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December 13, 2004

Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 065025

Attention: Pamela B. Katz, Chairman

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.***

Objection of Ezra Academy, Congregation B'nai Jacob, the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven to Proposed Hearing Schedule

Dear Chairman Katz:

The undersigned represents Ezra Academy, Congregation B'nai Jacob, the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven (the "Woodbridge Educational Organizations"). The Woodbridge Educational Organizations strongly object to the proposed hearing schedule contained in the Council's notice dated November 1, 2004.

Attorney Brian M. Stone, on behalf of the Towns of Cheshire, Durham, Milford, Orange, Wallingford and Woodbridge, filed an objection to that schedule dated November 8, 2004. The Woodbridge Educational Organizations join in the objection filed by Attorney Stone on behalf of said towns.

In addition to the serious due process issues raised by Attorney Stone, which my clients share and join in, events over the last few days have further demonstrated how the Applicants are manipulating this process in a way that is unfair to my clients and to the Council.

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It was with concern, but not surprise, that I received notice from the Applicants that the final report of the Reliability and Operability Committee ("ROC") will be ready for filing on December 20, 2004. Ironically, this is days after the scheduled cross-examination of ABB, Inc. and KEMA. The Applicants have apparently manipulated the process so they can cross-examine ABB and KEMA with the Applicants knowing the results of the studies that are going to be contained in the ROC Report, but without ABB and KEMA knowing such information. This gives the Applicants the opportunity to sandbag the ABB and KEMA witnesses. Further, it gives the Applicants the opportunity to change the ROC Report based upon the testimony of ABB and KEMA witnesses. It strains credulity to believe that the ROC Report could not have been completed and submitted prior to the cross-examination of the ABB and KEMA witnesses.

The façade which the Applicants attempt to perpetuate is that this ROC Report is anything more than the Applicants' effort, with their fellow utility partner, ISO-New England, to justify the Applicants' initial application, despite the efforts of the Towns and my clients to protect the health and welfare of their citizens and members, and in a manner which undermines the Legislature's direction to the Council with respect to undergrounding.

In addition to the lack of due process in withholding the ROC Report until after the cross-examination of the ABB and KEMA witnesses, the Council's proposed hearing schedule makes no provision for my clients to put on their affirmative case. Like the Towns, my clients have limited financial resources to retain experts to evaluate whatever the Applicants' proposal will be after submission of the final ROC Report, as well as to evaluate and challenge any conclusions drawn in the ROC Report. Certainly it would be wasteful to authorize experts to spend money doing modeling, testing and analysis when we do not even know what route, technology and undergrounding is proposed by the Applicants.

The Woodbridge Educational Organizations also object to the proposed January hearing dates on the ROC Report. Such proposed hearing dates will allow virtually no right of discovery concerning the ROC Report and no opportunity to meaningfully analyze the ROC Report.

The Woodbridge Educational Organizations also object to the requirement that the topics for "clean-up days" be submitted prior to the receipt of (and time for expert analysis of) the ROC Report, as well as prior to whatever further testimony the Applicants offer in this proceeding prior to the clean-up days. Without waiving their objections in this regard, the Woodbridge Educational Organizations agree with the "necessary topics for further evidence and cross-examination" set forth in Attorney Stone's November 8, 2004 letter.

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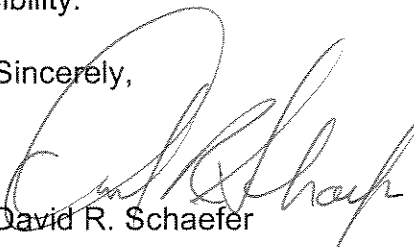
Finally, the Woodbridge Educational Organizations reserve the right, after receipt and review of the final ROC Report and the proposed configuration contained therein, to move to dismiss this proceeding by reason of the fact that the configuration ultimately proposed by the Applicants may well require the filing of a new application.

The Woodbridge Educational Organizations recognize the predicament the Council faces in attempting to compress a year's worth of proceedings into six weeks, in light of the current April, 2005 deadline. But as was pointed out by the Towns in Attorney Stone's November 8, 2004 letter, it is the Applicants and ISO-NE - - not the Towns or my clients - - who have created the untenable situation which has now deprived the Towns and the Woodbridge Educational Organizations of their due process rights and their right to fundamental fairness.

The work of KEMA, with the limited resources available to the Council (in comparison to the hordes of attorneys and experts at the beck and call of the Applicants), demonstrates that independent expert analysis and testimony can make significant contributions to the public interest in assuring that the pending application, if approved, is modified to maximize the protection provided to the health of the citizens of the Towns through which the proposed transmission facility passes, and to the children attending the educational institutions in the vicinity of that transmission facility, and provides for a configuration that is in compliance with all Legislative directives.

The Woodbridge Educational Organizations urge the Siting Council to devote the resources necessary to have an independent expert examine the final ROC Report, do whatever further testing is required to test the conclusions in the ROC Report, as well as develop and test viable alternatives which maximize undergrounding as directed by the Legislature and protect the health and welfare of the citizens of the State of Connecticut. Permitting the delay in this application caused by the Applicants, and/or the lack of the Council's resources, to truncate or eliminate this analysis and testimony by independent experts with respect to a transmission facility which will be impacting on the health and welfare of the citizens of this State for 50 or more years to come would be a serious abdication of the Siting Council's responsibility.

Sincerely,



David R. Schaefer