

March 31, 2004

Roger C. Zaklukiewicz
Vice President
Transmission Engineering and Operations
Northeast Utilities System
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

Richard J. Reed
Vice President of Electric System
The United Illuminating Company
801 Bridgeport Avenue
Shelton, CT 06484

RE: **DOCKET NO. 272** - The Connecticut Light and Power Company and The United Illuminating Company Application to the Connecticut Siting Council for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need ("Certificate") for the construction of a new 345-kV electric transmission line facility and associated facilities between Scovill Rock Switching Station in Middletown and Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, including the reconstruction of portions of existing 115-kV and 345-kV electric transmission lines, the construction of Beseck Switching Station in Wallingford, East Devon Substation in Milford, and Singer Substation in Bridgeport, modifications at Scovill Rock Switching Station and Norwalk Substation, and the reconfiguration of certain interconnections.

Dear Mr. Zaklukiewicz and Mr. Reed:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than April 14, 2004. To help expedite the Council's review, please file individual responses as soon as they are available.

Please forward an original and 20 copies to this office including an electronic filing. In accordance with the State Solid Waste Management Plan, the Council is requesting that all filings be submitted on recyclable paper, primarily regular weight white office paper. Please avoid using heavy stock paper, colored paper, and metal or plastic binders and separators. A list of parties and intervenors dated March 26, 2004, is enclosed. Fewer copies of bulk material may be provided as appropriate.

Yours very truly,

S. Derek Phelps
Executive Director

Enclosure

c: Parties and Intervenors

Docket No. 272
Connecticut Siting Council
Pre-Hearing Questions
Set Number Two
(Volumes 2 and 4 of the Application)

36. Would erosion and sediment controls be removed from construction areas within 30 days of final site stabilization as recommended in “Best Development Practices: Conserving Pool-Breeding amphibians in residential and commercial developments in the northeastern United States” (Council Administrative Notice, item 21)?
37. What measures would be taken to protect the two vernal pools which have been identified along the proposed construction site? Identify the map segment numbers where these vernal pools are located.
38. Would any new wetlands or ponds be created along the route of construction?
39. Could the timing of the clearing of vegetation be scheduled to minimize impacts on nesting birds?
40. How would the use of unauthorized all-terrain vehicles be minimized along the route during and after construction?
41. Would the use of herbicides for maintenance of vegetation be restricted in or near wetlands?
42. 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?
43. What measures would be employed to control any undesirable invasive plants which may become established along areas cleared during construction?
44. 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?
45. 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.
46. During the removal of any existing transmission line towers, are any special lay-down areas needed? How would the existing structures be disassembled and removed?
47. Provide a copy of any response the applicant may have made to the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority letter of June 18, 2003.
48. What procedures and precautions would be required in crossing the Mill River in Fairfield, which may be contaminated with lead and chromium, according to a letter from the Town of Fairfield Conservation Commission dated June 23, 2003? How would the fish spawning area

- of Sasco Creek be protected during construction? Provide a copy of any response the applicant may have made to the letter of June 23, 2003.
49. Provide a copy of any response by the applicant to the Town of Bethany Planning and Zoning Commission letter of June 27, 2003. Would the applicant agree to set pole structure heights to the lowest height possible?
 50. Has the applicant developed a procedure to address blasting concerns, including any potential effects on resident's wells?
 51. Has the applicant responded to the concerns of the Westport Historic District Commission regarding the potential effect of the project on those buildings placed on the National Register of Historic Places, including blasting concerns, damage to old growth trees, and the location of any above-ground facilities? Has the applicant responded to the six questions posed by the Westport Historic District Commission? If so, please provide. If not, respond to questions with copy to Westport Historic District Commission.
 52. Does the applicant agree with the Westport Department of Public Works that "any disturbance to road surfaces less than five years old will require the resurfacing of the entire road surface" as stated in the Town's letter of May 19, 2003?
 53. Provide a response to the Town of Westport Planning and Zoning letter of September 25, 2003, in which the Town states it does not support the revised route.
 54. Provide a response to the Town of Westport Department of Public Works letter of September 18, 2003 regarding concerns about excavation through a former landfill along Imperial Avenue. Provide a response to the Town of Westport's Chief of Police letter of September 17, 2003, also concerning this landfill.
 55. Provide a copy of any response made by the applicant to the City of Bridgeport, Department of City Planning, dated August 5, 2003.
 56. Has the applicant agreed to adjust the route along Riverside Drive in Norwalk, and to create a bikeway in this area, as described in the City of Norwalk's letter of August 14, 2003?
 57. Has CL&P considered use of the substation adjacent to Devon Station? List the advantages and disadvantages of using the substation at Devon Station in place of the proposed East Devon Substation.