

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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December 28, 2004

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

Re:

JOINT APPLICATION OF THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY AND THE UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR A 345-KV ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES BETWEEN SCOVILL ROCK SWITCHING STATION IN MIDDLETOWN AND NORWALK SUBSTATION IN NORWALK

Docket No. 272

Dear Chairman Katz:

The Office of Consumer Counsel ("OCC") is a party to this proceeding. OCC is in receipt of a Notice issued by the Connecticut Siting Council ("Siting Council") on December 16, 2004. This Notice describes, among other points, a proposed deliberation schedule following the close of the record in this docket. OCC also is in receipt of a copy of a letter filed in this docket by the Applicants, dated December 22, 2004 and commenting on the proposed deliberation schedule.

OCC agrees with the Applicants that the Siting Council should provide docket participants with the opportunity to file written exceptions in this docket. Such exceptions will, as the Applicants state, facilitate the work of this docket for docket participants and Council members alike. In fact, OCC's understanding of the applicable statute, Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4-179, is that it treats the right to file exceptions and the right to present oral argument as separate ones, and makes both available to affected parties.

OCC also agrees with the Applicants' endorsement in their 12/22/04 letter of reply briefs. These too could be useful to the Siting Council in its preparation of the proposed findings of fact, decision, and order for this docket.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

MARY J. HEALEY CONSUMER COUNSEL

Bruce C. Johnson

Litigation Attorney

cc:

Service List