



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RE: DOCKET NO. 272 - The Connecticut Light and Power Company and The United Illuminating Company application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a new 345-kV electric transmission line and associated facilities between the Scovill Rock Switching Station in Middletown and the Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, Connecticut.

Phase II Hearings Suspended Until Further Notice

On October 9, 2003, Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) and United Illuminating (UI) filed jointly an application with the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) to install a new 69-mile 345 kV transmission line from Middletown to Norwalk.

On June 7, 2004, ISO New England, Inc., a party in the above-referenced proceeding, filed testimony stating that the applicant's proposed route – which included some 24 miles of underground construction from Norwalk to East Devon – “will not operate reliably.” This position was further articulated during testimony by ISO-New England Chief Operating Officer Stephen Whitley on June 17, 2004.

By all accounts this testimony came as a significant surprise to virtually all of the participants in the proceeding, including the applicants.

As a result of ISO-New England's testimony a working group, referred to as the Reliability and Operability (ROC) Group, was assembled to facilitate collaboration among the various stake-holders to devise a revised route design for the Phase II project. The first ROC Group meeting was held on Tuesday, July 6, 2004 and continued weekly to August 10, 2004. These meetings were open to the parties and intervenors for questions and comments.

The ROC Group submitted its report to the Siting Council today, signed by Roger Zaklukiewicz, Vice-President of Transmission Services for Northeast Utilities and Mr. Whitley. The report contains an Executive Summary which includes the following text:

“Absent the legislative direction to maximize the underground cable installation to the extent technologically feasible, the ROC group



would neither design nor advocate a system as represented in Case 7. However, the ROC group believes that the reliability and operability of the Project and the electric system after the Project is constructed could be marginally acceptable from the standpoint of technological feasibility, although it has significant reliability and operability drawbacks that make it undesirably complex.”

ROC Group Report; p. 5

In light of these characterizations by the ROC Group, coupled with further comments made during a press conference held by Mr. Whitley this afternoon and a press release issued by ISO-New England, Pamela B. Katz, Chairman of the Siting Council announces that evidentiary hearings in Docket 272 (Phase II) are suspended until further notice.

“The utilities and ISO obviously need more time to develop a solution they can stand behind” Chairman Katz said. “The Siting Council is going to give it to them.”

“Hearings will not resume until then,” she added.

A “Process Meeting” scheduled for Thursday, August 19, 2004, in Hearing Room One, Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, beginning at 10:00 a.m., will occur as previously announced.