

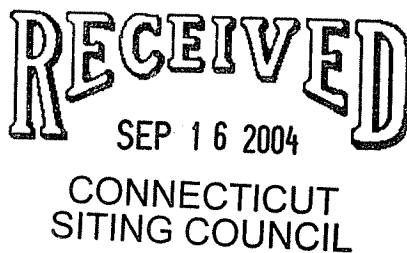
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September 15, 2004

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

Re: Docket No. 272 - Connecticut Light & Power Company and United Illuminating Company
Application for a New 345-kV Electric Transmission Line Between Scovill Rock
Switching Station in Middletown and Norwalk Substation in Norwalk

Dear Chairman Katz:

Thank you for inviting comment on the proposed topics for discussion for the September 28-29, 2004 hearings on the above application. I wish to repeat the Town of Westport's strong objection to any substantive discussion of the Department of Transportation's (CDOT) "preferred route" in this Docket or its inclusion in this Docket.

Attorney Gene Cederbaum from our office attended the meeting in Berlin, Connecticut on August 19th at which the CDOT proposal was discussed with representatives of the Applicant and Segment 4 towns. It is quite obvious both from information presented to the Council by CDOT and from information learned by Mr. Cederbaum that the DOT proposal is fundamentally different from the Applicant's preferred or alternate routes.

None of the Segment 4 towns attending the Berlin meeting supported the CDOT proposal. Objections voiced included: (1) Virtually the entire route traverses residential areas, would require closing local roads for indeterminate periods and would cause great disruption to citizens of Fairfield County. (2) The CDOT route would likely do considerable damage to the environment. (3) It would unnecessarily increase the length of the segment from 15.2 miles to 18 miles and increase from 0.7 miles to 3.5 miles the length of the route on municipal versus state roadways. (4) The proposal does not address—and CDOT did not consider—the question of land acquisitions or easements. (5) CDOT did not consult the Applicant before laying out its route and there has been no coordination between CDOT and the Applicant. (5) A new schedule of local hearings and hearings before the Council would need to be held on the CDOT proposal even if it somehow were to be considered as part of this Docket. This

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scheduling would cause a great delay in meeting the power needs of southwest Connecticut. (6) Finally, CDOT has not explained why its proposal was not made at a earlier time in this Docket when its full evaluation might have been possible.

It is basic administrative law in Connecticut that notice of any application must be given to sufficiently apprise those who may be affected of the nature and character of the action proposed. Docket No. 272 has been noticed and has proceeded based upon a very specific route through Westport and surrounding towns. Any effort to change the application to a radically altered route in the middle of this application would be a procedural error and unfair to the many property owners who would be impacted. Accordingly, we would request that no substantive discussion of this alternate proposal occur as part of this pending docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "I. Bloom", written in a cursive style.

Ira W. Bloom
Town Attorney, Town of Westport

IWB:lv

cc: Hon. Diane Goss Farrell
Service List