

THE CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
DOCKET NO. 272

The Connecticut Light and Power Company
and the
United Illuminating Company
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and
Public Need for a new 345-kV Electric Transmission Line Facility
Between Scovill Rock Switching Station in Middletown
and Norwalk Substation in Norwalk
Development and Management Plan – Segment 2b
Cheshire/Hamden Town Line to East Devon Substation, Milford

**Testimony Of
Edward Maum Sheehy**

On Behalf Of The

Town of Woodbridge

July 13, 2006

Q. Please state your name, address, professional background and position with the Town of Woodbridge.

A. My name is Edward Maum Sheehy. I am currently the First Selectman of the Town of Woodbridge. I am a lawyer by profession and practice with the law firm of Williams, Cooney & Sheehy, LLP in Trumbull, Connecticut. I reside at 7 Bunker Hill Road, in Woodbridge, Connecticut.

Q. Have you previously submitted testimony in this proceeding?

A. No, I have not. The Town of Woodbridge has been a party and active participant in the Siting Council's consideration of the application of Connecticut Light and Power Company ("CL&P") and the United Illuminating Company ("UI") which preceded the Siting Council's April 7, 2005 Decision. It is my understanding that my predecessor testified on behalf of the Town of Woodbridge in those proceedings, but this is the first time that I have personally testified. I became First Selectman of the Town of Woodbridge in April of 2006, when my predecessor resigned to take a position with the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony today?

A. I am here today on behalf of the Town of Woodbridge to answer any questions that the Siting Council has on the route of the transmission line in the Town of Woodbridge and the proposed modifications to that route proposed in the Design and Management Plan currently before the Siting Council.

Q. What role, if any, has the Town of Woodbridge played in the Settlement Agreement which led to the proposed modifications to the route of the transmission lines on the B'nai Jacob Campus and the Jewish Community Center Campus?

A. The Town of Woodbridge joined with four institutions located in our town, Congregation B'nai Jacob, Ezra Academy, the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven (the "JCC") and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven (the "Federation"), in bringing an administrative appeal of the Siting Council's April 7, 2005 Decision. The Town of Woodbridge also participated, through its First Selectman and its legal counsel, in the extensive settlement negotiations under the auspices of Judge George Levine. The Town's interest which led to its participation initially before the Siting Council and then its participation in the administrative appeal was to maximize the safety of the institutions located in our Town and the residents of our Town. The Town of Woodbridge is not a party to the Settlement Agreement entered into between Congregation B'nai Jacob, Ezra Academy, the JCC and the Federation with CL&P and UI. Rather, it has entered into a separate agreement with CL&P and UI. That separate agreement states that the Town will withdraw its appeal of the Siting Council's April 7, 2005 Decision if Congregation B'nai Jacob, Ezra Academy, the JCC and the Federation end up withdrawing their appeals of that Decision. The Town of Woodbridge also

separately reached an agreement with the Federation. The Town of Woodbridge has a statutory right of first refusal to purchase an approximately 69 acre parcel of land owned by CL&P immediately to the south of the JCC Campus (the "CL&P Parcel"). The Town of Woodbridge has agreed to waive that right of first refusal under certain specified conditions in order to permit the Federation to purchase that Parcel for use to locate portions of the JCC summer camp and for the potential development of a continuing care retirement committee. In exchange, the Town of Woodbridge has been provided by the Federation with an option to purchase this CL&P Parcel from the Federation at a specified price if the Federation decides to sell that land under certain circumstances. Further, the Town has decided that if those institutions withdraw their appeal of the Siting Council's Decision, the Town of Woodbridge does not desire to proceed with that appeal on its own and the Town will also withdraw its appeal.

Q. Does the Town of Woodbridge believe that there are changed conditions which would justify modifying the Siting Council's original Decision dated April 7, 2005?

A. Yes. For the reasons set forth in the testimony of the representatives of Congregation B'nai Jacob, Ezra Academy, the JCC and the Federation, as a result of the extraordinary efforts of Judge Levine, there are changed circumstances which justify the proposed modifications to the route of the transmission facilities over the B'nai Jacob Campus, the JCC Campus and CL&P Parcel. Essentially, those changed circumstances involve the availability of property previously unavailable, which allows the proposed modifications to the route.

Q. In summary, why do you believe it is in the public interest for the Siting Council to approve these modifications to the route set forth in its April 17, 2005 Decision?

A. The Town of Woodbridge is concerned with the interests of Congregation B'nai Jacob, Ezra Academy, the JCC and the Federation. The Town of Woodbridge is equally as concerned with the health and safety of all its residents. Throughout the negotiations supervised by Judge Levine, the Town insisted that no movement of the right of way or related transmission facilities from the route approved by the Siting Council in its April 7, 2005 Decision be made which would move the power lines any closer to a private residence than these power lines would be from the facilities of the institutions that were a party to this litigation. The proposed route accomplishes that goal. While any modification has different impacts on different residences and different institutions in our town, the overriding concern of the Town, as expressed through its Board of Selectman, has been preserved in the modifications you are considering at the present time. In that sense, the route proposed in the Design and Management Plan before you maximizes the protection of the health and safety of all the residents and institutions in the Town of Woodbridge.