

DOCKET NO. 19

AN APPLICATION BY NORTHEAST UTILITIES : CONNECTICUT SITING
FOR THE HARTFORD ELECTRIC LIGHT :
COMPANY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF : COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND
PUBLIC NEED FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION
UNDERGROUND OF TWO EXISTING 345 kV
TRANSMISSION LINES AND ONE EXISTING
115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE WHICH CROSS
THE CONNECTICUT RIVER BETWEEN
MIDDLETOWN AND EAST HAMPTON AT
SCOVILL ROCK.

: October 1, 1981

DISSENTING OPINION

In its Application, HELCO describes the need for the line in terms of the crossing's history before courts and regulatory bodies. The Application before the Council comes as a result of litigation initiated by the Applicant and a subsequent "Stipulation and Agreement" reached by the Applicant with the Department of Environmental Protection and others on March 12, 1976.

Section 16-501 of the Public Utility Environmental Standards Act as amended requires that an Applicant for a transmission facility must demonstrate public need with "a statement and full explanation of why the proposed transmission line is necessary, and how the facility conforms to a long range plan for expansion of the electric power grid serving the state, and interconnected utility systems that will serve the public need for adequate, reliable and economic service."

The Application (Docket No. 19) proposes an essentially "one for one" replacement of a portion of the existing lines with no significant benefits to the system needs or reliability, Cahn Reports 1976, Tr. p.23, 1/7/81.

On these grounds the Application (Docket No. 19) should be rejected as not meeting the public need, as defined in 16-501. The existing crossings are adequate and are needed.

It is questionable if an Alternate C of the Application (Docket No. 19) would constitute a significant change in the visual impact of the lattice towers already in place, as opposed to Alternate D (which does not require a certificate), especially at an estimated cost of \$1,800,000, and is therefore warranted.

I would deny the Application (Docket No. 19).

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned members of the Connecticut Siting Council who have signed this Dissenting Opinion hereby certify that they have heard this case or read the record thereof.


Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 1st day of October, 1981.


Owen L. Clark 10/1/81

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)
 : ss. Hartford, October 1, 1981
COUNTY OF HARTFORD)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct copy of the dissenting opinion issued by the Connecticut Siting Council, State of Connecticut.

ATTEST:


Raeann V. Curtis
Raeann V. Curtis, Executive Assistant
Connecticut Siting Council