

State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

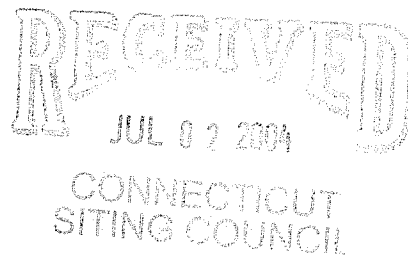
REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT M. WARD
MINORITY LEADER
EIGHTY-SIXTH DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 4200
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
TELEPHONE
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1423

LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS
COMMITTEE

July 1, 2004

The Honorable Pamela Katz
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051



RE: Docket 272 & East Shore Alternative

Dear Ms. Katz:

As the state representative for the towns of North Branford, Wallingford, and East Haven, I am writing to register my strong opposition to the "East Shore Alternative" transmission line route. This proposed alternative would add a second transmission line to the right of way (ROW) from Middlefield, through Meriden, Wallingford, North Branford, and Branford, to the East Shore switching station in East Haven. From East Haven, the line would continue to the East Devon switching station in Milford either under the Quinnipiac River or New Haven Harbor and underground through New Haven, West Haven, Orange and Milford. In order for a transmission line to meet Siting Council criteria, it must be technically feasible, environmentally friendly, and cost effective. The East Shore Alternative route fails to meet these criteria.

The East Shore Route is Not Technically Feasible

Since I am not an engineer, my remarks on the technical feasibility of the East Shore route are necessarily limited. However, I understand that crossing the Quinnipiac River and/or New Haven harbor and placing the line underground through downtown New Haven is much more complicated an alternative. This alternative route results in at least 7 miles of underground cable, in addition to the 24 miles of underground cable already proposed. ISO-New England has already made well known its opposition to the length of underground lines already being proposed, due to their increased complexity and decreased reliability.

The East Shore Route is Harmful to the Environment

The East Shore ROW has, since its original siting and the installation of transmission lines, been protected from disturbance by state and local environmental regulation. Adding an additional transmission line to this right of way would likely require the removal of these protections. At a minimum, current state and local environmental protections would have to be substantially compromised.

In addition, the East Shore ROW is at several points surrounded by wetlands. Constructing an additional line on this right of way would require additional and substantial clearing as well as access to the ROW for construction equipment. Such additional construction and clearing cannot help but harm these environmentally sensitive areas.

The East Shore Route is Not Cost Effective

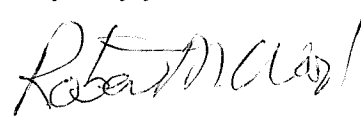
This route would require a total of 31 miles of underground lines as well as a full complement of different construction alternatives (overhead, underground, underwater) and a new switching facility, all of which increases operational complexity and cost. Depending on which estimate is used, the East Shore Route would cost \$150-200 million more than the proposed route, increasing overall project costs by up to one third.

Additional Concerns

Having represented the towns impacted by this alternative for almost 20 years, I'm especially sensitive to how the East Shore route affects my constituents personally. If the East Shore alternative is approved, it will adversely impact a school, a playground, a youth camp, the Connecticut Sportsplex as well as 32 homes. My neighbors will have to bear the brunt of the environmental damages, and all Connecticut ratepayers could end up paying for the additional costs. This is unacceptable.

For the foregoing reasons, I strongly urge this Council to reject the East Shore alternative transmission route.

Very truly yours,



Robert M. Ward
Minority Leader