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February 4, 2005

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

Re: Docket 272

Dear Chairman Katz:

Reference is made to the Council's Notice of Technical Meeting ("Notice") dated February 2, 2005 (copy attached). The Notice schedules a "technical meeting" for February 14, 2005, ". . . to discuss the maximum amount of 345 kV electric transmission line that may be technologically feasible to install underground. . ." Notice, p. 1. The Notice appears to indicate that Council staff and Council witnesses (KEMA) will participate in this technical meeting in order to "provide a forum to facilitate a dynamic discussion. . ." on the indicated topic of the technical meeting. Notice, p. 2. It further appears that ". . . parties and intervenors and interested persons wishing to be represented by experts. . ." will be allowed to participate in the technical meeting.

Because the Council's witnesses (and possibly Council staff) will be discussing issues (in this instance, possibly the core issue) to be decided in this contested proceeding, with representatives of admitted parties and intervenors, it is necessary for those discussions to be fully transcribed and made a part of the record. As cogently set forth in a memorandum dated January 7, 2005 from the Council's Executive Director, Derek Phelps to all parties and intervenors in Docket 217 (copy attached) "[t]he proper way to ask questions or seek information from the Council's witnesses is through written interrogatories or testimony during hearings." See, also, Conn. Gen. Stat § 4-177(d); "The record in a contested case shall include . . . (3) evidence received or considered. . .".

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On behalf of the Towns of Durham and Wallingford, the undersigned requests confirmation that this technical meeting will be transcribed, as you indicated it would be in the transcript (at p. 5, copy attached) of the Council's Special Meeting held on January 20, 2005.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter G. Boucher". The signature is fluid and cursive, starting with a large "P" and ending with a long, sweeping tail.

Peter G. Boucher

PGB/pab  
Encl.  
cc: Service List

648299.1

DOCKET NO. 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 THE SCOVILL ROCK SWITCHING STATION IN MIDDLETOWN AND THE  
NORWALK SUBSTATION IN NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

NOTICE OF TECHNICAL MEETING

(February 14, 2005)

A technical meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) staff, representatives of The Connecticut Light and Power Company and The United Illuminating Company (Applicants) and all designated parties and intervenors to this docket and interested persons, will be held at the Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) Institute for Technology and Business Development, Room 309, 185 Main Street, New Britain, Connecticut, on Monday, February 14, 2005, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the maximum amount of 345-kV electric transmission line that may be technologically feasible to install underground, pursuant to the provisions of Public Act 04-246, An Act Concerning Electric Transmission Line Siting Criteria.

Public Act 04-246, An Act Concerning Electric Transmission Line Siting Criteria, reads, in part:

Sec. 7. Section 16-50p of the general statutes, as amended by section 10 of public act 03-140, section 6 of public act 03-221 and section 120 of public act 03-278, is amended by adding subsection (h) as follows (Effective from passage and applicable to applications for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need that was originally filed on or after October 1, 2003, for which the Connecticut Siting Council has not rendered a decision upon the record prior to the effective date of this section):

(NEW) (h) For a facility described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i, as amended, with a capacity of three hundred forty-five kilovolts or greater, there shall be a presumption that a proposal to place the overhead portions, if any, of such facility adjacent to residential areas, private or public schools, licensed child day care facilities, licensed youth camps or public playgrounds is inconsistent with the purposes of this chapter. An applicant may rebut this presumption by demonstrating to the council that it will be technologically infeasible to bury the facility. In determining such infeasibility, the council shall consider the effect of burying the facility on the reliability of the electric transmission system of the state.

The Council received a jointly submitted report of the Applicants and ISO-New England (a party in this proceeding), known as the Reliability and Operability Committee (ROC) Report on Monday, December 20, 2004. The ROC Report indicated that only 24 miles of cable – from the

Norwalk substation in Norwalk to the East Devon Substation in Milford -- can be installed underground "without risking the reliability, safety, or operability of the electric transmission grid in southwest Connecticut. The report further concluded that additional underground construction "introduces unacceptable risks to the integrity and reliability of the grid." The specific design configuration called for in the ROC Report involves a different technology and hardware installations than was originally proposed when the project was submitted to the Council in an application on October 9, 2003.

An independent consultant hired by the Council, KEMA, Inc., has conducted a Harmonic Resonance Impedence study to explore how much underground construction is potentially feasible within the context of specific criteria. The results of that study conclude that up to 20 miles of additional underground construction is potentially feasible.

The Council wishes to provide a forum to facilitate a dynamic discussion of the technical issues related to the project that is the subject of this proceeding. To that end, parties and intervenors and interested persons wishing to be represented by experts in this technical meeting must submit a letter and resume(s) of individuals specifying experience related to designing underground extra high voltage transmission line systems no later than close-of-business Wednesday, February 9, 2005. Such letter should be addressed to S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director; Connecticut Siting Council; Ten Franklin Square; New Britain, CT 06051.

RE: SPECIAL MEETING  
JANUARY 20, 2005

not participate?

2 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Right. I did not envision  
3 the public or lawyers speaking. The meeting will be  
4 moderated by Mr. Phelps and Mr. Cunliffe or other members  
5 of the Council staff. We are looking at the possibility  
6 of a professional facilitator. We haven't made any  
7 decisions on that. But yes, the public would be invited  
8 to observe. But this is basically, and no offense, but a  
9 meeting of the techies.

10 MR. LYNCH: Would they be allowed to have  
11 written comments afterwards?

12 CHAIRMAN KATZ: A good question. Yeah, I  
13 think that would be doable. I had envisioned that we  
14 would -- we were looking at the possibility of a -- the  
15 17th, Mr. Phelps, correct? We were looking at the  
16 possibility of February 17th to have a morning hearing.  
17 In that morning hearing we would take in the KEMA white  
18 paper as an exhibit, the transcript of the tech meeting,  
19 the KEMA follow-up report after the tech meeting. And I  
20 think we could also take in comments from anybody else at  
21 that meeting on the --

22 MR. TAIT: Do we allow written comments  
23 ahead of time or --

24 CHAIRMAN KATZ: Yes. I think we would have