

1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
2 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

3
4 Docket No. 490

5 The United Illuminating Company application for a
6 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and
7 Public Need for the Old Town Substation Rebuild
8 Project that entails construction, maintenance and
9 operation of a 115/13.8-kilovolt (kV)
10 air-insulated replacement substation facility
11 located on the existing Old Town Substation parcel
12 at 282 Kaechele Place and two parcels immediately
13 north totaling approximately 3 acres that are
14 owned by the United Illuminating Company at 312
15 and 330 Kaechele Place, Bridgeport, Connecticut,
16 and related transmission structure and
17 interconnection improvements.

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19
20 VIA ZOOM AND TELECONFERENCE

21 Public Comment Session held on Thursday,
22 October 15, 2020, beginning at 6:30 p.m.
23 via remote access.

24
25 H e l d B e f o r e:

ROBERT SILVESTRI, Presiding Officer

Reporter: Lisa L. Warner, CSR #061

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

2
3 **Council Members:**

4 **ROBERT HANNON**

5 **Designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes**
6 **Department of Energy and Environmental**
7 **Protection**

8 **QUAT NGUYEN**

9 **Designee for Chairman Marissa Paslick Gillett**
10 **Public Utilities Regulatory Authority**

11 **JOHN MORISSETTE**

12 **EDWARD EDELSON**

13
14 **Council Staff:**

15 **MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.**

16 **Executive Director and**
17 **Staff Attorney**

18
19 **MICHAEL PERRONE**

20 **Siting Analyst**

21
22 **LISA FONTAINE**

23 **Fiscal Administrative Officer**
24
25

1 **A p p e a r a n c e s: (Cont'd.)**

2
3 **For The United Illuminating Company:**

4 MURTHA CULLINA LLP
5 One Century Tower
6 265 Church Street
7 New Haven, Connecticut 06510-1220

8 BY: BRUCE L. McDERMOTT, ESQ.

9 **Present from The United Illuminating Company:**

10 RICHARD PINTO

11
12 **For The Connecticut Light and Power Company**
13 **d/b/a Eversource Energy:**

14 CARMODY TORRANCE SANDAK HENNESSEY LLP
15 50 Leavenworth Street
16 P.O. Box 1110
17 Waterbury, Connecticut 06702

18 BY: MARIANNE BARBINO DUBUQUE, ESQ.

19
20 EVERSOURCE ENERGY SERVICE COMPANY
21 107 Selden Street
22 Berlin, Connecticut 06037-1616

23 BY: JEFFERY D. COCHRAN, ESQ.

24
25 ****All participants were present via remote access.**

1 MR. SILVESTRI: Good evening, everyone.
2 I trust that everyone can hear me okay. This
3 remote public hearing is called to order this
4 Thursday, October 15, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. My name
5 is Robert Silvestri, member and presiding officer
6 of the Connecticut Siting Council.

7 Other members of the Council are Robert
8 Hannon, designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes of
9 the Department of Energy and Environmental
10 Protection. Quat Nguyen, designee for Chair
11 Marissa Paslick Gillett of the Public Utilities
12 Regulatory Authority. John Morissette and Edward
13 Edelson.

14 Members of the staff are Melanie
15 Bachman, executive director and staff attorney;
16 Michael Perrone, siting analyst; and Lisa
17 Fontaine, fiscal administrative officer.

18 As all are keenly aware, there is
19 currently a statewide effort to prevent the spread
20 of the Coronavirus. This is why the Council is
21 holding this remote public hearing, and we ask for
22 your patience. If you haven't done so already, I
23 ask that everyone please mute their computer audio
24 and/or telephone now.

25 This is a continuation of a remote

1 public hearing that began at 2 p.m. this
2 afternoon. A copy of the prepared agenda is
3 available on the Council's Docket No. 490 web
4 page, along with the record of this matter, the
5 public hearing notice, instructions for public
6 access to this remote public hearing, and the
7 Council's Citizens Guide to Siting Council
8 Procedures.

9 This hearing is held pursuant to the
10 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
11 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative
12 Procedure Act upon an application from The United
13 Illuminating Company for a Certificate of
14 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for
15 the Old Town Substation Rebuild Project that
16 entails construction, maintenance and operation of
17 a 115/13.8-kilovolt air-insulated replacement
18 substation facility located on the existing Old
19 Town Substation parcel at 282 Kaechele Place and
20 two parcels immediately north totaling
21 approximately 3 acres that are owned by the United
22 Illuminating Company at 312 and 330 Kaechele Place
23 in Bridgeport, Connecticut. The application was
24 received by the Council on June 30, 2020.

25 The Council's legal notice of the date

1 and time of this remote public hearing was
2 published in The Connecticut Post on September 1,
3 2020. Upon this Council's request, the applicant
4 erected a sign near the proposed northern access
5 drive entrance located off of Kaechele Place so as
6 to inform the public of the name of the applicant,
7 the type of facility, the remote public hearing
8 date, and contact information for the Council.

9 This remote public comment session is
10 reserved for the public to make brief statements
11 into the record. Public statements are not
12 subject to questions from the parties or the
13 Council, and members of the public making
14 statements may not ask questions of the parties or
15 the Council. Public statements will become part
16 of the record for Council consideration.
17 Additionally, written comments may be submitted by
18 any person within 30 days of this public hearing.

19 As a reminder to all, off the record
20 communication with a member of the Council or a
21 member of the Council staff upon the merits of
22 this application is prohibited by law.

23 I wish to note that parties and
24 intervenors, including their representatives,
25 witnesses and members, are not allowed to

1 participate in the public comment session.

2 I also wish to note for those who are
3 listening and for the benefit of your friends and
4 neighbors who are unable to join us for the remote
5 public comment session that you or they may send
6 written statements to the Council within 30 days
7 of the date hereof by mail or by email, and such
8 written statements will be given the same weight
9 as if spoken at the remote public comment session.

10 Please be advised that any person may
11 be removed from the remote public comment session
12 at the discretion of the Council.

13 We ask each person making a public
14 statement in the proceedings to confine his or her
15 statements to the subject matter before the
16 Council and to avoid unreasonable repetition so
17 that we may hear all of the concerns you and your
18 neighbors may have. Please be advised that the
19 Council cannot answer questions from the public
20 about the proposal.

21 A verbatim transcript of this remote
22 public hearing will be posted on the Council's
23 Docket No. 490 webpage and deposited at the
24 Bridgeport City Clerk's Office and the Trumbull
25 Town Clerk's Office for the convenience of the

1 public.

2 Before I call on members of the public
3 to make a statement, I request that the applicant
4 make a very brief presentation to the public that
5 describes the proposed facility.

6 And I believe, Mr. Pinto, you are going
7 to do that.

8 MR. PINTO: Thank you, Mr. Silvestri,
9 for the opportunity to give a short overview of
10 the project. Again, my name is Rich Pinto. I am
11 the senior project manager for UI. And I'll give
12 you a brief description of the project.

13 So UI, we propose to rebuild our
14 existing Old Town Substation as a transmission and
15 distribution facility to improve the electric
16 system in Connecticut, and in particular, the
17 local Bridgeport area. The existing facility is
18 located on approximately a 0.9 acre site at 280
19 Kaechele Place in the northwest portion of
20 Bridgeport.

21 So we've done studies and done an
22 evaluation of the existing facility. And our
23 evaluation deemed that it doesn't conform to our
24 company standards and industry standards for
25 performance, and therefore we are proposing to

1 rebuild the facility on the adjacent parcel.

2 The existing substation was constructed
3 and placed in service in the early 1960s, so the
4 substation is 50 plus years old. And it connects
5 two overhead high voltage transmission lines and
6 then steps that voltage down to a lower
7 distribution level that is spread out through the
8 community and feeds, like I said, the local
9 Bridgeport area.

10 So geographically the substation feeds
11 the City of Bridgeport as well as some of the
12 neighboring towns, Easton, Fairfield and Trumbull,
13 in particular, but 90 percent of the substation
14 load is centered all around the Bridgeport and
15 Trumbull area, so that's pretty much where the
16 substation feeds, and also there's approximately
17 17,000 customers fed out of the substation.

18 There's also a transmission
19 right-of-way that transverses across the parcel
20 today that is owned by Eversource which the
21 substation is connected to, the two transmission
22 lines that run across that right-of-way.

23 Over the years, the substation has been
24 expanded a few times, particularly the control
25 house, and then, in addition, in the rear of the

1 facility in response to distribution capacity
2 issues.

3 So the existing substation, again, like
4 I said earlier, it's 50 plus years old. It's got,
5 you know, a lot of aging infrastructure within it.
6 It's very difficult to work in. It's very
7 compact, crowded, difficult to move around. So
8 that's some of the reasons why we are proposing to
9 rebuild the facility.

10 So the new facility, it's going to be
11 constructed on a parcel that UI owns that's just
12 north of the existing parcel. The project, or the
13 new facility, will encompass the same type of
14 equipment that's in the old facility today but
15 newer technologies. The substation will also
16 encompass an area associated with the existing
17 substation. So it will be using the undeveloped
18 parcel today, and then the parcel that exists
19 would be decommissioned, but there will be some
20 new facilities on that existing parcel.

21 The new facility will also consist of
22 or be connected to the existing overhead
23 transmission right-of-way owned by Eversource.
24 The two transmission lines that run through that
25 right-of-way will just be rerouted and fed into

1 the new facility. The new facility will be
2 designed in the exact same arrangement that is
3 there today. We call it a single-breaker tie with
4 two distribution level transformers. So the third
5 line that runs through the Eversource right-of-way
6 today will just be rerouted in the same sense that
7 it does today, bypass the station today, just be
8 rerouted through the new facility and back out
9 from east to west.

10 There will be nine steel monopoles
11 installed. Four of them will be within the
12 transmission right-of-way. The remainder of the
13 five will be inside the perimeter of the new
14 substation.

15 After the substation is placed in
16 service the old one will be taken out of service
17 and decommissioned, and similarly, the lattice
18 structures that you see there today that are
19 within the Eversource right-of-way, those will be
20 decommissioned and removed as well.

21 So currently the project is in the
22 permitting and engineering phase. So as we
23 progress through that there will be more details.

24 Also, the cost of the project is
25 approximately \$40 million. That's transmission

1 and distribution cost. Construction is expected
2 to start somewhere around the first quarter of
3 2023 with an 18 to 24 month construction period,
4 and it will be placed in service fourth quarter of
5 2024.

6 So that's my brief overview of the
7 project, Mr. Silvestri.

8 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you, Mr. Pinto.

9 We will now call upon Mr. Matthew Popp
10 to make a public statement.

11 Mr. Popp, are you with us?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. SILVESTRI: From everything I see
14 on my screen and in checking with our fiscal
15 administrative officer, it doesn't seem like
16 Mr. Popp is with us this evening.

17 Okay. Well, let me reiterate for those
18 who are listening and for the benefit of your
19 friends and neighbors who are unable to join us
20 for this remote public comment session that you or
21 they may send written comments to the Council
22 within 30 days of the date hereof by mail or by
23 email, and such written statements will be given
24 the same weight as if spoken at the remote public
25 comment session.

1 Before closing the evidentiary record
2 of this matter, the Connecticut Siting Council
3 announces that briefs and proposed findings of
4 fact may be filed with the Council by any party or
5 intervenor no later than November 14, 2020. The
6 submission of briefs or proposed findings of fact
7 are not required by the Council, rather we leave
8 it to the choice of the parties and intervenors.

9 Anyone who has not become a party or
10 intervenor, but who desires to make his or her
11 views known to the Council, may file written
12 statements with the Council within 30 days of the
13 date hereof.

14 The Council will issue draft findings
15 of fact, and thereafter parties and intervenors
16 may identify errors or inconsistencies between the
17 Council's draft findings of fact and the record.
18 However, no new information, no new evidence, no
19 argument, and no reply briefs without our
20 permission, will be considered by the Council.

21 Copies of the transcript of this
22 hearing will be filed at the Bridgeport City
23 Clerk's Office and the Trumbull Town Clerk's
24 Office.

25 I hereby declare this hearing

1 adjourned, and I thank you all for your
2 participation.

3 MR. McDERMOTT: Mr. Silvestri.

4 MR. SILVESTRI: Attorney McDermott.

5 MR. McDERMOTT: Sorry. Did you say the
6 briefs were due on November 14th?

7 MR. SILVESTRI: What I have is briefs
8 and proposed findings of fact may be filed with
9 the Council by any party or intervenor no later
10 than November 14, 2020.

11 MR. McDERMOTT: Just a point. I think
12 the 14th may be a Saturday. Can we go -- I'm
13 happy to go to the 13th, and I'm also happy to go
14 to the 16, obviously, unless I have that wrong.

15 MR. SILVESTRI: I will defer to
16 Attorney Bachman.

17 MS. BACHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Silvestri.
18 I don't see any reason why we couldn't go to the
19 following Monday, if that's convenient for both
20 parties. We could do the 13th also, Attorney
21 McDermott, but why don't we go to the Monday.

22 MR. McDERMOTT: Okay. I appreciate
23 that courtesy. Thank you very much.

24 MR. SILVESTRI: So for the record,
25 we're looking at November 16, 2020. Very good.

1 Again, I hereby declare this hearing
2 adjourned, and thank you one and all for your
3 participation. Have a great evening.

4 (Whereupon, the public comment session
5 concluded at 6:44 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REMOTE HEARING

2
3 I hereby certify that the foregoing 15 pages
4 are a complete and accurate computer-aided
5 transcription of my original stenotype notes taken
6 of the PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION HELD BY REMOTE
7 ACCESS IN RE: DOCKET NO. 490, The United
8 Illuminating Company application for a Certificate
9 of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for
10 the Old Town Substation Rebuild Project that
11 entails construction, maintenance and operation of
12 a 115/13.8-kilovolt (kV) air-insulated replacement
13 substation facility located on the existing Old
14 Town Substation parcel at 282 Kaechele Place and
15 two parcels immediately north totaling
16 approximately 3 acres that are owned by the United
17 Illuminating Company at 312 and 330 Kaechele
18 Place, Bridgeport, Connecticut, and related
19 transmission structure and interconnection
20 improvements, which was held before ROBERT
21 SILVESTRI, PRESIDING OFFICER, on October 15, 2020.
22
23
24
25

Lisa Warner

Lisa L. Warner, CSR 061
Court Reporter
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