VIA HAND DELIVERY

December 8, 2004

Pamela B. Katz
Chairman
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: **Docket 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 Scovill Rock Switching Station in Middletown and Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, Connecticut Including the Reconstruction of Portions of Existing 115-kV and 345-kV Electric Transmission Lines, the Construction of the Beseck Switching Station in Wallingford, East Devon Substation in Milford, and Singer Substation in Bridgeport, Modifications at Scovill Rock Switching Station and Norwalk Substation and the Reconfiguration of Certain Interconnections

Dear Chairman Katz:

We are writing to update the Connecticut Siting Council ("Council") and docket participants on the activities of the Reliability and Operability Committee ("ROC" or "ROC group") since the ROC group filed an interim report with the Council on October 8, 2004. The ROC group's work efforts, discussed below, have resulted in substantial progress. The ROC group is still receiving and analyzing data generated by its teams of consultants.

The ROC group expects to file its final report with the Council no later than December 20, 2004. We believe that the final report will fulfill the goal that led to the formation of the ROC group: determining the maximum feasible use of underground cable while still enabling the Middletown to Norwalk Project ("Project") to meet operability and reliability requirements and electric system need and conform to the long range plan for the expansion of the electric power grid.

Scope of the Work

ISO-New England ("ISO-NE"), The Connecticut Light and Power Company ("CL&P") and The United Illuminating Company ("UI") formed the ROC group after the June hearings in this docket. The initial studies of the ROC group during the summer and early fall related primarily to frequency scan screening analyses of potential Project modifications. The ROC group determined from the frequency scan screenings that it needed to have its consultants undertake transient network analysis ("TNA") to provide the members of the ROC group more specific

data on the potential for severe and sustained overvoltages. While TNAs are more complex and time-consuming than the frequency scan screening analysis, the results of the TNAs are enabling the ROC group to review the voltages at system locations under specific sets of conditions. Such reviews are necessary, given the weak power grid in Southwest Connecticut.

The ROC group undertook an aggressive work schedule, utilizing not only the resources of ISO-NE and the Companies, but also the TNA expertise of consulting firms nationwide and abroad. The ROC group retained a total of six consulting firms, and an even greater number of consultant teams (some firms had more than one team), supporting the modeling necessary to do TNA screening analyses on various Project configurations. To expedite the review process, the ROC group established cases (i.e., modifications to the Project as initially proposed to the Council) with varying combinations of overhead and underground transmission lines and varying cable and electrical equipment technologies (synchronous condensers, C Type filters, for example). The linear length of undergrounding in the TNA screening analyses ranged from 4 to 44 miles. The ROC group identified 66 sets of conditions to be included in the TNA screening for each case. The extensive TNA screening was undertaken to provide the ROC group with a high confidence level that if there is a significant overvoltage problem with a case, it would be identified in the screening TNA. The final results of the TNAs are being received now.

The ROC report will also include full TNA results on selected cases, including the case referred to in the October 8, 2004 interim ROC report as "Case 5." This case is the Project configuration and technology proposed by CL&P and UI in their October 2003 Application to the Council, except that 24 linear miles of cross-link polyethylene ("XLPE") cable is modeled rather than high pressure fluid-filled ("HPFF") cable as had originally been proposed.

The Report

The ROC report will reflect the exhaustive work of the ROC group and its consultants, including the TNA screening and full study results. The report will discuss Case 5, and the use of XLPE cable versus the use of HPFF cable. The ROC report will also address the KEMA report dated October 18, 2004. KEMA had preliminarily recommended the use of C Type filters as a possible means of increasing the amount of underground cable that could be installed based on frequency scan screening analyses conducted by KEMA, and, subject to KEMA's qualification that TNAs would need to be performed. The ROC report will include the TNA screening results for the undergrounding configuration identified in the KEMA report. The ROC report will also address ABB's proposal that high voltage direct current technology be utilized for underground cable between Beseck and Norwalk.

We look forward to submitting this final ROC report.

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