

# State of Connecticut

## SENATE

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

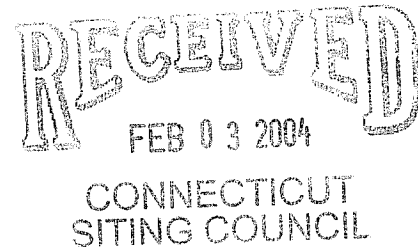
**SENATOR MARTIN M. LOONEY**  
ELEVENTH DISTRICT

MAJORITY LEADER

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January 30, 2004

Mr. S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director  
The Connecticut Siting Council  
10 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051  
RE: Docket No. 272



Dear Mr. Phelps:

I am deeply concerned about Northeast Utilities/CL&P's, electric transmission upgrade application that is currently pending before the Connecticut Siting Council as Docket 272. The Middletown to Norwalk Project is by far the largest transmission project that has ever been proposed in Connecticut. The proposed lines would extend 70 miles right across the middle of CT, across 2 major rivers, even more watersheds, and 100 wetlands. The proposal would have an extraordinarily negative impact on the environment.

The Legislative Working Group that was created by a unanimous vote in the 2002 session of the General Assembly established environmental preferences accepted by all, including the utilities, who helped rank them. The first preference (that is, the route choice that will damage the environment the least) is to build the lines under roads. NU has followed that preference in Fairfield County. It needs to follow that preference all the way, not just from Devon Station to Norwalk, but from Middletown to Norwalk.

I urge you to join me in support of a responsible solution to this issue. It is imperative that solutions be found that are reasonable and rational, solutions that would provide for the provision of power without inflicting harm on the environment and causing risk and loss to residents of the impacted communities. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Martin M. Looney  
State Senator, Eleventh District