

April 19, 2004

Ms. Pamela B. Katz  
Chairman  
Connecticut Siting Council  
10 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Docket No. 272 - Middletown-Norwalk 345kV Transmission Line

Dear Ms. Katz:

This letter provides the response to requests for the information listed below.

Response to CSC-01 Interrogatories dated 03/03/2004  
CSC - 022

Response to CSC-02 Interrogatories dated 03/31/2004  
CSC - 038 , 041 , 043 , 045 , 047

Very truly yours,

Anne B. Bartosewicz  
Project Director - Transmission Business

ABB/tms  
cc: Service List

**CL&P/UI**  
**Docket No. 272**

**Data Request CSC-01**  
**Dated: 03/03/2004**  
**Q- CSC-022**  
**Page 1 of 8**

**Witness: Jeffery O. Borne**  
**Request from: Connecticut Siting Council**

**Question:**

Provide sightlines of existing and proposed transmission structures crossing ridges from trails as identified in the Connecticut Walk Book Eighteenth Edition, Connecticut Forest and Park Association, Inc. 1997.

**Response:**

Please see the attached.



Besek Viewshed Summary.doc

## Summary

The Middletown to Norwalk Project (Project) crosses one "ridgeline", at Beseck Mountain in Middlefield/Wallingford, as defined in Public Act No. 95-239, An Act Concerning Protection of Ridgelines. The companies' staff identified potential vantage points along blue-blazed hiking trails in the vicinity of the Project, visited each vantage point in the field, and found the Project's crossing of the Beseck Mountain ridgeline can not be seen from any blue-blazed hiking trails.

Additionally, at CL&P's existing right-of-way crossing of the Beseck Mountain ridgeline, the Project would replace the one existing 86-foot tall steel lattice structure with one 112-foot tall steel monopole and the right-of-way at this location would not be widened. This nominal increase in pole height and lack of increase in right-of-way width are not expected to impact vistas from distances as far away as the existing blue-blazed hiking trails.

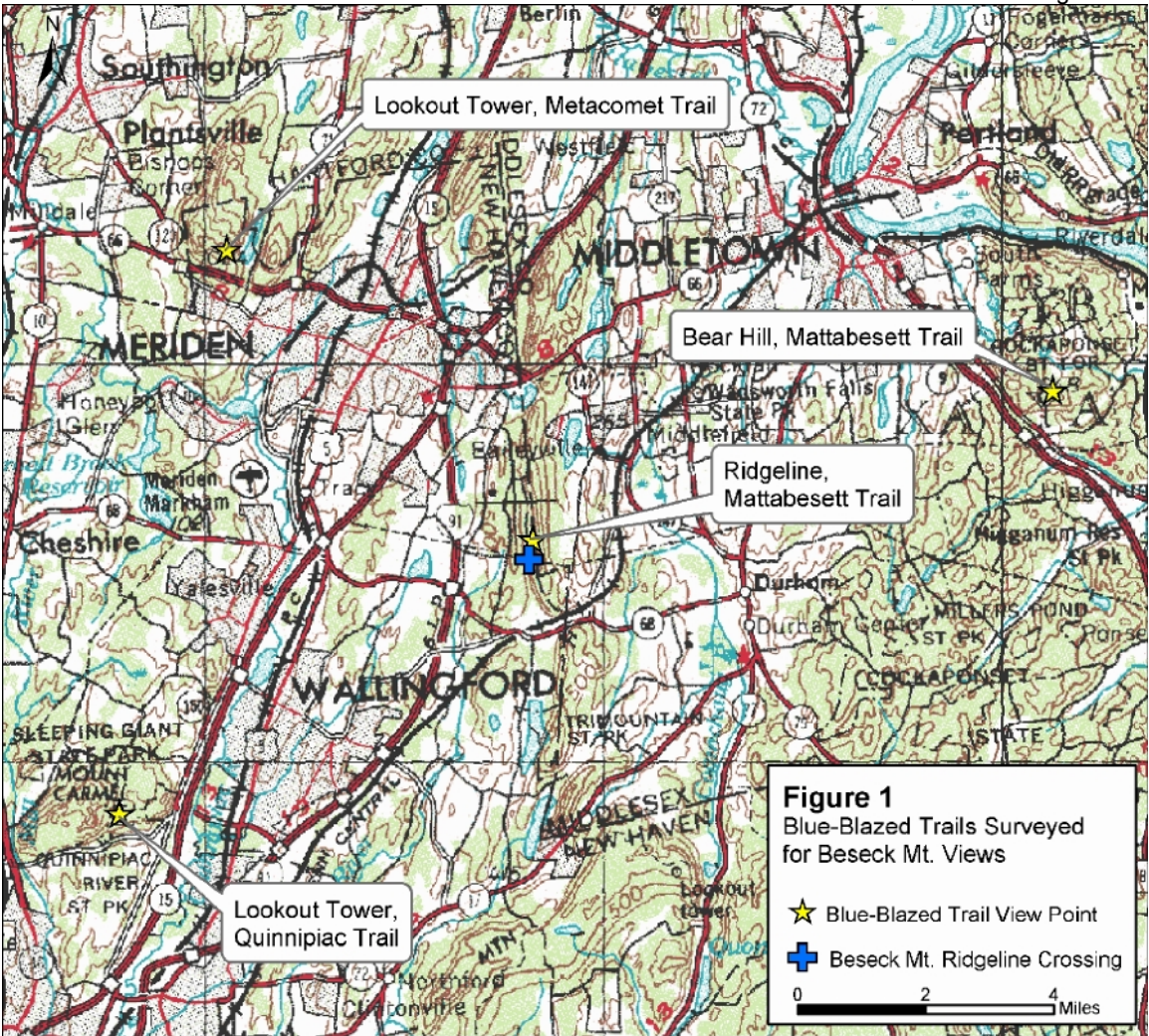
## Sightline Study

The companies studied the Connecticut Walk Book Eighteenth Edition (Book) and USGS topographic maps, and found four blue-blazed hiking trails that possibly had an unobstructed view of the Project's Beseck Mountain ridgeline crossing. The four trails identified were: the Mattabesett Trail in Middletown; the Quinnipiac Trail in Hamden; the Metacomet Trail in Meriden; and the Mattabesett Trail on the Beseck Mountain ridgeline in Middlefield/Wallingford.

Next, the companies located the highest point along each blue-blazed trail with the best potential view of the Beseck Mountain ridgeline crossing. Figure 1 shows the locations of these identified view points. Finally, the companies' staff visited each view point on March 22, 23, or 29, 2004, located the Beseck Mountain ridgeline crossing from that view point, and took photographs of the vista. The weather was sunny and clear, with little to no haze, on all three days the view points were studied. A summary of the view from each view point is included beginning on page 3, along with the pictures taken.

The sightline study found the Mattabesett Trail traversing the length of the Beseck Mountain ridgeline would not see the Project's crossing of the ridgeline, with the exception where the trail crosses the existing right-of-way. Despite the lack of view, CL&P/UI staff visited the Mattabesett Trail's crossing of the Project on Beseck Mountain and a summary of that view is included. Also, the exercise of generating sightlines was not performed, because an in-the-field review of the blue-blazed hiking trails was performed and considered superior to an office study.

Figure 1, Location of View Sites from Blue-Blazed Trails





View from the Mattabesett Trail in Middletown

The companies identified Bear Hill, near Cockaponset State Forest in Middletown, as the highest point along the Mattabesett Trail with a potentially unobstructed view of the Beseck Mountain ridgeline crossing. The companies' staff could not see the Beseck Mountain ridgeline crossing from this point (see Photo 1), because trees obscured the view. This view point is approximately 8.5 miles from the Beseck Mountain ridgeline crossing.

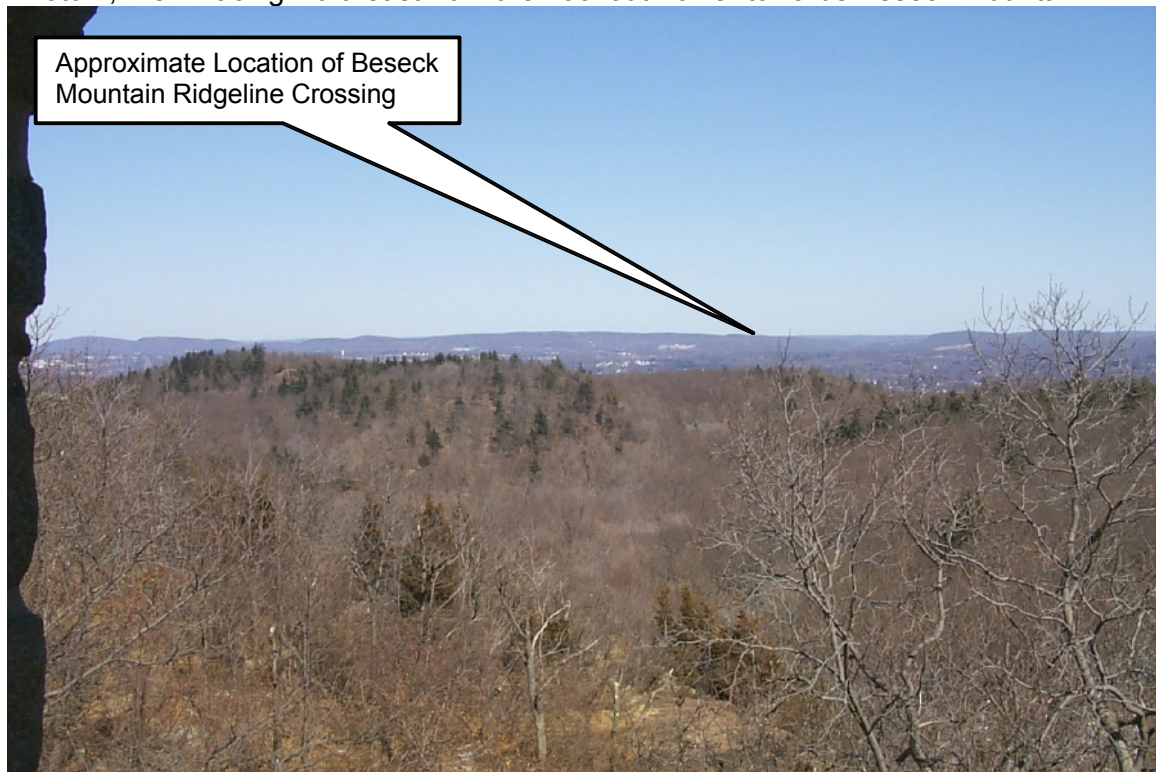
Photo 1, View Facing West from Bear Hill towards Beseck Mountain



View from Quinnipiac Trail in Hamden

The companies identified the Lookout Tower, in Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden, as the highest point along the Quinnipiac Trail with a potentially unobstructed view of the Beseck Mountain ridgeline crossing. The companies' staff could identify the Beseck Mountain ridgeline from this point (see Photo 2), but could not identify the location of the Project's crossing from this distance (approximately 7.5 miles).

Photo 2, View Facing Northeast from the Lookout Tower towards Beseck Mountain





View from Metacomet Trail in Meriden

The companies identified the Lookout Tower, on Meriden Mountain in Meriden, as the highest point along the Metacomet Trail with a potentially unobstructed view of the Beseck Mountain ridgeline crossing. The companies' staff could identify the Beseck Mountain ridgeline from this point (see Photo 3), but could not identify the Project's crossing from this distance (approximately 6.7 miles).

Photo 3, View Facing Southeast from the Lookout Tower towards Beseck Mountain





View from Mattabesett Trail at the Project's Crossing, in Middlefield/Wallingford

The companies' sightline study found the Mattabesett Trail traversing the length of the Besek Mountain ridgeline would not see the Project's crossing of the ridgeline, with the exception where the trail crosses the existing right-of-way. At points along the Mattabesett Trail 200 feet north and south of the existing maintained right-of-way where the Project will be constructed (approximately 0.04 miles), the companies' staff could not see the ridgeline, and could hardly identify the existing steel lattice structure, because trees obscured the view (see Photos 4 and 5). At distances further away from the existing right-of-way the steel lattice structure became more obstructed and invisible.

Photo 4, View Facing South along Mattabesett Trial on Besek Mt. Ridgeline



Photo 5, View Facing North along Mattabesett Trail on Beseck Mt. Ridgeline





**CL&P/UI**  
**Docket No. 272**

**Data Request CSC-02**  
**Dated: 03/31/2004**  
**Q- CSC-038**  
**Page 1 of 1**

**Witness: Louise Mango**  
**Request from: Connecticut Siting Council**

**Question:**

Would any new wetlands or ponds be created along the route of construction?

**Response:**

No new wetlands or ponds will be created during construction of either underground or overhead portions of the Project. Further, there will be no significant loss or disturbance of existing wetlands or ponds along the right-of-way resulting from Project construction and maintenance.

**CL&P/UI**  
**Docket No. 272**

**Data Request CSC-02**  
**Dated: 03/31/2004**  
**Q- CSC-041**  
**Page 1 of 1**

**Witness: Anthony W. Johnson III**  
**Request from: Connecticut Siting Council**

**Question:**

Would the use of herbicides for maintenance of vegetation be restricted in or near wetlands?

**Response:**

The use of herbicides will be in accordance with current federal regulations and State of Connecticut pesticide statutes. Herbicides may be used in or near wetlands so long as the product label does not preclude the use of these products in these areas. The majority of the herbicides approved by NU for rights-of-way vegetation control can be used in wetland areas. These herbicides used for rights-of-way vegetation control may not be applied directly to standing water and in many cases a 10-foot no-spray area is maintained from the edge of any standing water.



**CL&P/UI**  
**Docket No. 272**

**Data Request CSC-02**  
**Dated: 03/31/2004**  
**Q- CSC-043**  
**Page 1 of 1**

**Witness: Anthony W. Johnson III**  
**Request from: Connecticut Siting Council**

**Question:**

What measures would be employed to control any undesirable invasive plants which may become established along areas cleared during construction?

**Response:**

The construction clearing would only be concerned with the physical cutting of any undesirable invasive shrub species to provide open areas for access, structure installation or material lay-down. These species will in all probability resprout following the clearing activities and will be controlled during on-going scheduled right-of-way maintenance programs. Future control of established undesirable shrub species will either be made by manual cutting and removal or through the selective application of herbicides.

**CL&P/UI**  
**Docket No. 272**

**Data Request CSC-02**  
**Dated: 03/31/2004**  
**Q- CSC-045**  
**Page 1 of 1**

**Witness: Anne Bartosewicz**  
**Request from: Connecticut Siting Council**

**Question:**

Has the applicant responded to the Mayor of the City of Milford's letter of June 17, 2003, which questions the need for increasing the 165 foot right of way width in Milford? If so, provide a copy of that response. Has the applicant responded to the City of Milford Conservation Commission letter of June 17, 2003? If so, provide a copy of that response.

**Response:**

The Companies are not aware of a June 17, 2003 letter from the Mayor of Milford which questions the need for increasing the 165 foot right of way width in Milford. As stated in the Companies application the existing right of way in Milford does not have to be widened under the Companies Proposed or Alternative A or Alternative B routes.

The City of Milford Conservation Commission letter dated June 17, 2004 offers comments and recommendations on the Companies Municipal Consultation filing. Many of the comments and concerns are discussed in significant detail in the Companies Application filed with the Siting Council on October 9, 2003. A number of the concerns identified in the Conservation Commission letter will be addressed in the more detailed Development and Management Plans the Companies will develop and file with the Council subsequent to the issuance of a Certificate by the Council.

**CL&P/UI**  
**Docket No. 272**

**Data Request CSC-02**  
**Dated: 03/31/2004**  
**Q- CSC-047**  
**Page 1 of 1**

**Witness: Anne Bartosewicz**  
**Request from: Connecticut Siting Council**

**Question:**

Provide a copy of any response the applicant may have made to the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority letter of June 18, 2003.

**Response:**

The Companies did not provide a response to the June 18, 2003 South Central Regional Water Authority (SCRWA) letter addressed to the Bethany Planning and Zoning Commission.

A number of the items of interest were addressed in the Companies' Application. The remaining items of interest will be addressed in the Development and Management Plan(s) the Companies will file with the Council subsequent to the issuance of a Certificate by the Siting Council.