



middletown | norwalk

February 1, 2005

**VIA HAND DELIVERY AND ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Pamela B. Katz  
Chairman  
Connecticut Siting Council  
10 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06505

Re: **Docket No. 272**

Dear Chairman Katz:

We are writing to provide the Connecticut Siting Council with an update regarding the estimated temporary work areas in wetlands for overhead transmission line construction. In testimony, The Connecticut Light and Power Company and The United Illuminating Company (“the Companies”) confirmed their commitment to limit the impact of temporary disturbance in wetlands, and estimated that temporary work areas at structure sites in wetlands would be approximately 2,000 square feet. (See Tr. 6/1/04 at 76, 77.) As the hearings for the Middletown to Norwalk Project have proceeded, the Companies have continued their Project planning efforts, including the preparation of applications to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Protection. Temporary effects on state jurisdictional wetlands (originally estimated at approximately 5 acres; see PreFiled Testimony dated May 25, 2004 at p. 30) cannot be quantified with certainty at this time due to uncertainties regarding precisely which Project design will be certified by the Council. For example, should the Council direct the Companies to install different structures to accomplish a low EMF design, the structure heights, footprint, and locations, as well as the access roads that might be necessary, could be different than those assumed in the Application.

The Companies believe that the 2,000 square foot area of temporary disturbance initially estimated for a work site in wetlands represents a minimum impact area; it is likely that additional work space will be required at most structure sites. However, the Companies expect that they remain able to limit temporary work areas for most structures in wetlands to significantly less than the typical 10,000 square foot work area for upland structure



**Connecticut  
Light & Power**

The Northeast Utilities System



*The United Illuminating Company*

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sites referenced in the Application. (See Volume 1 of the Application, section J.1, p. J-2.)

The Companies remain committed to minimizing or avoiding wetland impacts and propose to provide the Council with site-specific data about wetland construction and mitigation procedures, based on the structure designs approved by the Council, in the Development and Management Plan. As noted in the Application (Volume I, page M-14), the Companies will continue efforts to minimize wetland impacts by attempting to avoid the installation of structures in wetlands, where possible, and will implement best management practices to limit effects to wetlands that cannot otherwise be avoided.

Sincerely,



Roger Zaklukiewicz  
Vice President – Transmission Projects  
Northeast Utilities Service Company



John J. Prete  
Project Director  
The United Illuminating Company

cc: Service List