

In The Matter Of:
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 461A
July 13, 2017

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Bristol, CT 06010
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1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
2 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

3
4 Docket No. 461A

5 Application from Eversource Energy for a
6 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and
7 Public Need for the Construction, Maintenance and
8 Operation of a 115-Kilovolt Bulk Substation
9 Located at 290 Railroad Avenue, Greenwich,
10 Connecticut, and Two 115-Kilovolt Transmission
11 Circuits Extending Approximately 2.3 Miles between
12 the Proposed Substation and the Existing Cos Cob
13 Substation, Greenwich, Connecticut, and Related
14 Substation Improvements

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16 Public Hearing held at the Greenwich Public
17 Library, Cole Auditorium, 101 West Putnam Avenue,
18 Greenwich, Connecticut, Thursday, July 13, 2017,
19 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

20
21 H e l d B e f o r e :

22 ROBIN STEIN, Chairman
23
24
25

1 A p p e a r a n c e s :

2 Council Members:

3 ROBERT HANNON,

4 DEEP Designee

5

6 LARRY P. LEVESQUE,

7 PURA Designee

8

9 MICHAEL HARDER

10 DR. MICHAEL W. KLEMENS

11 ROBERT SILVESTRI

12

13 Council Staff:

14 MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.,

15 Executive Director and

16 Staff Attorney

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18 ROBERT MERCIER,

19 Siting Analyst

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1 THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and
2 gentlemen, I'd like to start the meeting, please.

3 I'm calling this meeting to order,
4 today, Thursday, October 13, 2017, approximately
5 6:30. My name is Robin Stein. I'm Chairman of
6 the Connecticut Siting Council. Other members of
7 the Council present are Mr. Hannon, the designee
8 from the Department of Energy and Environmental
9 Protection; Mr. Levesque, designee from the Public
10 Utilities Regulatory Authority; Mr. Silvestri;
11 Dr. Klemens; and Mr. Harder.

12 Members of the staff present are
13 Attorney Bachman, our Executive Director, Staff
14 attorney; Mr. Mercier, our siting; and Lisa
15 Fontaine, our fiscal administrative officer.

16 This hearing is held pursuant to
17 the provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut
18 General Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative
19 Procedure Act upon a motion to reopen an
20 application from Eversource Energy for a
21 certificate of environmental compatibility and
22 public need for the construction, maintenance and
23 operation of a 115-kilovolt substation located at
24 290 Railroad Avenue in Greenwich, Connecticut, and
25 two 115-kV transmission circuits extending

1 approximately 2.3 miles between the proposed
2 substation and the existing Cos Cob substation in
3 Greenwich, and related substation improvements.

4 On May 25, 2017, the Council,
5 pursuant to a request filed by Eversource Energy
6 and the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes
7 4-181A, subsection B, reopened the May 12, 2016,
8 final decision rendered in this matter.

9 Copies of the citizens' guide to
10 Siting Council procedures and the schedule for the
11 evidentiary hearing sessions to be held on this
12 application are available for members of the
13 public. The Council's legal notice of the date
14 and time of the hearing was published in the
15 Greenwich Time on May 31, 2017. Upon this
16 Council's request, the applicant erected signs at
17 the locations along the route so as to inform the
18 public of the name in the application, type of
19 facility, hearing date and location, and contact
20 information for the Council.

21 This afternoon members of the
22 Council, staff and public personally conducted a
23 field review of the proposed project in order to
24 observe firsthand the potential effects of the
25 proposal. Please be advised that as of July

1 10th -- just a couple of days ago -- the proposed
2 modified project consisting of an overhead
3 electric transmission line along the Metro-North
4 Rail right-of-way is no longer a feasible
5 alternative, and will not be evaluated by the
6 Council at these proceedings.

7 This hearing session tonight is
8 reserved for the public to make short statements
9 into the record. These public statements are not
10 subject to questions from the parties or the
11 Council, and members of the public making
12 statements may not ask parties or the parties of
13 the Council. These statements will become part of
14 the record for Council consideration. A sign-up
15 sheet is available here in the front to my right
16 for those who wish to participate. Statements
17 will be limited to three minutes.

18 Please be advised that pursuant to
19 section 16-50J-15B of the regulations of
20 Connecticut state agencies, any party or
21 intervener and their witnesses including those who
22 are members of nonprofit corporations or citizens
23 groups that have obtained party or intervener
24 status in this proceeding are deemed to be
25 represented in these proceedings, and may not

1 submit oral or written statements into the record
2 during this public comment session. Those
3 comments will be at the evidentiary hearings.

4 The parties and intervenors to the
5 proceedings are as follows. Eversource energy,
6 represented by Attorney Fitzgerald; the parties,
7 the office of Consumer Counsel, the Town of
8 Greenwich; intervenors Parker Stacy, Field Point
9 Estate Townhouses Inc, Christine Edwards, Richard
10 Granoff, Cecilia Morgan, Morningside Circle
11 Association; and grouped interveners are the Bella
12 Nonna Restaurant, Joel Paul Berger and Meg Glass.

13 As a reminder to all,
14 off-the-record communication with a member of the
15 Council or a member of the Council's staff upon
16 the merits of this request is prohibited by law.

17 In a good-faith effort to hear all
18 those who wish to be heard, I ask each speaker to
19 be concise so as not to preclude your neighbors
20 from speaking this evening. Please be advised
21 that the public comment session will conclude no
22 later than 9:30 p.m., and hopefully we will be
23 able to accommodate everyone this evening. If
24 not, we will hold -- and we will schedule and hold
25 an additional public comment session at our

1 offices in New Britain during normal business
2 hours. So again, we ask you to bear this in mind
3 as we proceed this evening.

4 I wish to note for those who are
5 here and for the benefit of your friends and
6 neighbors who are unable to join us for the public
7 comment session, that you or they may send written
8 comments to the Council within 30 days of the
9 close of the evidentiary record, and such written
10 statements will be given the same weight as if
11 spoken at the hearing.

12 We ask each person making a public
13 statement in the proceeding to confine his or her
14 statements to the subject matter before the
15 Council, and to avoid unnecessary repetition so we
16 may hear all of your concerns and those of your
17 neighbors. Again, please be advised that the
18 Council cannot answer questions from the public
19 about the facility.

20 A verbatim transcript will be made
21 of the hearing and deposited at the town clerk
22 office here in Greenwich for the convenience of
23 the public.

24 And before calling on the members
25 of the public to make a statement, I'd like to

1 request that the applicant make a brief
2 presentation to the public describing the proposed
3 project.

4 KENNETH BOWES: Good evening. I'm
5 Kenneth Bowes, Vice President of Transmission
6 Performance for Eversource Energy. I'm also the
7 lead witness for Docket 461A, the new Greenwich
8 substation proposal.

9 First, I would like to thank the
10 Connecticut Siting Council for accepting our
11 petition for reconsideration. I'd also like to
12 thank First Selectman Peter Tesei and his team
13 from the Town of Greenwich for their work over the
14 past year in our joint meetings.

15 Before giving you a high-level
16 overview of the project that Eversource is asking
17 the Siting Council to approve, I'd like to review
18 with you some of the unusual background of our
19 current proposal. For many years Eversource has
20 recognized the need to improve the reliability of
21 the electric service in Greenwich by modernizing
22 equipment, increasing the reliability of the
23 system and improving our ability to operate the
24 system during extreme conditions.

25 In fact, a little more than six

1 years ago I publicly announced Eversource's
2 commitment to make improvements in the electric
3 system in Southwest Connecticut, and specifically
4 the long-term goal of a new substation for the
5 town of Greenwich.

6 Back in 2015 Eversource asked the
7 Siting Council to approve a project that would
8 have involved a major reconstruction of the
9 Greenwich electric system, including the
10 construction of a new downtown substation on
11 Railroad Avenue and new transmission lines between
12 Cos Cob substation and the new substation. The
13 Council denied that request for several reasons.
14 Mainly they considered that it provided more
15 capacity than was needed and was much too
16 expensive.

17 The Town of Greenwich also opposed
18 the original project for a number of reasons, but
19 in particular because we proposed to install a
20 type of cable that is filled with fluid and
21 through Bruce Park using a construction
22 method known as horizontal directional drilling.
23 Now in the course of the hearings the Siting
24 Council identified a potential alternative that
25 would save costs and also keep the fluid-filled

1 cables out of Bruce Park. That alternative
2 involved construction of much of the line along
3 the Metro-North corridor.

4 When the Council issued their
5 denial they told us to explore that option of the
6 overhead alternative seriously before we came
7 back. In order to do that we held a number of
8 meetings with the Connecticut Department of
9 Transportation Rails Division to determine what
10 would be necessary to build that alternative and
11 ultimately to obtain a license from the CDOT.

12 So we developed a set of proposed
13 improvements that responded to the concerns of the
14 Council as they first denied our application. Our
15 new project was smaller, less expensive and would
16 have used a partly overhead route along the
17 overhead corridor.

18 In the course of developing the new
19 project we also had several meetings with the Town
20 of Greenwich responding to suggestions they made.
21 We also developed an alternative project that had
22 similar electrical characteristics as our proposed
23 project, but which followed an all underground
24 route from the Cos Cob substation to the new
25 Greenwich substation.

1 This route was quite different from
2 the one we originally proposed because it used a
3 different type of cable which had no insulating
4 fluid in it, and the route involved not
5 transversing Bruce Park with which you would need
6 a horizontal directional drill, but rather
7 involved installation of the cables beneath roads
8 that ran through the park. This route would have
9 much less environmental impacts being constructed
10 from previously disturbed roadways. It also had
11 the benefit of less visual impacts.

12 The Town also indicated that we
13 should explore a substation location at 281
14 Railroad Avenue as an alternative to 290 Railroad
15 Avenue. When we filed the request with the Siting
16 Council we asked that it approve either the partly
17 overhead project or a project with the
18 specifications that the Town had suggested, in
19 either case with possible variations or
20 modifications that they would deem necessary.

21 Then we learned that officials of
22 the Department of Transportation that were senior
23 to the people that we were meeting with decided
24 that the department could not issue a license to
25 occupy the Metro-North Railway. That meant that

1 we were down to an all-underground alternative,
2 which we developed with the Town's specifications
3 with variations, again that the Council might
4 approve. And that is the project that I will now
5 show you.

6 So this project originates on the
7 top right-hand side at the Cos Cob substation and
8 exits that substation with the two new
9 transmission lines that goes along Sound Shore
10 Road. It crosses over I-95, or under I-95
11 depending on the variation it shows, and enters
12 Bruce Park Drive.

13 It follows Woods Road, crosses the
14 Indian Harbor at Davis Avenue, continues along
15 Museum Drive to Arch Street, again crosses under
16 I-95 onto Railroad Ave and ultimately to one of
17 the two substation locations proposed, 281
18 Railroad Avenue or 291 Railroad Avenue.

19 At Cos Cob the proposed substation
20 modifications include expansion of the existing
21 substation within the existing property lines.
22 Installation of two new underground connection
23 points would replace one wood monopole and one
24 steel lattice structure that are on the backside
25 of the substation today with a single monopole

1 structure.

2 The transmission line is
3 approximately 2.4 miles of what we call double
4 circuit, or two electrical circuits that would be
5 buried between the Cos Cob substation and the new
6 substation on Railroad Ave. Again, as I said
7 before it's a solid insulation, not a
8 fluid-filled.

9 The transmission line would be
10 placed beneath existing streets with an open
11 trench construction method. There are 16 splice
12 bolts proposed at 8 different locations along the
13 route.

14 Here's a rendition of what a
15 typical construction would look like. And I say
16 typical because there may be variations to this,
17 but it's three conductors at the bottom of a
18 trench, three conductors above that, encased in
19 concrete. And then above that would be a thermal
20 backfill material, a road surface material and
21 then final grade.

22 A splice bolt, again this rendition
23 shows the entire bolt a little more than 20 feet
24 in length, 7 feet in width and approximately
25 7 feet in height. This would be at surface and at

1 the roadway, so it would be all buried beneath the
2 roadway.

3 The route variations that we're
4 proposing, the first one of crossing Indian Harbor
5 either with a pedestrian bridge or an open trench
6 using a coffer dam method. The crossing of I-95
7 along Indian Field Road would either be an
8 attachment to the existing DOT bridge, or a
9 trench-less crossing that would go beneath the
10 highway.

11 Here's a rendition of the Indian
12 Harbor crossing, the location of that to the north
13 side of Davis.

14 Here is a rendition of the
15 pedestrian bridge that's being proposed.

16 The crossing of I-95 with two
17 variations, one goes right under the bridge and
18 one is to the east of the highway or east of the
19 bridge and it would be underneath the highway.

20 The substation locations that we
21 are proposing are actually the same two that we
22 originally proposed, both 290 Railroad Ave or
23 across the street at 281 Railroad Ave.

24 Next, there's some variations of
25 what the substation aesthetically could look like.

1 Here's a view of a brick veneer wall located at
2 290 Railroad Ave, both the existing at the top and
3 the proposed at the bottom.

4 The next is a variation for 281.
5 Again, this is the view from Railroad Avenue. We
6 have an enclosed substation, and at the same view
7 from the backside from Woodland. Either of these
8 variations could be at either location, either a
9 wall or a totally enclosed substation.

10 A comparison of the project side by
11 side to the original proposal. You see that they
12 are both now underground. The lengths are
13 approximately the same. A change in technology
14 for the type of cable, and one additional splice
15 bolt location.

16 The expansion to the substation at
17 Cos Cob is much the same as the original proposal.
18 The new Greenwich substation location, we have
19 selected either of the locations, 281 or 290. The
20 design is a smaller design and it can also be
21 open-air or totally enclosed. You'll see by some
22 of the quantities of equipment it is a scaled back
23 project from the original.

24 The cost of this project will be in
25 the neighborhood of 95 to 105 million based upon

1 the variations that were shown previously.

2 Thank you very much.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

4 Before I go from this list, I'd
5 like to ask the First Selectman if he would like
6 to address us.

7 PETER J. TESEI: Good evening,
8 Chairman Stein and members of the Connecticut
9 Siting Council. My name is Peter Tesei. I serve
10 as the First Selectman here in the Town of
11 Greenwich.

12 On behalf of our citizens, I wish
13 to welcome you and express gratitude to all of you
14 and your staff for the time and attention you are
15 giving to this proposal by Eversource for a new
16 substation and transmission lines here in town.

17 The town administration represented
18 here tonight by myself and several of our key
19 department heads, Town Planner Katie DeLuca,
20 Conservation Director Denise Savageau and Public
21 Works Commissioner Amy Siebert, were all pleased
22 with the most significant developments this week
23 on this proposal, and we will continue to remain
24 engaged and responsive on all aspects of the
25 project.

1 We again thank you for affording
2 our residents to offer their opinions and concerns
3 this evening, and we look forward to joining you
4 on July 25th at the evidentiary hearing to
5 actively participate on the substantive matters of
6 this proposal.

7 Thank you.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

9 The first speaker on the list is --
10 is it Carolyn Weiner?

11 And please come up and then spell
12 your last name for the stenographer please.

13 CAROLYN SEELY WEINER: My name is
14 Carolyn Seely, S-e-e-l-y, Weiner, W-e-i-n-e-r.

15 Chairman Stein and members of the
16 Council, I'm a lifelong, virtually lifelong
17 resident of Greenwich. My parents moved here when
18 I was five, and my husband and I moved back when
19 our oldest daughter was five. So I've lived here
20 the predominance of my life. And I'm here to
21 speak on this project because I don't believe that
22 it is necessary for Greenwich to have an
23 additional substation.

24 I think there it's possible to
25 modernize the Cos Cob facility to gain some extra

1 capacity, but it's also my strong belief that
2 energy demand is peaking in the next year or two.
3 The new lightbulbs that we all are now starting to
4 use, the incandescents and the lead lights are 75
5 more energy efficient than the old incandescent
6 bulbs. Every time I buy a new coffee pot or a new
7 toaster it's more energy efficient than the last
8 one I bought, and these trends are unstoppable.

9 I mean, regardless of what happens
10 in Washington or in the federal level these
11 technologies are exploding, and that's without
12 even considering the possibility of renewables.

13 My husband actually grew up in
14 California and we have a house there where we have
15 a solar installation, and have had an for a decade
16 or more. But the technology now and the panels
17 now we just upgraded, because they are so, so much
18 better than what we put in a decade ago -- and
19 they are actually good enough now to be reasonable
20 for a town in New England like Greenwich, and we
21 stand ready to do it. We would love to put solar
22 on our house.

23 If they would spend even 1 percent
24 of the hundred million dollars that Eversource is
25 proposing for this proposal on liaising with

1 people like me and maybe giving us some access to
2 lists of reputable contractors and how to go
3 about, you know, connecting with them we would
4 stand ready right now to put in some solar in our
5 house and try to lessen our footprint. It would
6 improve our air. It would improve our community.

7 I think this is really the years
8 of -- energy usage is going to fall now per person
9 and per capita, and even with growth I don't think
10 you're going to see much of an increase ever. And
11 I urge this Council not to spend a hundred million
12 dollars on a substation that we are never going to
13 need, and power that we don't require. At least,
14 you know, try -- if you're going to give it a
15 chance, promote some renewables and see if we
16 can't bring the usage down.

17 Anyways, thank you very much and I
18 appreciate the time.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Next, Francia
20 Alvarez.

21 FRANCIA ALVAREZ: Good evening. My
22 name is Francia Alvarez. It's spelled
23 A-l-v-a-r-e-z, first name is Francia,
24 F-r-a-n-c-i-a. I'm on the board of directors and
25 the Advocacy Chair for the Greenwich Tree

1 Conservancy, and with me this evening is JoAnn
2 Messina our Executive Director, and many of our
3 members.

4 The Greenwich Tree Conservancy,
5 also referred to as the GTC is a nonprofit 501c3.
6 The GTC was founded in January of 2007 because of
7 a shared concern that there is insufficient
8 recognition of the importance of trees. The
9 Greenwich Tree Conservancy is celebrating its
10 tenth anniversary.

11 We are 800 supporters strong. Our
12 vision is for a healthy and beautiful town-wide
13 community forest. Our mission is to preserve and
14 enhance the trees and forest resources of
15 Greenwich to benefit our community, our health and
16 the quality of life. Because of our commitment to
17 our urban forest we are here tonight to present
18 our comments in this public hearing, and we would
19 like to thank the Connecticut Siting Council for
20 giving us this opportunity.

21 We are very pleased that Eversource
22 has withdrawn Exhibit A, alternate modified
23 project. What our concern is, though, is demand.
24 Eversource has still not met the basic requirement
25 to forecast electric loads based on historical

1 data which they've shown in the chart for the Cos
2 Cob system peak actual values.

3 Contrary to Eversource's
4 submissions, utilities have consistently over
5 forecasted demands. Changes in consumption
6 technology and increased energy efficiency remain
7 the most cost-effective means for reducing demand.
8 How is Eversource meeting the challenges to find
9 more efficient and less costly sources of energy
10 and less need for expensive capital upgrades? Why
11 can't Eversource use the existing conduits, poles
12 and cable.

13 Also we took up reliability and
14 safety. Storms -- how does the new substation
15 increase reliability? Greenwich, a coastal city
16 suffered through Super Storm Sandy, the second
17 costliest hurricane in US history. Experience has
18 taught us that it only takes one major weather
19 event to shut down power in Greenwich for days,
20 and yet Eversource states areas along the
21 alternate modified route lie within the 100-year
22 flood zone areas as established by FEMA. These
23 areas include locations along Railroad Avenue,
24 Arch Street and substantial versions of Davis
25 Avenue near Indian Harbor.

1 How does a new substation at 290
2 Railroad Avenue with underground lines running
3 through Bruce Park in a hundred-year flood zone,
4 in hurricane surge areas protect us from the
5 storms?

6 Next is fire. Building a new
7 substation at 290 Railroad Avenue adjacent to
8 Airgas presents serious fire safety issues for the
9 Town of Greenwich. Airgas sells oxygen, propane
10 and acetylene for industrial applications. If a
11 fire were to break out at the substation the Town
12 of Greenwich would be required to wait for utility
13 personnel to arrive at the site before action
14 could be taken. This situation occurred at the
15 Cos Cob station where a fire broke out and the
16 town fire crews waited for one hour for utility
17 personnel to arrive at the scene.

18 With the proximity of tanks and
19 highly flammable gases next door the potential for
20 a massive explosion presents a considerable risk
21 adjacent to the Metro-North and Amtrak lines. In
22 addition, there's another scenario at this
23 critical location.

24 Amtrak's Northeast corridor is the
25 busiest railroaded in North America. Metro-North

1 is one of the largest and busiest commuter
2 railroads in the United States. It operates about
3 700 passenger trains daily and has an annual
4 ridership of 83 million passengers. This aging
5 rail infrastructure has been plagued with train
6 derailments with the most recent in May. In fact,
7 according to MTA reports, the NTSB took the
8 unusual step of launching a special investigation.

9 With an aging rail infrastructure
10 the risk of a train derailment at Railroad Avenue
11 causing a fire at Airgas and the new substation
12 also needs to be addressed. Either fire scenario
13 would be catastrophic and complicated by the need
14 to wait for Eversource personnel on site causing
15 massive delays and safety reliability issues along
16 the busy MNR and I-95 corridor.

17 Trees and environmental impact.
18 Bruce Park is over a century old and is located on
19 60 acres along the southside to Interstate 95.
20 This is a very active park with the popular Bruce
21 Museum, a playground for children, a baseball
22 field, a pond with turtles, duck, egrets and other
23 wildlife. Bruce Park Arboretum provides forested
24 walking trails.

25 There are 140,000 vehicles that

1 travel I-95 on a daily basis. When there are
2 delays on I-95 North cars often leave the highway
3 at Exit 3 and travel along Bruce Park Drive
4 causing a bottleneck at Indian Field Road,
5 increasing noise and pollution in the area and
6 blocking accessibility for emergency vehicles.
7 This description of the Bruce Park roadways by
8 installing electric lines under the road is
9 contrary to the FERC guidelines.

10 And in summary, the Greenwich Tree
11 Conservancy comes back to the question, do we
12 really need a new 89 million-dollar substation and
13 lines? Are there reasonable options like solar
14 power, conservation and/or small clean power
15 generators with redundancy that solves the concern
16 for peak loads with less cost and less
17 environmental impact?

18 Why can't Eversource use the
19 existing conduits and just pull new cable?
20 Building a new substation is the old way.
21 Greenwich has a great deal to lose.

22 The fundamental questions are, is
23 there an increasing demand that warrants the risk
24 to our park? What is the environmental impact to
25 our trees and natural historic, scenic and

1 recreational values in the design and location of
2 the transmission facilities? Does a substation at
3 290 Railroad Avenue present reliability and safety
4 issues?

5 And the Town of Greenwich, the
6 State of Connecticut and the CSE have a
7 responsibility to do no harm. The GTC hopes the
8 Connecticut Siting Council will once again take
9 these responsibilities very seriously as they did
10 in the last decision, and deny petition
11 Number 461A for reconsideration.

12 The Greenwich Tree Conservancy
13 believes that the best solution is for Eversource
14 and the Town of Greenwich to sit down at the table
15 and come up with a reasonable and risk-averse
16 solution. The Greenwich Tree Conservancy asks you
17 to put aside your differences and focus on common
18 solutions.

19 Thank you.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21 Peter Malkin, please.

22 PETER MALKIN: I want to thank the
23 Siting Council for giving me this opportunity to
24 speak. My name is Peter Malkin, M-a-l-k-i-n.
25 I've lived in Greenwich -- our family has been

1 raised in Greenwich for the past 51 years. I have
2 followed with great interest going back to
3 Eversource's initial application in June, 2015,
4 the utility's desire to build a new 115-kV bulk
5 substation within the town of Greenwich. I have
6 several concerns I implore the Council to consider
7 carefully.

8 Every proposal put forth by
9 Eversource including the current one involves a
10 new 115-kV transmission line with costs which we
11 heard tonight would range over a hundred million
12 dollars, yet there has not been a single proposal
13 which addresses the reliability of the entire
14 electrical system in Greenwich, and all of the
15 obsolete equipment at many substations, you know,
16 now in Greenwich -- which are the real issues that
17 must be fixed -- but for the existing substations
18 and the transmission lines from them.

19 It is clear that even though
20 Eversource cannot establish the need for a massive
21 transmission solution for the town of Greenwich --
22 where actual peak use has declined over the last
23 couple of years, and whereby the public population
24 of Greenwich is smaller now than it was when we
25 arrived here 51 years ago.

1 These are the real issues. It is
2 clear that even though Eversource cannot establish
3 the need for the massive transmission solution, it
4 is motivated to build a new transmission line and
5 substation so that it will profit, because it will
6 have the opportunity to recover the capital cost
7 plus a fixed return. It will be able to borrow
8 money at perhaps 3 or 4 percent and is permitted a
9 return of 10 or 12 percent. So there's an
10 arbitrage even if this serves no purpose
11 whatsoever. Eversource will make a lot of money
12 on this transaction.

13 In August 2012, a tree fell against
14 both 115-kV overhead transmission lines that feed
15 the existing Cos Cob substation from Stamford.
16 Since these two lines are the only sources of
17 power to the Cos Cob substation, which in turn
18 feeds all of Greenwich and Metro-North, this one
19 tree falling caused a massive blackout. None of
20 the Eversource plans has included a remedy for
21 this serious condition which extends from Stamford
22 all the way to Cos Cob.

23 In April 2016 a transformer failure
24 in the Tomac substation which supplies power to
25 all of Old Greenwich resulted in over 1100

1 customers losing power for much of a 24-hour
2 period. Unlike other substations throughout the
3 United States, the Tomac substation has only a
4 single transformer. Should that transformer fail
5 there is no backup on site.

6 The Tomac substation produces
7 electricity at 4.8 kV, while the other Greenwich
8 substations produce electricity at 13.2 kV. The
9 result of that is that if Tomac fails there's no
10 way to substitute, to back up that failure and it
11 just has to wait until it's fixed. The two
12 voltages for all of Greenwich except for Tomac --
13 and for Tomac are not compatible. There is no
14 other source of backup power to go to Greenwich
15 from other nearby facilities. None of the
16 proposals Eversource has submitted does anything
17 to solve this problem with the Tomac substation.

18 Over the last two decades severe
19 weather has created numerous customer outages
20 throughout Greenwich. Some attempts have been
21 made to improve the 13.2 kV distribution system to
22 harden it to be able to withstand high winds,
23 heavy rains and ice over poles and new wires.

24 However, these outages, some of
25 which are measurable in days continue. If the

1 13.2 kV circuits which distribute power to all of
2 the streets are inoperative, that power is of no
3 value. None of the Eversource proposals consists
4 nor includes improvements to the existing 13.2 kV
5 overhead distribution system, which is far more
6 subject to outages from storms than would be in an
7 underground system. We're talking about the
8 transmission lines from the substations, rather
9 than between the substations.

10 The critical issue with the lack of
11 reliable electric service in Greenwich is older
12 27.6 kV feeders to the various Greenwich
13 substations. None of the Eversource proposals
14 includes plans for the replacement or retirement
15 of any of these feeders, which by Eversource's own
16 admission have failed repeatedly.

17 Another key issue is outdated
18 transformers at the Prospect, Byron and Mianus
19 substations, all of which can and should be
20 replaced at a fraction of the cost of Eversource's
21 transmission proposal before you. While the
22 current proposal addresses the aged Prospect
23 substation, and between 2010 and '12 the North
24 Greenwich Substation was overhauled, no such
25 renovations are proposed for Tomac, Byron and

1 Mianus, key electrical facilities serving
2 different districts in Greenwich. I therefore
3 strongly urge the Council before it approves any
4 Eversource proposal to review every possible
5 option before considering a new 115-kV
6 transmission line to a new substation on Railroad
7 Avenue, whichever location.

8 The real solution should include
9 feeding the new substation via existing 27.6 kV
10 feeders, removing and replacing 27.6 kV feeders
11 and their existing duct banks, building new 27.6
12 feeders which are less costly than 115-kV circuit,
13 shifting loads from the existing Prospect
14 Substation to other nearby substations, making
15 better use of the connection of the Mianus
16 Substation to the Tomac substation 115-KV tap,
17 upgrading obsolete transformers in substations or
18 various combinations of these alternatives.

19 It is clear that Eversource has not
20 truly considered alternatives to the massive costs
21 associated with building any new transmission
22 line. With tens of millions of dollars on a new
23 115-kV transmission line which would result in
24 substantial increases in rates paid by the
25 consumers of the entire state of Connecticut,

1 Eversource fails to address the real reliability
2 issues in Greenwich and its proposal is very
3 shortsighted.

4 Our family believes that this
5 115-kV really is not needed in Greenwich. It
6 appears to me it would be more likely as a subway
7 to transfer power to Con Ed at higher rates than
8 are permitted to be charged in Connecticut, rather
9 than serving the town of Greenwich. So it does
10 nothing for reliability. It is excessively costly
11 and it has the other issues that the other
12 speakers have raised.

13 Thank you very much.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

15 Senator Frantz.

16 L. SCOTT FRANTZ: Thank you,
17 Mr. Chairman. And thank you, members of the
18 Siting Council. F-r-a-n-t-z, for the record,
19 representing the 36th Senate District.

20 And just briefly, what I'd like to
21 first do is publicly thank the Department of
22 Transportation. And in particular, the
23 Commissioner of the Department of Transportation
24 Jim Redeker, and another gentleman, Mitch Mailman
25 who's an expert in this particular area, for their

1 stepping up and realizing very quickly what a
2 mistake it would have been to run these poles down
3 the right-of-way over the tracks of Metro-North.

4 It just wouldn't have worked at all
5 from a practical point of view, from a
6 construction point of view, or a utility conflict
7 point of view. And certainly from an aesthetic
8 point of view, it's exactly what this town doesn't
9 need.

10 We've had, you know, far too much
11 development here in too many different areas
12 without a proper regard for the aesthetics and for
13 the trees, and for the landscaping, et cetera, et
14 cetera. So that was one that I was personally
15 very, very happy to see taken off the table as an
16 option.

17 The second thing I'd like to say is
18 this -- and I'm not going to repeat everything
19 that's been said before. But I still
20 think that -- and I do understand that there are
21 other bodies that might have to get involved in
22 this particular discovery -- is the justification
23 for this project.

24 If you talk to the real experts
25 other than those at Eversource, they'll tell you

1 that even during the worst of August days when
2 it's 95 to a hundred degrees outside everybody has
3 their air-conditioner on full blast, and it's
4 putting a huge load on the system. They never
5 even reached 85 percent of what the capacity was
6 supposedly on that particular day.

7 So with the improvements in
8 efficiency, with the improvements of people's
9 awareness of electrical usage, I think if anything
10 we've probably seen that peak usage of electricity
11 in the neighborhood, and probably seen a bit of a
12 decline here. So before granting them permission
13 to do this on a project basis, you know, I think
14 that that really needs to be justified once again
15 in front of, not only you, but the court of public
16 opinion.

17 And thirdly, I'd just like to say
18 subjectively it is a really nice neighborhood.
19 That particular area of Railroad Avenue leads to
20 some of the most incredible neighborhoods in town.
21 These are wonderful people, all of whom worked
22 very, very hard. They're very community oriented.
23 You've seen a lot of them speak at get-togethers
24 like this. And you'll hear more tonight speaking
25 about this, but they're really good people and

1 they deserve the best of consideration when it
2 comes to, you know, potentially disturbing, not
3 only the aesthetics, but also the safety of the
4 neighborhood and the general feel of what amounts
5 to a wonderful, wonderful neighborhood.

6 So with that, I want to thank you
7 all very much for your hard work on these issues.
8 I know it's not an easy job and I want to thank
9 you for the two and half minutes tonight.

10 Thank you very much.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Representative
12 Bocchino.

13 MIKE BOCCHINO: Thank you. That's
14 Representative Mike Bocchino, B-o-c-c-h-i-n-o. I
15 represent the 150th district, which this
16 transmission line would be running through. And I
17 represent all of the wonderful constituents in
18 that area.

19 As my colleague stated so
20 eloquently, I also would like to send a shout out
21 and a thanks to Commissioner Redeker for him and
22 his staff for recognizing the overhead wires and
23 what a detriment that would be.

24 Moving along, though, I really,
25 again want to echo Senator Frantz and some of the

1 other speakers up here in hoping that the Siting
2 Council really does demand to see the need for
3 this particular project so that they raise the
4 capacity.

5 What is the reason for it? I think
6 that also needs to be expressed and divulged to
7 the communities, to the entire town of Greenwich
8 so that they can see the numbers, they can see the
9 reasons why this particular project is such a need
10 for Eversource.

11 My other concern is the cost of the
12 project. Is that something that's going to be put
13 back onto the ratepayers? We want to make certain
14 that that is not the case, that that is not going
15 to be something specific to the town of Greenwich.
16 Well, we're saying that you need this increased
17 capacity. We're also going to transfer this back
18 onto the ratepayers at the end of the day. And I
19 think most importantly the education for the
20 community is something that really needs to be put
21 in the forefront by Eversource of whether or not
22 this is needed.

23 Second, the environmental impacts,
24 what could happen, what they hope won't happened,
25 the potentials that are out there, the hazards.

1 And we're running through one of the jewels of the
2 town of Greenwich in Bruce Park and we want to
3 make sure that, you know, the conservation of that
4 park is sound and we're not disturbing too much,
5 whether it be the trees, whether it be the
6 wildlife and the aesthetics -- they're all so
7 pleasing. We want to make sure that those are
8 also intact.

9 If perchance this does move forward
10 and you do give, you know, the okay for this to
11 move and the Town of Greenwich works with
12 Eversource -- now Eversource has been a great
13 partner to the Town of Greenwich. We don't want
14 to take away from that, but we do want to let
15 Eversource know that a couple of things really
16 need to be done if this does move forward.

17 One is there should be a website
18 that is developed so that those who live in the
19 area can understand where the traffic patterns may
20 be occurring at that particular time, whether work
21 is going to be done at certain hours of the day,
22 so that they can make certain that they're
23 planning ahead, scheduling. Also that any changes
24 to the traffic patterns are expressed to the
25 community.

1 Along the way there should be
2 summaries and there should be updates in the
3 media, all of the media outlets so that people
4 know and are aware of how the project is moving
5 along and that it is safe and secure.

6 And lastly, you know, again if this
7 does move forward -- and I've noticed the closing
8 of the Byron Substation, I would hope -- and I
9 know Eversource is very generous in all of their
10 givings to the State of Connecticut in some of the
11 wonderful programs. I would hope that that land
12 possibly could be worked out. Something with the
13 Town of Greenwich, that it could be utilized for
14 public good, whether it be open space, whether it
15 be an enclosed little league ballpark or maybe,
16 possibly a dog park. I'm certain that Eversource
17 in their generosity will look into something like
18 that, but I hope that that's one that they'll keep
19 in the back of their mind.

20 But at the end of the day, before
21 any of that happens we need to make sure that the
22 people in the town of Greenwich, and especially
23 those good people that live in this area are made
24 aware day by day of what's taking place. They're
25 educated as to why this possibly may need to have

1 happen, what Eversource's reasons are behind it.
2 So that we can work -- if this does move forward
3 we can work together collectively instead of
4 butting heads.

5 And again, I thank you all for your
6 time and for the opportunity for everybody to have
7 their opinions heard today.

8 Thank you.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

10 Before I call on -- we just have
11 one more speaker on the list. If there's anyone
12 else who will want to speak, will you please come
13 up and sign up?

14 Joan Stewart Pratt.

15 JOAN STEWART PRATT: Good evening.

16 My name is Joan Stewart Pratt, J-o-a-n
17 S-t-e-w-a-r-t, Pratt, P-r-a-t-t.

18 Thank you, everybody for allowing
19 me to speak. I didn't really prepare to speak
20 tonight, but speaking from my heart. I have lived
21 here in the same home for 50 years. My parents
22 were the second owner and I am the third owner,
23 buying it from my mom.

24 I am opposed to the placement of
25 the substation, either substation on Railroad

1 Avenue. I believe -- I don't want to be
2 repetitive of what everyone else has said, but I
3 believe it does not belong in a residential -- as
4 mixed-use residential business community.

5 As someone who's lived here for 50
6 years, when I am long gone I am hoping -- I'm
7 speaking for the children that aren't even born
8 yet, the kids today that will become my age one
9 day, that people don't scratch their heads saying,
10 how was this allowed? How did this happen?

11 There are too many unknowns. There
12 are too many medical health-related issues. We
13 talked about the dangerous location at the 290 and
14 281 Railroad Avenue, not only because of the gas
15 company, but you're right off of I-95 for any
16 potential terrorist attack. There are too many
17 unknowns.

18 We're just now finding out about,
19 you know, toxic dumping at Greenwich High School
20 or at the old recycling center. You know, how
21 come we didn't know about it then, but suddenly
22 now things are being found out?

23 So I'm speaking tonight for the
24 people that come after me. When I'm long gone, as
25 I mentioned, I don't want this to happen and I

1 would like you to really look at the necessity and
2 if it's appropriate. There are children. There
3 are pets. No one even brought up pets. There are
4 animals. I have three dogs. They go crazy when
5 we have a little thunderstorm.

6 The amount of noise and the
7 disruption, the people that live along the way
8 from each station -- and I haven't had a chance to
9 look at the deed that Mr. Bruce left when he
10 deeded the land to the Town. I don't know if
11 there's a provision in there whether, you know,
12 how would he and his family feel about tearing up
13 that land and having families and pets be exposed
14 to elements that we don't even know? We don't
15 even have -- we're not even certain about what
16 could happen. So I beg you to oppose this project
17 on either location of Railroad Avenue.

18 And lastly, I just have to say
19 you're disrupting, not only the families that live
20 there, the kids that walk to school, but also you
21 have a local business that has been in town since
22 1945 that you want to displace. Please reconsider
23 and oppose this motion.

24 Thank you, everyone.

25 VICTORIA BURGESS: Hi. My name is

1 Victoria Burgess, B-u-r-g-e-s-s. I don't have a
2 really well-thought idea right now, but --

3 A VOICE: Louder, please.

4 VICTORIA BURGESS: Yes. I'm
5 concerned that the Federal Rail Administration is
6 planning a high-speed railway from Washington DC
7 to Boston and that railway station, that railroad
8 would have two tracks. And right now they're
9 planning on going straight through Greenwich with
10 their plan, which will completely change how the
11 town looks.

12 I have not been able to get the
13 detailed maps that I've requested or even basic
14 information, but this is something that could well
15 go ahead. They're right now on track on going
16 ahead with that, with this plan in the years to
17 come and I think it needs to be considered before
18 spending a significant amount of money and time on
19 a project.

20 What exactly are these plans and
21 how are they going to intercept? So that we then
22 don't also have another plan that will then
23 require another hundred million dollars -- or a
24 thousand dollars, or whatever the amount might
25 be -- to reconsider something so that whatever

1 happens should be, you know, given consideration.

2 I just feel like you should be
3 talking to these people before -- to the Federal
4 Rails Administration before even going any
5 further. And I agree with everything that
6 everybody said and I certainly am not a proponent
7 of what the FRA is suggesting based on what I know
8 about it now, because I think it would be very
9 disruptive.

10 But I just hope that you will, you
11 know, consider talking to the FRA just to
12 understand just so that there's some kind of
13 working together, and encourage you if this does
14 go forward.

15 Thank you.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. That's the
17 last speaker. So thank you all. Thank you for
18 coming.

19 The Council will now close the
20 public comment session of the hearing. And I'd
21 like to announce that we will commence the
22 evidentiary hearing session on this application in
23 New Britain on Tuesday, July 25th of this year at
24 11 a.m.

25 Please note that anyone who has not

1 become a party or intervener but who desires to
2 make his or her views known to the Council may
3 file written statements with the Council until the
4 record closes.

5 Again, copies of the transcript of
6 the hearing will be filed in the Greenwich Town
7 Clerk's office, and I hereby declare this hearing
8 adjourned.

9 Thank you all for your
10 participation.

11

12 (Whereupon, the above proceedings
13 were concluded at 7:20 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 43 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the Public Hearing in Re: 461A, APPLICATION FROM EVERSOURCE ENERGY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF A 115-KILOVOLT BULK SUBSTATION LOCATED AT 290 RAILROAD AVENUE, GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT, AND TWO 115-KILOVOLT TRANSMISSION CIRCUITS EXTENDING APPROXIMATELY 2.3 MILES BETWEEN THE PROPOSED SUBSTATION AND THE EXISTING COS COB SUBSTATION, GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT, AND RELATED SUBSTATION IMPROVEMENTS, which was held before ROBIN STEIN, Chairman, at the Greenwich Public Library, Cole Auditorium, 101 West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, Connecticut, July 13, 2017.



Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M 857
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