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April 13, 2004

VIA FACSIMILE AND FEDERAL EXPRESS

Ms. Pamela Katz
Chairman
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06501

Re: Docket No. 272

Dear Ms. Katz:

The Applicants, The Connecticut Light and Power Company (“CL&P”) and The United Illuminating Company (“UI”), are filing this letter in response to the two Motions for Extension of Time filed by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (“DOT”). (The first motion is dated March 31, 2004, and the second motion is dated April 7, 2004.) CL&P and UI have no objection to allowing DOT until April 16, 2004 to file pre-filed testimony regarding highway routes considered but rejected (for example, I-91, I-95, and the Merritt/Wilbur Cross Parkways), as requested in the motion dated April 7th. However, CL&P and UI have concerns about the scheduling impact of DOT’s request in its March 31st motion to defer consideration of its testimony regarding underground construction for the proposed route until June 3, 2004, and therefore request that the DOT’s testimony regarding undergrounding be addressed during an additional hearing day in May (on a date to be determined by the Council).

The Applicants’ concern regarding the DOT’s request to defer its testimony until June 3rd is that the hearings during the first week in June will address a number of topics that will likely involve the participation of numerous parties and lengthy testimony. These topics include: overhead segments 1 and 2, supported segment changes, cable technology, substations, construction impacts, the East Shore route, and the GE studies. Consideration of these topics is likely to take considerable time. These same concerns would also apply to a deferral of DOT’s testimony until the June hearings scheduled for June 15-17, 2004, which will include testimony by the Council’s underground consultant and testimony regarding ecological, historic, scenic,

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and recreational issues. We do not want to invite delays in these proceedings by having another topic added to the June hearing agenda.

I have discussed this issue with counsel for the United Illuminating Company (“UI”) and have been authorized to represent that UI joins with CL&P in making this request.

Very truly yours,

Brian T. Henebry
Carmody & Torrance LLP
Counsel for The Connecticut Light
and Power Company

BTH/da

cc: Service List