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November 4, 2009

S. Derek Phelps
Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
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OCC Filing of Read-In Exhibits

Re: CL&P Application for the Greater Springfield Reliability Project and the
Manchester to Meekville Junction Circuit Separation Project
Docket No. 370A (Consolidated Docket)
&
NRG Energy, Inc. Application Pursuant To CGS § 16-50l(a)(3) For
Consideration Of A 530 MW Combined Cycle Generating Plant In
Meriden, Connecticut
Docket No. 370B (Consolidated Docket)

Dear Mr. Phelps:

The Office of Consumer Counsel ("OCC") is a party to the above-captioned proceeding. OCC is in receipt of copies of the transcripts prepared for the Connecticut Siting Council ("CSC") hearing dates of October 21 & 22, 2009. This is when the OCC expert witness, Mr. Chernick, appeared.

Having reviewed those transcripts, OCC is in a position to file the following read-in items for the docket record.

Assuming that CSC wants Mr. Chernick to adopt these Read-Ins as part of his sworn testimony in this docket, OCC suggests that this step could be accomplished during a CSC hearing through telephone contact with Mr. Chernick.

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If there are any questions concerning these items, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

MARY J. HEALEY
CONSUMER COUNSEL

By: 

Bruce C. Johnson
Principal Attorney
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cc: Service List

Office of Consumer Counsel
Witness: Paul Chernick

Tr. October 21, 2009, p. 118:

MR. FITZGERALD: You said West Springfield 1 and 2 are 10-minute reserves?

MR. CHERNICK: The CTs, yes -- I believe so. I would have to check that.

A: The Reliability Agreements for West Springfield CT 1 and 2 specify that each 37 MW unit has a notification time of 6 minutes and a ramp rate of 10 MW per minute, so they should be at full power in less than 10 minutes.

Office of Consumer Counsel
Witness: Paul Chernick

Tr., October 22, 2009, pp. 49-50:

CHAIRMAN CARUSO: Mr. Chernick, do you know if there was a blackout there?... let's see if you can illuminate me on the subject.

A: There was an outage in Springfield on July 30, 2009. A search of the ISO-NE web site reveals no references to that outage. However, this outage was covered in local news stories.

“Preliminary findings of an internal investigation revealed that the company WMECO hired to comply with Dig Safe regulations, On Target Utility Services, of Gardiner, Maine, did not properly mark the location of underground power lines, said company spokeswoman Sandra Ahearn. As a result, workers from Turner Underground Installations, of Henrietta, N.Y., did not know about the presence of a collection of power lines, known as a duct bank, until their equipment cut through them, she said. The resulting outage lasted 31 hours and at its peak affected some 12,000 electrical customers in Springfield, or roughly 20 percent of the city.” (“Springfield power outage investigation shows firm WMECO hired to map underground lines failed to warn construction company,” Springfield Republican, August 4, 2009)

Since this outage affected five circuits (“Nearly 12,000 Springfield customers lose power as construction workers damage underground electrical line,” Springfield Republican, July 30, 2009) and no transmission lines in the Springfield area appear to have more than two circuits, this outage seems to have been due to a problem on the distribution system. The facilities proposed in the GSRP would probably have not mitigated the severity of this error.

As Mr. Chernick noted in cross-examination, customers need to be prepared for a certain number of outages due to failures on the distribution system, regardless of the reliability of the transmission system.

Office of Consumer Counsel
Witness: Paul Chernick

Tr. October 22, 2009, p. 73:

MR. MACLEOD: Do you know whether there are any other units in the Greater Springfield area that are 10-minute quick-start generating units?

MR. CHERNICK: Well, there are three combustion turbines, one of which is older, at the West Springfield site. I believe those are the only units that would be classified as quick-start. There are also hydro units. Those would generally be reserve.

MR. MACLEOD: And which units again are they? Can you be more specific?

MR. CHERNICK: The hydro units?

MR. MACLEOD: Yeah.

A: From page F-22 of the Application, hydro units in the Springfield area are Red Bridge, Putt's Bridge, Indian Orchard, Cobble Mountain, and various Holyoke hydro units.

Office of Consumer Counsel
Witness: Paul Chernick

Tr. October 22, 2009, p. 77:

MR. MACLEOD: Let's assume for the purposes of discussion that the extreme forecast has been reached or exceeded three times since 2002 -- and I believe that would be in the last seven years -- what are the odds of that occurring?

MR. CHERNICK: If they're really one in ten?...That would be a combination of seven things taken three at a time that have probabilities of one in ten -- I could do that calculation at the break and give you a specific answer.

A: The probability of three or more events occurring in seven trials, each with an independent probability of 10%, is 3.9%.

Office of Consumer Counsel
Witness: Paul Chernick

Tr. October 22, 2009, p. 124:

MR. ASHTON: Subject to check, would you accept the fact that the first section of 345 between Southington and Pleasant Valley, New York went into service in 1964 and the balance of the loop through Connecticut was operational by 1969, and the load level for what was then NEPOOL was about 7,000 megawatts?

A: According to Exhibit 4-4 in "New England Power Pool: Description, Analysis and Implications," New England Regional Commission, Energy Program Technical Report 76-2 (reproducing data from "Electric Power Demand and Supply in New England: A Review of Trends and Forecasts," Booz Allen and Hamilton, January 1975), the NEPOOL peak load was about 8,000 MW in 1965 and about 11,000 MW in 1969. These values are consistent with the 11,643 MW weather-normalized peak for December 1970, from "New England System Capabilities and Estimated Peak Loads, 1970-1981," New England Power Planning (a part of NEPOOL), March 12, 1971.

Mr. Ashton's estimate of 7,000 MW appears to be a little low for 1964, and considerably low for 1969.