



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 27, 2015

Laura Devlin
State Representative
134th House District
85 Brett Lane
Fairfield, CT 06824
Laura.Devlin@housegop.ct.gov

RE: **PETITION NO. 1120** – The United Illuminating Company petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed modifications to the Hawthorne Substation located at 180 Hawthorne Drive, Fairfield, Connecticut.

Dear Representative Devlin:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your recent correspondence dated May 20, 2015 concerning the above-referenced Petition No. 1120. Thank you for taking the time to provide the Council with your comments.

Before reaching a final decision on the petition, the Council carefully considers all of the facts contained in the evidentiary record. The record is developed by the Council, the petitioner, parties and intervenors in the proceeding, and members of the public who speak at the public hearing or submit written statements to the Council.

The Council developed a deliberate schedule to provide all persons an opportunity to participate. This schedule included a public hearing on March 31, 2015 in Fairfield for the convenience of the public. The Council continued the evidentiary hearing in New Britain on April 23, 2015, to allow parties and intervenors in this proceeding further opportunity to submit exhibits and cross examine the petitioner.

Please note that you can view all of the documents related to this proceeding on our website at <http://www.ct.gov/csc> under the "Pending Proceedings" link. You may also keep apprised of Council events on the website calendar and agenda.

Thank you for your interest and concern in this very important matter.

Yours very truly,

Melanie Bachman
Acting Executive Director

MAB/RM/lm

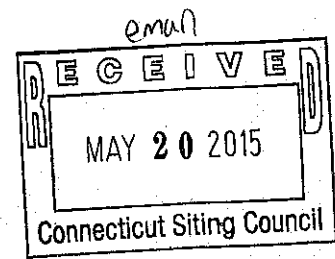
c: Council Members





State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL



REPRESENTATIVE LAURA DEVLIN
ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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MEMBER
FINANCE COMMITTEE
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

May 20, 2015

Robert Stein
Chairman
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

RE: Petition No. 1120 – The United Illuminating Company petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed modifications to the Hawthorne Substation located at 180 Hawthorne Drive, Fairfield, CT, 06825

Dear Chairman Stein, esteemed members of the CT Siting Council, and Acting Executive Director Bachman:

I am writing to respectfully request that you deny United Illuminating Company's petition No. 1120 to expand the existing substation on Hawthorne Drive.

From the start and throughout the petition process - whether notifying abutters, being upfront in sharing details of their plans, or being willing to engage in meaningful dialogue with neighbors, the inconsistencies, lack of due diligence and lack of transparency by UI has raised questions.

- While UI characterized their proposed changes to the substation as "simple modifications," they are in fact, anything but to the local community.
- UI's plan states it will not have any significant impact on their views of the substation, yet removal of shrubs and trees show that not to be the case – abutters who previously saw nothing in their backyards now have a front row seat to view the substation, proposed to be enhanced with a slat fence.

- UI states there will be "no significant effect on land use and aesthetics, terrestrial ecology, traffic or water quality", yet there are endangered species habitat, wetlands and cherished nature lands like the Cascades potentially at risk.
- Safety is also claimed to not be an issue, yet UI plans include cutting aluminum on site,
- While "additional lighting" is mentioned, UI was not forthcoming in its plan to add stadium type installations, which has been subsequently revised.
- Above all, notice to abutting property owners has been inconsistent and, as of yet, still incomplete.

These are just a few examples. In addition, despite promises to follow up on specific concerns and issues raised by the Concerned Citizens of North Stratfield (CCNS), UI has failed to follow through.

The inconsistent behavior and unreliable actions of UI compromises the ability to have any sense of trust or confidence in their proposed plans for the Hawthorne substation expansion, or that they have followed the necessary process and procedures.

For these reasons, I encourage denial of this petition. UI should start over and follow the process and requirements of the Siting Council. UI can also use this opportunity to build trust with the local community. In doing so, they should be fully transparent with the abutting neighbors about plans, actively solicit their input and listen to their concerns about the expansion plans. In so doing, should UI to be able to move forward in a mutually agreeable way.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,



Laura Devlin
State Representative
134th House District