

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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JOHN DEStEFANO, JR.
Mayor

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*The vision of New Haven's children
is our city's greatest resource.**

CONNECTICUT
SITING COUNCIL

February 16, 2004

Pamela B. Katz, Chair
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

RE: Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for construction of a new 345-kV electric transmission line facility between Middletown and Norwalk

Dear Ms. Katz:

I understand that a large and concerned audience attended the public hearing in Woodbridge on February 9, 2004 regarding the above-referenced application. In my discussions with residents in our neighboring towns, I have found not only an appreciation for the project need, but also a deeply felt appeal for appropriate mitigation steps. I trust you are listening intently to the various proposals, particularly the underground solution within the existing utility right-of-way.

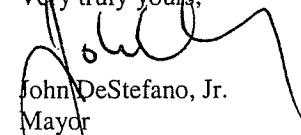
Although the public hearing was intended for the impacted towns of Woodbridge, Hamden, Bethany and Orange and although there are no public hearings scheduled for New Haven, I feel that I must respond to comments proposing a New Haven-based alternative to the current primary route under consideration.

As you know, the public record includes several filings indicating that New Haven-based alternatives are inappropriate or technically impractical. In particular, I want to call your attention to three points in support of this position:

- a. the initial May 2003 filing, which dismissed an alternative underground option in Section 2. The underground option, which would run under Sherman Avenue and through other densely populated areas of New Haven, is in no way comparable to the primary route and would cause tremendous disruption in our neighborhoods;
- b. the highway corridor option of August, 2003, which dismissed use of the Interstate 91 and Interstate 95 corridor due to a wide range of issues, including Connecticut DOT's opposition and significant land / residential takings; and
- c. the supplemental filing, addendum #2 of January 2004, which called attention to the engineering problems and system overloads associated with use of East Shore and other existing facilities.

It has been my experience with major developments impacting New Haven (eg. I-95 construction, English Station, etc.) that public input is highly beneficial. I am sure you will agree that public input is making a positive contribution to your decision making process. Thank you for your attention and consideration of New Haven's input on this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Very truly yours,


John DeStefano, Jr.
Mayor

JDS:mp
cc. Donald Downes, DPUC



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**This creative impression is the work of Israel Mercado, a student at Prince School.*