

middletown | norwalk

April 8, 2004

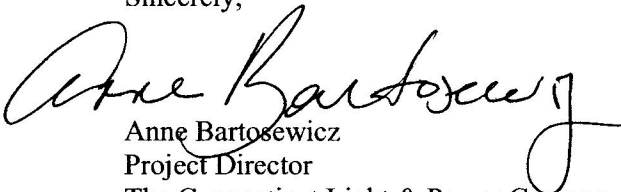
S. Derek Phelps
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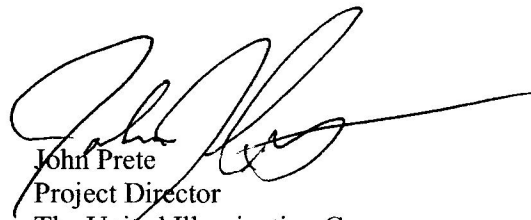
Re: Docket No. 272 – Connecticut Light and Power Company and United Illuminating Company Application for a New 345-kV Electric Transmission Line Between Scovill Rock Switching Station in Middletown and Norwalk Substation in Norwalk

Dear Mr. Phelps:

As requested by Attorney Schaefer during the March 25, 2004 hearing, enclosed is Dr. Cole's letter to the *Forum for Applied Research and Public Policy*, Spring 1989. This document is listed in Dr. Cole's *curriculum vitae* as item #22 under the heading "Letters and Miscellany".

Sincerely,


Anne Bartosewicz
Project Director
The Connecticut Light & Power Company


John Prete
Project Director
The United Illuminating Company

Enclosure

cc: Service List



**Connecticut
Light & Power**

The Northeast Utilities System



The United Illuminating Company

DIALOGUE

Forum encourages a dialogue among its readers through the publication of letters on important policy issues. Please address your letters to the Editor, *Forum for Applied Research and Public Policy*, The University of Tennessee, Energy, Environment, and Resources Center, 327 South Stadium Hall, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0710. We reserve the right to edit letters for length.

Carpenter's and Ahlbom's Observations are Misleading and Overstated

In *Forum's* winter 1988 issue, David Carpenter and Anders Ahlbom called for several types of research into the possible relationship between electromagnetic fields (EMF) and cancer in human beings, especially in children. The research directions they suggest are universally recognized as appropriate, and numerous studies are under way.

More problematic is Carpenter's and Ahlbom's unbalanced review of the epidemiologic literature. They fail to point out that there are nearly as many negative as positive studies. They ignore the quandary presented by the fact that earlier, less sound studies were more strongly positive and consistent than more recent, refined investigations. They fail to indicate that no study published to date has been based on actual measurements of EMF exposure to the persons studied. Perhaps most importantly, the picture they present does not reveal the weaknesses and inconsistencies of the associations reported in the epidemiologic literature.

While there may be a valid causal

association between EMF and cancer, the weaknesses and inconsistencies of the available data argue strongly otherwise. No knowledgeable person familiar with the epidemiologic literature, with the possible exception of Carpenter, has judged the available information to be anything more than suggestive. In my view, this justifies further research but not expensive and potentially counterproductive action. About 900 people are killed by accidental electrocution each year in the United States; this number should not be allowed to increase in a trade-off for potential lives saved from cancer.

Carpenter's and Ahlbom's comments on the sources of research funding are erroneous and surprising. The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) has funded more than 20 studies on the question of EMF and health and is now spending nearly \$6 million annually in research in these areas. In addition, a considerable amount of research has been sponsored by governmental and quasi-governmental agencies, including the respected New York State Power

Lines Project (utilities provided funds but had no involvement in their allocation) of which Ahlbom was a member and Carpenter the administrator. Moreover, a large number of studies sponsored by governments (mainly outside the United States) are now planned or under way; I am aware of six in epidemiology alone.

Finally, it is inappropriate to impugn the credibility of industry-sponsored research with vague and general allusions. Do Carpenter and Ahlbom have a specific study in mind when they imply that findings have been invalid or interpretations unjustified? Using the expression "body count" to describe their perception of a public health problem with regard to EMF is the most striking overinterpretation of the available information of which I am aware.

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