

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) made an important ruling today by issuing a final Decision and Order involving the construction of a high-voltage electric transmission line that will stretch from Middletown to Norwalk. The project was a joint application of the Connecticut Light & Power Company (CL&P) and the United Illuminating Company (UI).

By way of a 9 to 0 vote, the Council found that the 69-mile long project will improve system reliability by enhancing interconnections between southwest Connecticut (a 54-town area) and the remainder of New England, eliminate generation restrictions, eliminate short circuit problems at substations, and eliminate nearly all violations of national and regional standards regarding thermal overloads. This means that the project will significantly improve the reliability of service in the highly-congested load pocket of Fairfield County and its surrounding area.

Project Overview

The project will extend approximately 69 miles, crossing through 18 municipalities in Middlesex, New Haven, and Fairfield Counties. The proposed transmission line will be overhead for approximately 45 miles, from CL&P's existing Scovill Rock Switching Station (in the City of Middletown) to CL&P's proposed East Devon Substation (in the City of Milford). The overhead transmission line would be located primarily within CL&P's existing 115-kV and 345-kV transmission



rights of way. Only a small amount of privately owned land in Middletown and Haddam will have to be acquired for the overhead portion of the project. The line will be underground, primarily beneath public roadways, for approximately 24 miles, from East Devon Substation to UI's proposed Singer Substation (in the City of Bridgeport) and from Singer Substation to CL&P's existing Norwalk Substation (in the City of Norwalk).

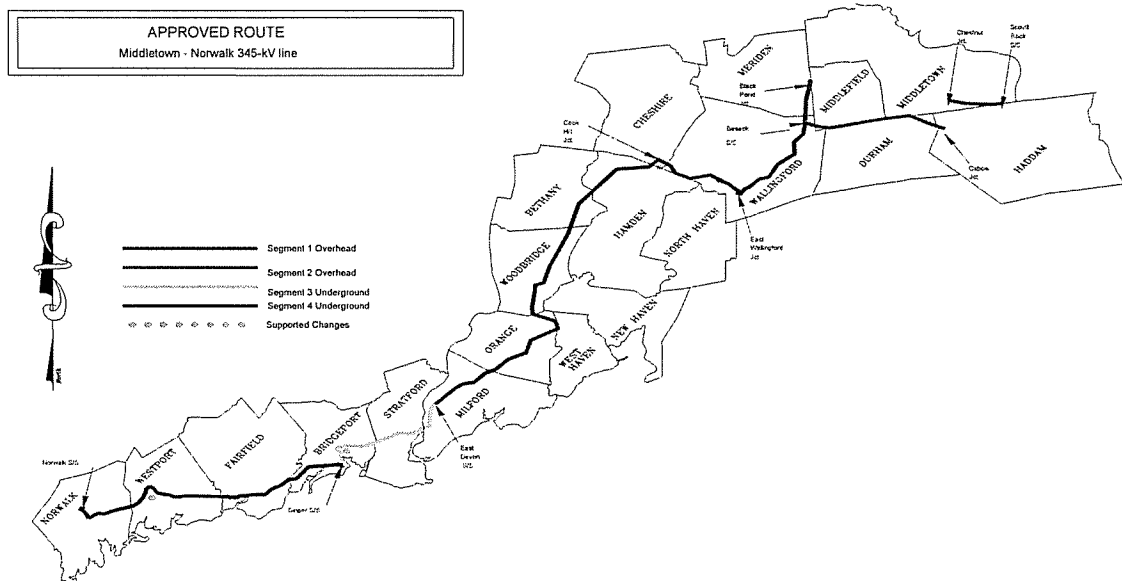
The project includes the construction of the proposed East Devon and Singer Substations and the new Beseck Switching Station (in the Town of Wallingford), as well as modifications to the existing Norwalk Substation and the existing Scovill Rock Switching Station. Transition stations, which are required at points where the overhead lines change to underground cable, will be established within the East Devon Substation, where the underground and overhead components of the project connect. The project also includes reconfiguration of certain interconnections and the reconstruction of some existing 115-kV and 345-kV transmission lines.

The amount of the approved transmission line that will lie within each of the 18 municipalities is illustrated below:

Line Length by Municipality

Line Length by Municipality	Route Length (miles)	Line Length by Municipality	Route Length (miles)
Bethany	2.6	Middletown	3.1
Bridgeport	6.6	Milford	5.5
Cheshire	0.9	Norwalk	3.1
Durham	5.0	Orange	5.9
Fairfield	3.6	Stratford	2.8
Haddam	0.2	Wallingford	11.5
Hamden	3.7	West Haven	0.1
Meriden	2.3	Westport	5.5
Middlefield	0.7	Woodbridge	6.2

An illustration of the approved transmission line that will run from Middletown to Norwalk, through Milford, appears below:



Highlights of the Decision

- Council Consulted an International Expert The Council has well understood through this entire proceeding that how much of the transmission line can be constructed underground is the single-most question of concern to virtually everyone involved – including elected officials whose communities are directly affected. To fully explore and address this issue, the Council hired a highly regarded expert with international experience in that very issue (KEMA, Inc., of Alexandria, VA). After months of independent study and analysis, KEMA confirmed that 24 miles (35%) of the route can be reliably installed underground.
- Underground versus Overhead Construction The route approved by the Council, which stretches through 18 municipalities, unavoidably also runs near several statutory facilities as defined by Public Act (P.A.) 04-246 (AAC Electric Transmission Line Siting Criteria). Such facilities include the

B’Nai Jacob Congregation/ Ezra Academy and the Jewish Community Center in Woodbridge and the Royal Oaks neighborhood in Durham. In keeping with the tenets of P.A. 04-246, which requires that transmission lines be installed underground wherever possible near such facilities, the Council determined that additional undergrounding was “technologically infeasible.

- DPH Consultation The Council availed itself to the best evidence available concerning related to public health, especially with regard to matters involving electric and magnetic fields (EMF). Indeed, beyond simply looking to the evidence related to EMF brought into the record by participants in the proceeding, the Council proactively sought the advice of the state Department of Public Health (DPH). DPH testimony contributed greatly to the Council’s decision to approve a variety of EMF mitigation strategies including selected pole placement, pole height, and placement of conductors to reduce electric and magnetic fields.
- EMF / Prudent Avoidance Although the evidence concerning the effects of EMF remains inconclusive, the Council wishes to err on the side of caution with regard to public health and safety. To that end, the Council has embraced the concept of “prudent avoidance,” by ordering minimal levels of EMF readings where people congregate and homes are located. An example of such EMF levels include 1.7 mG alongside the southeast boundary of the right of way at the B’Nai Jacob Congregation/ Ezra Academy in Woodbridge.

Editors: “Through the innovative and cutting-edge measures contained in our decision today, the Council has clearly ordered several actions that serve to protect public health and safety.”
[Pam Katz, Chairman.]

- No Taking of Homes and No Restrictions on Land Use The Council’s decision results in no taking of homes through eminent domain. Despite early concerns that various methods for route designs or changes in the right of way would result in

dozens of residents losing their homes, the decision approved today any such unfortunate outcome. The Council's decision also places no restrictions upon the use of land along the right of way by landowners.

- No Change to Royal Oaks The Royal Oaks subdivision, in Durham, includes about 80 homes, 15 of which are alongside the right of way. These homes have, for the most part, been in place for some twenty years or more and there are scores of children in the neighborhood. Out of recognition and respect for these homeowners and families, the Council's decision directs that the 345-KV corridor will bypass this neighborhood and instead run through an undeveloped area north of the Royal Oaks neighborhood. Thus, the Royal Oaks neighborhood will remain unchanged.

Municipal Collaborations

The Decision made today by the Council resolves several important issues related to need, environmental effects, the amount of transmission line that will be installed underground, maximum permissible EMF levels, and other critical points. However, in recognition of the importance of local input, the Council wishes to continue to involve the affected communities and municipal leaders in every way possible until the transmission line structures are built and are put into service. To facilitate this important and vital process, the Council will use a collaborative process of Council staff working with local leaders to assemble plans that will further codify the exact details of the construction design. Examples of such details include precise tower heights and locations, and environmental and aesthetic mitigation measures including landscaping designs.

The Council's Appreciation

This docket proceeding was, by far, the most challenging application to ever come before the Council. There were more than 40 parties and intervenors and some 35 days of public hearings. The record is, quite simply, enormous.

The Council wishes to thank the hundreds of people who attended the public input sessions that were held in the communities and the various citizens groups who participated in various capacities. Special thanks is extended to the many municipalities who brought thoughtful and meaningful suggestions to the table to help fashion the decision that was issued today which we feel is fair and balanced and is an appropriate compromise for all sides. Thank you!

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The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) has jurisdiction to objectively balance the statewide public need for adequate and reliable services at the lowest reasonable cost to consumers with the need to protect the environment and ecology of the State. The Council is funded through application fees and assessments, and administrative assessments of the electric utilities, hazardous waste generators, and telecommunications providers of the State. The agency website is ct.gov/csc

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The Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order related to Council docket 272 will be posted to the Council's website (ct.gov/csc) once the Certificate package is released, which is expected to occur by close of business Monday, April 11, 2005.