



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov

www.ct.gov/csc

February 1, 2016

TO: Parties and Intervenors

FROM: Melanie A. Bachman *MAB*
Acting Executive Director

RE: **DOCKET NO. 461** - Eversource Energy application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a 115-kilovolt (kV) bulk substation located at 290 Railroad Avenue, Greenwich, Connecticut, and two 115-kV underground transmission circuits extending approximately 2.3 miles between the proposed substation and the existing Cos Cob Substation, Greenwich, Connecticut, and related substation improvements.

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of correspondence from United States Senator Richard Blumenthal dated January 29, 2016 concerning the above-referenced application.

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §16-50(b), a copy of the application is to be submitted to Senator Blumenthal's office for review. In the event that Senator Blumenthal does not avail himself of the opportunity to attain party status under Connecticut General Statutes §16-50n, this correspondence shall become part of the record in this proceeding in the form of a limited appearance.

Therefore, a copy of Senator Blumenthal's correspondence is being distributed to all participants in this proceeding and will also be administratively noticed in the record.

MAB/RDM/cm

c: Council Members



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov

www.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

February 1, 2016

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator
Richard_Kehoe@blumenthal.senate.gov

RE: **DOCKET NO. 461** - Eversource Energy application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a 115-kilovolt (kV) bulk substation located at 290 Railroad Avenue, Greenwich, Connecticut, and two 115-kV underground transmission circuits extending approximately 2.3 miles between the proposed substation and the existing Cos Cob Substation, Greenwich, Connecticut, and related substation improvements.

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your correspondence dated January 29, 2016 concerning the above-referenced application. Thank you for taking the time to provide the Council with your comments.

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §16-50(b), a copy of each application is to be submitted to each member of the legislature in whose assembly or senate district the facility is to be located for review. Before reaching a final decision on an application, the Council carefully considers all of the facts contained in the evidentiary record that is developed by the Council, the applicant, parties and intervenors in the proceeding and members of the public who speak at the public hearing or submit written statements to the Council.

In the event that you do not seek formal party or intervenor status under Connecticut General Statutes §16-50n, which provides full participation at the public hearing, including, but not limited to, cross examination of witnesses, parties and intervenors, your comments shall nevertheless become part of the official record in this proceeding in the form of a limited appearance defined under subsection (f) of Connecticut General Statutes §16-50n.

Therefore, copies of your correspondence will be distributed to all participants in the proceeding and will be administratively noticed in the record. Please note that you can view all of the documents related to this proceeding on our website at www.ct.gov/csc under the "Pending Proceedings" link. You may also keep apprised of Council events on the website calendar and agenda.

Thank you for your interest and concern in this matter.

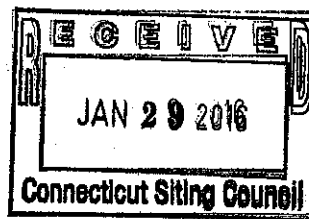
Very truly yours,

Melanie A. Bachman
Acting Executive Director

MAB/RDM/cm

c: Parties and Intervenors
Council members

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
UNITED STATES SENATOR
January 29, 2016



Melanie A. Bachman, Acting Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, Connecticut 06501

Re: Docket #461: Proposed siting of a new substation and associated underground transmission lines intended to increase electric capacity and strengthen the reliability of the electric power distribution system for the Town on a .94 acre property located at 290 Railroad Avenue in the General Business zone.

Dear Ms. Bachman:

I write in support of the position of the Town of Greenwich as articulated in its November 23, 2015 letter and attached report to the Connecticut Siting Council to "work in concert with Eversource and the Siting Council to develop an economical, responsible solution, one that in no way jeopardizes the public's physical or environmental safety, during construction of any improvements or during their eventual operation."

The Town has carefully analyzed the proposed improvements to the substation and transmission lines and raised very valid issues concerning the overall electricity demand for the area. I urge the Connecticut Siting Council to thoroughly review the issues raised in their submission and take into serious consideration these facts and analyses when making its decision on the merits of the application.

Of particular concern is the proposed installation of underground transmission lines encased in a petroleum based fluid through Bruce Park – a 100 year old storied and historic park and green, tree-lined oasis within the Town of Greenwich. The installation of such lines – with cranes and other construction equipment -- will cause significant disturbance to, and scarring of, the environment of the Park, including placing such lines under an existing pond. In addition, the presence of transmission lines containing about 100,000 gallons of this potentially noxious chemicals in the groundwater close to Long Island Sound and surrounding salt marshes creates an unnecessary hazard that could cause catastrophic harm to the environment. This simply cannot be the most environmentally sensitive approach to transmitting electricity from the substation.

The Eversource application is filed pursuant to the Public Utility Environmental Standards Act, *Conn. Gen. Stat. section 16-50g et seq.* Under this act, the Connecticut Siting Council must determine the environmental impact of the proposed transmission line. *Conn. Gen.*

Stat. section 16-50p(a)(3)(B). In reviewing the application, the Connecticut Siting Council should strive to ensure minimal environmental harm. Indeed, underscoring the importance of protecting the environment when siting transmission lines, the legislative finding and purpose of the Public Utility Environmental Standards Act contains the word 'environment' on 8 separate occasions. *Conn. Gen. Stat. section 16-50g.* The statute directs the Connecticut Siting Council to balance the need for these utility services with "the need to protect the environment and ecology of the state and to minimize damage to scenic, historic and recreational values." *Id.*

As the Town of Greenwich's submission indicates, Bruce Park is analogous to New York City's Central Park, providing both green space and recreational areas for its residents. Bruce Park was donated to the city and must, by law, be preserved and used for the purposes of a public park. It is a beloved part of the Greenwich community and its tranquil nature and animal habitat should not be disturbed by construction crews, trenching digging, and permanent placement of petroleum fluid filled transmission lines.

I urge the Connecticut Siting Council to adhere to the strong environmental protection policies of the Public Utility Environmental Standards Act and reject the use of Bruce Park as a site for these transmission lines and require the applicant to work with the Town of Greenwich toward a consensus that protects the town's environmental and community assets while addressing any valid electricity reliability needs.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator