

Sandi Hosler
Executive Assistant
Office of the First Selectman



Telephone (203) 563-0102
Fax (203) 563-0299

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

August 18, 2003

David Ball
Cohen and Wolf, P.C.
1087 Broad Street
PO Box 1538
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Dear Mr. Ball:

Enclosed please find the towns of Easton, Fairfield, Weston, Westport and Wilton and the cities of Bridgeport and Norwalk written comments and recommendations relative to the CL&P application for the construction of 345-kV transmission lines from Middletown to Norwalk (Phase II). I have included the original signed document and 20 copies per your instruction.

I have been informed that the application will be filed sometime in September. Could you forward this to CL&P in order to be included in the application?

Please contact me at 203-563-0102 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Hosler".

Sandra Hosler

cc: Anne Bartosewicz, Northeast Utilities

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

**APPLICATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
OF 345-kV TRANSMISSION FACILITIES
AND THE RECONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN
EXISTING 115-kV FACILITIES BETWEEN
SCOVILL ROCK SWITCHING STATION,
MIDDLETOWN, AND NORWALK
SUBSTATION, NORWALK**

DOCKET NO. _____

AUGUST 6, 2003

**COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE TOWNS OF EASTON, FAIRFIELD, WESTON, WESTPORT AND WILTON,
AND THE CITIES OF BRIDGEPORT AND NORWALK**

The Towns of Easton, Fairfield, Weston, Westport and Wilton and the Cities of Bridgeport and Norwalk (the "Towns") jointly submit the following comments and recommendations to The Connecticut Light and Power Company ("CL&P") and the United Illuminating Company ("UI") regarding the above-referenced transmission line application. The Towns' comments are addressed to the municipal consultation filing delivered to the Towns on May 1, 2003 (the "Draft Application"). Individual municipalities (including Westport and Norwalk) have previously delivered other comments, including agreed modifications to the originally proposed underground route, which should also be considered by the Siting Council and included with the application.

This joint submission is a result of the collective work product of elected officials and concerned citizens in the Towns. By presenting these issues in a united manner, the Towns hope to assist CL&P and UI.

The Towns strongly endorse Segment 4 of the primary route under consideration, as it follows an underground route beneath public roads including US Route 1, a state highway which traverses mainly industrial and commercial areas (the "Primary Route"). This endorsement is contingent on the route being placed underground as described in the municipal consultation documentation, with the exception of routing changes in Norwalk and Westport jointly agreed between the municipalities and the applicants. The Primary Route accomplishes the goals of The Public Utility Environmental Standards Act, C.G.S. §§16-50g, *et seq.* ("PUESA") of preventing significant adverse impacts upon important ecological, recreational, historical and scenic resource values in the Towns. In addition, the Primary Route avoids the need to take hundreds of acres of private property, and, potentially, homes.

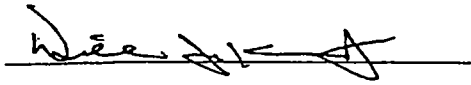
The purpose of PUESA is to balance the need for adequate and reliable public utility service with the need to protect the environment of the state and to minimize damage to scenic, historic and recreational values. See C.G.S. §16-50g. The Towns recognize that the electric system in Southwest Connecticut needs some enhancement to ensure adequate system capability and reliability. However, as is clear from the balance mandated by PUESA, these enhancements should not come at the expense of the Towns' environmental, scenic, historical, and recreational resources, and peoples' properties and homes, particularly, when, CL&P and UI are proposing as the Primary Route, an underground solution in industrial and commercial areas.

In addition, however, we believe the Draft Application fails to contain any substantive information with respect to alternative overhead routes through the Towns, and thus falls well short of the threshold requirements of the General Statutes and the Siting Council's guidelines for consideration of environmental impact of such alternatives. Notwithstanding the dearth of information provided, the Towns believe that any possible plan to construct an alternative overhead transmission line in the Towns will significantly and adversely impact upon important ecological, recreational, historical and scenic resource values, in that it would likely involve:

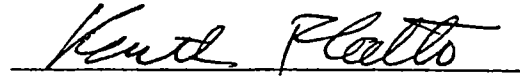
- Major right of way expansion in the Towns, as the existing right of way is very narrow. This right of way expansion in the Towns would result in the taking of hundreds of acres of private property, and, potentially homes;
- Clearing of hundreds of acres of forests;
- Loss of canopy for wetlands and fisheries;
- Significant construction activities in wetlands;
- Impacts to wildlife, including endangered species and species of special concern;
- Impacts to scenic values; and
- Impacts to historic districts.

The Primary Route avoids all of these impacts in the Towns. As a result, to the extent that the Siting Council finds that there is a need for the line, the Towns believe that the Primary Route is far preferable in supplying the needed power and ask the Siting Council to approve the Primary Route, with agreed modifications, within our respective Towns.

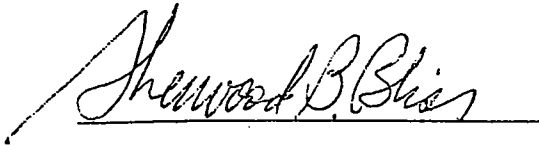
The Towns further recommend that CL&P and UI evaluate the extent to which other system modifications may enhance the reliability of Connecticut's electrical system, including load response programs, upgrades to existing transmission lines, and distributed generation.



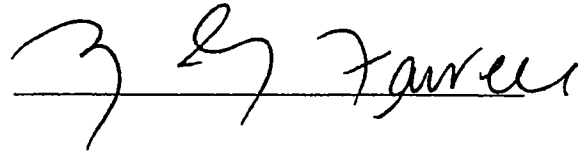
William Kupinse, Easton



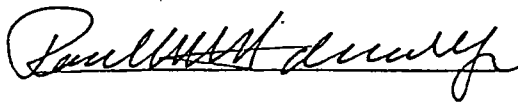
Kenneth Flatto, Fairfield



Sherwood B. Bliss, Weston



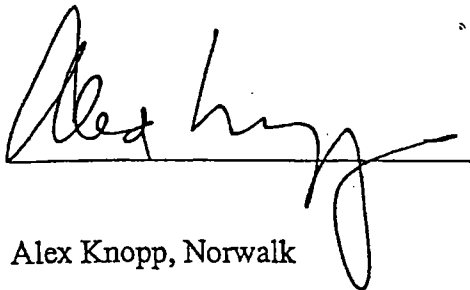
Diane Goss Farrell, Westport



Paul F. Hannah, Jr., Wilton



John Fabrizi, Bridgeport



Alex Knopp, Norwalk