

The Jewish Community Center of
Greater New Haven

Pre-Hearing Questions to
The JCC Set Number One
Dated January 26, 2005

Docket No. 272

1. In the event the proposed 345 kV transmission lines cannot be routed underground, does the Jewish Community Center object to a jog in the route of an overhead line through and adjacent to the Jewish Community Center? If so, please identify your concerns.

Answer: Yes. A jog in the route of an overhead line in the area of the Jewish Community Center's (the "JCC") main building would place the proposed transmission lines directly over the JCC licensed youth camp. The ball and recreation field and nature trails shown on the map attached hereto as Exhibit A are an integral part of the JCC camp. Further, the "jog" route would put the proposed transmission lines closer to the pool and other camp facilities used by large numbers of children.

The JCC opposes such a jog because it is not in the best interests of the children using the JCC licensed youth camp, because it would threaten the financial existence of the JCC and because it is in violation of Public Act 04-246 (the "Act"). That Act requires a buffer zone between such proposed transmission lines and facilities used by large numbers of children, including a licensed youth camp. Further, the Act provides that the buffer zone, at a minimum, must be the width of the utility right of way. By definition, one cannot place a transmission line over a licensed youth camp since that provides no buffer zone. Further, all the EMF projections provided by the Applicants make clear that the EMF levels are much higher under the transmission lines than they are at the edge of the right of way or outside the right of way. Thus, the higher levels of EMF to which children will be exposed with the transmission power lines over the camp facilities, such as the ball and recreation field, are clearly unacceptable. Finally, the jog will move the power lines closer to the pool and related facilities used by the day camp. This violates the law and contradicts the protection provided by the legislature to the children of Connecticut.

2. In the event the proposed transmission lines must cross the Jewish Community Center property, prioritize your preference of routes through the Jewish Community Center property. Are there other routes you would suggest? If so, please provide them.

ANSWER: If the proposed transmission lines must cross the Jewish Community Center property, our first preference is that the transmission lines be buried

underground in the middle of the existing transmission line right of way across the Jewish Community Center property. To avoid the potential environmental impact that might be associated with burying the lines under the existing right of way, we note that it would make more sense to bury the lines beneath public streets in Woodbridge. Our second preference would be to move the transmission lines away from the main Jewish Community Center building which would require that the transmission lines be put over the existing licensed youth camp. This would only be acceptable if the Applicants (i) paid to move the existing licensed youth camp onto CL&P owned property that abuts the Jewish Community Center property to the south (the "CL&P Abutting Property"), and (ii) prior to approval by the Siting Council of the new placement of the transmission line over the present location of the JCC licensed youth camp, CL&P obtains (a) the necessary waivers of the statutory rights of refusal, if any, held by the Regional Water Authority, the Town of Woodbridge, or any other entity to purchase the CL&P Abutting Property, and (b) the appropriate zoning variances, if any, necessary to operate a licensed youth camp on the CL&P Abutting Property

3. While the Siting Council did not ask, in the event the proposed transmission lines must cross the B'nai Jacob/Ezra campus, prioritize your preference of routes through that campus. Are there other routes you would suggest? If so, please provide them.

ANSWER: If the proposed transmission lines must cross the B'nai Jacob/Ezra Academy campus (a map of which is attached as Exhibit B), our first preference is that the power lines be buried underground in the middle of the existing transmission line right of way across the B'nai Jacob/Ezra Academy campus. To avoid the potential environmental impact that might be associated with burying the lines under the existing right of way, we note that it would make more sense to bury the lines beneath public streets in Woodbridge. Our second preference would be to move the overhead power lines away from the B'nai Jacob/Ezra Academy licensed day care and school facilities. At a minimum, the power line right of way must be moved as far away from those facilities as is possible on the real property owned by B'nai Jacob. However, it is feasible and preferable that the power lines be moved onto the undeveloped Reis property immediately to the north of the B'nai Jacob/Ezra campus so that the transmission lines will be at a farther distance from the statutory facilities located on the B'nai Jacob/Ezra Academy campus.

The Reis property is currently undeveloped and is already encumbered by a portion of the existing power line right of way. This is not different than the accommodation that is being considered for the Royal Oaks neighbors. In Durham, the Siting Council is now strongly considering a bypass which would

expand the right of way onto undeveloped Wilson property. Similarly, by simply moving the existing right of way onto the undeveloped Reis property, the new power lines on the north side of the B'nai Jacob/Ezra campus would be able to moved further away from a portion of the B'nai Jacob/Ezra Academy campus.

However, it is unclear from the data provided by the Applicants as to what the forecasted levels of EMF will be over the lifetime of the line, as power needs and generation capacities change throughout New England. Thus, we are still unclear what levels of EMF our children will be exposed to during the lifetime of the transmission line. As all possible overhead routes for B'nai Jacob/Ezra Academy will still bring the transmission line extraordinarily close to facilities designated to be protected pursuant to PA 04-246, B'nai Jacob/Ezra Academy strongly urge the Siting Council to place the lines underground, either through the streets of Woodbridge or in the existing CL&P right of way.