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June 1, 2009

#### VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mr. S. Derek Phelps Executive Director Connecticut Siting Council 10 Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051

Re: NRG Energy, Inc. Responses to Connecticut Siting

Council Interrogatories; Docket No. 370B

Dear Mr. Phelps:

Enclosed on behalf of NRG Energy, Inc. ("NRG") are responses to the first set of interrogatories and data requests addressed to NRG by the Connecticut Siting Council.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Andrew W. Lord

**Enclosures** 

cc: Jonathan J. Milley, NRG

Julie L. Friedberg, Esq., NRG

Service List

Murtha Cullina LLP | Attorneys at Law

Data Request CSC-NRG-1 Dated: May 29, 2009 Q-CSC-1 Page 1 of 2

Witnesses:

NRG Panel

Request from:

CSC

QUESTION:

Has anything proposed in the original application changed since

the application was approved in 1999?

**RESPONSE:** 

Yes.

In the original application, PDC-El Paso Meriden, LLC, the original sponsor of the Meriden Project (the "Original Sponsor"), proposed to use ABB GT24 turbines for the Project. In a Development and Management Plan, dated August 2001 and submitted to the Council in September 2001 in Docket No. 190 (the "D&M Facility Upgrade Plan"), Meriden Gas Turbines, LLC ("MGT") sought approval to use GE 7FA turbines in place of the ABB turbines and described the minor differences in site configuration that would be required by this substitution. In the D&M Facility Upgrade Plan, MGT also provided, among other things, an updated facility noise evaluation assuming installation of the GE turbines. Finally, and also based on the change in turbines, the orientation of the power house has been rotated 90 degrees and rather than house the two turbines in two buildings, these turbines are better suited to installation in a single building. From an aesthetic perspective, a single building will present a more consistent and less obtrusive view. The D&M Facility Upgrade Plan was approved by the Council on September 12, 2001 by an order dated September 14, 2001. NRG still plans to use the GE 7FA turbines for the Meriden Project, as noted in its March 19, 2009 Application filed in this consolidated proceeding.

Since the original application was approved, NRG has refined its plans for the cooling system of the Meriden Project as described in Section 6.6 of NRG's March 19, 2009 Application

Environmental regulations have evolved over the ten years since the original application was approved. These changes have necessitated different mitigation measures and additional permit filings. Current information regarding applicable environmental regulations, air emissions and mitigation measures, pollution control systems and related topics are described in Sections 9 and 6.5 of NRG's March 19, 2009 Application. See also NRG's response to Q-CSC-15 filed herewith for additional information

Data Request CSC-NRG-1 Dated: May 29, 2009 Q-CSC-1 Page 2 of 2

Witnesses:

NRG Panel

Request from:

CSC

regarding changes in environmental regulations applicable to the Meriden Project

The status of the required permits for the Meriden Project also has evolved over the last ten years. The listing of permits required for the Meriden Project, and the present status of each, is detailed in Section 10 of NRG's March 19, 2009 Application.

With regard to need, the original application stated that the Meriden Project was needed to help create a competitive market for electricity in the newly restructured market and to fill an anticipated shortfall in capacity. In the March 19, 2009 Application, NRG sponsors the Meriden Project as the most appropriate alternative to satisfy the import need that would be filled by the GSRP/MMP consistent with the Council's interpretation of C.G.S. § 16-50*l*(a)(3) and § 16-50p(a)(3)(F).

Finally, any cost data regarding the Meriden Project that was included in the original application is outdated <u>See</u> Section 6.8 of NRG's March 19, 2009 Application for discussion of Project costs.

Data Request CSC-NRG-1 Dated: May 29, 2009 O-CSC-2

Q-CSC-2 Page 1 of 1

Witnesses.

NRG Panel

Request from:

CSC

QUESTION:

Has anything in the area surrounding the Meriden site changed since the approval of the application in 1999 (incl. distance to nearest residences, number of fire departments in Meriden, change of land use etc.)

RESPONSE:

Since the approval of the 1999 Application, the following changes to the surrounding area have occurred:

- 452.2 acres of land originally owned by NRG has been given to Berlin and 356 acres has been given to Meriden.
- This donated land provides a significant buffer to previous abutters
- The Summitwood subdivision has been completed (as envisioned in the original application).
- Meriden has put its donated land at the lower area of the entrance to the plant to use as a recreational park (as envisioned in the original application).

Data Request CSC-NRG-1 Dated: May 29, 2009 Q-CSC-3

Page 1 of 1

Witnesses:

NRG Panel

Request from:

CSC

QUESTION:

Were all Council-approved elements of the Development and

Management plans completed? If not, please explain.

RESPONSE:

The following D&M Plans have been submitted to, and approved by, the Council: Sedimentation and Erosion Control, Site Preparation and Road Construction, Upgrade of Facility Components, Joint Utility Route Modification, Oil Unloading, and two Extensions of Construction Deadline. The following components also require D&M Plans and do not appear to be covered in existing D&M Plans: Provision for architectural treatment of buildings and exhaust stacks; and a Final Site Plan which includes developing conservation easements for open space areas and conservation areas.

In the course of recommencing project design engineering, project engineers will review the D&M Plans that have been approved by the Council to determine that they are still consistent with NRG's plans for the plant. To the extent that any facility components are to be changed from the specifications initially approved by the Council, additional D&M Plan submittals will be submitted as directed by the Council.

NRG is presently assembling a chart of the specific elements of the D&M Plans that have been approved by the Council to date and the status of each of those elements. NRG will file that chart as a supplement to this response no later than June 3, 2009.

Data Request CSC-NRG-1 Dated: May 29, 2009

Q-CSC-4 Page 1 of 1

Witnesses.

NRG Panel

Request from.

CSC

QUESTION:

What is the condition of the structures/equipment that have already

been constructed or placed at the proposed site? Would maintenance have to be performed prior to operation of the

facility? To what extent?

RESPONSE:

The majority of the work completed at the site includes foundations, underground utilities and the turbine building and admin/control building. The foundations show no evidence of deterioration and are considered complete and ready for use. The underground utilities including piping systems and electrical duct banks would be inspected and cleaned upon commencement of construction. Any issues would be corrected at that time. The buildings are in excellent condition with only some minor

siding/flashing repair required for service.

Data Request CSC-NRG-1 Dated: May 29, 2009 Q-CSC-5 Page 1 of 1

Witnesses:

NRG Panel

Request from:

CSC

QUESTION:

What regions does NRG intend to serve with the generation of power, through the 3754 transmission line (that would connect

with the NRG plant)?

RESPONSE:

ISO New England ("ISO-NE") operates the New England power grid as an integrated system, and will dispatch the Meriden Project according to the economics and security constraints on the overall New England power system. As a result, the Meriden Project will

contribute to serving all regions of New England.

Data Request CSC-NRG-1 Dated: May 29, 2009 Q-CSC-6 Page 1 of 1

NRG Panel Witnesses:

Request from: CSC

Would the operation of the Meriden Facility result in greater QUESTION:

transmission capacity in north-central Connecticut?

The Meriden Project, like any generation facility, will not directly RESPONSE.

increase transmission capacity. However, to the extent that the existing transmission system in north-central Connecticut is carrying flows from out of state to serve load in southwest Connecticut, the Meriden Project may be able to reduce those flows by serving the southwest Connecticut load directly

Data Request CSC-NRG-1 Dated: May 29, 2009 Q-CSC-7 Page 1 of 1

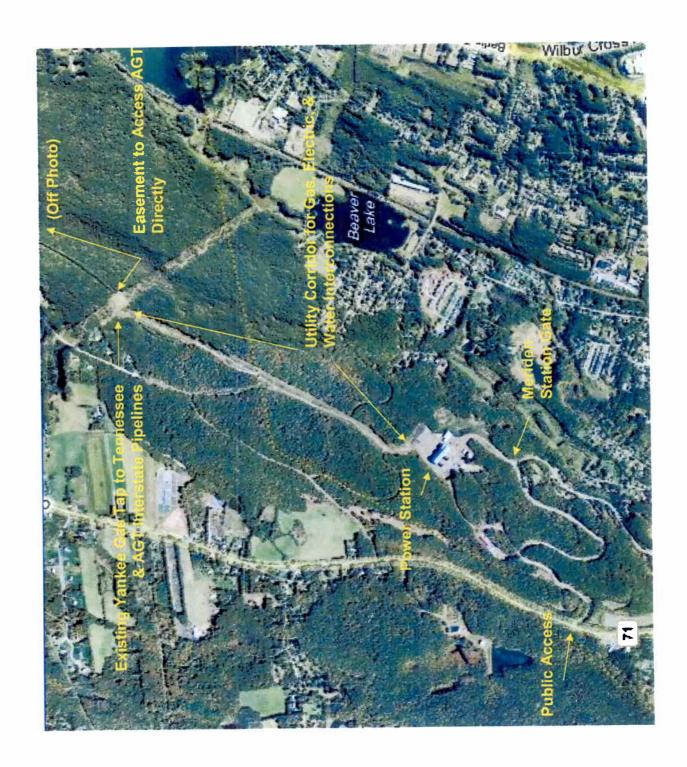
Witnesses: NRG Panel

Request from CSC

QUESTION: Provide an updated aerial photograph showing what has been

constructed on the site.

RESPONSE: See the attached aerial photograph.



Data Request CSC-NRG-1 Dated: May 29, 2009 Q-CSC-8 Page 1 of 1

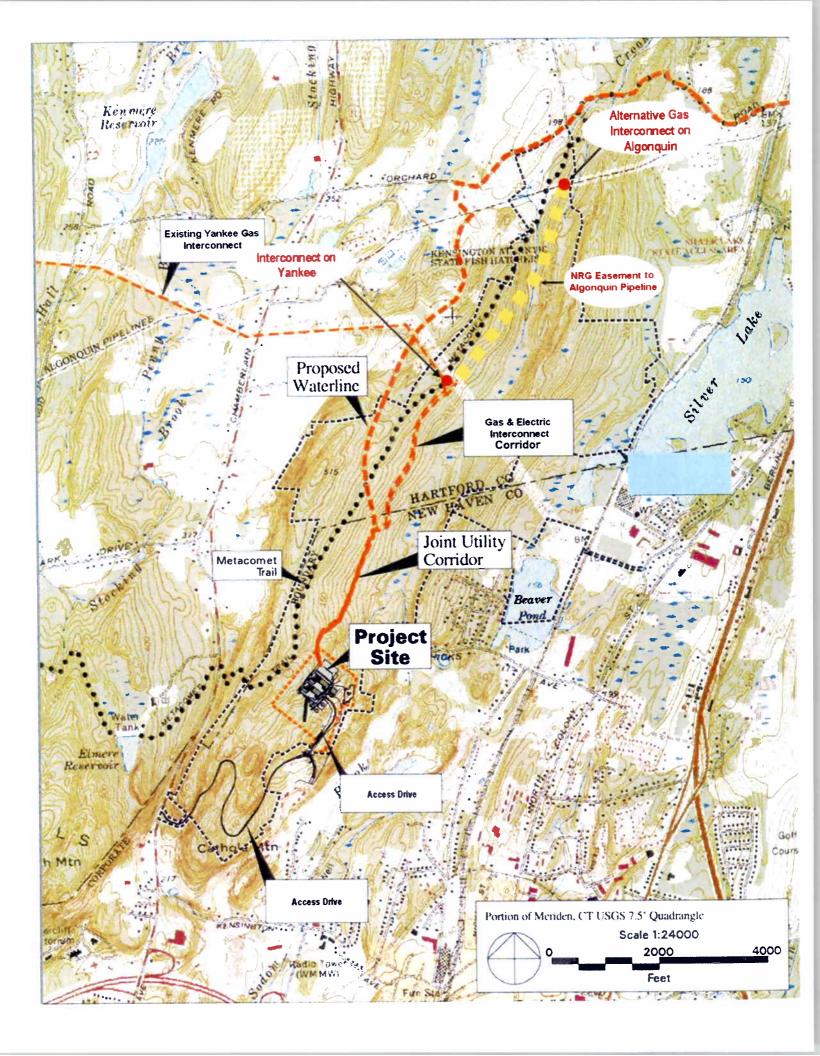
Witnesses: NRG Panel

Request from CSC

QUESTION: Provide a drawing of the proposed route for the natural gas

pipeline to the Meriden plant

RESPONSE See the attached drawing



Data Request CSC-NRG-1 Dated: May 29, 2009 Q-CSC-9 Page 1 of 1

Witnesses:

NRG Panel

Request from

CSC

QUESTION:

Does NRG still assert that a dry-cooled system at the Meriden Facility would be economically infeasible? What is the difference in cost between a dry-cooled system and a wet-cooled system?

[Docket 190 FOF #28]

RESPONSE:

NRG still asserts that dry-cooling is economically infeasible. The impact to performance for an air-cooled condenser ("ACC") as compared to a cooling tower is a reduction in plant output of approximately 35 MW and an increase in heat rate of 512 BTU/kWh-HHV. The ACC also results in an increase in project capital cost of approximately \$30-\$35 MM. Additionally, the current Meriden Project layout is designed around a wet-cooled system and, due to limited space, it is not clear that an ACC would fit on the site without significant demolition to the existing

structures and foundations.

Data Request CSC-NRG-1 Dated: May 29, 2009 Q-CSC-10 Page 1 of 1

Witnesses NRG Panel

Request from CSC

QUESTION Has NRG received all necessary permits for the completion of the

proposed water pipeline and gas pipeline (incl. permission from Amtrak and the Connecticut DOT for directional boring under the

railroad and under state and interstate roads)?

RESPONSE: NRG has received all the major permits needed for completion of

the Meriden Project, such as the water diversion permit from the DEP and most of the lesser lead time permits, such as all the Cromwell wetland crossing permits. The necessary permissions from Amtrak are still in place. With regard to the Connecticut Department of Transportation ("DOT"), roadway encroachment permits will be issued to the construction contractor performing the work and thus will not be obtained until such time as construction actually commences. NRG has, however, maintained an ongoing dialogue with the DOT and does not believe the Meriden Project will encounter any difficulties in obtaining the necessary permits.

Data Request CSC-NRG-1 Dated: May 29, 2009 Q-CSC-11 Page 1 of 1

Witnesses:

NRG Panel

Request from:

CSC

QUESTION: Has NRG received permission from Algonquin to install the water

pipeline on the gas transmission right-of-way?

RESPONSE: Commensurate with a standard project development and

construction cycle, the final detailed design engineering of the water line has not been completed. If, in the course of completing such detailed design work, use of Algonquin's right-of-way becomes a desirable alternative, NRG would seek Algonquin's

permission for such use at that time.

Data Request CSC-NRG-1 Dated: May 29, 2009 Q-CSC-12 Page 1 of 1

Witnesses:

NRG Panel

Request from

CSC

QUESTION:

What is the status of negotiations with Algonquin and Tennessee

gas companies to provide a natural gas supply to the Meriden

Facility?

RESPONSE

Given the uncertainty of obtaining an off-take agreement and, thus, an operations date, NRG has not yet re-engaged in negotiations

with Algonquin or Tennessee for gas transport.

Data Request CSC-NRG-1 Dated: May 29, 2009 Q-CSC-13 Page 1 of 1

Witnesses:

NRG Panel

Request from:

CSC

QUESTION:

Were wetland areas created following approval of the Meriden

Project? Have these wetlands been monitored to maintain quality?

[Docket 190 FOF # 76] If so, provide documentation.

RESPONSE:

No wetlands were created following the approval of the project.

NRG, however has been monitoring existing wetlands on a

monthly basis

Data Request CSC-NRG-1 Dated: May 29, 2009 Q-CSC-14 Page 1 of 1

Witnesses: NRG Panel

Request from: CSC

QUESTION Since construction was not completed, were soil and erosion

controls left in place to prevent sedimentation in vernal pool areas?

How was this maintained?

RESPONSE: In the area of the vernal pool, erosion controls were put in place

and maintained during construction. The area has since reforested naturally and additional erosion control measures are not required. This area is inspected monthly as part of NRG's site inspection

plan and there have been no issues.

Data Request CSC-NRG-1 Dated. May 29, 2009 Q-CSC-15 Page 1 of 1

Witnesses:

NRG Panel

Request from:

CSC

QUESTION:

Have air-emissions standards changed since the approval of the

Meriden facility?

RESPONSE:

Yes, the DEP now requires the use of ultra-low sulfur distillate (or kerosene) ("ULSD") which contains no more than 15 parts per million ("ppm") sulfur rather than the use of 500 ppm sulfur distillate that is allowed in the current air permits. NRG has applied for a revision to the air permits to incorporate the use of ULSD. Additionally, DEP now requires ambient air modeling for fine particulates ("PM2.5") to show compliance with the ambient PM2.5 standards. This modeling has been performed for the Meriden Project and the results have been forwarded to the DEP. The results show compliance with the ambient standards. Finally, DEP now requires a lower allowable ammonia slip than the ammonia slip levels in the current air permits. NRG has proposed lowering the current permitted levels of 10 ppm for natural gas or liquid fuel to 2 ppm for natural gas firing and 5 ppm for liquid fuel

firing.

Data Request CSC-NRG-1 Dated: May 29, 2009 Q-CSC-16 Page 1 of 1

Witnesses: NRG Panel

Request from: CSC

QUESTION Would NO<sub>x</sub> offsets still be required for the facility? [Docket 190]

FOF #83]

RESPONSE! The NO<sub>x</sub> offsets that were purchased in order to obtain the initial

air permits by the Original Sponsor were transferred to NRG as part of its acquisition of the Project. These offsets are still valid for the Project and, therefore, no additional offsets are needed

Data Request CSC-NRG-1 Dated: May 29, 2009 Q-CSC-17 Page 1 of 1

Witnesses:

NRG Panel

Request from:

CSC

QUESTION:

Why was notification of this docket (Docket 370B), only provided to the City of Meriden as an abutting property owner? How has NRG notified all abutting landowners listed in the original application?

RESPONSE:

As described in the Council's Findings of Fact, dated April 27, 1999, in Docket No. 190, the 36-acre site of the Meriden Project was originally located within an 821-acre parcel of land owned and controlled by the Original Sponsor. The Council's Findings of Fact further noted that the Original Sponsor had agreed to transfer approximately 700 acres of the 821-acre parcel to the City of Meriden and the Town of Berlin by way of deed. As the subsequent owner of the Meriden Project, NRG fulfilled its obligation to transfer such acreage to the City of Meriden and the Town of Berlin in 2006. As a result of these transfers, the Site is now surrounded exclusively by land owned by the City of Meriden. NRG's outside counsel confirmed that the City of Meriden is the sole abutting property owner of the Site by examining the land records maintained by the City of Meriden Clerk's Office.

Data Request CSC-NRG-1 Dated: May 29, 2009 Q-CSC-18 Page 1 of 1

Witnesses: NRG Panel

Request from: CSC

QUESTION: According to Tab D of the Docket 370B application, public notice

was only published in the *Hartford Courant*. Why was notice not published in the Meriden (*Record-Journal*) or Berlin (*The New* 

Britain Herald and Berlin Citizen) newspapers?

RESPONSE Section 16-50/-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies,

requires notice of an application to be published "in a newspaper or newspapers having general circulation in each municipality wherein any portion of any proposed facility or alternate thereto is to be located." The *Hartford Courant* is a newspaper having a general circulation in both the City of Meriden and the Town of Berlin. Thus, NRG's publication of the NRG Application solely in

the Hartford Courant satisfied the Council's regulations.

Date: May 20, 2009

# LIST OF PARTIES AND INTERVENORS $\underline{\text{SERVICE LIST}}$

	Document	Status Holder	Representative
Status Granted	Service	(name, address & phone number)	(name, address & phone number)
Applicant	⊠ U.S. Mail	The Connecticut Light & Power Co. P.O. Box 270 Hartford, CT 06141-0270	Robert E. Carberry, Manager NEEWS Projects Siting and Permitting Northeast Utilities Service Company P.O. Box 270 Hartford, CT 06141-0270 (860) 665-6774 carbere@nu.com
	⊠ E-mail		Duncan MacKay, Esq. Legal Department Northeast Utilities Service Company P.O. Box 270 Hartford, CT 06141-0270 (860) 665-3495 mackadr@nu.com
	⊠ U.S. Mail		Jeffrey Towle, Project Manager Transmission, NEEWS Northeast Utilities Service Company P.O. Box 270 Hartford, CT 06141-0270 (860) 665-3962 towlejm@nu.com
	⊠ U.S. Mail		Anthony M. Fitzgerald, Esq. Brian T. Henebry, Esq. Carmody & Torrance LLP P.O. Box 1950 New Haven, CT 06509 (203) 777-5501 afitzgerald@carmodylaw.com bhenebry@carmodylaw.com
Intervenor (granted on February 19, 2009)	⊠ U.S. Mail	NRG Energy, Inc.	NRG Energy, Inc. c/o Julie L. Friedberg, Senior Counsel – NE 211 Carnegie Center Princeton, NJ 08540
Competing Applicant as of 03/19/2009	⊠ U.S. Mail	<u>.</u>	Andrew W. Lord, Esq. Murtha Cullina LLP CityPlace I, 185 Asylum Street Hartford, CT 06103-3469 (860) 240-6180 (860) 240-5723 – fax alord@murthalaw.com

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Status Granted	Document Service	Status Holder (name, address & phone number)	Representative (name, address & phone number)
Status Granted	Service	(name, address & phone number)	(Hame, address & phone number)
	⊠ U.S. Mail	NRG Energy, Inc. continued	Jonathan Milley Vice President, NE Region NRG Energy, Inc. 211 Princeton, NJ 08540 (609) 524-4680 (609) 524-5160 fax Jonathan.milley@nrgenergy.com
	⊠ E-Mail		Diana M. Kleefeld, Esq. Murtha Cullina LL CityPlace I, 185 Asylum Street Hartford, CT 06103-3469 (860) 240-6035 (860) 240-5974 dkleefeld@murthalaw.com
Party (granted November 20, 2008)	⊠ E-mail	Richard Blumenthal Attorney General	Michael C. Wertheimer Assistant Attorney General Attorney General's Office 10 Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051 (860) 827-2620 (860) 827-2893 Michael wertheimer@po.state.ct.us
Party (granted November 20, 2008)	⊠ E-mail	Town of East Granby	Donald R. Holtman, Esq. Katz & Seligman, LLC 130 Washington Street Hartford, CT 06106 (860) 547-1857 (860) 241-9127 dholtman@katzandseligman.com
	⊠ U.S. Mail		The Honorable James Hayden First Selectman Town of East Granby P.O. Box 1858 East Granby, CT 06026

### LIST OF PARTIES AND INTERVENORS <u>SERVICE LIST</u>

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	Document	Status Holder	Representative
Status Granted	Service	(name, address & phone number)	(name, address & phone number)
Party (granted November 20, 2008)	⊠ U.S. Mail	Town of Suffield	Edward G. McAnaney, Esq. McAnaney & McAnaney Suffield Village 68 Bridge Street Suffield, CT 06078 (860) 668-2000 (860) 668-2666 – fax Mcananey-mcananey@att.net  The Honorable Scott R. Lingenfelter First Selectman Suffield Town Hall 83 Mountain Road Suffield, CT 06078
Intervenor (granted December 4, 2008)	⊠ E-mail ⊠ U.S. Mail	ISO New England Inc.	Anthony M. Macleod Whitman Breed Abbott & Morgan LLC 500 West Putnam Avenue, P.O. Box 2250 Greenwich, CT 06830-2250 (203) 862-2458 amacleod@wbamct.com  Kevin Flynn, Esq. Regulatory Counsel ISO New England One Sullivan Road Holyoke, MA 01040 (413) 535-4177 kflynn@iso-ne.com
Party (granted on January 8, 2009)	☑ U.S. Mail ☑ E- Mail	Office of Consumer Counsel	Mary J. Healey Consumer Counsel Ten Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051 Mary.healey@ct.gov Bruce C. Johnson Principal Attorney Office of Consumer Counsel Ten Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051 Bruce.johnson@ct.gov

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## LIST OF PARTIES AND INTERVENORS SERVICE LIST

Status Granted	Document Service	Status Holder (name, address & phone number)	Representative (name, address & phone number)
	⊠ E-mail	Office of Consumer Counsel Continued	Victoria Hackett Staff Attorney Office of Consumer Counsel 10 Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051 860-827-2922 860-827-2929 - fax victoria.hackett@ct.gov
			Paul Chernick, President Resource Insight, Inc. 5 Water Street Arlington, MA 02476 (781) 646-1505 ext. 207 (781) 646-1506 - fax pchernick@resourceinsight.com
Intervenor (granted on January 22, 2009)	⊠ E-mail	Ice Energy, Inc.	Stephen J. Humes, Esq. McCarter & English LLP 185 Asylum Street, CityPlace I Hartford, CT 06103 (860) 275-6761 (860) 560-5955 - fax Shumes@mccarter.com
Party (granted on February 19, 2009)	⊠ E-Mail	Town of Enfield	Kevin M. Deneen, Town Attorney Office of the Town Attorney 820 Enfield Street Enfield, CT 06082-2997 (860) 253-6405 (860) 253-6362 – fax townattorney@enfield.org

# LIST OF PARTIES AND INTERVENORS $\underline{\text{SERVICE LIST}}$

	Document	Status Holder	Representative
Status Granted	Service	(name, address & phone number)	(name, address & phone number)
Party (granted on April 7, 2009)	⊠ U.S. Mail	City of Meriden	Deborah L. Moore, City Attorney Meriden City Hall Department of Law 142 East Main St. Meriden, CT 06450 (203) 630-4045 (203) 630-7907 – fax dmoore@ci.meriden.ct.us
	⊠ U.S. Mail		Lawrence J. Kendzior, City Manager Meriden City Hall 142 East Main St. Meriden, CT 06450 lkendzior@ci_meriden.ct.us
Party (granted on April 7, 2009)	⊠ U.S. Mail	The United Illuminating Company (UI)	John J. Prete The United Illuminating Company 157 Church Street New Haven, CT 06506-1904 (203) 499-3701 (203) 499-3728 uiregulatory@uinet.com
	⊠ U.S. Mail		Linda L. Randell Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary UIL Holdings Corporation 157 Church St., P.O. Box 1564 New Haven, CT 06506-0901 (203) 499-2575 (203) 499-3664 Linda.randell@uinet.com
	⊠ E-Mail		Bruce L. McDermott Wiggin and Dana LLP One Century Tower New Haven, CT 06508-1832 (203) 498-4340 (203) 782-2889 bmcdermott@wiggin.com

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Status Granted	Document Service	Status Holder (name, address & phone number)	Representative (name, address & phone number)
Intervenor (if granted on Junc 4, 2009)	⊠ E-Mail	The Connecticut Energy Advisory Board (CEAB)	Michele S. Riverso Assistant Attorney General 10 Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051 (860) 827-2683 Michele.riverso@po.state.ct.us
	⊠ U.S. Mail		CEAB c/o Gretchen Deans CERC 805 Brook Street, Bldg. 4 Rocky Hill, CT 06067 (860) 571-7147 gdeans@cerc.com
Party (if granted on June 4, 2009)	⊠ E-Mail	Connecticut Department of Transportation	Eileen Meskill Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General 55 Elm Street P.O. Box 120 Hartford, CT 06141-0120 Eileen.meskill@po.state.ct.us
	⊠ U.S. Mail		Thomas A. Harley, P.E. Chief Engineer Connecticut Dept. of Transportation 2800 Berlin Turnpike Newington, CT 06131
Intervenor (if granted on June 4, 2009)	⊠ U.S. Mail	Farmington River Watershed Association	Eileen Fielding Farmington River Watershed Association 749 Hopmeadow Street Simsbury, CT 06070 (860) 658-4442 (860) 651-7519 fax efielding@frwa.org
	:		