed. However, if  
14 the Siting Council deems otherwise, we ask you that you  
15 approve a different route, one that may be more direct  
16 between the Millstone reactors and the Norwalk  
17 Substation, a route that would follow the Route 95  
18 corridor.

19 The route proposed along the  
20 Middlefield/Durham town line is one of great sensitivity.  
21 It's highly visible, aesthetically sensitive, and has  
22 great economic value to us both as a major source of tax  
23 revenue and as a beautiful area which enhances the  
24 property values of every other part of our municipality

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1 and neighboring municipalities.

2 Lyman Orchard is a major part of the CL&P  
3 proposed route and would suffer aesthetically and  
4 possibly financially. Lyman Orchard is our second  
5 largest taxpayer. It owns and operates two of the top  
6 ten public golf courses in the State of Connecticut, as  
7 well as one of the oldest operating farms in the United  
8 States of America, dating back to 1741. Nearby Powder  
9 Ridge Ski area is our fifth largest taxpayer and would be  
10 negatively affected by the 345-kV cable as proposed.  
11 Also negatively affected by the power line would be the  
12 Nutmeg Beagle Club, one of the last remaining  
13 organizations dedicated to the training of beagle dogs  
14 for hunting.

15 Furthermore, the historic Mattabassett  
16 Trail traverses directly under the proposed routes and  
17 would be forever damaged and compromised aesthetically if  
18 any of the proposed routes are approved. Currently,  
19 local towns are working with the National Park Service to  
20 permanently protect this beautiful trail network.

21 While the CL&P proposed route would not  
22 necessitate the condemnation of any land or homes, it  
23 would have the most net increase in electric magnetic  
24 field among any of the towns potentially affected by

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1 Docket No. 272. We implore you to consider the long-term  
2 health implications of our residents and customers of  
3 Middlefield's recreational, businesses, and Durham  
4 residents and Wallingford residents and Haddam and  
5 Middletown.

6 Secondly, we ask that you make decisions  
7 which will not diminish the value of the property owned  
8 by residents and taxpayers within our municipality.

9 Also, I must implore you to disregard and  
10 never consider an alternative that was suggested in the  
11 earlier interrogatories and deemed by CL&P, the Town of  
12 Durham alternative. This proposed alternative for the  
13 345-kV cable would have the route run from Oxbow Junction  
14 to Chestnut Junction and from Chestnut Junction to Black  
15 Pond Junction. This alternative route is absolutely  
16 unacceptable to the Town of Middlefield. This route  
17 would involve placing an additional high voltage cable  
18 through the center of our community while the route  
19 proposed by CL&P does not presently contain any 345-kV  
20 cables. The alternative route would place a fourth 345-  
21 kV cable through an already narrow right-of-way where  
22 there are already three existing 345-kilovolt cables.  
23 The proposed alternative would require the expansion of  
24 this right-of-way and would require the condemnation of

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1 70 acres of land in order to make the right-of-way 80  
2 feet wider than it presently exist. Middlefield homes  
3 would have to be taken through the exercise of eminent  
4 domain. The route must not be adopted by the Siting  
5 Council.

6 The Town of Middlefield already bears the  
7 burden of some of the heaviest and most numerous and  
8 widest power line corridors in the State of Connecticut.

9 We are already doing our part. The alternative would  
10 damage open space parcels and wetland corridors that the  
11 DEP and the Town of Middlefield are attempting to  
12 preserve or acquire.

13 In regard to the present application, on  
14 behalf of the Town of Middlefield, I ask you to not  
15 approve another 345-kV line in our region. If you do  
16 however deem that one is necessary, we ask that it be  
17 along the Connecticut coast, a more direct route between  
18 Millstone and the Norwalk Substation.

19 If the proposed route must follow the  
20 route proposed by CL&P, we ask that this portion of the  
21 cable be placed underground in order to minimize its  
22 adverse impacts on the neighborhoods, namely Royal Oak,  
23 and businesses, namely Lyman Orchard, it passes through.

24 The aesthetic degradation alone will have a major

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1 negative impact on our community and will forever damage  
2 sensitive wetlands, open spaces and wildlife corridors.

3 It is patently unfair for Fairfield County  
4 cities and towns to benefit from having all of their  
5 power line cables placed underground and for the Town of  
6 Middlefield, the Town of Durham, Middletown, New Haven  
7 County, and Middlesex County to receive virtually none.

8 Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

9 (Applause).

10 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next from the Middletown  
11 Conservation Commission, Sheila Schooner -- Stooner?  
12 Please pronounce it correctly when you come to the  
13 microphone. Before you start, there are two people who  
14 signed up who did not indicate they were public  
15 officials, Romano Amleto and Ellen -- Pulkens?

16 MS. SHEILA STOANE: Lukens.

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Are you public officials  
18 or should I put you on the citizens list?

19 MS. STOANE: Mrs. Lukens is a member of  
20 the Conservation Commission.

21 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Okay.

22 MS. STOANE: I'm Sheila Stoane, S-t-o-a-n-  
23 e, Chair of the Middletown Conservation Commission. I'd  
24 like to thank the Siting Council for the opportunity to

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1 speak to you.

2 Utilities say that impacts on wetlands and  
3 woodlands will be temporary, but there will be permanent  
4 impacts from tree cutting to fit in extra rows of towers  
5 from the large footers that are necessary for the  
6 monopoles and from the -- for the access roads for  
7 construction and increased maintenance. Though impacts  
8 are possibly temporary when they are built, but we have  
9 learned that temporary impacts often become permanent.  
10 Because of that and the many and varied reasons that  
11 people before me have spoken to you about, I urge you to  
12 please place all transmission lines underground. Thank  
13 you.

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).  
15 Next from the Middletown Conservation Commission, Ellen  
16 Lukens. (Pause). Could you spell your name please.

17 MS. ELLEN LUKENS: I'm Ellen Lukens, L-u-  
18 k-e-n-s. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

19 And I don't want to repeat what others  
20 have said and will be saying later on, so my comments  
21 regarding this NU proposal are really limited to a  
22 question, which is how much burden should one city or  
23 group of towns, especially poorer towns shoulder.

24 The same council heard comments here in



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1 Middletown one and a half years ago regarding the siting  
2 of a new gas to energy plant located near the banks of  
3 the Connecticut River less than three miles from here.  
4 You subsequently approved that application. Therefore,  
5 Middletown shoulders the potential burden of two power  
6 plants. As you know, an older functioning primarily  
7 fired-power plant is one mile down river from the newly  
8 approved site. Poor communities like Middletown in which  
9 these energy producing facilities usually are placed  
10 suffer from the detrimental effects of these facilities.

11 So from my point of view, all of those proposed overhead  
12 lines, which have their own detrimental effects in all  
13 sorts of areas of life, should go underground.

14 Middletown already shoulders more of a  
15 burden resulting from electrical energy production and  
16 transmission than many other cities and towns in this  
17 state. Don't you think that this burden on us should  
18 certainly -- should seriously be considered when you are  
19 making your decisions. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause). I  
21 have -- I have three more names on the public officials  
22 list, State Representative Hamm, Selectman Peter Brown --  
23 four more names -- Senator Gaffey and a representative  
24 for Congresswoman DeRose -- Laura -- Rosa DeLauro. If

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1 there are any other public officials who wishes to speak  
2 before we get to the public citizens, please indicate to  
3 Mr. Phelps, who is -- well just raise your hand when I  
4 get to that.

5 Okay, next is State Representative Gail  
6 Hamm. (Applause).

7 REPRESENTATIVE GAIL HAMM: I think I  
8 better put my glasses on.

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: I know that feeling.  
10 (Laughter).

11 REPRESENTATIVE HAMM: Gail Hamm, H-a-m-m.  
12 Good evening, Chairperson Katz and members of the  
13 Connecticut Siting Council. I would like to welcome you  
14 to Middletown.

15 I am the State Representative for the  
16 portion of Middletown that will be the most severely  
17 impacted should the proposed Phase 2 power line upgrade  
18 go forward without change. You will hear from many of my  
19 constituents this evening. Many of them are members of  
20 the grassroots organization Citizens for Responsible  
21 Energy, CFRE. Most live in the Royal Oak Park  
22 residential neighborhood that straddles the  
23 Middletown/Durham line. Some of the affected homes come  
24 within three feet of the proposed right-of-way. I am in

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1 strong support of their position to oppose the  
2 Applicant's current plan for aboveground 345-kilovolt  
3 transmission lines. (Applause).

4 I am aware that this is the last of the  
5 public hearings that you have sponsored throughout the  
6 State on this issue. Residents have told you clearly at  
7 every public hearing that the new transmission lines  
8 should be underground or under roadways. And I implore  
9 you to bury the lines underground in the Middletown  
10 portion of the plan. Please be fair to all of the towns  
11 along the route. Middletown and Durham should not end up  
12 with aboveground lines simply because we are last or we  
13 don't scream the loudest -- (applause) -- although I  
14 think we're probably going to make some noise tonight.

15 I would like to highlight four important  
16 points as to why the Phase 2 plan should be opposed.  
17 First of all, it's the refusal to bury the lines. It is  
18 my opinion that the determination to build the lines  
19 above or below ground is not about public need or public  
20 benefit standards, although I have learned that these are  
21 technical conclusions that you will make, nor is the most  
22 important factor the higher initial cost of installing  
23 underground as the Applicants have asserted. Assuming  
24 that it is more expensive in the short-run, the cost of

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1 reduction in maintenance over time, combined with the  
2 lessened impact on the environment and the landscape,  
3 makes the decision to build underground to be both a  
4 practical and a correct one. Certainly in the long-run  
5 when you consider the benefits, burying the lines is no  
6 more expensive. (Applause).

7 The second point I would like to make is  
8 regarding the environment. Please carefully consider  
9 what we all want the landscape of Connecticut to look  
10 like, and I'm not talking about aesthetics or property  
11 values, which I know you cannot consider, although I've  
12 been thinking we should change the law so that you could.

13 CHAIRMAN KATZ: We can.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HAMM: Okay, good.

15 (Applause). I am talking about the vision, scenic  
16 beauty, and open space, although rapidly disappearing,  
17 and the natural New England ridgelines and rocky outcrops  
18 that are what makes this part of New England so unique.  
19 I think we could probably reach consensus pretty early in  
20 this room tonight about why we all moved or live in this  
21 state. And towers that are twice the size of existing 47  
22 to 50 feet poles will mar the horizon for miles, and are  
23 probably not what you and I would call a visual landscape  
24 that we want to pass on to the next generations. We're

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1 talking about almost 130 feet tall towers. And for what,  
2 convenience, air-conditioning? We only have one  
3 environment. What of the tree removal or of the use of  
4 pesticides to slow the vegetation growth, or the impact  
5 on the wildlife while the process of cutting is  
6 occurring? What is the value of all of those when  
7 balanced against money? Instead of public need or public  
8 benefit, maybe we should start talking about the public  
9 good. (Applause).

10 The third point is what you've heard so  
11 much about, which is the public health. This is a valid  
12 concern. My constituents are rightly concerned about the  
13 potential health impacts and damage that could be done by  
14 such a large increase in the electromagnetic fields.  
15 What will happen to their children, to their pets, to  
16 their lives? Is the potential cancer causing gas  
17 formation corona effect a real threat? And what is the  
18 truth about the health effects? The research that I have  
19 seen indicates that the experts disagree, so we don't  
20 really know what the harm is. And this seems to be an  
21 enormous risk to take with peoples' lives when the  
22 science is so unclear.

23 Which brings me to the fourth and last,  
24 and that's the process, it hasn't been stellar. The

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1 Applicants have been unwilling to consider or even  
2 discuss the idea of burying the lines in Phase 2. I was  
3 told directly by an NU representative that lines were  
4 buried in Fairfield County and they will not be buried  
5 anywhere else. I guess the Applicant has already made  
6 the decision. Although the Utility has claimed a  
7 willingness to work collaboratively with affected towns,  
8 the truth is that there have been a few public  
9 information meetings to show maps and little else.  
10 Requests for additional information -- (applause) --  
11 requests for additional information about potential  
12 health and environmental impacts or about defoliants have  
13 gone unanswered. NU's response has been the studies are  
14 inconclusive, so no harm done. Clearly what inconclusive  
15 means to me is that no one knows for sure what the harm  
16 is.

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Can you summarize,  
18 Representative.

19 REPRESENTATIVE HAMM: I will.

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

21 REPRESENTATIVE HAMM: Please do not ask my  
22 constituents to bear the health and environmental risks  
23 of aboveground lines. Please also remember that this is  
24 a residential area. There are too many unknowns, people

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1 are genuinely afraid of the potential damage to their  
2 families and their neighborhoods. Why force them to  
3 accept aboveground lines when there is another  
4 alternative and we can successfully bury underground.

5 I am confident that you will pursue a less  
6 contentious course. There are clearly more creative ways  
7 to incorporate the local needs of these towns, we just  
8 have to understand priorities, and the priority is that  
9 people come first. Thank you. (Applause).

10 CHAIRMAN KATZ: The next speaker is  
11 Middlefield Selectman Peter B. Brown. (Applause).

12 MR. PETER BROWN: My name is Peter Brown,  
13 B-r-o-w-n. I'm the Selectman of Middlefield,  
14 Connecticut.

15 I'd like to thank the Madam Chairman and  
16 the members of the Siting Council for having this public  
17 hearing.

18 I'd like to echo the words of the First  
19 Selectman of Middlefield when he talked about the impact  
20 of Middlefield's economic condition by the over -- by the  
21 proposed overhead power lines. In the power point  
22 presentation that we all saw tonight, it was said that  
23 east of Milford there's right-of-ways that are up to 125  
24 feet except for certain area. And one of those areas is

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1 the Royal Oak Subdivision that you've heard from tonight.  
2 I've been up there -- I don't live up there, but I've  
3 been up there and it's -- the houses are so close, it's  
4 almost inconceivable how they are that close right now.  
5 In light of, you know, making things taller and bigger  
6 and heavier with more EMF's, I just don't see how that's  
7 a viable alternative.

8 Let's see here, where am I -- there's a  
9 telecommunications regulation that you might have heard  
10 of, IEEE 487-2000, it has to do with communication towers  
11 being placed on power lines. And they bring up a zone of  
12 influence for a ground potential rise. It's in case of a  
13 lightning strike on a metallic structure and it concerns  
14 these towers because they're metallic. And there's a  
15 zone of influence which is a radius out from the pole  
16 that the ground has different potentials in case of  
17 conducting electricity from a lightning strike. And I'm  
18 just concerned -- under this proposal, even though it's a  
19 telecommunications regulation, is the zone of influence  
20 due to a lightning strike going to exceed the right-of-  
21 way and potentially go into peoples' yards with their  
22 buried well lines, other metallic objects, let's say a  
23 guardrail for instance? I'm just concerned about that.

24 Going to the transmission.NUcom

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1 residential projects FA Q No. 9, it says why does  
2 Fairfield County get the under-street route, the existing  
3 right-of-way between Milford and Norwalk is narrow. And  
4 I think up there it's just as narrow, if not narrower.  
5 And so I don't see how they would get all the buried  
6 lines whereas certain sections of the proposed line would  
7 be considered to not need them. I don't think that's  
8 fair.

9 And in closing, I'd like to say please  
10 consider burying the lines. You've heard from a lot of  
11 State representatives and people that are concerned that  
12 represent the people here, and I think that it would be  
13 the right thing to do to bury the lines. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).  
15 State Senator Tom Gaffey. Senator. (Applause).

16 SENATOR THOMAS GAFFEY: Good evening. My  
17 name is State Senator Thomas P. Gaffey. It's G-a-f-f-e-  
18 y. And I represent this district in Middletown and also  
19 the Town of Middlefield and the City of Meriden and the  
20 Town of Cheshire.

21 And I first would like to put on the  
22 record some comments from constituents of mine here in  
23 Middletown that e-mailed me at 2:46 p.m. this afternoon  
24 and asked that I do so. So for the record Sheila and Bob

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1 Daniels and Ray Daniels that own the Daniels' farm that  
2 have lines going right through their farm still want to  
3 be on the record opposing the Applicants' submission  
4 that's before you. Even though they found out that the  
5 lines that are going through the farm -- their farm won't  
6 be the lines that are impacted, they want to stand with  
7 their neighbors here in Middlefield and Durham and oppose  
8 the application. (Applause).

9 I want to thank you again for coming to  
10 Central Connecticut for the second time. We last met in  
11 Wallingford at Sheehan High School and I appreciate you  
12 coming here in my district in Middletown.

13 I'm going to argue that reliability and  
14 environmentally safe underground transmission are  
15 mutually attainable propositions. I know you have to be  
16 concerned about reliability and transmission, but as  
17 Judge Marino pointed out so eloquently, the main intent  
18 of the statute is that in doing so you have to make sure  
19 that all applications are protective of the public health  
20 and safeguard the environment.

21 And in the record on the Bethel/Norwalk  
22 transmission project, what happened there was that the  
23 application was changed and you opened up the evidentiary  
24 record to accept a new configuration that was settled on

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1 between the people that lived down there in Fairfield  
2 County and the Applicant. And in fact, I went back and I  
3 actually tallied up the miles in the towns of Weston and  
4 Redding and Wilton and Bethel and Norwalk. And the new  
5 configuration that was accepted by the Siting Council  
6 accepted a configuration where 22.3 miles of that line  
7 was buried underground, and you did so after hearing from  
8 the people that lived down in Fairfield County there who  
9 had concerns about property values and safety and  
10 environmental concerns. Well, I'm here to say that the  
11 concerns of my constituents in Central Connecticut for  
12 their property values, for the safety of their children,  
13 and for their environment are just as important as those  
14 that were voiced down in Fairfield County. (Applause).

15 Now, let's take the miles in my district,  
16 okay, and I'm going to add Durham in because this is a  
17 team effort even though I don't represent the Town of  
18 Durham, alright -- (applause) -- now when we add up  
19 Middlefield, Durham, Middletown, Meriden and Cheshire,  
20 that is approximately 10.4 miles. Now that's half of the  
21 line that was buried underground in the southwest corner  
22 of the State. So we at least are entitled to half of  
23 what they got. (Applause). And by the Applicants' own  
24 submission, that area of the State accounts for 50

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1 percent of the electric consumption in the State of  
2 Connecticut. They are the major beneficiaries of the  
3 upgrade transmission that is in the application before  
4 you. And since they are, I think that we up here in  
5 Central Connecticut should get special consideration as  
6 to our property values, our concerns of safety for our  
7 children and for our environment.

8 And I will leave you by thanking you and  
9 thanking your staff in particular who have been great in  
10 supplying information I might add, but leave with the  
11 statement that if we can bury a line under Long Island  
12 Sound that the Utility wanted, we can bury a line  
13 underground here. Thank you very much. (Applause).

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: The last public official I  
15 have listed is speaking for U.S. Congresswoman Rosa  
16 DeLauro, Allison Dodge. If there's another public  
17 official that I missed, please cue up behind Miss Dodge.

18 MS. ALLISON DODGE: Good evening. My name  
19 is Allison Dodge. It's A-l-l-i-s-o-n. The last name is  
20 D-o-d-g-e. I am a congressional staff aide for  
21 Representative Rosa DeLauro. It's D-e-L-a-u-r-o.

22 Chairman Katz and members of the Siting  
23 Council, you may remember I read a statement on behalf of  
24 the Congresswoman in the Town of Woodbridge not too long

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1 ago. For the benefit of the Towns of Middletown,  
2 Middlefield and Durham, which are also part of the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
3 Congressional District, I wanted to come up tonight just  
4 to reiterate Rosa's position. In her statement Rosa  
5 asked and urged you to both listen to the concerns that  
6 you will hear tonight, they are very real concerns and  
7 they deserve to be heard.

8 Additionally, both Rosa and her staff have  
9 met on numerous occasions with community organizations,  
10 citizens, and elected officials regarding this particular  
11 project. Under-grounding has been at the forefront of  
12 each of those conversations.

13 Rosa has also urged you to consider any  
14 alternative. And while those other alternatives must be  
15 weighed on their own merits, that you look at the  
16 possibility of under-grounding the majority or the most  
17 that you possibly can.

18 If anyone would like to hear the actual  
19 statement, I will get it to you, but I want to thank you  
20 for this opportunity. And I know that you are charged  
21 with an awesome task, but Rosa on behalf of her  
22 constituents is asking that you find a resolution that  
23 truly balances the power needs of Connecticut while  
24 maintaining and preserving the community character that

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1 are found in each of the 12 towns that are impacted on  
2 this particular project. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).  
4 That concludes the public officials portion of the public  
5 hearing and the Siting Council members are very  
6 appreciative of the remarks of the public officials who  
7 all understand how difficult our job is.

8 We normally take a break about 8:30, but  
9 this would probably be a good time to take it. I'd like  
10 to make the break short, maybe about five minutes so that  
11 we can get as many members of the public up to the  
12 microphone before we adjourn at 10:00 o'clock, so we're  
13 going to do a five-minute break.

14 (Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

15 CHAIRMAN KATZ: -- (indiscernible) --  
16 Tracy Chomicz, and on deck will be Ed Schwartz.

17 MR. PHELPS: Ladies and gentlemen, can you  
18 take your seats.

19 (Gavel)

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: I'd like to explain the  
21 procedures that we'll be using during this portion of the  
22 public hearing. I'm going to announce the speaker and  
23 then I'm also going to announce who's on deck, and I'd  
24 ask that the on deck person come down to the front row.

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1                   You have three minutes. After two  
2 minutes, you get the blinking green light, the yellow and  
3 the red. If you feel that when your turn comes up that  
4 someone has already voiced what you are going to say,  
5 when I call your name, you can just say pass and we'll go  
6 on to the next person. We're going to ask that you try  
7 to keep to the three minutes. If you hold your -- I'm  
8 not going to tell you you can't applaud, but I'm just  
9 telling you if the applause is shorter, we'll probably  
10 get more people in before 10:00 o'clock, so please keep  
11 that in mind.

12                   There is a transcriptionist right outside  
13 these doors. If you cannot stay and would like to get a  
14 statement into the record or if you have more than three  
15 minutes to tell us, you can go out there and dictate your  
16 statement to the transcriptionist, and then copies of all  
17 that will be supplied to individual members of the Siting  
18 Council, so we will get that.

19                   So what I'm going to do is -- I want to  
20 get as many people up to the microphone hopefully by  
21 10:00 o'clock, and so I'm going to announce that the  
22 first person is Tracy -- now a few of you I'm going to  
23 massacre the pronunciation of your name, so you're just  
24 going to correct me when you come to the microphone --

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1 Tracy Chomicz, and on deck Ed Schwartz. When you come up  
2 to the microphone, please give your name and address and  
3 spell your name for the court reporter.

4 MS. TRACY CHOMICZ: My name is Tracy  
5 Chomicz, C-h-o-m-i-c-z. I live at 78 Black Walnut Drive,  
6 Durham, Connecticut.

7 Our neighborhood is exceptionally  
8 beautiful and peaceful, every day awaits nature at its  
9 best. There are deer and their fawn nibbling away in my  
10 gardens while beautiful birds such as Cardinals and Blue  
11 Birds are eating at my feeders. We see wild turkeys,  
12 fuzzy rabbits enjoying the bounty of our peaceful and  
13 harmonious nature. The wildlife we enjoy here in Durham  
14 reminds me of why I live in this tranquil community; it  
15 is beautiful, friendly, and safe.

16 In our modern times we all know at least  
17 one person suffering from some form of cancer and we see  
18 the devastating effect it has had on their life and their  
19 loved ones. It is a horrible disease that maims and  
20 kills. Cancer rates among children and adults are  
21 constantly on the increase. EMF radiation and the use of  
22 unknown chemical defoliants are clearly dangerous to our  
23 health, but especially to that of our growing children.

24 The construction of the proposed new power

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1 lines and their massive steel structures will have a  
2 detrimental impact on the habitats of animals, plant  
3 life, and the homes of people. Construction runoff and  
4 debris, deforestation and clear-cutting will destroy the  
5 vegetative cover that many species depend upon for their  
6 survival. I fear the use of unknown chemical defoliants  
7 used to clear and maintain the rights-of-way. Clearly  
8 these factors combined will endanger our groundwater  
9 supplies, contaminating our drinking water. In  
10 environmentally friendly states, such as Oregon, these  
11 chemicals are banned for good reason, they are not safe  
12 or prudent to be used in any application. Careful  
13 thought should certainly be employed before we use these  
14 toxic chemicals.

15 Preserving the health and well being of  
16 all citizens, our natural resources, and the beauty of  
17 our State should take priority and precedent over  
18 corporate profit and the supposed need for energy. The  
19 height alone of the hundreds of new massive steel  
20 structures will scar our landscapes and destroy countless  
21 numbers of animal habitats. If we must upgrade the  
22 transmission lines, let's do things responsibly for once,  
23 put them underground. The cost is certainly worth it.  
24 Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

2 Next is Ed Schwartz, on deck is Bob Huschen.

3 MR. ED SCHWARTZ: Chairwoman Katz, my name  
4 is Ed Schwartz, S-c-h-w-a-r-t-z.

5 I live at 60 Royal Oak Drive in Durham.

6 And Royal Oak Park is a neighborhood of approximately 100

7 houses. The town line that separates Middletown and

8 Durham runs through the middle of our neighborhood.

9 Northeast Utilities has an easement running along the

10 Durham side of this line. And in spite of the fact that

11 the town line and the existing power lines that are there

12 run through the center of it, our neighborhood is

13 cohesive and beautiful. If ever there was a residential

14 area, this is it.

15 Over the past 20 plus years, my wife and I

16 have seen 99 other homes built, trees cut down, fields

17 and ponds filled in, all in the name of progress. It's a

18 place where you find children playing ball in the

19 streets, riding bikes, sledding, and just hanging out.

20 Adults literally meet with their coffee at the corner to

21 discuss the day's events. It is the place for trick-or-

22 treaters on Halloween always welcomed from surrounding

23 areas, some by the truckload. This is a single

24 neighborhood carved from two communities, drawn together

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1 by the beauty of the surroundings as well as the spirit  
2 of the residents.

3 At one of the forums a Northeast  
4 Utilities' representative indicated that Durham is one of  
5 the few densely populated pockets in all of Phase 2.  
6 Royal Oak homes are closer to the easement than at any  
7 other point along the right-of-way. There are homes that  
8 are only three feet from the easement. There are points  
9 where the homes are within the easement. A review of  
10 Volume 10 of Northeast Utilities' application on Drawing  
11 PLS-345, Sheet 6, emphasizes the density of this segment  
12 of the right-of-way as compared to others. It really  
13 stands out.

14 In parts of this neighborhood the existing  
15 power lines on 47 to 57-foot wooden H-frame poles are  
16 barely visible. In fact, when leaves are on the trees,  
17 one barely notices the lines. I can hardly envision what  
18 these divisive structures will do to this neighborhood.  
19 I see friends and neighbors rushing to put their homes on  
20 the market and receiving no offers. I see others  
21 panicked over health and aesthetics. With 100 plus foot  
22 poles at an elevation of 490 feet, I see a scarred  
23 neighborhood visible from Haddam to Middlefield.

24 When our children were growing up, the

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1 biggest health threats in the neighborhood were falling  
2 off your bicycle or getting hit with an errant baseball.

3 By Northeast Utilities' own admission in their  
4 application, these proposed power lines may cause cancer  
5 in children, which is an unacceptable health risk.

6 Please bury the power lines, not our children.

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

8 As soon as the person concludes, the on deck person can  
9 start walking up. Next is Bob Huschen, on deck is  
10 Michael Doyle. And how did I pronounce it?

11 MR. BOB HUSCHER: It's Bob Huscher.

12 That's alright.

13 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Spell it please -- could  
14 you spell it please.

15 MR. HUSCHER: Yeah. H-u-s-c-h-e-r. And I  
16 live on Elihu Drive and my issues are loss of property  
17 values.

18 For most people their home is their single  
19 most valuable asset. Upgrading the existing aboveground  
20 115-kV lines to 345-kV lines would have a devastating  
21 impact on the value of our homes near the right-of-way.  
22 Homeowners who have struggled to save a down-payment, pay  
23 a mortgage and taxes, keep their homes in good repair,  
24 and maintain a solid good credit rating will lose,

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1 through no fault of their own, much of the value of what  
2 they worked for years and even decades to build up. A  
3 study completed in Texas by Bolton & Bear (phonetic)  
4 indicated that the loss in property values may be  
5 anywhere from 10 to 40 percent dependent on the proximity  
6 to the power lines.

7 Just the filing of Northeast Utilities'  
8 application has negatively impacted the sale of property  
9 in our area and financially hurt the sellers. A home  
10 abutting the power lines in Durham went on the market  
11 after NU filed and the home took four months to sell and  
12 sold for 12 and a half percent less than the asking  
13 price, market value. At present, homes in the price  
14 range in Durham, they've been selling for asking price  
15 within the average of two months. A home three houses  
16 down from the power lines in Durham has been on the  
17 market for six months and has already been reduced by  
18 \$40,000.00. The realtor states the pending power line  
19 proposal is a contributing factor. Another home abutting  
20 power lines in Durham was on the market for several  
21 months at fair market value and ended up withdrawing from  
22 the market. All of these homeowners have been adversely  
23 affected by NU's application. If the upgrade is allowed  
24 to take place, the impact will undoubtedly be even

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1 greater and affect all property owners on or near the  
2 power line route.

3 Also, many people who are unaware of the  
4 proposed upgrade have recently purchased a home near the  
5 power lines. These homeowners have not had the  
6 opportunity to build up any equity in their homes and  
7 will have even a greater loss if they tried to sell it.

8 Because of the much greater health risk  
9 the electromagnetic radiation generated by the 345-k  
10 lines will pose to children and to adults with certain  
11 conditions, many homeowners will have no choice but to  
12 move. The loss in property values will make it  
13 impossible for some to buy another home in the same town,  
14 forcing them to uproot their families from communities in  
15 which they've lived for many years. If these towers go  
16 up in my backyard, would you buy my house? Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).  
18 Next is Michael Doyle, on deck is John Demeo.

19 MR. MICHAEL DOYLE: Good evening. Good  
20 evening, Chairman Katz and members of the Siting Council.

21 My name is Michael Doyle and I reside at  
22 114 R Skeet Club Road in Durham, Connecticut. Excuse me.

23 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Could you just spell it  
24 please.

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1 MR. DOYLE: D-o-y-l-e.

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

3 MR. DOYLE: Contained in the Siting  
4 Council website is the following mandate, the Connecticut  
5 Siting Council has jurisdiction to objectively balance  
6 the statewide public need for adequate and reliable  
7 services at the lowest reasonable cost to consumers with  
8 the need to protect the environment and ecology of the  
9 State. In a recent article in the New Haven Advocate, a  
10 critic of the Siting Council, worried that the Utilities'  
11 controlled the process and the members of the Siting  
12 Council will in essence rubberstamp the proposed upgrade.

13 In a time of government scandal, influenced peddling,  
14 and crony capitalism, it is not surprising that members  
15 of the public would look with skepticism on the  
16 independence and autonomy of the Siting Council members.

17 I choose to put my faith and trust in the  
18 integrity of this Council. I firmly believe that the  
19 members of this Council will faithfully fulfill their  
20 duty to the concerned citizens of the communities which  
21 this upgrade will impact. I believe in the honor and  
22 dependence, autonomy, and integrity of you who have been  
23 chosen to protect my children and all of our families'  
24 interests. Obviously, we cannot compete with the

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1 financial power of the Utilities and hire experts to  
2 refute everything the Utilities present. We should not  
3 have to.

4           You are aware of the environmental,  
5 technological, and health debates swirling around the  
6 issue of 345-kV high voltage power lines. We, the  
7 taxpayers of this community, should not have to spend our  
8 hard earned money to put forth arguments that are well  
9 known and documented. We believe that the adversarial  
10 role of the utility companies' proposal should be  
11 performed by the Siting Council. We believe since all  
12 costs borne in this upgrade will be passed on to the  
13 ratepayers, any costs associated with the underground  
14 cable construction or re-routing of the proposed right-  
15 of-way should not be a determinate factor in the  
16 Council's decision. We ask that when issues arise that  
17 the science cannot conclusively answer, whether they are  
18 related to the health of our children, the aesthetics of  
19 our community, or the adverse environmental impacts, the  
20 Council will err in favor of the citizens you are  
21 empowered to protect.

22           If this mandate -- if you fulfill this  
23 mandate and honor the commitment you accepted upon your  
24 appointment to this Council, we will in good faith accept



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1 your decision. We only ask that our children's health be  
2 first and foremost in your thought process when  
3 deliberating on the difficult decisions you will soon  
4 face. Thank you for your time. (Applause).

5 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is John Demeo, on  
6 deck is Debbie Huscher.

7 MR. JOHN DEMEO: Can I -- my name is John  
8 Demeo, D-e-m-e-o. I live in Royal Oak Park.

9 I've looked at maps and read through the  
10 application and I have talked with people and I have  
11 never gotten an answer to the question of why the Durham  
12 segment from Beseck Junction to Oxbow Junction is needed.

13 I don't understand why 345-kilowatt circuits, not even  
14 one mile north of Durham is not adequate. We understand  
15 there is some need for duplication or redundancy;  
16 however, there are already three 345-kilowatt/volt  
17 circuits. What is the need for three -- more than three  
18 when there's already redundancy.

19 At the New Britain forum held for the  
20 Connecticut Siting Council, Northeast Utilities showed a  
21 map showing three 345-kilovolt lines coming across the  
22 Durham segment. These three lines have not appeared on  
23 any other map made available to us by Northeast  
24 Utilities. When asked about them -- (applause) -- when

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1 asked about them, the Northeast Utilities representative  
2 confirmed that in fact three 345-kilovolt circuits are  
3 planned. Is Northeast Utilities' request for one 345-  
4 kilovolt circuit the company's way of opening the door  
5 for the future placement of additional 345-k lines along  
6 this segment? Is that also why the 345-kilovolt proposed  
7 is not centered but is pushed to one side of the right-  
8 of-way? Are we to expect another line of poles on the  
9 other side of the right-of-way? Somebody is not being on  
10 the up and up here. And I don't want our neighborhood  
11 and our towns victimized by a goliath who won't answer  
12 our questions and who hasn't made any attempt to propose  
13 a reasonable alternative to running these power lines  
14 overhead.

15 I ask the Siting Council to consider this  
16 in its deliberations. And thank you for this  
17 opportunity to express my concern.

18 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

19 Debbie --

20 MS. DEBBIE HUSCHER: Debbie Huscher, H-u-s

21 --

22 CHAIRMAN KATZ: -- Huscher, on deck --

23 MS. HUSCHER: -- c-h-e-r -- sorry.

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: I'm sorry, one second. On

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1 deck Trish Bradley. I'm sorry. If you want to spell  
2 your name again, I interrupted you.

3 MS. HUSCHER: Debbie Huscher, H-u-s-c-h-e-  
4 r, Elihu Drive in Durham.

5 As a pregnant woman speaking for myself,  
6 all pregnant women and those wishing to become pregnant,  
7 high EMF levels pose a major risk to our fetus. A study  
8 conducted by Kaiser Permanente (phonetic) and published  
9 in Epidemiology on January 8, 2002 concluded that  
10 exposure to more than 16 milligauss of electromagnetic  
11 energy increased a woman's risk of miscarriage six times  
12 in their first 10 weeks of pregnancy. As a result of  
13 this study, they state it is prudent for women who are in  
14 their first trimester or know they are at risk of losing  
15 a pregnancy to lower their exposure whenever possible.  
16 How is this possible when some of the homes abutting the  
17 power lines will register over 16 milligauss on an  
18 average load day.

19 Durham has the highest net change of EMF's  
20 of the entire project. Myself, along with many other  
21 women, have a difficult time as it is to become pregnant,  
22 and then to have us fairly exposed to excessive amounts  
23 of EMF's that could cause a miscarriage is unjust. Why  
24 should our God given right to reproduce be taken away.

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1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

2 Next is Trish Bradley, on deck is Laura Hall.

3 MS. TRISH BRADLEY: Good evening members  
4 of the Siting Council. My name is Trish Bradley, B-r-a-  
5 d-l-e-y.

6 I live at 47 Ironwood Lane in Durham. My  
7 husband and I live in a peaceful and beautiful family  
8 neighborhood. Newly married and planning a large family,  
9 our home was to provide a safe and healthy environment in  
10 which to raise our children. Nineteen years and five  
11 children later this proposal strikes fear into my heart.

12 The two most important things to us, our children and  
13 our home, are being threatened. NU has identified Durham  
14 as one of the five densely populated pockets along the  
15 69-mile route. One hundred families and approximately  
16 250 children live in our neighborhood alone. CL&P's  
17 easement cuts through the heart of this subdivision,  
18 crossing streets and yards where children play. Sixteen  
19 hours or more a day are spent at home playing or  
20 sleeping, especially in early years of childhood  
21 development.

22 I have read hundreds of articles and  
23 studies on EMF's trying to convince myself that it will  
24 be safe to remain in my home if this proposal were to be

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1 accepted. The more I've read, the more desperate I've  
2 become to leave. As you know, the statistical evidence  
3 linking EMF's to childhood leukemia is astounding. The  
4 EMF measurement under the existing 115-kV lines on my  
5 property is approximately 5 milligauss. At the right-of-  
6 way boundary it is .7. Inside my home the highest  
7 measurement is .4. The Connecticut Department of Public  
8 Health states that typical levels found inside homes  
9 range from .1 to 4 milligauss. My home is typical.

10 NU's overall project EMF assessment states  
11 that the magnetic field will be lower along one or both  
12 right-of-way edges for five of eight overhead sections.  
13 What they failed to mention is Cross Section 2,  
14 Durham/Middletown, will increase ten-fold, resulting in  
15 the highest EMF levels and the highest net increase in  
16 EMF levels of the entire project. It is indicated in the  
17 application that here the average EMF's will measure 31.5  
18 mg at the right-of-way boundary for the 15 gigawatt case  
19 and for the 27 gigawatt case they will be 58.4  
20 milligauss. This is 15 to 18 times the measurement of 3  
21 or 4 milligauss cited as being a safe level.

22 Furthermore, it is shown that homes are at  
23 least 50 feet from the right-of-way boundary. This is  
24 not so. Children's bedrooms in Durham and Middletown are

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1 as close as three feet from the right-of-way.  
2 Consequently, families will be engulfed in high EMF  
3 levels not considered to be typical. NU will no longer  
4 be in their right-of-way.

5 Lowering the towers in this area will not  
6 decrease the EMF's. This is not the environment that any  
7 of us chose to live in. We are being forced to make the  
8 choice between gambling with our children's lives or  
9 leaving our homes and enduring a financially devastating  
10 impact to protect the health and lives of our children.

11 Members of the Connecticut Siting Council,  
12 I put my trust in you to protect my children and all the  
13 children of Connecticut. Do not allow one child's life  
14 to be included in the price of this upgrade. Please have  
15 NU seek more responsible alternatives for the safety of  
16 our children. If that means burying the lines, then bury  
17 the lines, not our children. Thank you. (Applause).

18 CHAIRMAN KATZ: I have three Halls signed  
19 up. Do you want to do a group thing to save some time?

20 MS. LAURA HALL: Sure. Come on up Jeremy  
21 and Brittany, Christine.

22 CHAIRMAN KATZ: If you can identify  
23 yourself and spell your name.

24 MS. LAURA HALL: Okay. My name is Laura

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1 Hall, L-a-u-r-a, Hall, H-a-l-l. Do you want me to  
2 identify everyone? Okay. Jeremy, J-e-r-e-m-y, Hall.  
3 Brittany Hall, B-r-i-t-t-a-n-y. And Christie, you can  
4 identify yourself. My friend Christie.

5 MS. CHRISTIE GARAFALO: Christie Garafalo,  
6 G-a-r-a-f-a-l-o.

7 MS. LAURA HALL: First of all, I do want  
8 to thank you for letting me come before you and just  
9 really speak what's in my heart.

10 As a parent and as a nature enthusiast and  
11 as an investor of real estate in my home and as a  
12 concerned citizen, I stand before you. I'd like to ask  
13 what is the legacy that NU wants to leave? Is it a  
14 responsible one and one that's under ground or will it be  
15 filled with health risks, childhood leukemia, pacemaker  
16 interference, I mean miscarriages, brain tumors, or more?  
17 Children and people that did not have a choice to live  
18 near recently installed overhead 345 power lines with 4.1  
19 mg's and over equal irresponsible past business  
20 decisions.

21 Many adults and children of Cross Section  
22 2, Segment 1 will be exposed along the wooded right-of-  
23 way to the highest level of EMF's incurred out of all the  
24 eight cross-sections. In the Royal Oak section alone

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1 there are approximately 250 children. The -- with all  
2 the expert witness testimonies that you guys have heard  
3 over at the Woodbridge and Wallingford public hearings,  
4 I'm just surprised that the dangerous details linking  
5 radiation caused by life polluting EMF's hasn't already  
6 caused purposeful swift action from NU for responsible  
7 underground routes for all of us. Will -- would you as  
8 an example to us and as high powered advocates of  
9 overhead 345's choose to live under lines that have 31.5  
10 milligauss with your precious loved ones? I'm just  
11 really glad that I can't hear what your heart might be  
12 saying. And since when has your unauthorized right to  
13 downplay the sanctity of life that currently rests in  
14 your hands become so callous. I really can't believe  
15 that that's why your hearts are. You know, each life, my  
16 life, your life is precious. You know, let's not be  
17 cheap, let's not be callous, let's just be responsible  
18 individuals working for a mutual end goal that is right.

19 And you know what I tell my kids, I just say to them --  
20 I say that standing (indiscernible, crying) -- is right,  
21 sometimes means just standing alone. And I just ask that  
22 we leave a responsible forward thinking legacy, one that  
23 we can all be proud of, just bury these lines.

24 Uh -- (applause) -- next on deck is my



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1 precious 13-year-old daughter -- uh -- I'm proud of you,  
2 Brittany. With her is my friend, Christine. I want to  
3 thank Christine and Locks of Love. Christine is the  
4 beloved granddaughter of the late Middletown Mayor,  
5 Sebastian J. Garafalo. He served four terms during the  
6 80's and 90's. My daughter Brittany has been growing her  
7 hair for years now, specifically growing her hair for a  
8 childhood leukemia victim, perhaps even an EMF victim.  
9 Tonight we honor children presently in the midst of their  
10 battle and also for those that will fall victim. Thank  
11 you. (Applause).

12 MS. CHRISTIE GARAFALO: I want to take  
13 this time to thank Brittany and Locks of Love and  
14 everybody who really gets involved in this whole Locks of  
15 love --

16 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, you need start  
17 over.

18 MS. CHRISTIE GARAFALO: Okay. I wanted to  
19 thank Brittany and everybody that came here tonight.  
20 Locks of Love is very important. It's important at the  
21 salon that I work for. If anybody is interested in  
22 donating their hair, please contact Jessica's Color Room  
23 Salon in Middletown and you can register and those guys  
24 can get you started. It's a great thing and I just want

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1 to say thank you for listening. (Applause).

2 MS. LAURA HALL: Okay, say your name.

3 A VOICE: That's okay, I'll get it --

4 MS. LAURA HALL: He has a pretty loud  
5 voice, he probably doesn't need it.

6 A VOICE: He needs it for the record.

7 MS. LAURA HALL: Okay.

8 A VOICE: Why don't you step up there.

9 JEREMY HALL: My name is Jeremy Hall. I  
10 am eight. Most important -- importantly why hasn't  
11 recent data from experts not convinced your conscious to  
12 support underground 340's. No price can be put on a life  
13 lost. Drive into our area, get to know us as a  
14 community, look at our faces, we'll -- will we still be  
15 here into adulthood. I hope that NU puts the wires  
16 underground.

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).  
18 Next up is Scott Douglass, on deck is Kelly Lymm -- Lyme?  
19 And again, I want to offer to those of you who might not  
20 be able to stay, you can use the transcriptionist who is  
21 right outside these doors in the lobby to dictate your  
22 statement, which will be given to the members of the  
23 Siting Council.

24 MR. SCOTT DOUGLASS: Good evening. My

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1 name is Scott Douglas, D-o-u-g-l-a-s-s.

2 I'm a single father who lives with my 13-  
3 year-old daughter and 10-year-old son at 107 Black Walnut  
4 Drive in the Royal Oak development. The existing 115-kV  
5 lines pass about three houses down the street from our --  
6 where we live. My children play with neighborhood  
7 friends on both sides of the power line in both Durham  
8 and Middletown. When not attending school, sporting  
9 events, girl scouts and boy scouts, my kids are at home  
10 doing homework, playing with friends, sleeping, and  
11 trying to survive their father's cooking -- (laughter).  
12 Well, my kids are pretty well mastered at the art of  
13 turning TV's and lights on, I'd be the first to admit  
14 they have not quite stepped up to the issue of turning  
15 them off.

16 I applaud Northeast Utilities for planning  
17 for the electric needs of the future. I am, however,  
18 very disappointed that they seeked to do so in the least  
19 expensive -- excuse me -- in the least expensive means of  
20 achieving this goal with an utter disregard to the health  
21 effects, decreased home market values, and the  
22 destruction of the rural character of our neighborhoods  
23 that these lines will pass over. There are clearly other  
24 alternatives, and we've heard several people talk about

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1 different routes. I would suggest burying these cables.

2 If we could agree on that tonight, we could all go home  
3 and get a good night's sleep -- (laughter). (Applause).

4 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Mr. Douglass, I bet you  
5 have a shorter drive than we do too.

6 MR. DOUGLASS: Yes, but my kids are home  
7 alone. (Laughter).

8 Over a year and a half ago, Northeast  
9 Utilities' spokesman, Mr. Bogaslawski addressed us at the  
10 Durham Library at a public hearing. At that meeting Mr.  
11 Bogaslawski was asked about the long-term health effects  
12 from EMF from 345-kV lines. His response was one word,  
13 inconclusive, inconclusive. Well, members of the Siting  
14 Council, inconclusive isn't good enough where my kids are  
15 concerned.

16 We don't ask to prevent Northeast  
17 Utilities from meeting the energy demands of our area in  
18 the future. We're simply asking that you insist that they  
19 be good neighbors by requiring the safest, least  
20 intrusive method of upgrading their power transmission  
21 lines. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).  
23 Next up is Kelly Lymm, on deck is Cathy Gannon. How did  
24 I do on the pronunciation?

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1 MS. KELLY LYMM: You did very well.

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Oh, okay.

3 MS. KELLY LYMM: Very well. Good evening.

4 My name is Kelly Lymm, L-y-m-m.

5 Members of the Council -- good evening.

6 Members of the Council, my name is Kelly Lymm of 114

7 Westwood Lane in Middletown.

8 There is one main reason why I ask the  
9 Siting Council to reject the proposed NU application for  
10 this segment and that is increased potential health  
11 risks. First, these potential health risks to babies,  
12 children, and pregnant women of the approximately 100  
13 homes in the Royal Oak subdivision are amplified because  
14 of the location of the proposed overhead 345-kV lines.  
15 These lines happen to be in the middle of a subdivision  
16 where families live and children play.

17 The second reason is that the current  
18 application does not have EMF levels dissipate to safe  
19 levels until hundreds of feet beyond the existing right-  
20 of-way. For the Royal Oak subdivision, EMF levels from  
21 the proposed technical -- from the proposed electrical  
22 transmission lines are not acceptable and can pose  
23 potential health risks.

24 The California EMF risk evaluation for --

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1 (indiscernible) -- and the public was completed in June  
2 of 2002. Three highly credentialed doctors reviewed 91  
3 studies on EMF's and childhood leukemia, adult leukemia,  
4 and adult brain cancer. The average of their confidence  
5 levels on the degree of certainty that there is an added  
6 personal risk to individuals because of EMF exposures was  
7 as follows: For childhood leukemia there was a 71  
8 percent confidence level in the degree of certainty that  
9 there was an added risk because of EMF exposures; for  
10 adult leukemia a 58 percent confidence level in the  
11 degree of certainty that there was an added personal risk  
12 because of EMF exposures; and for adult brain cancer a 64  
13 percent confidence level in the degree of certainty -- in  
14 the added personal risk because of EMF exposures. These  
15 links need to be recognized especially in a situation  
16 where the EMF levels will be magnified to such high  
17 levels and in such a densely populated area.

18 We have seen the situation arise when we  
19 said no proof or correlation exist between cigarettes and  
20 lung cancer when in fact they did. Research is just  
21 beginning in this EMF arena, and early indications lead  
22 us to believe that our children and your children and  
23 your grandchildren could be at risk in getting leukemia  
24 because of the number of hours of continual exposure to

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1 high EMF's while being at home.

2 Therefore, I implore you, members of the  
3 Council, please explore alternatives to reduce these  
4 risks. These childrens do not -- these children do not  
5 have the ability to make choices today regarding their  
6 lives, regarding where they live and their exposure to  
7 these potential hazards. Therefore, it is now our  
8 responsibility to make the right decision on their  
9 behalf. Let's help these children grow up to be healthy  
10 and productive leaders and contributors to our community  
11 versus the alternative, children who grow up and  
12 experience long-term adverse health conditions that  
13 prevent them from maximizing their abilities and  
14 contributing to society and placing them into potential  
15 groups that add cost to our society as we take care of  
16 them.

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).  
18 Next is Cathy Gannon. On deck is Romano Amleto.

19 MS. CATHLEEN GANNON: Cathleen with a --  
20 Gannon -- with a C. G-a-n-n-o-n.

21 This statement is an effort to raise and  
22 explore the question of fairness, fairness regarding the  
23 proposed plan for the 345-kV transmission upgrade. Is it  
24 fair to ask Connecticut residents to sacrifice their

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1 health, property values, scenic beauty to supply  
2 electricity to other states? I'm all for electricity and  
3 I think all in Connecticut and beyond need and deserve  
4 reliable energy. I too want my lights to go on when I  
5 flip the switch, but I'm not sure it is fair to ask some  
6 of us to sacrifice so much while others reap the benefits  
7 and sacrifice nothing. (Applause).

8 I think it is only fair to give greater  
9 consideration to those who are most affected by the  
10 proposed upgrade. In the September 18, 2003 Middletown  
11 Press Pamela Katz questioned the appropriateness of  
12 having the Federal Government take over the process of  
13 deciding where high voltage transmission lines would be  
14 erected. She said, and I quote, "that matters that  
15 affect the citizens of Connecticut should be decided by  
16 the people of Connecticut", unquote. I was moved to  
17 write my senators and congressmen to encourage them to  
18 vote against any such proposal.

19 I believe the Connecticut Siting Council,  
20 which knows the State and the effect of its decision at  
21 the local level as well as the state level, is the best  
22 and only appropriate body to make such decisions. The  
23 same line of reasoning should be applied to this issue:  
24 Should those of us in Central Connecticut sacrifice so



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1 much for those outside the State to benefit? Should  
2 those of us in a less affluent area of the State without  
3 the means to hire expensive legal advice give so much so  
4 that those who are more affluent to protect their  
5 property and landscape by having the lines put  
6 underground or around their towns and neighborhoods?

7           People have said to me you bought in a  
8 neighborhood with existing 115-kV power lines, what did  
9 you expect? I expected 115-kV power lines though my  
10 neighborhood, that's what I expected. (Applause). I  
11 also bought a home with a street in front of it. I do  
12 not expect a four-lane highway to replace it. That would  
13 not be fair. I bought a home where the milligauss --  
14 (applause) -- where the milligauss level was and is .3.  
15 Is it fair that Northeast Utilities has stated in Volume  
16 6, Section 6 of their application will change that level  
17 in my yard and home to approximately 15 milligauss with  
18 the proposed upgrade? What responsibility will the  
19 company take for the effect of that change on my family?  
20       Was it fair for this company with more employees than  
21 there are residents of Durham to obstruct this process by  
22 not being either timely or forthright in answering  
23 discovery questions put forth by the consultant hired by  
24 the Town of Durham? Fairness?

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1 I look to the Siting Council to be fair to  
2 all Connecticut residents. I look to the Siting Council  
3 to dictate that the lines be placed underground through  
4 residential areas. Thank you. (Applause).

5 CHAIRMAN KATZ: You're going to correct me  
6 on the pronunciation in a minute, but next up is Romano  
7 Amleto and on deck is Valetto Logan.

8 MR. ROMANO AMLETO: Amleto. Romano  
9 Amleto. The first name R-o-m-a-n-o. The last name A-m-l-  
10 e-t-o. We live on 161 R Foothills Road in Durham.

11 Ladies and gentlemen, I am new to this  
12 community. My wife and I have two children, one is a 19-  
13 month-old girl, the other a five-week-old boy. We have  
14 moved to Durham in hopes of finding a better quality of  
15 life and education for our children. We feel that we  
16 have found that here. We live adjacent to the right-of-  
17 way for the proposed 345-kilovolt expansion project.

18 During the months following our move, I  
19 have heard more and more about this proposed project. I  
20 don't hold much credence in rumor, so I decided to do  
21 some research on my own. My conclusions and concerns  
22 were formulated using the following texts, the National  
23 Institute of Environmental Health Science dated June  
24 2002, the 1993 Maryland EMF Status Report, and the

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1 California EMF Evaluation June 2002.

2           Aside from negative aesthetic effects and  
3 real estate effects, I believe from the research that  
4 there is a real health threat to my children from the  
5 installation of the overhead power lines. Specifically,  
6 these lines pose a danger of, quote, "double the risk of  
7 leukemia and/or brain tumors in children", as outlined in  
8 the National Institute of Environmental Health Science.

9           The Maryland EMF Status Report in their  
10 residential study section refers to the Swedish  
11 residential study by the Karalinska Institute (phonetic)  
12 in Stockholm. This study found an association between  
13 childhood leukemia and the annual magnetic field levels  
14 above two to three milligauss at the residence. This  
15 study was found to be quite unique in its strength  
16 because of the quality of data available to the  
17 researchers. The Swedish kept detailed records of power  
18 use by utilities studied and they were able to include  
19 population correlations dating back from 1960 through  
20 1985. The Maryland report also states that the Swedish  
21 study in and of itself was not strongly suggestive of  
22 cancer risks but in the context, quote, "previous studies  
23 which have suggested a two-fold increase in the risk of  
24 childhood leukemia associated with residents in proximity

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1 to high current transmission or distribution lines, the  
2 marginally significant results may be considered to  
3 support concern over possible negative effects of living  
4 near magnetic field sources". In California, EMF  
5 evaluation reviewers either strongly believe or were  
6 prone to believe that EMF increases disease risk to some  
7 degree and call for pass of regulatory action from the  
8 Congress.

9 In conclusion, after reading through these  
10 documents, I strongly believe that an aboveground  
11 expansion within this area will significantly increase  
12 the health risks to my young children. It is my hope  
13 that this Council if it decides the expansion is  
14 necessary, require that it be routed underground as  
15 proposed for the 24 miles from Milford to Norwalk. Thank  
16 you. (Applause).

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Valetto Logan, on deck  
18 Sharon Troutman.

19 MS. VALEDA LOGAN: My name is Valeda  
20 Logan. The last name L-o-g-a-n. And I'm reading a  
21 statement for Margaret Burgess. She --

22 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Could you spell her name  
23 too please then.

24 COURT REPORTER: And spell your first

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1 name.

2 MS. LOGAN: My first name V-a-l-e-d-a.

3 And Margaret Burgess, B-u-r-g-e-s-s. We are both  
4 residents of Royal Oak Park.

5 At the present there are several residents  
6 in the immediate vicinity of the proposed line project  
7 known as Phase 2 who have medical devices that could be  
8 affected by EMF's. Technical Services of Cell Mar  
9 California have stated 400 kilovolt high voltage power  
10 lines may cause asynchronous pacing, especially if the  
11 patient is near a large metal object, for example a car.

12 Technical Services' study is based on 400 kilovolts. A  
13 total of 460 kilovolts is the proposed power lines.

14 Defoliant spraying of the vegetation will  
15 seep into the ground and contaminate our wells. And the  
16 noise pollution will be drastically increased. The  
17 visual impact will devalue our homes. And the effect --  
18 and affect the tax base.

19 The solution is to put the power lines  
20 underground in our residential areas.

21 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).  
22 Next is Sharon Troutman, on deck is Diana McCain.

23 MS. SHARON TROUTMAN: We have visuals --  
24 (indiscernible) --

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1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Okay, visuals are fine,  
2 but you can't leave the microphone.

3 MS. TROUTMAN: Yep. Sharon Troutman. T-  
4 r-o-u-t, like the fish, m-a-n. I live at 22 Ash Court in  
5 Middletown.

6 Over the last three weeks members of  
7 Communities for Responsible Energy 2 surveyed local  
8 residents regarding NU's 345-kV proposal. We worked  
9 diligently to collect signatures on petitions and have  
10 our survey completed. Five hundred and sixty-six  
11 concerned citizens signed petitions against placement of  
12 overhead power lines in Connecticut. Add this number to  
13 600 obtained previously for a total of 1,166.

14 We also asked people to complete a short  
15 survey comprised of seven yes and no questions and four  
16 multiple choice responses. This was done in the last  
17 three weeks during door-to-door polling and at local  
18 businesses in our community. Two hundred and sixty-one  
19 of those surveys have been returned to us.

20 Our first question: Do you feel power  
21 lines should be underground in residential areas?  
22 Ninety-eight percent of the people polled believe power  
23 lines should be underground in residential areas.

24 Question 2: Do you believe that 345-kV

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1 aboveground utility lines will scar the landscape and  
2 beauty of Durham, Middlefield, and Middletown? One  
3 hundred percent of the residents surveyed believe the  
4 345-kV aboveground power lines will permanently scar the  
5 landscape and destroy the area's natural beauty.

6 Question 3: Do you believe that EMF's are  
7 a potential health risk? Ninety-seven percent of the  
8 people surveyed believe that EMF is a health risk.

9 Question 4: Would drastic increases in  
10 EMF levels near your home cause you to relocate? Ninety-  
11 six percent of the citizens surveyed would relocate.

12 Question 5: Would you avoid purchasing a  
13 home near 345-kV lines? One hundred percent of the  
14 people surveyed would not purchase a home near 345-kV  
15 lines. Would you?

16 Question 6: Do you believe that property  
17 values are negatively affected by 345-kV lines near them?  
18 One hundred percent of the citizens surveyed believe  
19 their property values will decline.

20 Question 7: Are you concerned with the  
21 use of undisclosed chemical defoliants to maintain the  
22 proposed right-of-way? A hundred percent of the people  
23 surveyed are concerned with the use of undisclosed  
24 chemical defoliants.

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1           These numbers speak for themselves. On  
2 all questions over 96 percent of the respondents strongly  
3 opposed the NU proposal. Clearly the people are alarmed  
4 by the prospect of EMF radiation exposure, other  
5 potential health threats, losses of property values, and  
6 chemical defoliants.

7           We urge you, the Connecticut Siting  
8 Council, to heed the people. Do not jeopardize our  
9 children, our families, or the State of Connecticut. Our  
10 health, our well being, our lives are in your hands. Use  
11 the safest option available. We implore you, bury the  
12 power lines.

13           CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).  
14 Next is Diana McCain, on deck is John Landers.

15           MS. DIANA McCAIN: Diana McCain, D-i-a-n-  
16 a, M-c-C-a-i-n. I live at 262 Skeet Club Road in Durham.

17           Northeast Utilities' proposal would  
18 destroy one of Central Connecticut's few remaining scenic  
19 and historic rural landscapes. Durham and Middlefield  
20 have been -- largely been spared the urbanization and  
21 sprawl that have engulfed most of Central Connecticut.  
22 Both towns still have significant amounts of land that  
23 has not been developed or that has been designated as  
24 open space. Durham in particular boost dozens of



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1 evocative well preserved historic buildings from the  
2 1700's and 1800's, many in settings little changed from  
3 when they were built. The man-made and natural  
4 environments of both Durham and Middlefield retain the  
5 rural character and human scale that was typical of most  
6 of Connecticut during the 1700's and 1800's. No building  
7 is taller than the church steeple. As a result, there  
8 are vistas that are largely unspoiled and some that still  
9 look as they did two or three centuries ago.

10 The right-of-way runs through some of the  
11 most naturally scenic and historically evocative areas of  
12 Middlefield and Durham from the ridgeline down the  
13 forested slope of Beseck Mountain, across the expanse of  
14 virtual open space of the 260-year-old Lyman Farm and  
15 Lyman Golf Course, through the Durham Meadows Wildlife  
16 Management area, across Route 17 less than a mile north  
17 of the Durham Historic District. The 57-foot tall wooden  
18 H-frame poles in place along this route blend into this  
19 rare historic and scenic landscape about as well as could  
20 be hoped. They rarely protrude above the tree line. In  
21 many places they are unnoticeable, and in some all but  
22 invisible. The steel towers that Northeast Utilities  
23 proposes would protrude 50 feet above the tree line.  
24 There would be 63 of these massive monopoles along a

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1 seven-mile course, one approximately every 600 feet.  
2 They and the wires strung between them would be visible  
3 from just about any vantagepoint in the towns. They  
4 would loom ominously over the landscape like a pack of  
5 hulking metal gozillas. They would scar historic scenic  
6 vistas from many locations.

7 This issue is of compelling interest for  
8 many people besides the residents of Durham, Middlefield,  
9 and Middletown. Every year hundreds of thousands of  
10 people flock to Durham and Middlefield to experience a  
11 landscape so little marred by 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology,  
12 that it still speaks authentically of Connecticut's rural  
13 and agricultural past. They enjoy the blossoming of  
14 spring and pick the fruits of summer at Lyman Orchards,  
15 they attend Connecticut's largest agricultural fair in  
16 September, they leaf peaf in the autumn, they enjoy the  
17 quiet stark beauty of the winter landscape, they are  
18 intrigued by structures and even entire streets that  
19 preserve the architecture and atmosphere of earlier eras.  
20 Erecting giant metal monopoles would be like driving  
21 spikes across the face of a beautiful historic landscape  
22 painting. It would constitute an unforgivable  
23 desecration of a piece of Connecticut heritage. Thank  
24 you. (Applause).

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1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is John Landers, on  
2 deck is Pat Kupcho.

3 MR. JOHN LANDERS: Members of the Siting  
4 Council, my name is John Landers and I live at 264 Skeet  
5 Club Road in Durham. That is L-a-n-d-e-r-s.

6 Skeet Club Road is Connecticut State Route  
7 157, very much a densely populated neighborhood bordered  
8 on the west by Powder Hill Road, the east Skeet Club  
9 Road, Elihu Drive and Skeet Field Point.

10 I live in my home with my wife and two  
11 children, ages 12 and 9. The existing power lines run  
12 along the side of my home, cross Route 157, and shortly  
13 thereafter enter the Lyman Orchard Golf Club. The  
14 existing power lines are less than 70 feet from my son's  
15 bedroom window, or to put this in perspective, less than  
16 the distance from third base to home plate in a baseball  
17 diamond.

18 When I built my home in 1987, the 115-kV  
19 power lines, they were already in place, running along  
20 the side of my home. They were unobtrusive as they were  
21 mostly below the tree lines, i.e. out of sight. They  
22 emitted no noise of any kind and in any kind of weather,  
23 and the EMF measurements dropped off to minute levels as  
24 you move less than a few feet away from the lines.

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1                   Today I find myself in a position where  
2                   everything is changed for my family. Where once 55-foot  
3                   poles were out of my sight has become a scenario where  
4                   hideous 105-foot towers will completely dominate the  
5                   horizon. What once emitted no noise will hum in all  
6                   weather and emit even worse noise pollution in rainy  
7                   weather. EMF's that were never a concern before will  
8                   continuously invade our yard and home. I feel as if I  
9                   have built my home on a quiet town road and woke one day  
10                  to discover they were going to run I-95 down the side of  
11                  my house.

12                  Furthermore, not only will this proposal  
13                  destroy the quality of life as it pertains to my home,  
14                  it's also destroyed the aesthetic beauty of a part of the  
15                  State where hundreds of thousands of residents come  
16                  yearly for recreational purposes between the Powder Ridge  
17                  ski area, the Lyman Orchards Gold Course and the Lyman's  
18                  Pick Your Own Orchards. When these towers go up, they  
19                  are never coming down, permanently scarring the  
20                  landscape.

21                  None of this has to happen. Nobody denies  
22                  the need for more power as energy consumption has peaked.  
23                  What we do say is there is an alternative to disrupting  
24                  people's quality of life, shrinking their property

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1 values, lowering the town's tax base, exposing ourselves  
2 and our children to potentially harmful EMF's, and  
3 destroying the scenic beauty of our community. The only  
4 reasonable solution is to put these lines underground  
5 where they do not pose a threat to health, scenic beauty,  
6 or town coffers.

7 CL&P and UI are only concerned with  
8 keeping cost low to produce greater return on investment.

9 In the process they will cause harm to thousands of  
10 residents. Only you, the Connecticut Siting Council, can  
11 stop this injustice. I implore you to be fair to the  
12 State residents and rule the lines must be buried  
13 underground in all residential areas. Thank you.  
14 (Applause).

15 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is Pat Kupcho, and  
16 then we're going to have Kathryn Bert, and then we're  
17 going to take a three-minute stretch break.

18 MS. PAT KUPCHO: My name is Pat Kupcho, K-  
19 u-p-c-h-o. And I'm reading a statement for Shannon  
20 Suprenault, who lives at Royal Oak Park. And her name is  
21 spelled S-u-p-r-e-n-a-u-l-t.

22 My name is Shannon Suprenault. I live at  
23 29 Ironwood Lane, Middletown, Connecticut. I have a  
24 nerve disorder called Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy. This

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1 affects and causes pain in my nerve, muscles, and bones.  
2 To relieve pain, I have had surgery to implant a spinal  
3 cord stimulator. This device will be affected negatively  
4 by radio waves and/or high frequency power lines. The  
5 345-kV transmission lines proposed by Northeast Utilities  
6 will set this stimulator off and cause me additional  
7 pain. My house is just three feet from the easement,  
8 three feet from these lines. What will Northeast  
9 Utilities do to ensure that I will experience no  
10 increased pain due to the 345-k lines?

11 I am frightened by this proposal. I am  
12 frightened by what it will do to my life. Placing the  
13 lines underground will negate any effect they will have  
14 on my pain.

15 I ask the Siting Council to require that  
16 the proposed lines be placed underground and not allow  
17 Northeast Utilities to destroy the quality of my life.  
18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

20 MS. KATHRYN BERT: My name is Kathryn  
21 Bert. I live at -- it's B-e-r-t.

22 COURT REPORTER: Kathryn with a K?

23 MS. BERT: K-a-t-h-r-y-n. I live at 29  
24 Evergreen Terrace.

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1 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, did you say B-  
2 e-r-t?

3 MS. BERT: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Can you just raise that  
5 microphone a little closer to you. Thank you.

6 MS. BERT: I wonder why. In Durham. I'd  
7 like to just mention before I start speaking that I'm  
8 aware that the Superintendent of Schools for District 13<sup>th</sup>  
9 and also the Principal of Coginchaug High School are both  
10 interested in speaking tonight and are signed up at the  
11 end of the list. And I know that 10:00 o'clock is  
12 approaching, but I did want that noted for the record.  
13 Can I start new?

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: No, keep going --

15 MS. BERT: No, okay. I have heard that  
16 people who -- people say that those who choose to live  
17 along the power lines should bear the consequences of  
18 that choice. The easement crosses my property. I want  
19 to tell you how I made the choice to move where I moved.

20 First of all, I called four times Northeast Utilities.  
21 How do I know it was four times? Because I ran across my  
22 notes about two years ago and threw them out. But during  
23 those four conversations I was told that these were  
24 ancillary lines. These are not words I made up.

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1 Auxiliary lines, barely being used -- these are all  
2 quotes -- and not currently being used. You might also  
3 note that to this very day Northeast is not being candid  
4 with people who call and ask about these upgrades. All  
5 four representatives assured me that I should not be  
6 concerned about anything being -- anything larger being  
7 installed ever. I also researched 115-lines and felt  
8 comfortable with them.

9 Lastly, I read very carefully the wording  
10 of the easement contract which was part of my deed. As  
11 an attorney, I felt I understood its contents. I  
12 certainly knew the meanings of words like distribution,  
13 service, reasonable and consistent.

14 CL&P's easement -- and these are quotes  
15 from the legal easement, which is attached to my  
16 statement -- is for, quote, "An electric distribution  
17 system for providing electric communication signal and  
18 street lighting service". The easement provides -- and I  
19 quote again -- "any additional equipment necessary to  
20 provide this service is to be located in such places on,  
21 over, under, and across said land" -- that being my land  
22 -- "as may be reasonable and consistent with the use of  
23 said land at the time".

24 I have lived in my home consistently for



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1 seven years, and this easement was consistently used for  
2 a 115-kV line. Tell me how would turning this small  
3 local distribution line into part of a long-distance,  
4 perhaps national, high voltage transmission system be  
5 reasonable and consistent with the residential and long-  
6 time residential use of my land? How was I put on notice  
7 that this might happen?

8 CL&P's movie at the beginning of this  
9 evening talked about Phase 1 being under-grounded because  
10 of the necessity of widening the right-of-way I believe  
11 by 80 feet and buying I believe 29 homes. As if that  
12 would be so drastic. What about the complete change in  
13 the character of our easement and what about the complete  
14 change in the character of our homes?

15 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

16 MS. BERT: Thank you. (Applause).

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: We are going to take a  
18 very quick stretch break, about three minutes. After the  
19 break, I'm going to ask the following people to cue  
20 behind the mic in this order to make brief remarks, Bob  
21 Cunningham, Gilles Plante, Karen Radziewicz, David P.  
22 Bower, and Kevin Marotta. Please cue behind the mic  
23 after the break in that order. Thank you.

24 (Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

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1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is -- please cue, Bob  
2 Cunningham, Gilles Plante, Karen Radziewicz, David P.  
3 Bower, and Kevin Marotta. (Pause). We're just checking  
4 to make sure the transcriptionist -- Mr. Phelps, is the  
5 transcriptionist still in the lobby?

6 MR. PHELPS: Yes, she is.

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Okay, thank you.

8 MR. ROBERT CUNNINGHAM: Ready? My name is  
9 Robert Cunningham, C-u-n-n-i-n-g-h-a-m. I live at 90  
10 Royal Oak Drive in Durham.

11 At the NU forum in New Britain put on for  
12 the Connecticut Siting Council in December, NU's computer  
13 map showed the three existing 345-kilovolt circuits  
14 between Chestnut Junction and Black Pond Junction that  
15 pass through Middletown, Middletown, and Meriden. In  
16 addition, the same map showed three 345-kilovolt circuits  
17 running parallel to the existing lines just one mile  
18 south. In the application these are referred to as  
19 Segment 1, which runs through Durham, Middlefield, and  
20 Middletown. However, in the application only one of  
21 these 345-kilovolt circuits is shown. When questioned,  
22 NU's representative replied with certainty that, yes,  
23 three 345 circuits would run through Durham, Middlefield,  
24 and Middletown. One wonders if NU has a hidden agenda.

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1 This is the only forum where these maps were shared.  
2 Perhaps they were not intended for our viewing.

3 Would it not make better sense to use the  
4 existing circuit which runs from Chestnut Junction to  
5 Black Pond Junction and down to the East Shore Substation  
6 and continue it from East Shore to the Milford  
7 Substation. According to the application the remaining  
8 segment will go underground to Norwalk. It seems --

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, sir.

10 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Thank you. (Applause).

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Gilles Plante.

12 MR. GILLES PLANTE: Good evening. My name  
13 is Gilles Plante, P-l-a-n-t-e.

14 COURT REPORTER: Spell your first name.

15 MR. PLANTE: G-i-l-l-e-s. And I live at  
16 44 Ironwood Lane in Durham.

17 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

18 MR. PLANTE: I have a special concern and  
19 it's shared by many other people who live near the right-  
20 of-way of the proposed line. I have an in-ground  
21 swimming pool, which is about 10 feet from the right-of-  
22 way. When the pool was first installed, the distance to  
23 the wire as they are now was acceptable to the building  
24 department in the Town of Durham. Uh -- however, the

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1 distance has to be -- however, a distance has to be --  
2 had to be respected due to the amount of electricity  
3 carried by the wires and the phenomenon of arcing as it's  
4 called. The concern was the possibility of a bolt of  
5 electric -- of electricity traveling from the wires into  
6 the pool water, so I was told by the building official in  
7 Durham, on a day of high humidity. Uh --

8 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Can you just give us a  
9 concluding sentence.

10 MR. PLANTE: So these requirements were  
11 based on the existing 115-kV as they were at the time.  
12 My concern has to do with what happens with the 345-kV  
13 that is proposed --

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you --

15 MR. PLANTE: -- can I be assured that my  
16 family will remain safe on a summer day after the  
17 proposed line are installed? Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

19 MS. KAREN RADZIEWICZ: Hi. Karen  
20 Radziewicz, with a K. R-a-d-z-i-e-w-i-c-z --

21 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, one more time  
22 please.

23 MS. RADZIEWICZ: R-a-d-z-i-e-w-i-c-z.

24 Okay. I live within 100 feet of the right-of-way on

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1 Holly Lane in Middletown, Connecticut in the Royal Oak  
2 Park neighborhood. Did you know that of this entire  
3 project the highest levels of electromagnetic fields will  
4 be in my neighborhood and that the homes in my  
5 neighborhood are in closest proximity of the right-of-  
6 way?

7 I have two good reasons to be gravely  
8 concerned. I am the mother of two little boys, a four-  
9 year-old and a two-year-old, and I am here on their  
10 behalf tonight. Right now they are home sleeping soundly  
11 unaware of Northeast Utilities' proposal to increase the  
12 voltage lines to unacceptable levels. It is my job to  
13 nurture and sustain my children for the future. I am  
14 putting my trust in you and I ask that you help me  
15 protect my children. A couple of weeks ago in  
16 Woodbridge, the overwhelming about of scientists,  
17 specialists, and physicians who spoke of the damaging  
18 effects and how EMF's are linked to leukemia was  
19 overwhelming. And I believe that you will do the right  
20 thing and that you will not allow these lines to go  
21 aboveground in my neighborhood. I'm not a specialist on  
22 EMF's, but I am an authority on the lives of my children  
23 and I say that these lines should go underground.

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

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1 MR. SEBASTIAN GIULIANO: Anybody who knows  
2 David Bower knows that I am not he. And I thank him for  
3 yielding his time to me. I have his prepared statement  
4 that I will place in the record.

5 My name is Sebastian Giuliano. I live at  
6 348 Maple Shade Road, not too far away from all these  
7 nice people that live at Royal Oak.

8 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Can you spell it please.

9 MR. GIULIANO: G-i-u-l-i-a-n-o. And I'm  
10 not going to repeat a number of statistics because I  
11 think you've probably heard them all already and they're  
12 probably all starting to sound alike to you.

13 I was struck by the remarks of one of the  
14 previous speakers who described what this project would  
15 be as 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology marring of really an  
16 otherwise undestroyed landscape. And while I understand  
17 the sentiment behind that description, I don't think it  
18 was quite accurate. I think what we have is 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
19 technology that is being proposed. Stringing --  
20 (applause) -- stringing wires on poles whether they're  
21 just a few feet tall or whether they're a hundred feet  
22 tall is old technology. We have a better solution, and  
23 that's to place them underground. And I don't think a  
24 few years from now when we look back at this if we place

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1 them underground, that anybody is going to regret doing  
2 it. I think if we put these poles up or allow them to be  
3 put up, we're going to regret it.

4 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

5 MR. GIULIANO: Thank you. (Applause).

6 MR. KEVIN MAROTTA: My name is Kevin  
7 Marotta, I'm from the Middlesex County Chamber of  
8 Commerce. It's M-a-r-o-t-t-a.

9 A number of our public officials briefly  
10 eluded to the necessity of having a reliable energy  
11 source and I just wanted to echo those statements on  
12 behalf of the Chamber of Commerce.

13 First of all, through close interaction  
14 with our legislative committee as well as various members  
15 of the Chamber, it has been brought to our attention the  
16 extreme importance of providing the business community  
17 with not only a low-cost power system, but a fully  
18 reliable one to avoid shutdowns or power interruptions.

19 In a recent poll of our membership, 41  
20 percent of the respondents chose having a low-cost energy  
21 source as their main energy concern, 32 percent cited the  
22 need for high quality power with no power fluctuations as  
23 their main concern, and 25 percent mentioned having a  
24 fully available power system with no conservation

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1 shutdowns as the most important energy need to them.  
2 Upgrading the current transmission system to 345-kV lines  
3 would address all these needs.

4 Middlesex County is becoming an area that  
5 attracts many businesses. And with the economy turned  
6 around and companies deciding to expand, we need to  
7 provide those businesses with a reliable low-cost power  
8 system. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

10 A VOICE: (Indiscernible) --

11 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next is Douglas -- the  
12 next five to cue please, Douglas Vizard, Anita Vizard,  
13 Michele Gaudreau, Joseph Lentini, and William Breck.  
14 Please speak in that order.

15 MR. DOUGLAS VIZARD: My name is Doug  
16 Vizard. I live at Hemlock Court in Durham, Connecticut.

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Spell it please.

18 MR. DOUGLAS VIZARD: V-i-z-a-r-d.

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

20 MR. DOUGLAS VIZARD: My questions concern  
21 the risk and liability and risk management. Delineation  
22 of risk assessment, abatement, and risk management is  
23 discussed in the California report. And I can give you  
24 copies of the executive summary that cover those points.



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1 As that report astutely points out the conclusion of  
2 health risk is clarified as significant, but the question  
3 of risk management is in the hands of the Applicant and  
4 the Connecticut Siting Council. It is somewhat  
5 surprising that legal counsel to NU would find the total  
6 risk acceptable. The current state of our social  
7 consciousness suggests that we forgive such business  
8 proposals because they are -- they are only to make  
9 money, after all even numerous successful spontaneous  
10 abortion suits kept to a few million dollars each over  
11 the next several years is far less than the accrual of a  
12 few Northeast executives.

13 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Can you summarize please.

14 MR. DOUGLAS VIZARD: The Connecticut  
15 Siting Council is now into the realm of risk management,  
16 which involves a human experiment, and that human  
17 experiment is going to require a great deal of effort by  
18 you folks, including health examinations, historical  
19 data, and a number of things that I don't think you're  
20 really willing to get into.

21 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

22 MS. ANITA VIZARD: My name is Anita  
23 Vizard, V-i-z-a-r-d. And I too want safe and reliable  
24 electricity and recommend the four -- the 345-kilovolt

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1 transmission lines be underground.

2 The executive summary of the California  
3 EMF risk evaluation of June 2002 was done on behalf of  
4 the California Public Utilities. Their research  
5 scientists from the California Department of Health  
6 Services believe, and I quote, "That EMF's can cause some  
7 degree of increased risk of childhood leukemia, adult  
8 brain cancer, Lou Gehrig's Disease, and miscarriages".  
9 There are technologies and tools for underground  
10 transmission systems that address the leading corporate  
11 objectives of today's performance driven energy  
12 companies, cut costs, improve underground cable  
13 reliability while increasing power through-put, and  
14 ensure health and safety. And these are all noted in my  
15 documentation.

16 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Great, thank you.  
17 (Applause). Next is Michele Gaudreau -- no cutting --  
18 after -- (laughter) -- after -- yeah, you didn't look  
19 like Michele -- after Joseph Lentini and William Breck -  
20 - the next people after that will be Cynthia Skinner,  
21 Sally Nicastre, Tom Hennick, and Philip Faraci.

22 MS. MICHELE GAUDREAU: Hi. Michele  
23 Gaudreau, G-a-u-d-r-e-a-u.

24 My husband and I own a great house in a

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1 great neighborhood here in Royal Oak Park in Middletown.

2 It happens to be along the existing right-of-way. I'm a  
3 stay-at-home mother of two beautiful girls, Rachel and  
4 Sarah, and they are the reason I am speaking to you  
5 tonight.

6 I stand before you with sincere hope that  
7 you will understand how fearful I am about this issue.  
8 I'm charged with one goal in life right now, and that is  
9 to ensure the well being of my children. There is no  
10 question that I will fail if you allow these power lines  
11 to go aboveground in my backyard 10 feet from my  
12 swingset, 15 feet from my sandbox, 20 feet from a pool  
13 that my girls have just started to enjoy.

14 I've heard one reason that NU is giving  
15 for keeping these lines aboveground and that's that there  
16 is a limitation of 24 miles. I have yet -- to go  
17 underground. I have yet to hear a clear or valid  
18 explanation of that statement. I researched this issue  
19 with an impartial energy specialist who advised there is  
20 no such limitation. He pointed to European countries and  
21 states in the south here where all lines are placed  
22 underground with no 24-mile limitation. Is it mere  
23 coincidence that the stretch of line being placed  
24 underground in Connecticut is being done in the

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1 great neighborhood here in Royal Oak Park in Middletown.

2 It happens to be along the existing right-of-way. I'm a  
3 stay-at-home mother of two beautiful girls, Rachel and  
4 Sarah, and they are the reason I am speaking to you  
5 tonight.

6 I stand before you with sincere hope that  
7 you will understand how fearful I am about this issue.  
8 I'm charged with one goal in life right now, and that is  
9 to ensure the well being of my children. There is no  
10 question that I will fail if you allow these power lines  
11 to go aboveground in my backyard 10 feet from my  
12 swingset, 15 feet from my sandbox, 20 feet from a pool  
13 that my girls have just started to enjoy.

14 I've heard one reason that NU is giving  
15 for keeping these lines aboveground and that's that there  
16 is a limitation of 24 miles. I have yet -- to go  
17 underground. I have yet to hear a clear or valid  
18 explanation of that statement. I researched this issue  
19 with an impartial energy specialist who advised there is  
20 no such limitation. He pointed to European countries and  
21 states in the south here where all lines are placed  
22 underground with no 24-mile limitation. Is it mere  
23 coincidence that the stretch of line being placed  
24 underground in Connecticut is being done in the

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1 wealthiest portion of the State. Are our families' lives  
2 not worth as much as those families living in Fairfield  
3 County? (Applause).

4 I know that you would not choose cost as a  
5 reason to sacrifice my children or the children of my  
6 neighbors. If you think there's even the potential for  
7 the transmission to cause disease, you will do the right  
8 thing and force NU to bury these lines --

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Please --

10 MS. GAUDREAU: -- please hear what is at  
11 stake here and don't take the risk. Thank you.  
12 (Applause).

13 MR. JOSEPH LENTINI: My name is Joseph  
14 Lentini, L-e-n-t-i-n-i. I live on Lakeside Avenue,  
15 Middletown.

16 The only thing I want to say about all  
17 this is if they need the power down at that end of the  
18 State, either build power plants down there. And if you  
19 can't do that and you got to bury their lines down there  
20 where they're going to get all the benefits, the least  
21 you can do to pacify the people in this part of the State  
22 is bury the lines here for us. (Applause). What makes  
23 them people where they're getting most of the benefits  
24 get all of the good luck about it too. They don't see no

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1 power lines, no nothing. We got to do it here? That  
2 don't make no sense to me. That's not fair play or fair  
3 whatever. I know life's not fair, but don't make it be a  
4 100 percent that it's not fair. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).  
6 Next is -- in the following order William Breck, Cynthia  
7 Skinner, Sally Nicastre, and Tom Hennick. If I call your  
8 name and you've decided to pass, just please sing out.

9 MR. WALTER PIETRUSKA: I'm not William  
10 Breck, but I relinquished my spot to him, he's the  
11 Superintendent of Schools. Is it okay if I take it back?  
12 (Laughter).

13 A VOICE: He's not here.

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Go ahead.

15 MR. PIETRUSKA: Okay. My name is Walter  
16 Pietruska. I live at 58 Black Walnut Drive in Durham.

17 COURT REPORTER: Spell it please.

18 MR. PIETRUSKA: P-i-e-t-r-u-s-k-a. Good  
19 evening, Chairman Pat -- Pam Katz and members of the  
20 Siting Council.

21 CL&P has 120-foot easement from my  
22 property for transmission of electricity. This is the  
23 existing location of the 115-kilovolt line that runs  
24 along the Durham and Middletown border. This easement

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1 ends four feet away from my home and includes my total  
2 blacktop driveway.

3 It is my understanding that the highest  
4 increase in EMF radiation along the proposed power line  
5 will be in the Royal Oak neighborhood. The measurement  
6 of radiation is milligauss. As this was explained to me,  
7 this measurement increases or decreases depending on  
8 various variables such as transmission load, angle of the  
9 line that changes during varied weather conditions. My  
10 question to the Siting Council is has an independent  
11 electric engineer determined the possible range of  
12 milligauss and do they fall within acceptable federal  
13 standards?

14 There are nine swimming pools on property  
15 adjacent to the Royal Oak easement proposed transmission  
16 lines, there are 26 in the Royal Oak residence area. I  
17 will end my statement now --

18 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you, sir --

19 MR. PIETRUSKA: -- as it's been covered by  
20 others. (Applause).

21 MS. CYNTHIA SKINNER: My name is Cynthia  
22 Skinner, S-k-i-n-n-e-r. I live at 30 --

23 COURT REPORTER: Your first name --

24 MS. SKINNER: Cynthia. I live at 30

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1 Evergreen Terrace, Royal Oak Park.

2 My main concern this evening is my well.  
3 The well that provides water to my family is just five  
4 feet from the easement. I am concerned about the effect  
5 of chemicals used by this company in maintenance of the  
6 easement past and future. I am concerned that when the  
7 massive bases, which will be needed to support the  
8 proposed monopoles are constructed, the disturbance of  
9 the subsurface soils and the possible need to blast will  
10 release herbicide residuals into our wells and aquifer.  
11 NU has never answered our questions about what chemicals  
12 have been used and will be used to maintain the easement.  
13 Haven't we learned from Agent Orange enough about the  
14 dangers of herbicides.

15 My questions this evening are what  
16 chemicals will be used? Will they leach into my drinking  
17 water? What will their effect be on my family? What  
18 effect will construction and installation of the poles  
19 have on my well? Will there be runoff in my water? Will  
20 the aquifer be altered due to construction process? What  
21 effect will the EMF's have on my well and water? What  
22 responsibility does the company plan to take to ensure  
23 that I will have a functioning well that permanently  
24 provides clean water? Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).  
2 Following Sally Nicastre is Tom Hennick, Philip Faraci,  
3 Shaina Bradley, Phil Kirk, and Ellen Lentini.

4 MS. SALLY NICASTRE: My name is Sally  
5 Nicastre, N-i-c-a-s-t-r-e. Good evening.

6 COURT REPORTER: Sally with a Y?

7 MS. NICASTRE: With a Y.

8 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

9 MS. NICASTRE: This statement has to do  
10 with limited appearance. I don't understand why the  
11 transmission lines cannot be rerouted along existing  
12 highways or railways. Is it, in fact, true that the  
13 Connecticut Department of Transportation prohibits  
14 placing these lines along state highways? Why is that an  
15 appropriate prohibition? I encourage you to require the  
16 lines to be placed along state highways and whenever  
17 possible place the lines underground.

18 I know the under-streeting and under-  
19 grounding may cost the Applicants more money, but cost-  
20 effectiveness should not come at the expense of  
21 Connecticut's environment or our children's health.

22 I hope you will do the right thing and  
23 under-street and underground our lines.

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

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1 MR. TOM HENNICK: Good evening and how are  
2 you. I know it's late. My name is Tom Hennick, H-e-n-n-  
3 i-c-k. Initially, I was prepared to read a statement  
4 from one of my neighbors, her name is Maureen Dooley, D-  
5 o-o-l-e-y. Obviously with the time shortages, I won't do  
6 that, so I'll summarize quickly.

7 I'm here to stand with my friends and  
8 neighbors. I live in Royal Oak, one house down from  
9 these proposed power lines. This is more than just about  
10 protecting our neighborhood, although obviously we're  
11 opposed to these power lines. Back in October we brought  
12 in a crane to illustrate what these are going to look  
13 like. I'm going to leave some photos with you to show  
14 not only how this would damage our neighborhood, but how  
15 it will damage the vistas, the ridges that everyone has  
16 been talking about.

17 Maureen prepared a statement for me to  
18 read. I'll just read a couple of lines for you. The  
19 power companies stated that this project will pay for  
20 itself over a short period of time. Then why not invest  
21 a little more money into the project and insist that the  
22 345-kV be placed underground through Durham's residential  
23 area. The present proposal by NU must be rejected.  
24 Please insist that they place these power lines

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1 underground. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).

3 MR. PHILIP FARACI: Good evening. My name  
4 is Philip Faraci. That's F-a-r-a-c-i.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to let me  
6 speak tonight. I live in Middletown with my wife and  
7 daughter. And although I am an engineer by trade, I  
8 don't have a great deal of knowledge about power  
9 generation or transmission, and I must admit even after  
10 reading some of the documents posted on the Siting  
11 Council's website concerning the application, I am not in  
12 much of a position to argue the particulars of how to run  
13 power lines or where to run them, or whether running them  
14 underground is superior to running them aboveground in  
15 terms of cost or efficiency. In fact, underground and  
16 aboveground to me seems to be the basic difference of  
17 out-of-sight out-of-mind.

18 However, I know a persuasive argument when  
19 I see one. And I found the testimony of Mr. Joel Gordes  
20 (phonetic) of Environmental Energy Solutions before the  
21 Siting Council on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to be particularly  
22 informative on the current status of power generation and  
23 transmission, and persuasive in its argument that the  
24 Council should reject the proposal for more high voltage

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1 power lines in Connecticut. Mr. Gordes' testimony can be  
2 found in the Siting Council website along with other  
3 documents related to the proposal, and I strongly  
4 recommend that anyone here read it or re-read it.

5 And I see I'm out of time, so I'll just  
6 say thank you for your time.

7 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you -- (applause) --  
8 and thank you for the advertisement for the website.  
9 Next I have a Shaina Bradley, followed by Phil Kirk,  
10 followed by Ellen Lentini.

11 MS. SHAINA BRADLEY: I'm Shaina Bradley,  
12 S-h-a-i-n-a, B-r-a-d-l-e-y.

13 Many residents of Durham are fighting the  
14 battle against aboveground power lines. From hearing  
15 people talking about this situation around town, I have  
16 learned that citizens of Durham are trying to keep this  
17 town safe from the power lines. This discussion has been  
18 going on for quite a long time now. I have found out  
19 that these power lines will be twice the size of the ones  
20 now and will have 345,000 volts added.

21 The question is will the power lines be  
22 aboveground or underground. If they go aboveground, then  
23 many people of Durham will have to either move away or  
24 take the chance of getting sick or even face the chance

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1 of getting electrocuted in their pools. If they go  
2 underground like many people are hoping, then people will  
3 not have to move away from their homes and their town and  
4 all their friends.

5 I love my home and I don't want to have to  
6 move. Please don't hurt us. Would you do this to your  
7 children. We love our -- I love my town, so don't change  
8 it.

9 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

10 MS. SHAINA BRADLEY: Thank you.

11 (Applause).

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Next up is Phil Kirk,  
13 Ellen Lentini, Jim Brant, Joan Liska.

14 MR. PHIL KIRK: Hi, how are you tonight.  
15 This is really not what I was going to speak about, and -  
16 -

17 COURT REPORTER: Your name and spell it.

18 MR. PHIL KIRK: My name is Phil Kirk, K-i-  
19 r-k.

20 What I would like to say is that when I  
21 bought my house, I spoke to the folks at Northeast  
22 Utilities. The lines run very close to my house. And  
23 they told me definitively that these lines would not be  
24 upgraded, that they were for local distribution. It

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1 seems now that's changed. They told -- they've made  
2 statements about the width of the easement that is not  
3 true. They have made statements that reduce or minimize  
4 the distance of houses to lines that absolutely are not  
5 true. I think that Northeast Utilities has shown in  
6 many, many circumstances that they are willing to say  
7 whatever needs to be said to get the things that most  
8 benefit them financially.

9 I think that -- I spoke to my lawyer. He  
10 read the easement. The easement says that it's for local  
11 distribution and those lines wouldn't be expanded. I  
12 think that NU has acted reprehensibly. I think that they  
13 have not shown themselves to be honest or interested in  
14 our well being. And I hope everything that's said by NU  
15 is scrutinized by this Council because I don't believe  
16 much -- (applause) -- they've had to say.

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. Ellen Lentini.

18 A VOICE: Pass.

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Pass. Thank you. Next  
20 Jim Brant, followed by Joan Liska, followed by Maria --  
21 or Mona Ellum --

22 A VOICE: Jim passes.

23 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Jim Grant passed -- or  
24 Brant passed. Joan Liska, followed by Mona Ellum,

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1 followed by Lynn Stanwood.

2 MS. JOAN LISKA: My name is Joan Liska.  
3 I'm a resident of Middletown. That's L-i-s-k-a.

4 I had a planned speech, but everybody has  
5 been saying it for me. Instead, I will give an  
6 observation here tonight, and that by my count one person  
7 stood up here and spoke to the benefit of NU to say that  
8 the businesses need electricity. Well, we all need  
9 electricity. Now if you flip the count around, the  
10 entire rest of the speakers up here were against this  
11 proposal, and I think that speaks very loudly for the  
12 communities here that are going to be impacted by this.  
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).  
15 Mona Ellum? Pass. Lynn Stanwood, followed by Margery  
16 Stahl, followed by Nancy Kinning, followed by John Lyman.

17 MS. LYNN STANWOOD: My name is Lynn  
18 Stanwood, S-t-a-n-w-o-o-d. I live at 67 Royal Oak Drive  
19 in Durham.

20 I am focusing on corona ions. Attached  
21 are several studies stating that corona ions do cause air  
22 pollution and increase incident of lung cancer and mouth  
23 cancer for those in areas of high tension power lines,  
24 132-kV or greater. According to Professor Henshaw,

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1 people living close to power lines are 50 percent more  
2 likely to contract mouth cancer and up to 30 percent more  
3 likely to suffer from lung cancer. Skipping down, corona  
4 ions charged with aerosol size, particular of air  
5 pollution -- air pollutants -- raise the possibility of a  
6 consequential effect of health, resulting in lung  
7 deposition and inhaled charge of pollutant aerosols by  
8 people. They cause air pollution, corona ions cause air  
9 pollution.

10 And NU is making a tremendous profit. We  
11 were told by one of the vice presidents at the  
12 Middlefield forum that they should reap the benefits and  
13 make a profit within two or three years, which is  
14 astounding. They should take some of that profit money  
15 and put it into under-grounding these power lines and  
16 doing the right thing.

17 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).  
18 Margery Stahl? Pass. Nancy Kinning -- Kening? Pass?

19 A VOICE: No.

20 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Oh, no. Sorry. Followed  
21 by John Lyman, followed by Jay Bernadino.

22 MS. NANCY KINIRY: My name is Nancy  
23 Kiniry, K-i-n-i-r-y.

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Sorry. I really did



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1 massacre yours.

2 MS. KINIRY: That's okay, everyone does.  
3 It's 1671 Country Club Road, Middletown.

4 I'm here -- I'm a Conservation  
5 Commissioner for the City of Middletown, I'm a mother of  
6 five, and I'm also a realtor for approximately 15 years  
7 with the Beazley Company. I'm here for all the reasons  
8 that everybody is here tonight. But one thing I can add  
9 to this is the testimony of depreciating value, which I  
10 haven't heard too many people address that tonight.

11 I sold the last house that sold in the  
12 Royal Oak subdivision. It sold December 23<sup>rd</sup> of 2003. It  
13 was significantly under-priced. I was the buyer's agent,  
14 not the listing agent. And that is significantly what  
15 drew my people to that. They got a great house for the  
16 money. It was listed for 328,000 and they got it for  
17 295,000. So if you're listening to other people saying  
18 10 percent, 15 percent, they're absolutely right.

19 I've sold other houses next to power lines  
20 in my 15 years or so of real estate, and they've all sold  
21 for way under market value. And I feel with this  
22 increased voltage, it's going to kill those people's  
23 value. I know people right now that I'm telling about  
24 other houses for sale near these areas, they will not

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1 look at the houses.

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

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

4 CHAIRMAN KATZ: John Lyman, followed by  
5 Jay Bernadino, followed by Anthony -- whatever.

6 MR. JOHN LYMAN: John Lyman, L-y-m-a-n.  
7 Chairwoman Katz and members of the Siting Council, I'll  
8 keep my comments brief, I've submitted extensive  
9 testimony.

10 We're impacted, our golf course, the  
11 right-of-way runs through the center of our Robert Trent  
12 Jones course. The gold course is a very -- the golf  
13 business is very important to us. We have a Trent Jones  
14 course, a Gary Player course, and we're seeking final  
15 approval for a training center. Actually, the golf  
16 course allows us to continue farming, which we've been  
17 doing since 1741.

18 There's three major areas of concern for  
19 us with this upgrade. Golf is very much contingent on  
20 the willingness of a golfer to go to the course. The  
21 aesthetic impact could be very negative. The concern  
22 about EMF's could cause a deterrent to go the course.  
23 And also if there is the likely -- or the possibility of  
24 this right-of-way being expanded with more lines in the

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1 future, that would absolutely be economically devastating  
2 to us.

3 For those reasons, we're asking the  
4 Council to reject this upgrade and to look at the  
5 underground solution. Thank you. (Applause).

6 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Jay Bernadino? Pass.  
7 Anthony Maleski? Charles Rothenberger? Leah Lopez?  
8 Eric Langhans? He will be followed by the last three,  
9 Steve Wesoloski, Frank Deferris, and Barry -- whatever.  
10 The last -- if you -- please come to the front row if  
11 you've signed up to speak and haven't spoken yet. Yes?

12 MR. ERIC LANGHANS: Eric Langhans, L-a-n-  
13 g-h-a-n-s, at 22 Evergreen Terrace.

14 Tonight I have a lot of concerns about the  
15 power towers and the lines going through, but I'm going  
16 to talk about one that I don't think a lot of people have  
17 touched on before. Growing up in Durham and being a  
18 runner, I always enjoyed the many opportunities that I  
19 have had on the many different trails throughout town.  
20 More recently though more and more of the trails I run --  
21 we run on are being destroyed for different building  
22 projects, leaving my teammates and I to run more on the  
23 back roads of Durham and Middlefield. Still some old  
24 trails have remained, which we greatly enjoy as using a

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1 break from the hard pounding surface of the pavement.  
2 One of these trails is one that runs along the power  
3 lines through Durham, Middletown, and Middlefield.  
4 Generations of runners have made the power line trails  
5 their frequent workout. And to destroy that legacy would  
6 be truly sad. If any of the area around the power lines  
7 is still intact, the coaches and administration at our  
8 school would no longer allow us to run through the area.  
9 And I and my teammates know that we would not feel  
10 comfortable running under these extremely powerful and  
11 potentially dangerous lines. The area closer to these  
12 new monopolies would totally destroy the trail and cause  
13 our team to lose another beloved running spot.

14 While our running route would be greatly  
15 disturbed, the result pales in comparison to the effect  
16 the power lines would have on animals and wildlife living  
17 in the area. From a quick glance of the deer that passes  
18 by to the multitude of squirrels and all of the different  
19 wildlife, rabbits, hawks, raccoons, and wild turkeys that  
20 we see on the run, we know that the new power lines would  
21 totally destroy their habitat --

22 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Please --

23 MR. ERIC LANGHANS: -- so we ask you to --

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Please summarize --

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1 MR. ERIC LANGHANS: -- protect the --  
2 (applause) --

3 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).  
4 I'd like the last speakers who have signed up to come up  
5 to the microphone. Is this gentleman the last? Is there  
6 anyone else who has signed up to speak? If you can come  
7 down to the front row, you're going to be the last  
8 speaker after him. Go ahead.

9 MR. FRANK DEFELICE: Good evening,  
10 Commissioner Katz and committee.

11 My name is Frank DeFelice, D-e-F-e-l-i-c-  
12 e. I am the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee for  
13 the Town of Durham. I'm also an electrical engineer. I  
14 have 25 years in the electrical field and my specialty is  
15 high voltage power distribution.

16 We've heard a lot of discussion tonight  
17 from a lot of people regarding the effects of EMF. And I  
18 can tell you this, the people I work with, the engineers  
19 I work with, the schooling we've had, we still don't know  
20 all there is to know about this. Things like MRI units  
21 that people use every day in hospitals, they know enough  
22 to stay away from the fields, they know that there are  
23 effects from those fields.

24 The other issue I wanted to address

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1       tonight is I've heard over and over from NU about the  
2       cost of direct burial. And I want to tell you that that  
3       is simply not true. One of the things that we do, and we  
4       do it for a variety of reasons, is underground burial.  
5       It offers a lot of significant benefits. By placing the  
6       conductors in a concrete encasement, which is cellular,  
7       where you have the cables running through them, it allows  
8       for replacement if one gets damaged. It provides  
9       physical protection. It provides protection against the  
10      elements. And it allows you to put additional capacity  
11      in at a later date if you want without affecting the  
12      system. And although the initial cost is higher, the  
13      cost over the life of the cables is greatly reduced.

14                 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you.

15                 MR. DEFELICE: Thank you. (Applause).

16                 MR. BARRY NECLE: Hi. My name is Barry  
17      Necle, it's not whatever. Just a joke in there.

18                 CHAIRMAN KATZ: I apologize.

19                 MR. NECLE: That's okay. I talked to the  
20      people out there, NU, and one of the things --

21                 COURT REPORTER: Please spell it.

22                 MR. NECLE: Oh.

23                 CHAIRMAN KATZ: W-h-a-t-e-v-e-r --

24                 MR. NECLE: Yeah, that's it -- (laughter)

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1 -- N-e-c-l-e.

2 I talked to the people outside for about  
3 an hour, an hour and fifteen minutes, just to get an idea  
4 where they're feeling from. They have an addendum. One  
5 of the things that bothered me -- there's an addendum you  
6 have up and you're not even proposing the addendum for  
7 one thing. You don't -- they're not proposing other  
8 ideas. The only idea they have is just one program, push  
9 it, push it, push it. And to me -- I'm a licensed  
10 electrical contractor and I know how businesses work, and  
11 everybody is in the market of what's the most cost-  
12 effective, what's the cheapest way to get the job done.  
13 And that's what it's always been about, what -- what's  
14 going to make us the most amount of profit in the  
15 simplest amount of time and not worry about the people.

16 We have lost businesses to other countries  
17 because of -- you know, for waste and emissions of the  
18 air pollution and everything else because of our strict  
19 regulations. Well, we have no strict regulations for our  
20 own health in the sense of people, only if it's air and  
21 they find it, but they can't -- they don't want to do the  
22 research on some things like EMF enough to scare -- they  
23 -- they're just leaving it a void just like some other  
24 topics that are out there in this world, you know, like

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1 AIDS and everything else. They keep it hidden behind the  
2 doors a little bit, and as soon as they say it, they step  
3 back a little bit and they don't want to put paranoia on  
4 people.

5 They said they can only restrict so many  
6 miles for doing underground. They have engineers.  
7 They're pushing ideas -- I think that they're leaving a  
8 lot of options unopened and the addendum is a perfect  
9 example. Their addendum -- they're not even pushing the  
10 addendum, and they're trying to push this plan. And I  
11 think they should try to push -- they work on trying to  
12 get it underground -- because their addendum is their  
13 other option -- they're always looking for an option  
14 that's cheap --

15 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you --

16 MR. NECLE: -- look for the option that's  
17 going to get the -- to help the people and not worry  
18 about themselves.

19 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Thank you. (Applause).  
20 We'd like to thank everybody who came out tonight to  
21 speak and let us know your views. You are invited to  
22 submit written comments to the Council.

23 The next hearing on this docket will be  
24 held 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Institute of



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1 Technology and Business Development, which is at the  
2 Central Connecticut State University downtown New Britain  
3 campus, 185 Main Street in New Britain. Parking  
4 instructions -- Mr. Phelps, can we put on our website  
5 this link for the directions to CCSU for the evidentiary  
6 portion?

7 I want to thank everybody for their  
8 participation and thank the City of Middletown for  
9 providing this menu -- venue -- and please drive safely.

10 A VOICE: Thank you very much.

11

12 (Whereupon, the hearing adjourned at 10:15  
13 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.

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 2nd day of March, 2004.

  
Robin L. Focht,  
Vice President

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