



Town of Fairfield

Office of the First Selectman
Fairfield, Connecticut 06824

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June 3, 2015

Mr. 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,

On behalf of the Town of Fairfield and the Concerned Citizens of North Stratfield (CCNS), I strongly urge you to deny The United Illuminating Company's Petition, No. 1120, 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 in Fairfield.

After attending meetings with concerned residents and some members of Fairfield's State Delegation in the Hawthorne area over the past few months and receiving several emails from distressed neighbors, I had many questions and concerns with UI's petition process that has many flaws.

We look to the Siting Council to ensure the integrity of the approval and notification process. We look to the Siting Council to protect our community and our neighborhood residents. We are not experts and we need your help to protect our rights and guide us through on complete understanding of what the project involves and its impact on our residents.

The team of people UI assembles at each public meeting is impressive. It is difficult to understand how their approach to communicating with our community has been so incomplete, piecemealed and unprofessional.

- The communication with the neighbors abutting the site has been incomplete and piecemealed leading to poor understanding, fear and mistrust.

- The plan presentation to the neighbors was incomplete making it difficult to understand—again leading to fear and mistrust. Why wasn't the lighting plan and impact included right from the start?
- The lack of reasonable notice for a public hearing and the incomplete presentation causes a lack of credibility for UI and shows a lack of concern for the neighbors.
- The large quantity of questions and concerns that have come from the neighbors clearly shows the lack of effort and commitment of UI to educate the neighbors and allay their concerns.

We look to the Siting Council to provide protection to the rights of the neighborhood and to the proper protocol of the process.

I am asking you to have UI follow the statutory requirements for approval. The demonstrated lack of concern for the process and for the community needs to be addressed.

I am asking for UI Petition No. 1120 to be denied and for UI to start a new petition process that adheres to all of the Siting Council's requirements. This new petition process should fully engage the neighborhood by including them in a complete and comprehensive communication process.

Thank you very much for your consideration on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Michael C. Tetreau
First Selectman