

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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June 30, 2004

The Honorable William A. Aniskovich
State Senate – 12th District

The Honorable Win Smith, Jr.
State Senate – 14th District

The Honorable Joseph J. Crisco, Jr.
State Senate – 17th District

The Honorable Leonard A. Fasano
State Senate – 34th District

The Honorable James A. Amann
House of Representatives – 118th District

The Honorable Themis Klarides
House of Representatives – 114th District

The Honorable Alfred Adinolfi
House of Representatives – 103rd District

Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

RE: **DOCKET NO. 272** - Northeast Utilities Service Company Application to the Connecticut Siting Council for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (“Certificate”) for the construction of a new 345-kV electric transmission line facility and associated facilities between Scovill Rock Switching Station in Middletown and Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, including the reconstruction of portions of existing 115-kV and 345-kV electric transmission lines, the construction of Beseck Switching Station in Wallingford, East Devon Substation in Milford, and Singer Substation in Bridgeport, modifications at Scovill Rock Switching Station and Norwalk Substation, and the reconfiguration of certain interconnections.

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your correspondence, dated June 23, 2004, concerning the above-referenced proceeding, otherwise known as the Phase II 345-kV transmission line project proposed jointly by CL&P and UI (Phase II Project). Thank you very much for taking the time to convey to us your thoughts on this very important matter.

Your letter seeks assurances that the independent consulting firm hired to assist the Council in its adjudication of the Phase II Project will not be limited solely to material and data supplied by the applicants and that the firm will be permitted to bring forward their own recommendations for route design and system configurations. Please rest assured that the Council will ensure that each of these concerns and priorities that you address are accommodated by the Council.

As has been publicly reported, the Council entered into a Personal Services Agreement with KEMA, Inc. of Fairfax, Virginia, pursuant to a Request for Proposal. Specific authority to retain such services is contained within the provisions of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-50v(2)(f). The Council entered into a contract to retain KEMA's services on May 17, 2004.

KEMA is one of the world's largest independent consulting companies, with 1,500 consultants working for all sectors of the energy industry. They have provided consulting services for federal and state power agencies, investor owned utilities, electric cooperatives, municipal utilities, and independent power producers, industrial customers, and public advocates. KEMA has assigned five experts, with extensive experience throughout the world, to this project.

With regard to the specific nature of the services KEMA will provide, please be advised that KEMA is charged with analysis of the feasibility and technical suitability of options to install high-voltage electric transmission lines underground in the proposed Phase II Project, including an analysis of how much aggregate underground transmission lines could be installed and evaluating options for design configurations that maximize the amount of such underground installation. To that end, KEMA is currently conducting its own thermal load flow analyses and has requested data to conduct transient and harmonic modeling. Based on their analyses KEMA will evaluate feasible and technical options to install the proposed transmission lines underground that are proposed in this application from CL&P and UI.

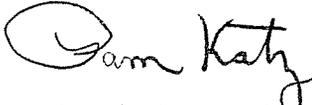
As your correspondence indicates, the testimony given by ISO-New England during the most recent evidentiary hearings, calling into question the amount of underground construction proposed by the applicant's design, was a significant development. To be candid, I share your frustrations as to the nature and the timing of ISO-New England's testimony at this juncture.

However, in response to that event the applicant has provided an outline of proposed action steps and a schedule for analyzing the proposed 24-mile underground transmission facility between the existing Norwalk Substation in Norwalk and the proposed East Devon Substation in Milford. Pursuant to this plan, technical staff of ISO-New England, UI, and CL&P will collaborate to assess various underground transmission technologies, and their feasibility, to ultimately provide a revised proposal that will maximize the amount of underground construction in this application. The applicant expects to provide such a proposal by August 16, 2004.

I hope this information is helpful to you and will serve to demonstrate that the Council shares your commitment for ensuring that the independent consulting firm hired to assist the Council is utilized to the fullest extent. Moreover, please know that the Council is committed to abiding by the spirit and the word of all legislative actions that have been taken by the Connecticut General Assembly in this and all other matters that are brought before this agency.

In summary, I pledge to you that the independent consulting firm hired to assist the Council in its adjudication of the Phase II Project will be given adequate time and resources to provide a complete and meaningful investigation into exploring how much underground construction is technologically feasible and practicable. If I may be of further service to you I hope you will not hesitate to call upon me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam Katz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Pamela B. Katz, P.E.
Chairman

PBK/SDP/cm

c: Melinda Decker, Esq., Governor's office
Robert L. Marconi, Esq., AAG