

April 21, 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 - 029 SP-01\*

Response to CSC-02 Interrogatories dated 03/31/2004  
CSC - 042 , 044

Very truly yours,

Anne B. Bartosewicz  
Project Director - Transmission Business

ABB/ssn  
cc: Service List

\* Companies request bulk filing status. Courtesy copies are being provided to the service list.

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

**Data Request CSC-01**  
**Dated: 03/03/2004**  
**Q- CSC-029-SP01**  
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**Witness: Roger C. Zaklukiewicz; James M. Hogan**  
**Request from: Connecticut Siting Council**

**Question:**

Is the applicant aware of a Greenways Committee exploring a bike trail parallel to the Merritt /Wilbur Cross Parkway? Could an underground transmission line be constructed and partnered in this proposed greenway plan

**Response:**

As stated in the response to CSC-01, Q-CSC-029, attached is a report entitled "Middletown to Norwalk 345-kV Transmission Line Project Route 15 Corridor Study".

\* Companies request bulk Filing Status. Courtesy copies are being provided to the service list.

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

**Data Request CSC-02**  
**Dated: 03/31/2004**  
**Q- CSC-042**  
**Page 1 of 1**

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

**Question:**

What steps would be taken regarding the following species identified by the D.E.P. as potentially occurring along the project route: red shouldered hawk, peregrine falcon, blue-winged teal, king rail, wood turtle, and eastern box turtle?

**Response:**

The Companies will work with CT DEP's Wildlife Division and Natural Diversity Database staff to confirm the presence/absence of these species along the route, and then to develop a construction management plan designed to avoid or minimize adverse affects to these species. The result of these actions will be incorporated in the Development and Management Plan.

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

**Question:**

How would the concerns of the Department of Agriculture regarding the shellfish leases at each river crossing site be addressed? Has the applicant informed the agency of the specific methods of crossing either river as requested in the letter of May 6, 2003? If so, was there any additional response from the Department of Agriculture?

**Response:**

The Companies propose to install cable at each of the river crossings in a manner that will avoid potential impacts (both direct and indirect) to shellfish resources. Specific plans and procedures will be developed for each tidal crossing, including details regarding the setback of staging areas from river banks, protection of staging areas with erosion and sediment controls, and contingency procedures to be followed in the event of an inadvertent spill or leak during construction. Such plans will be included in the Development and Management Plan(s) prepared for the Project.

In addition, the Companies will apply to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Long Island Sound Programs for appropriate permits to construct the cable at each of the tidal water crossings. The Companies anticipate that the permits from these agencies will include appropriate conditions designed to protect water quality and marine resources, including shellfish.

The Companies have not yet provided specific details about the proposed tidal river crossings to the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture, and have not specifically responded to the correspondence from that agency. However, the Bureau was provided with a copy of the Application, which identifies the proposed methods for installing the cable beneath tidal waters. The Companies anticipate further consultations with the Bureau as engineering design continues and as part of the permitting process.

The Companies' consultations to date with the Bureau are as follows. Initially, during the preparation of the Municipal Consultation Filing, the Companies corresponded with the Bureau (along with other resource agencies) to inform them of the potential Project and to solicit information regarding shellfish resources in the Project vicinity. The information concerning general shellfish resources in the Project area was included in the Application (refer to Volume 1, Section L.3.6, p. 44).