



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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April 14, 2005

TO: Parties and Intervenors

FROM: Pamela B. Katz, PE, 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. This includes construction of the Beseck Switching Station in Wallingford, East Devon Substation in Milford, and Singer Substation in Bridgeport and modifications to the Scovill Rock Switching Station and the Norwalk Substation and certain interconnections.

Enclosed please find the Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order associated with the above-referenced proceeding. As has been widely reported, this matter was decided via a unanimous vote of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) on Thursday, April 7, 2005.

This proceeding involved more than thirty days of evidentiary hearings, public hearing sessions, and Council meetings. The record developed in this proceeding contains hundreds of materials submitted by various parties and intervenors, and there were more such parties and intervenors associated with this docket than any other proceeding that has come before the Council. Simply put, the record is extraordinarily extensive.

There were two issues that rose to prominence in this proceeding – the amount of underground construction that was “technologically feasible” and the effects of electric and magnetic fields, or EMF. The Council addressed both of these issues, as is reflected in the enclosed materials.

The Findings of Fact outline the process the Council used to determine the maximum amount of the transmission line that could be installed underground. This process included retaining the Council’s own independent expert. The Council is confident that the 24 miles of transmission line to be placed underground, as contained in this Decision and Order, is the maximum that can be achieved without imperiling the reliability of the electrical grid in Connecticut.

It should also be noted that while the Connecticut Department of Public Health declined during the proceeding to issue a specifically delineated standard on the amount of electric and magnetic fields to which children can be safely exposed by transmission lines, the Council nevertheless incorporated many of their recommendations into our decision-making process. For example, the Council ordered a low magnetic field design to be used in areas where there are residential neighborhoods, schools, youth camps, playgrounds, and daycare facilities. This result provides a transmission line design that is protective of public health and safety to everyone, most especially children.

Finally, we wish to point out that the Council is expanding upon its procedure whereby the affected towns may comment on the next stage of this process – the Development and Management Plan(s) – which is essentially the pre-construction phase. Very simply, we look forward to continuing the Council’s close working relationship with each of the cities and towns affected by these transmission lines in order to bring this project to successful fruition.