



CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
Transcript of
PETITION NUMBER 1120
March 31, 2015
VOLUME 2

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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 Existing Hawthorne Substation Located at 180 Hawthorne Drive, Fairfield, Connecticut

Continued Public Hearing held at the Education Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield, Connecticut, Tuesday, March 31, 2015, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

H e l d B e f o r e :

ROBERT STEIN, Chairperson
SENATOR JAMES J. MURPHY, JR.,
Vice Chairperson

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 138</p> <p>1 A p p e a r a n c e s: 2 C o u n c i l M e m b e r s: 3 P H I L I P A S H T O N 4 D R . B A R B A R A C . B E L L 5 R O B E R T H A N N O N , D E E P D e s i g n e e 6 D R . M I C H A E L W . K L E M E N S 7 D A N I E L P . L Y N C H , J R . 8 L A R R Y L E V E S Q U E , P U R A D e s i g n e e 9 10 C o u n c i l S t a f f: 11 M E L A N I E B A C H M A N , E S Q . , 12 E x e c u t i v e D i r e c t o r a n d 13 S t a f f A t t o r n e y 14 15 R O B E R T M E R C I E R , 16 S i t i n g A n a l y s t 17 18 F o r t h e U n i t e d I l l u m i n a t i n g C o m p a n y: 19 U I L H O L D I N G S C O R P O R A T I O N 20 1 5 7 C h u r c h S t r e e t 21 N e w H a v e n , C o n n e c t i c u t 0 6 5 0 6 22 (2 0 3) 4 9 9 - 2 0 0 0 23 B y : B R U C E M c D E R M O T T , E S Q . 24 25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 140</p> <p>1 This hearing is held pursuant 2 to the provisions of Title 16 of the 3 Connecticut General Statutes and of the 4 Uniform Administrative Procedure Act upon a 5 petition from The United Illuminating Company 6 for a Declaratory Ruling that no certificate 7 of environmental compatibility and public 8 need is required for the proposed 9 modification of the existing Hawthorne 10 Substation located at 180 Hawthorne Drive in 11 Fairfield, Connecticut. 12 This petition was received by 13 the Council on November 5, 2014, and deemed 14 complete on December 4, 2014. The Council's 15 legal notice of the date and time of this 16 hearing was published in the Fairfield 17 Citizen on January 30, 2015. 18 Upon this Council's request, 19 the petitioner erected a sign at the entrance 20 to the substation so as to inform the public 21 of the name of the petitioner, hearing date 22 and location, and contact information for the 23 Council. 24 This afternoon members of the 25 Council, staff, and public personally</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 139</p> <p>1 T H E C H A I R P E R S O N : G o o d 2 evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to 3 call to order this public comment session of 4 the Connecticut Siting Council, today, 5 Tuesday, March 31, 2015, approximately 7 p.m. 6 My name is Robert Stein. I'm Chairman of the 7 Connecticut Siting Council. 8 Other members of the Council 9 present are Senator James Murphy, our vice 10 chairman; Mr. Hannon, our designee from the 11 Department of Energy and Environmental 12 Protection; Mr. Levesque, designee from the 13 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority; 14 Mr. Ashton; Dr. Klemens; Dr. Bell; and 15 Mr. Lynch. 16 Members of the staff are our 17 staff attorney and executive director, 18 Melanie Bachman, and Mr. Mercier, our siting 19 analyst. 20 This is a continuation of a 21 public hearing that began at 3 p.m. this 22 afternoon. Copies of the hearing program and 23 the Citizens Guide to Siting Council 24 Procedures are available for members of the 25 public in the back.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 141</p> <p>1 conducted a field review of the substation in 2 order to observe firsthand the potential 3 effects of the proposal. 4 This hearing session tonight 5 has been reserved first for the public to 6 make short statements into the record. These 7 public statements are not subject to 8 questions from the parties or the Council, 9 and members of the public making statements 10 may not ask questions of the parties or the 11 Council. These statements will become part 12 of the record for the Council's 13 consideration. A sign-up sheet is available 14 for those who would like to participate. 15 As a reminder to all, 16 off-the-record communication with a member of 17 the Council or a member of the Council's 18 staff upon the merits of this petition is 19 prohibited by law. 20 And I don't know if we have 21 any other elected officials who -- who have 22 come in that would want to also sign up. We 23 have the -- both Senator Hwang and 24 Representative Devlin already signed up. 25 I wish to note that parties</p>

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1 and intervenors, including their
2 representative witnesses, are not allowed to
3 participate in the public comment session. I
4 also wish to note, for those who are here and
5 for the benefit of your neighbors and friends
6 who are unable to join us for the public
7 comment session, that you or they may send
8 written statements to the Council within 30
9 days of the date hereof, and such written
10 statements will be given the same weight as
11 if spoken at the hearing.

12 We ask each person making a
13 public statement in this proceeding to
14 confine his or her statements to the subject
15 matter before the board -- I'm sorry --
16 before the Council, and to avoid unreasonable
17 repetition so that we may hear all of the
18 concerns you and your neighbors may have.

19 Please be advised that the
20 Council cannot answer questions from the
21 public about the proposal. A verbatim
22 transcript will be made of this hearing and
23 deposited at the Town Clerk's Office in
24 Fairfield and Easton for the convenience of
25 the public.

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1 Before I call on members of
2 the public to make statements, I request that
3 the petitioner make a very brief presentation
4 describing the proposal to expand the
5 facility and why it's necessary and what
6 alternatives were investigated.

7 MR. CLOUD: Thank you,
8 Chairman. Can everybody hear me okay?
9 So good evening, everyone. My
10 name is Matthew Cloud. I'm the project
11 engineer for the Hawthorne capacitor bank
12 project. I work in the UI's transmission and
13 substation engineering group. So I'm here to
14 give you a very brief introduction of the
15 project that we'll be discussing here today.
16 And to do that, I'm going to give you a
17 little bit of context about the existing
18 Hawthorne substation.

19 I'll talk about why UI is
20 proposing to modify this existing facility,
21 and then I'll talk about the scope of work
22 proposed and the construction start and
23 finish date.

24 So this is the existing
25 Hawthorne substation. Modifications are

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1 shown in this hashed area. It is a
2 distribution substation built in the 1970s,
3 which means that its sole purpose is to
4 deliver electricity to the surrounding areas,
5 including Fairfield, Easton, and Bridgeport.

6 Now, electricity is brought to
7 the site via these transmission lines on the
8 south side of the substation. You can think
9 of those transmission lines as kind of the
10 backbone of the electric grid. They take the
11 electricity from a generating plant, transmit
12 it over many, many miles to where the local
13 electric demand is located, in this case, in
14 the Fairfield, Easton and Bridgeport areas.

15 From there, the transmission
16 lines come into the substation. They're
17 stepped down. The electricity is stepped
18 down to a lower voltage which is then
19 distributed throughout UI's territory on
20 distribution circuits, which are what you
21 would commonly recognize running along wood
22 pole lines along the street.

23 So the reason that UI is
24 proposing to modify this existing facility is
25 that, as we have annually assessed the

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1 reliability of our electric grid, we have
2 seen that, as load has increased in the
3 Hawthorne area, that under peak load
4 conditions, which are when you have a hot
5 summer day and everybody has their air
6 conditioners running and the electricity
7 demand is at its highest, that if we were to
8 lose one of the transmission lines flowing
9 along the south side of the site, that we
10 could have widespread brownouts that affect
11 thousands of customers, not only from the
12 Hawthorne substation, but also customers fed
13 from adjacent substations.

14 Now, a brownout is essentially
15 when the electricity that's delivered to a
16 customer, the end-user, that that electricity
17 is of insufficient quality to run household
18 devices. So that means your light bulbs,
19 your dishwasher, your microwave, things of
20 that nature would not be able to properly
21 operate because that electricity delivered is
22 of insufficient quality.

23 So that is something that
24 exists today that UI has identified. And we
25 evaluated a lot of solutions to try to

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1 address this issue. And what we found was
2 the most cost-effective and technically
3 effective was the addition of two capacitor
4 banks. Now, you can think of a capacitor
5 bank as kind of like a very large battery.
6 It makes sure that if we were to lose one of
7 the transmission lines that come into the
8 station during peak load conditions, again, a
9 hot summer day, that the remaining
10 transmission line, with the help of that
11 capacitor bank, would still be able to
12 deliver electricity reliably to all the
13 customers fed from the substation.
14 So you'll see here on the west
15 side outlined the major portion of the scope
16 of work that's proposed. You'll see that the
17 two capacitor banks are located here and
18 here. There is additional lightning
19 structures, and there's some ancillary
20 additional measures on the east side of the
21 site. There's an additional lightning mast
22 being added, and additional pavement and
23 crushed stone on the northeast corner of the
24 property.
25 The crushed stone and pavement

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1 is being added to accommodate a large 90-foot
2 tractor trailer that UI needs to back into
3 the substation yard during emergency
4 conditions. Now, that long tractor has a
5 very large turning radius, so as it comes up
6 the driveway, it needs to nose into the
7 northeast corner of the yard and then back in
8 through the new proposed 24-foot drive gate
9 and connect to the existing equipment.
10 Now, the lightning mast is
11 there to protect the existing equipment on
12 the east side of the site from lightning
13 strikes that could damage equipment and cause
14 power outages.
15 I will note that there is
16 additional lighting that is proposed.
17 Lighting would be located on this structure,
18 this structure, this lightning mast, this
19 lightning mast, and a lighting pole on the
20 east side of the site. Now, we have received
21 a lot of interrogatories regarding the
22 lighting, so we consulted our management, our
23 engineering groups and our security personnel
24 and have come up with a plan to keep all of
25 the lights on in the substation off at night

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1 under average normal operating conditions.
2 That means that the only time
3 that lights would be on in the substation is
4 if crews needed to do emergency work past
5 normal operating hours, at night, or if there
6 was a physical security breach. So the
7 lights proposed would still be installed, but
8 they would not be on under normal operating
9 conditions at night.
10 The one exception to that is
11 on the light pole located at the eastern side
12 of the substation facing the control room
13 entrance and drive gate would remain on in
14 order to illuminate the entrance to the
15 substation so that personnel, in an
16 emergency, could enter the substation yard
17 and turn on the lights.
18 So that is the big scope of
19 work of what UI is proposing, the majority of
20 it. And construction would commence in July
21 of this year and would finalize in April of
22 next year.
23 Thank you.
24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
25 Now I'll start asking people to come speak.

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1 I'll start with Senator Tony Hwang.
2 SENATOR TONY HWANG: Thank
3 you. Thank you so much. My name is State
4 Senator Tony Hwang. I represent Fairfield
5 along with portions of the 28th District. I
6 want to first thank the committee, or the
7 Council for all you do. It's truly a
8 thankless task, and -- and I'm appreciative,
9 having sat through five different Siting
10 Council meetings. You truly deserve our
11 appreciation. We may not always agree with
12 you, but I give you my greatest appreciation.
13 With that said, I'm here to
14 raise my objection to the UI's petition 1120
15 and request that your Council deny it. I
16 fully respect UI's right, and I recognize
17 that, in this current marketplace in which
18 electric needs abound in regards to the large
19 plasma TVs and the multiple units, that
20 there's a tremendous need to ensure that
21 there are electrical needs in our community.
22 But it is a tremendous
23 balancing act. And I think we -- we've seen
24 the difficult task that you have to address
25 this issue and to hear the points of concern

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1 from all different perspectives. But I think
2 it's really critical for us to weigh all of
3 this against the need to ensure that the
4 safety of the public and our environment are
5 accounted for, and I will offer some
6 viewpoints.

7 I have provided written
8 testimony, but I wanted to simplify some
9 viewpoints because I believe that this
10 petition is flawed. And I would ask -- and I
11 recognize that this is their property that
12 they own and they have a right to do their
13 business, UI that is. But I would ask that,
14 in reviewing that this petition being flawed,
15 I would ask them to go back.

16 I would ask you to deny this
17 and ask them to come back to the table to
18 formally do this process of transparency and
19 accountability and truly go through the due
20 process that gives a tremendous degree of
21 comfort to all the neighbors and to your
22 Council that we are doing the right things
23 every step of the way.

24 One such example is there's
25 been a tremendous lack of sufficient and

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1 timely notifications of abutting neighbors.
2 I think the first notice that went out was
3 actually picked up by Council members in
4 recognizing that the initial petition of
5 abutting homes were not covered. And through
6 the Council's keen observation, UI recognized
7 that indeed some abutting homeowners were not
8 notified and, through the second
9 correspondence, reached out to connect to the
10 various communities that would be impacted.

11 But even through that input,
12 we have found that 192 Hawthorne Drive, by a
13 technical aspect, is considered an abutting
14 neighbor provided by an intervenor
15 document -- that I'm happy to provide as
16 well -- is, to this date, they have not been
17 notified.

18 That raises a tremendous
19 concern that, in my one meeting that I
20 attended in which UI gave a very elaborate
21 presentation, in which they provided nearly
22 every surrounding property and including the
23 abutting property, the surrounding
24 properties, that they did not take the full
25 force of effort in transparency and

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1 respecting the notification to let them know.
2 So that is right off the bat a
3 tremendous concern that I have. Are they
4 truly following every step of the way to
5 ensure that we are doing this the right way?
6 As I say that, we go into the second phase.
7 And -- and I just listened to the
8 presentation in which the notification of
9 lights was just changed from the last
10 proceedings. That we are experiencing, as a
11 neighborhood group, tremendous changes across
12 the board, but changes that have been made
13 after the fact and then notifying the
14 neighborhood.

15 Again, I ask this Council to
16 review this process, to truly ask and
17 evaluate whether there is a two-sided
18 exchange, a real collaborative transparent
19 due process in which the intervenors and the
20 neighborhoods were a part of this process. I
21 think if our neighborhood was given an
22 opportunity to go through the planning phase
23 of some of these lighting issues and some of
24 these traffic issues, we would have provided
25 that input, but it was not given.

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1 I think the third point that
2 we want to address is the increase in output.
3 I think we were given some examples in
4 regards to brownout considerations. But
5 we've also heard testimony or statements to
6 say, it is to be held in reserve. But again,
7 I have not gotten a clear answer why we're
8 virtually doubling the capacity, and why is
9 that? Is it to be used into future
10 utilization and expansion of use in the area?
11 All I'm asking for is, again, a transparency
12 and accountability and a due process.

13 I'm never going to deny UI's
14 ability to do their business. But from the
15 beginning, from the lack in notification of
16 the community, the lack of real interaction
17 with community groups that have a part of
18 this, that will encounter and live in this
19 community, I have sensed a tremendous well,
20 we know better. We'll let you know after we
21 get done.

22 To that effect, it brings out
23 a real concern as to whether the community,
24 and also the Council, is truly getting all
25 the transparency and accountability or simply

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1 what you need to know.
2 I believe this type of
3 transaction, these type of points that have
4 been raised by the intervenors that you will
5 see should raise sufficient concern, that in
6 any step moving forward, to expand capacity,
7 to build out this project, it should come
8 back to the beginning where all the community
9 and the abutting neighborhood are notified in
10 a unified way, that there are no stopgaps,
11 one after another after another.
12 The ultimate aspect would be a
13 safety hazard concern. We had heard, again
14 secondhand, after it was decided, that in
15 order to save costs -- and I understand the
16 Council's purview in that cost may not be a
17 consideration, but here's the deal. I had
18 heard secondhand -- again, it was never
19 notified directly or interacted in a
20 conversational dialogue -- that they were
21 going to be cutting aluminum on-site as part
22 of this project.
23 One of the biggest concerns
24 that I've gotten from neighborhood groups is
25 the fact that, as people play outside, kids,

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1 gotten a sense that they made a concerted
2 effort to truly engage in the neighborhood.
3 I think the neighborhood recognizes that this
4 is private property. They need to do what
5 they need to do. The neighborhood has made a
6 commitment, from what I heard, that they're
7 willing to work with them. But truly -- and
8 I hope you will hear from others as well --
9 there is real concern that they have not been
10 part of this process until today.
11 I'd be happy to answer any
12 particular questions, but most importantly, I
13 want to close by thanking all of you for your
14 time and effort in this matter.
15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
16 The next speaker,
17 Representative Laura Devlin.
18 REP. LAURA DEVLIN: Hi. Good
19 evening. Thank you for this opportunity. I
20 would like, however, your indulgence on one
21 thing. You know, we take our sports very
22 seriously in Fairfield, and we have a
23 competing team practice, so if I could
24 substitute time of one of our abutting
25 neighbors and allow Stephanie Johnson to go

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1 as people interact and walk in this
2 neighborhood, that the aluminum particles
3 that may result from cutting on that site
4 could pose a hazardous health hazard to our
5 community. Again, those were not
6 considerations that were collaborated,
7 transparent from the onset. It was told to
8 the community after the fact.
9 And the other thing that just
10 came out recently is the fact they were going
11 to use mineral oil as a cooling agent. Now,
12 from what I just discerned quickly, mineral
13 oils are highly combustible. Again, we are
14 notified of these processes -- and I respect
15 that the engineers and the attorneys and the
16 good work of UI are doing what they are
17 supposed to do. But again, I implore this
18 Council to recognize, that from the start,
19 there is a hint, there is a concern, have
20 they done all they should in an open,
21 transparent, collaborative manner with the
22 community?
23 To that effect, as I've been
24 involved with this since January, I have not
25 been able to feel that way. I have not

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1 in my place, that would be most appreciated.
2 KAREN JOHNSON: Karen.
3 REP. LAURA DEVLIN: Oh, Karen,
4 sorry.
5 KAREN JOHNSON: Hi. I'm Karen
6 Johnson. The United Illumination is a
7 Connecticut-based electric circulation
8 company. The United Illumination is a part
9 of the purchase, communication, trading and
10 sale of electricity to 325,000 citizens and
11 businesses in 17 towns and cities in the
12 Greater New Haven and Bridgeport areas.
13 In Fairfield, the United
14 Illumination owns a power plant on Hawthorne
15 Drive. The company came to a decision where
16 they wanted to increase their equipment just
17 in case there's a brownout. In order to
18 increase their equipment, they need to expand
19 their land.
20 In November, four residents on
21 Hawthorne Drive were notified of this, but
22 Hawthorne isn't the only street that will be
23 affected of this. Schiller Road will also be
24 affected, but they were not notified. There
25 is a problem with this, and every family

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1 agrees.
2 Imagine your children playing
3 in your backyard. Do you feel safe leaving
4 your kids out there? Of course you do,
5 because that is what a backyard is meant for.
6 A backyard is supposed to be a safe
7 environment for you and your kids to play,
8 laugh, and make memories.
9 Now, imagine this. Your kids
10 are playing outside having fun, throwing a
11 football around, trying to ignore the noise
12 and horrendous smell that is going on behind
13 them. While the kids are playing, they keep
14 coughing, but they shake it off thinking that
15 they are starting to get a cold. Little do
16 they know -- little do they know the
17 construction workers are cutting aluminum.
18 Chemtrail is a detectable
19 trail left behind from aircraft. Chemtrails
20 are found to also contain aluminum oxide. It
21 is a proven fact that breathing in aluminum
22 chemtrails are very harmful to the human
23 body. Breathing in this substance can and
24 will cause sickness. A person will obtain a
25 cough that won't go away, and they will have

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1 headaches and sore throats. It won't stop
2 there, though.
3 It will also affect one's
4 cardiovascular system. Breathing all of this
5 in in small doses is all right, but the
6 United Illumination will be cutting it right
7 there in our backyards, which is highly
8 dangerous for us kids and adults to be
9 breathing in that much.
10 Aluminum oxide is not only
11 found to harm people, but it is also found to
12 kill plants. That -- this means that all the
13 plants around this area will die.
14 Expanding the power plant
15 means that the United Illumination will be
16 cutting down animal homes. The animals that
17 live among the area of the power plant are
18 deer, wild turkeys, skunks, raccoons, box
19 turtles, groundhogs, rabbits, squirrels,
20 mice, coyotes, et cetera. As humans, to make
21 a living, we have needed to build homes,
22 buildings, et cetera, et cetera. In order to
23 do that people have harmed animal life and
24 even made some animals become endangered.
25 But now that people have become more educated

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1 in wildlife, we understand now that we should
2 not harm animals.
3 Do you know that some of the
4 animals that live around the power plant are
5 endangered or threatened? Well, a few of
6 them -- well, a few of them are endangered or
7 threatened -- or on the threatened list.
8 Ground squirrels are endangered. North
9 American raccoons are threatened, and rabbits
10 are threatened too.
11 Expanding this power plant
12 will harm these animals even more and also
13 harm all the other animals, too. As kids, we
14 like to play outside. We usually don't have
15 anything to worry about when we are outside,
16 but cutting the aluminum gives us something
17 to worry about. We don't want to worry about
18 getting sick or any sort of heart disease.
19 Heart diseases are scary, and as kids, we
20 shouldn't be thinking about this.
21 Cutting this aluminum will
22 deprive us from going outside, and that is
23 probably the worst thing, because I love
24 being able to go outside and shoot hoops with
25 my brothers and neighbors.

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1 As you can see, there isn't
2 really an upside to any of this. Expanding
3 this power plant isn't something that needs
4 to happen. It's only wanted to be expanded
5 just in case of a brownout, at least that's
6 what we're told. I'm not willing to risk my
7 health and the health of my family based on a
8 "just in case."
9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
10 I didn't get a chance, but if
11 people would also give us their address when
12 they come up, that probably would be helpful
13 to know where they live in relation to the
14 project. Okay.
15 REP. LAURA DEVLIN: I thank
16 you very much for your indulgence in that.
17 So members of the esteemed Connecticut Siting
18 Council, my name is Laura Devlin. I am State
19 Representative for Connecticut's 134th
20 District, which includes the Hawthorne
21 Substation neighborhood. I thank you very
22 much for hosting this public meeting and for
23 the opportunity to speak before you. I am
24 here to speak against and to encourage your
25 denial of UI's Petition Number 1120, to

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1 expand the existing substation on Hawthorne
2 Drive.

3 You know, good neighbors are
4 trustworthy, and transparency really builds
5 trust. So whether it's been notifying
6 abutters, being upfront with plan details or
7 being willing to have an open dialogue with
8 neighbors, the inconsistencies and lack of
9 diligence by UI has raised questions about
10 what kind of neighbor UI really is, and
11 should certainly give pause to moving this
12 petition forward.

13 While proposed changes to the
14 substation are characterized as simple
15 modifications, to the local community they
16 are anything but. UI's plan states that it
17 won't have any significant impact on views,
18 yet, recent removal of shrubs and trees show
19 that not be the case. Abutters who
20 previously saw nothing now have a front row
21 seat, potentially to be replaced with a
22 slatted fence.

23 UI says there's no significant
24 impact on land use and esthetics, terrestrial
25 ecology, traffic or water quality, yet, there

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1 you very much.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
3 Okay. We now continue with
4 the list. Lewis Horowitz.

5 LEWIS HOROWITZ: Good evening.
6 I'm Lew Horowitz. I live at 97 Hawthorne
7 Drive, which is outside of the range of this
8 picture here. And I was going to talk about
9 the lighting masts that were proposed.
10 Tonight I heard that there's going to be a
11 change of that; however, we're told that
12 there will be some lighting over here.

13 Now, I have a five-year-old
14 granddaughter. We like looking at the stars
15 in the sky. And with the lighting, any
16 additional lighting, she's not going to be
17 able to see a lot of the things that she sees
18 today. I've lived there 19 years. Coming
19 from the Bronx, I looked up in the sky, I saw
20 the Big Dipper. I was like this is not
21 Hayden Planetarium. You know, so I want her
22 to see that, too. She pointed out the dagger
23 in Orion's belt a couple of months ago. We
24 watched five planets follow the sun into the
25 horizon, which is right behind the UI

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1 are endangered species habitats, wetlands and
2 cherished nature lands, such as the Cascades,
3 potentially at risk.

4 Safety is claimed not to be an
5 issue, but we've heard from Senator Hwang, as
6 well as our most recent speaker, aluminum is
7 planned to be cut on-site, and there are
8 still questions regarding EMFs.

9 Above all, notice to abutting
10 property owners has been inconsistent, and
11 from what I understand so far, incomplete to
12 date. I encourage the Siting Council to deny
13 this petition and require UI to start over,
14 to use this opportunity to show that, in
15 fact, they really can be a good neighbor, not
16 just by being fully transparent with abutting
17 neighbors about their plans, but really
18 soliciting their input and listening to their
19 concerns about their expansion plans to be
20 able to move forward in a mutually agreeable
21 way.

22 If I can be of any assistance
23 in fostering such a dialogue, I am more than
24 happy to do that. And I appreciate, again,
25 this time to speak before you tonight. Thank

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1 substation.

2 I don't like the idea that
3 there's going to be a light on all the time
4 if I'm not being told how high that's going
5 to be and how bright that's going to be. And
6 that's real -- and plus the EMFs and the
7 aluminum do bother me, but as -- being not an
8 abutter, this thing also bothers me, the
9 lighting. Thank you.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
11 I believe First Selectman.
12 Tetreau is here. If you would like to speak,
13 sir?

14 FIRST SELECTMAN MICHAEL TETREAU:

15 Thank you. And thank you for
16 coming down to our town to make it easy for
17 everybody to come here and have comment. I
18 appreciate -- it's a huge group that you
19 brought. Is there a Siting Council bus that
20 brings you down and back?

21 MR. LYNCH: We wish.

22 FIRST SELECTMAN MICHAEL TETREAU:

23 But from the top, I realize
24 this is your decision, and you go through
25 this a lot, and certainly the neighborhood

8 (Pages 162 to 165)

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1 and the Town doesn't. So there are a number
2 of questions or concerns. And I realize
3 you're the final judges on those, so I
4 just -- the Town's interest in this is, one,
5 to make sure that the neighborhood is
6 protected and the neighbor's rights are
7 protected -- and I realize you're the final
8 judge or arbiter on that -- and also, that UI
9 follows the proper protocol as we go through
10 this, because this is something we're
11 learning as we go through it.

12 So from the top, as we look
13 back, it doesn't appear that the -- as we go
14 through the steps, that the proper
15 notification was necessarily done at a
16 consistent time so that the neighborhood had
17 a chance to hear together and come together
18 to understand. All right. So as a -- as a
19 start, that created some inconsistency in
20 terms of how the message and the word got
21 out.

22 As we go through and look at
23 the communication from there, one of the
24 things the neighborhood was asking for is a
25 better understanding of how the -- what the

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1 changes would be and what the impact would be
2 on the neighborhood. All right. And UI
3 definitely held their public session and held
4 a presentation for the neighborhood. But I
5 would suggest to you that it might have been
6 a better process, and certainly ease the
7 concerns of the neighbors in terms of better
8 communication and better understanding if
9 there was a way to have a second session so
10 the neighborhood could, having heard the
11 first one, understand what was asked and have
12 a chance to ask follow-up questions as part
13 of that.

14 Certainly, as part of the
15 formal process, there's been some opportunity
16 to do that, but there really hasn't been an
17 opportunity for dialogue. When the neighbors
18 reached out to UI to have that dialogue,
19 there was some rules and restrictions that
20 were put on that session that, frankly, can
21 be a bit intimidating if you haven't been
22 through the process before. To be told that
23 only four neighbors could show up, to be told
24 that you can't bring an attorney, to be told
25 that everything that happens in that session

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1 would have to stay in that session, frankly,
2 that's reasonable on that. But the neighbors
3 didn't have a chance to have a dialogue and
4 talk to UI about what they would have liked
5 to see now that they had a better
6 understanding of it.

7 The presentation, the
8 paperwork, as initially filed, didn't seem to
9 have the complete plan. So at later points
10 in the process, the neighbors heard more
11 about the plan, everything from lighting to
12 some of the other components that weren't
13 clearly or accurately described the first
14 time.

15 So when you ask for a
16 follow-up meeting and you're given those kind
17 of rules, that can be kind of intimidating.
18 And I'd ask you to consider having UI come
19 back to the neighborhood and do a more
20 thorough presentation and help them
21 understand and provide that chance for a
22 dialogue. Because when you look at the
23 neighborhood, it's reasonable for the
24 neighbors to be concerned, and to some
25 degree, fearful of what's taking place.

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1 Not everybody is an electrical
2 engineer. Not everybody understands what the
3 impact might be, and it would help
4 tremendously allay the concerns of the
5 neighborhood if they were all notified at the
6 same time, if the presentation, communication
7 was complete and thorough, and if there had
8 been an opportunity to have that dialogue.
9 It may not change what your final decision
10 is, that's up to you. But I would ask you to
11 consider the neighbors, consider their
12 concerns and, to some degree, their fears and
13 help allay those fears, help a better
14 communication process take place.

15 And if this is going forward,
16 I would ask you to consider what their
17 suggestions are in terms of how to mitigate
18 or minimize the impact on a neighborhood,
19 especially things like screening. All right?
20 Because if the substation is your neighbor,
21 it would be nice to minimize what the impact
22 is, not only from a fear and concern
23 standpoint, but frankly, from a neighborhood
24 values standpoint.

25 And you can't change it. The

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1 substation is there. It has been there for a
2 while. You're not considering taking it
3 away. However, minimizing the impact, some
4 screening that perhaps should have been done
5 before, but certainly, as the expansion goes
6 on, the opportunity to improve that and help
7 the neighborhood and address their concerns
8 would be tremendously helpful and, I think, a
9 service to the community.

10 So thank you very much for
11 taking time to listen.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: The next
13 person on the list is Ted Cook.

14 THEODORE COOK: I am the
15 aforementioned Ted Cook, 2729 Easton
16 Turnpike. I've lived there since 1986. I've
17 been very proud of the neighborhood, serving
18 on TP and Z for two terms and also
19 maintaining two islands on Putting Green and
20 Church Hill. Not the Town, not Mike Tetreau,
21 Ted Cook.

22 I'm here because I'm concerned
23 about this expansion. And I'm concerned due
24 to the fact that -- that three people in my
25 neighborhood, two across the street and one

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1 next to me, all at the age of 51 died of
2 cancer, 51, 52, 53 years old, right around
3 there. And I didn't think about it until I
4 went to a meeting. And I'm concerned
5 about -- forget about the expansion. I'm --
6 I'm concerned about this radiation coming.

7 They were all active. They
8 were all healthy. And I know Matt from UI
9 talked about it, but the three wives don't
10 have their husbands. Five kids don't have a
11 father. There is a line in the sand
12 regarding quality service and reliability.

13 I went to the Tom Peters In
14 Search of Excellence School for 16 weeks, UI.
15 I worked for one of the greatest businessmen
16 in the 20th century who sent me there, and I
17 always put safety before profits.

18 Now, I can't say for sure that
19 those three people died because of the
20 radiation, but none of you people can tell me
21 that they didn't. That's what I'm concerned
22 about. And that's what everyone should be
23 concerned about on this board. I thank you
24 very much.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: We have a

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1 number of people that want to speak, so I
2 would attempt to discourage you from the
3 applause and other manifestations. It would
4 just go quicker. And to some potential
5 speakers, they may find it intimidating. So
6 I should have said that at the beginning. I
7 didn't, but it's -- I think it's just more
8 respect. I know people feel strongly about
9 it, but I suggest that it might be helpful if
10 we could just refrain and just keep it --
11 keep it moving.

12 And also, I want to apologize
13 in advance if I mispronounce anybody's name.
14 Jackie Azarian.

15 JACQUELINE AZARIAN: Hi. My
16 name is Jackie Azarian, and thank you for
17 letting me speak. We live on 192 Hawthorne
18 Drive and we are an abutter to substation --
19 to the substation according to town records.
20 We were never notified by UI of this
21 expansion.

22 The driveway to the substation
23 is right next to our home, and we can see the
24 structure from our backyard. I heard from my
25 friends and neighbors about this expansion

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1 after Christmas. Since my husband and I were
2 concerned about this, I went to the town hall
3 meeting on February 4th. Even after noticing
4 my house on large posters as part of their
5 presentation, I mentioned to them that I
6 never received any kind of notice -- I'm
7 sorry.

8 UI asked me what house number
9 I was, and I told them 192 Hawthorne. As of
10 today, we have yet to receive anything, even
11 though they displayed the multiple posters of
12 my home with the other abutting properties.
13 Even a simple consideration, since our home
14 is next to the driveway, I think we should
15 have been notified.

16 We have a pool that my family,
17 nieces and friends enjoy throughout summer.
18 With the cutting of aluminum on the
19 substation property during construction and
20 with trucks and construction vehicles being
21 at the site, driving down the driveway right
22 next to my house and my yard, I don't feel
23 safe opening our pool. Do we want our kids
24 swimming in the pool with aluminum dust
25 floating in it, swallowing it? Let's face

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 174</p> <p>1 it, dust flies. It will get in our pool, the 2 pumps, and in our homes. All of us will not 3 be able open our windows this summer with the 4 fear of dust coming into our homes, too 5 unsafe. 6 How about our pets? Lots of 7 pets in our neighborhood. Me, alone, I have 8 two dogs who are often outside in our 9 fenced-in yard eating the grass with aluminum 10 dust. What about the raccoons who live under 11 our deck or the gopher under our shed or the 12 rabbits we often see in our yard? 13 My 82-year-old father-in-law 14 lives in the in-law apartment we added to our 15 house, which is part of the house next to the 16 substation driveway. His deck faces the 17 driveway. He has been housebound all winter 18 due to a crippling injury from a fall years 19 ago. He cannot wait to sit on his deck 20 during the warm months just to get outside. 21 Not if there are trucks driving through until 22 seven o'clock at night with aluminum dust all 23 over them. Unsafe. 24 UI claimed, at the 25 February 4th meeting, that they will wet down</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 176</p> <p>1 that there would be extreme opposition from 2 the surrounding neighborhood and community. 3 And why shouldn't there be? 4 This project has been on the 5 table for over two years, commencing with 6 negotiations with GE to purchase property to 7 allow for the expansion of the footprint of 8 the substation. They had more than enough 9 time to explore town records and research who 10 exactly are the abutting properties and who 11 should have been alerted. 12 Instead, they went about it 13 piecemeal, only sending notification when 14 they were told. They know the rules and 15 consciously chose not to follow them. The 16 Town had requested that they notify the 17 neighbors about the sound study they were 18 asked to do. UI advised the Town that, and I 19 quote, After lengthy discussions with the 20 project team, we've decided not to establish 21 the precedent of notifying any of the 22 neighbors. So, in other words, UI can 23 unilaterally make the decision of what they 24 will do regardless of the impact. 25 The site inspection and Q and</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 175</p> <p>1 the area to stop the dust from flying all 2 over and getting on our property and homes. 3 How is that guaranteed? It's not. Do you 4 know what ingesting aluminum dust can do to 5 your health, respiratory issues -- my husband 6 has asthma -- I don't know about our other 7 neighbors -- brain dysfunction and the list 8 goes on. 9 All this threat to our health 10 and the health of our neighborhood for just 11 in case there is a brownout. Thanks. 12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. 13 Steph Johnson. 14 STEPHANIE JOHNSON: Thank you 15 for this opportunity. I live at 274 16 Hawthorne Drive. 17 This entire project has had 18 red flags -- excuse me -- all over it from 19 the start. The fact that it took a site 20 visit and an inquisition from the Council's 21 field inspectors as to why all abutting 22 properties were not notified is the biggest 23 red flag of all. 24 UI clearly wanted to fly this 25 project in under the radar because they knew</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 177</p> <p>1 A on February 4th was at the request of the 2 Town. It was not offered by UI. They agreed 3 to it, arrogantly thinking that we'd say 4 thank you and quietly walk away. It only 5 raised more concerns as there were no 6 specifics offered, and when they were pushed 7 for more details, they rolled their eyes and 8 skirted around the questions. Their blanket 9 answer to everything regarding alternatives 10 to the site location and esthetics was that 11 they were too costly. 12 UI's recent merger makes them 13 the second-largest wind company in the U.S. 14 Before the merger, they showed \$186 million 15 net. They've raised rates 53 percent. They 16 can certainly afford their team of lawyers to 17 ensure this project moves forward, yet, they 18 can't open their pockets to ensure the 19 health, safety and well-being of the 20 surrounding community. 21 UI's lack of transparency and 22 their you-don't-need-to-know attitude only 23 raises more suspicion and makes us wonder 24 what else they're hiding. The placement of 25 more than twice the number of lightning rods</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 178</p> <p>1 at twice the height on a footprint that is 2 only being increased by less than 50 percent 3 is a huge concern. 4 They used the rolling sphere 5 method to calculate the need of a 6 hundred percent protection of the equipment. 7 One of the factors in the calculation is 8 frequency of lightning strikes. UI has 9 admitted that they have no way of tracking 10 that number. But I can tell you firsthand 11 that we've lived there for over 15 years, and 12 there has not been one lightning strike. 13 That makes that factor in the equation zero, 14 and we all know from basic math that anything 15 times zero is zero. There is no hard 16 evidence proving that these masts are 17 necessary. 18 We know that new equipment 19 will be using mineral oil as a coolant. Yes, 20 using oil minimizes the oxidation of the 21 equipment and is probably better than what's 22 used now, but mineral oil is highly flammable 23 and cannot be extinguished once ignited. 24 There are other alternatives, such as 25 silicone, but of course this is not</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 180</p> <p>1 do if this goes through. 2 You know, just like everybody 3 said, we all have the same concerns, the 4 mineral oil being one. We stay up at night 5 just watching the videos on YouTube of 6 these -- these fires. And, you know, we've 7 already been through a house fire. We really 8 don't want to have to go through it again. 9 And it's just scary, you know. 10 I'm not much of a public 11 speaker, excuse me. 12 You know, we're just 13 Fairfield. I feel like I'm in the dark. I 14 don't know what's going on in my backyard. I 15 wake up. You know, I look through my kitchen 16 window. There's guys with, you know, orange 17 vests, yellow hats, poking around back there. 18 I don't know what they're doing. Nobody 19 tells me. 20 We get things in the mail that 21 say they don't want to do environmental 22 studies. I just don't feel how, in this day 23 and age, you can do anything without 24 environmental studies. We're learning 25 something new every day, some for the best,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 179</p> <p>1 considered as an alternative because it's 2 more expensive than mineral oil. 3 The blatant disrespect of UI 4 in regard to the due process and the adjacent 5 property owners, in addition to their 6 disregard for the rules set forth and 7 governed by the Council, should be more than 8 sufficient reason, as well as other concerns, 9 as I previously stated, to have this petition 10 denied. 11 Thank you. 12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. 13 William Johnson. Okay. 14 Michael Hellman. Jason Tournas. 15 JASON TOURNAS: Council, thank 16 you. I live at 186 Schiller Road. These 17 four posters that we brought with us today 18 are pictures from my backyard. 19 To be honest, I'm just -- I'm 20 nervous. I feel like we've been lied to. I 21 don't feel like I could put a lot of trust 22 into UI and what's going on in my backyard. 23 You know, it's a place I want to start a 24 family. We've been there for just about six 25 years, and I just really don't know what to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 181</p> <p>1 some for the worst. And I just don't feel 2 confident that this is really, honestly, the 3 best place to do something like this. I feel 4 like there's got to be some other alternative 5 just for the public safety and for the 6 neighborhood. 7 I mean, we live on a 8 cul-de-sac. It's probably one of the best 9 places I could ever pick to live. You know, 10 between the schooling system, the great 11 downtown, everything that's going on in 12 Fairfield, we'd love to stay here, you know, 13 for the rest of our lives and carry our 14 generations over. But it's getting to a 15 point where I'm feeling almost pushed out if 16 this goes through and, you know, looking for 17 other means of life because I just don't feel 18 safe. And that's my biggest concern, to be 19 honest with you. 20 Thank you. Thank you for your 21 time. 22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. 23 Louis Johnson. 24 LOUIS JOHNSON: Thank you. 25 Well, I like to begin with thanking you for</p>

12 (Pages 178 to 181)

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 182</p> <p>1 having the opportunity to speak in front of 2 the Siting Council. 3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Could you 4 give us your address? 5 LOUIS JOHNSON: Yes, 274 6 Hawthorne Drive. I'm an abutter, and we've 7 been there for 15 years. And I've watched a 8 florist picture of trees start turning into 9 sites like this. 10 I don't know if you guys got a 11 chance to walk around and look at it, but 12 just on the existing of what's been going on, 13 you can see that it's slowly deteriorating. 14 Now, if that's caused by the substation, then 15 zero impact on the environment by increasing 16 it, I don't see that being a strong point. 17 And I think that's one of our concerns is the 18 environment. So I can guarantee you, 19 whatever happens back there, there's going to 20 be an impact on the environment. 21 And then, the most important 22 one is safety. I Have four children. You've 23 heard Karen speak today. I'm very proud of 24 her. There's really very little coaching 25 that went on in there. She listened to the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 184</p> <p>1 all of us. So I would just think that UI 2 would come together with us and address those 3 issues and start this process all over again 4 and say, hey, we're listening to your 5 concerns. We heard about the -- I mean, 6 we've all shared our concerns -- and to sit 7 with us and saying, here, this is how we're 8 handling it. 9 And UI, it looks like they 10 have a lot of people here tonight. And if 11 we're the only ones speaking, it's kind of -- 12 you know, it's not exactly transparent. And 13 I know we can't ask questions, Q and A, and I 14 don't expect any answers right now. But 15 hopefully, if we restart this process over 16 again, we, as a community, will feel safer 17 about where we live, and our children will 18 feel better. So that's -- that's about what 19 I have to say, and thank you for your time. 20 But safety, somebody said it 21 tonight, safety before profit. Safety 22 shouldn't rule out the cost of doing 23 something, especially when it comes to the 24 public. Thank you. 25 THE CHAIRPERSON: I believe</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 183</p> <p>1 meeting. She's read what she read in the 2 paper. But as -- as -- the more we get 3 involved as a neighborhood, the more 4 questions and concerns about the safety. 5 Now, I believe there was work 6 done in Trumbull. And I think the Siting 7 Council overtook part in that. It was -- 8 safety with such -- the number one concern 9 that -- with CL&P, I think, the project 10 was -- and I'm sorry I can't ask any 11 questions -- but they erected a wall around 12 the entire thing, and they weren't nearly as 13 close to residents as this is. 14 So I haven't seen much on UI's 15 side and -- and relating what public safety 16 issues they see happening, other than the 17 fact that they don't believe there are any, 18 well, usually, when somebody says there's no 19 impact, I guarantee you there's going to be 20 some impact, and it's going to affect 21 generations to come. 22 So if we look at the massive 23 undertaking that's almost going to take a 24 year to build, with dust and metals, it's 25 going to have some kind of safety impact on</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 185</p> <p>1 it's Candice Akin Tournas, if I got that 2 right. 3 CANDICE AKIN TOURNAS: Hi. 4 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to 5 speak today. I live at 186 Schiller Road. 6 My home is located 18 feet away from UI's 7 Hawthorne Substation. I have many concerns 8 regarding the planned expansion. I'm mostly 9 concerned about the welding of aluminum, the 10 fugitive dust that my family and neighbors 11 will be exposed to, the endangered Eastern 12 box turtle that lives in the wetlands behind 13 my home, and the pair of hawks and the family 14 of turkeys that nests in the trees that will 15 be torn down by UI. 16 But I am strongly concerned 17 about the new machinery that UI plans on 18 adding to their substation. The new machines 19 are prone to hazardous waste leaks, fire, and 20 explosion. There has been countless 21 substation fires throughout the United 22 States. I worry about how my family and my 23 neighbors will sleep at night knowing that 24 they live so close to machinery that can 25 ignite or explode at any time.</p>

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1 A fire or explosion at
2 Hawthorne Substation would have a tragic
3 impact on our neighborhood and on our
4 wetlands and our wildlife. I ask that UI and
5 the Council please reconsider the location of
6 the expansion.
7 Thank you.
8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Annette
9 Herman.
10 DIANE LEVINE: Hi. I'm Diane
11 Levine. I am Annette Herman's daughter. My
12 mom is sitting right here, and it's difficult
13 for her to walk up here, so I'm going to
14 speak on her behalf. She lives at 254
15 Hawthorne Drive, and she also is an abutter
16 to the property.
17 My mom has lived in this home
18 for 14 years. She's 87 years old. She was
19 diagnosed with cancer after moving into this
20 property after four and a half years. She --
21 the wires that are right directly in her
22 backyard are clearly of concern.
23 I'm a medical professional. I
24 work in a cancer unit for children in
25 Westchester, and I've been in this profession

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1 there's a huge concern of health and the
2 threat to her well-being, as well as she has
3 eleven grandchildren that come and play in
4 the backyard. She has two neighbors with
5 pools with children, with young adolescents
6 and puberty, when the, you know, bodies are
7 changing, the threat to, you know, them
8 conceiving years down the road.
9 So there's a lot of stuff
10 that, I think, people are really fearful of.
11 And I think if they went back, UI goes back
12 and just gets people's input, not necessarily
13 to stop the project, but possibly to change
14 the way in which they're going to be doing it
15 so that they are really looking out for
16 protection of the individuals that live in
17 this area.
18 Thank you.
19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
20 Charlene Lebo -- Lebo.
21 CHARLENE LEBO: Good evening,
22 and thank you for giving me this opportunity
23 to speak. Thank you very much to the Siting
24 Council. Thank you to our representatives,
25 our town elected officials, and our neighbors

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1 for 30 years. And I can tell you that I
2 think I can speak for everybody here, that
3 it's the fear of the unknown that is really
4 causing people to be so concerned. And in
5 this day and age, look, we have to be, you
6 know, aware, and I know that we all are, that
7 everybody is concerned about contracting
8 cancer. It's a threat to everybody. But
9 it's really what we don't see that's most
10 worrisome, I think, for most human beings.
11 And so when we think of this
12 property and what they're planning to do, you
13 know, when you weld aluminum, I mean, we know
14 so much about so many of these metals, but
15 some of the things we don't know. And I'm
16 sure -- I mean, many of us are aware of that
17 movie "Erin Brockovich" from years ago that
18 was, you know, all these people being
19 diagnosed with cancer. My mom, I know, for a
20 fact, is not the only individual in the
21 neighborhood that's been diagnosed with
22 cancer after living in this home, in this
23 neighborhood.
24 So, you know, again, I just
25 want to speak for her, on her behalf, that

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1 and everyone that came out to support this.
2 I have a few issues. I'm
3 really concerned about public health and
4 safety. I'm living in the area right now,
5 and when you look out the backyard, this is
6 exactly what you see over here.
7 Well, 9/11 put us in a very
8 bad situation, and there's been a lot of
9 cyber and grid attacks. When I look at this
10 today, without expansion, looking and I'm
11 saying it's wide open, what are we going to
12 do to protect our neighborhood with this, not
13 only the way it is now, but also for
14 expansion?
15 I wanted to -- I don't know if
16 you can see this, but you all can see this in
17 this picture here, too. I was very
18 disappointed because I really expect UI to be
19 a really good neighbor. We are all good
20 neighbors, and we expect that from them.
21 Notification wasn't done respectfully, and
22 that bothers me.
23 Cutting of metal. We have
24 gardens. We have swimming pools. We have
25 children running around playing in the yards.

14 (Pages 186 to 189)

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1 How do we protect them? I don't feel UI has
2 given us the right answer for that.
3 Environmental testing, the
4 lady before me spoke of cancer. Well,
5 there's three abutting properties, and I
6 don't think you realize that, within one
7 year, a person from each house died of
8 pancreatic cancer, and we know that does come
9 from radiation.
10 The intrusion of animals in
11 the neighborhood. There's just so many
12 questions, so many answers that have not been
13 found or -- or directly answered from the UI.
14 So I'm asking you, please, deny this
15 petition. Let the UI do everything they
16 should do properly for this neighborhood.
17 Let's protect the neighborhood. Let's not
18 have the explosion or have a cyber attack in
19 the backyard. No one has given us an answer
20 in what they're going to do. So thank you
21 very much.
22 THE CHAIRPERSON:
23 Representative Brenda
24 Kupchick.
25 REP. BRENDA KUPCHICK: Thank

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1 you. Can you hear me?
2 Thank you for allowing me to
3 have the opportunity to come before you and
4 speak on in behalf of the neighborhood and of
5 the Town of Fairfield. I have to tell you
6 this is not exactly in my district, but we
7 all represent Fairfield. And I grew up in
8 this town, so I feel like we all represent
9 this neighborhood.
10 I found it a little concerning
11 when I walked in here tonight and I realized
12 that half of the room is filled with
13 representatives or attorneys from UI. And I
14 don't know, it just makes me a little
15 uncomfortable.
16 You've heard a lot of comments
17 from the neighbors about concerns about
18 health, about safety, about not being
19 notified. I mean, this is a public utility
20 who is going to expand a huge amount in a
21 residential area. It's just alarming to me,
22 and I hope it is to you, that people who live
23 right next to it didn't receive any
24 notification about any of this. There's a
25 lot of things that seem a little suspect, and

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1 red flags should go up for the Siting
2 Council. I hope you will take the time to
3 reject this and have UI come back and do it
4 the right way.
5 This substation is very close
6 to people's properties. And as was spoken to
7 about before, you know, two of the people who
8 passed away from pancreatic cancer, abutting
9 this property, were my cousins' husbands.
10 What are the chances of three abutting
11 property owners dying of pancreatic cancer
12 within one year? It's -- it's beyond
13 coincidental. And I think that it's -- it's
14 something that needs to be reviewed more
15 carefully, and information should be provided
16 to these people.
17 These people live in this
18 neighborhood. They have a right to feel safe
19 in their neighborhoods. To say that they
20 can't use their pool, they can't open their
21 windows, they can't sit outside, to me,
22 that's unacceptable. And I hope that the
23 Siting Council will take into consideration
24 those points.
25 Thank you for your time.

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1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
2 Representative McCarthy Vahey.
3 REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY: Good
4 evening, members of the Siting Council. I'm
5 Cristin McCarthy Vahey. I represent the
6 133rd District also here in Fairfield. Thank
7 you for being here today and holding this
8 hearing. I'm here really to support what's
9 been stated by my fellow representatives from
10 here in Fairfield. You've heard from our
11 town officials, you've heard from our state
12 delegation, you've heard from the
13 neighborhood that we'd like to start this
14 process over, to have this petition be denied
15 and to go back and, I guess, in a sense, have
16 a do-over.
17 Earlier tonight I was at an
18 event here in Fairfield at the library
19 talking about technology and the loss of it,
20 a sci-fi novel. We know and understand how
21 important technology is. We understand that
22 we all rely on the lights that we have, the
23 power that we have. But the process here has
24 been flawed, and we're asking you to respect
25 this town, this community, the neighbors, to

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1 work together with them and to allow them to
2 have an opportunity for all of us to go back
3 and make sure that the very real concerns
4 that have been expressed here tonight are
5 addressed properly.
6 So we hope that you will
7 consider that, and thank you again for your
8 time.
9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
10 Nicole Stanton.
11 NICOLE STANTON: Hi. My name
12 is Nicole Stanton. I live at 1041 Burroughs
13 Road here in Fairfield. Thank you very much
14 for allowing me to speak.
15 I am a little nervous coming
16 up here talking to all of you. I'm really
17 grateful that you're here to hear the
18 concerns of the community. I'm a 20-year
19 Fairfield resident, and as such, 20-year UI
20 customer, and very disappointed by UI's
21 display of poor corporate citizenship.
22 Attempting to expand the
23 Hawthorne Substation without the requisite
24 environmental study is a subversion of our
25 Town's efforts to preserve open space and the

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1 wildlife contained therein. It's a
2 disservice to the town and it's a disservice
3 to the state.
4 The environmental impact of
5 this construction absolutely must be
6 assessed. The property in question is home
7 to several species of protected wildlife and
8 lies in proximity to Lake Mohegan, which as
9 many of you know, is 170-plus acres of open
10 space, hiking trails and lake.
11 My home is located a few
12 streets away from the other side of Lake
13 Mohegan. In the 11 years we've lived there,
14 we've noticed major disruption to the balance
15 of wildlife at the lake and, by extension,
16 our surroundings. Where once we would see
17 the occasional deer, entire families have now
18 taken up residence in our backyards. More
19 distressingly, coyotes are appearing on a
20 regular basis.
21 I personally have seen two on
22 morning walks and heard the howls of a family
23 of coyote pups that were delivered under a
24 neighbor's shed. Those animals came from
25 Lake Mohegan. They were pushed into our

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1 neighborhood. That should illustrate, I
2 believe, that Lake Mohegan is, at best, a
3 fragile ecosystem under some strain. Shame
4 on UI for not acknowledging that or being
5 willing to assess the impact of this massive
6 substation expansion.
7 I realize there are very good
8 reasons for working to increase the volume
9 and reliability of our electrical supply;
10 however, those do not negate the interest and
11 concerns of the neighbors, our town, and the
12 environment.
13 In closing, I would like to
14 address esthetics. The Merritt Parkway is
15 deservedly one of the most scenic roads in
16 this country, deliberately designed and
17 maintained to integrate with the natural
18 beauty of Connecticut. This substation
19 expansion will light up the night sky and be
20 clearly visible as an industrial site to
21 anyone driving down the Merritt.
22 I respectfully request that
23 the Siting Council also consider the visual
24 impact of this proposed substation and
25 whether it is truly in keeping with a road

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1 that is a storied landmark and a source of
2 pride for residents of the Nutmeg State.
3 Thank you.
4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
5 Sharon Pistilli.
6 SHARON PISTILLI: Hi. My name
7 is Sharon Pistilli. I live at 107 Lota Drive
8 in Fairfield, which is about a mile and a
9 half from the site in question. I would like
10 to thank you very much for the opportunity to
11 speak.
12 I've lived in Fairfield for
13 about 20 years, and I do understand, on
14 general terms, the function of the Siting
15 Council, the demand for services that benefit
16 the needs of the many. However, whenever
17 possible, these needs should be met in a way
18 that minimizes the negative impact on the
19 neighborhood and the environment, and
20 wherever possible, with input from the Town
21 in which the services are being installed.
22 Fairfield is a town full of
23 educated, involved, and respectful people.
24 The government and the citizens of the Town
25 deserve respect. United Illuminating's

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1 request to go forward with a substantial
2 substation upgrade without conducting the
3 appropriate environmental studies and without
4 properly notifying the neighbors shows
5 disrespect for the customers and the citizens
6 that they serve.
7 The community expects to be
8 properly notified, heard, and respected. The
9 town government deserves to be heard and have
10 its environment protected. The citizens
11 expect UI to abide by the laws of the Town
12 because it's the right thing to do.
13 UI needs to recognize that
14 these decisions are long lasting. Their
15 sensitivity, or lack thereof, in implementing
16 this project will endure and affect our
17 neighbors and the beauty of our neighborhood
18 for generations to come. All individuals
19 involved in this implementation need to be
20 sensitive to that fact.
21 United -- United Illuminating,
22 as a corporation, should not have the right
23 and nor should it in good conscience even ask
24 for the exception to be able to make such a
25 substantial upgrade to the existing

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1 substation without affording the Town of
2 Fairfield the proper due diligence in terms
3 of the environmental impact on wetlands and
4 wildlife and, most importantly, the
5 neighbors.
6 The southwest corridor of
7 Connecticut along the historic Merritt
8 Parkway is a beautiful gem. The Town of
9 Fairfield, we all agree, is a beautiful gem.
10 The Cascades and the Hawthorne neighborhood
11 and our Hawthorne neighbors are beautiful
12 gems, and United Illuminating should treat
13 them that way. Please do not allow this
14 project to proceed without a full study of
15 environmental impact and without input from
16 the town government and the neighbors.
17 Thank you very much for the
18 opportunity to address you. I really
19 appreciate it.
20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
21 Colleen Sullivan.
22 COLLEEN SULLIVAN: Hi. My
23 name is Colleen Sullivan, and I just learned
24 about this proposal a couple days ago. I am
25 not from the Hawthorne neighborhood, but I

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1 care about the community of Fairfield, and I
2 wanted to speak in support of the residents
3 of the Hawthorne neighborhood tonight.
4 I've recently looked at this
5 issue online from the Siting Council's
6 proposal, and I have some thoughts about it
7 that I'd like to share, so please forgive me
8 if I'm not completely up to date. I rushed
9 to do this today.
10 I quickly attempted to educate
11 myself about this proposal and read the
12 petition on the Connecticut Siting Council's
13 website. As I understand it, the proposal
14 that is being addressed by the Siting Council
15 today -- would forgo a study of the
16 environmental impact on this area. If this
17 were to be approved, the town bodies
18 responsible for securing the environment here
19 in Fairfield would be bypassed.
20 I would like to request that
21 the Town of Fairfield be included in the
22 development of this installation. I am
23 concerned about the impact that construction
24 will have on the animals in the area. It's
25 unclear what this construction would impact

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1 and how it would impact the vernal pools, the
2 wetlands, and the ecosystem of the box
3 turtle, a protected species in Connecticut.
4 My son runs in this area with
5 the Ward Cross Country Team every day. He
6 sees box turtles constantly. In looking at
7 this issue, I've seen the ecosystem of this
8 species protected in other installations in
9 Connecticut by not interfering with the
10 springtime mating season.
11 I believe there are two sides
12 to every story, and that's it's the Siting
13 Council's job to hear both sides. I would
14 like to request that our side be heard and
15 facts be considered before approving this.
16 And I would like you to deny this proposal so
17 that we could be heard and the environmental
18 impact could be studied.
19 Thank you.
20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
21 That's the last person that signed up. So
22 I'd just like to announce that the Council
23 will continue the evidentiary portion of the
24 hearing at its offices at 10 Franklin Square,
25 the Hearing Room 1, in New Britain, on

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 202</p> <p>1 Tuesday, April 7, 2015, at 1 p.m. 2 And I just want to -- and I 3 don't know. It may be clear to everybody, 4 but just in case it isn't, I just want to 5 explain a little bit about our process. I'm 6 not going to go over what may have happened 7 before, but it began -- or begin with a site 8 visit which happened at 2 p.m. and then 9 evidentiary hearing, which went from 3 to 10 sometime after 5 this afternoon. And for 11 those who are not aware, an evidentiary 12 hearing is the opportunity for 13 cross-examination of the applicant primarily 14 by, not only the Council, but those who have 15 intervened, which include several of your 16 neighbors. 17 Over 50 interrogatory 18 questions have been posed to the applicant by 19 the various intervenors, and responses have 20 been received. I'm not going to say that 21 everybody was totally pleased with the 22 responses, but there is that give or take. 23 And I also want to just make sure that you're 24 aware that one of intervenors is the Town of 25 Fairfield. And on Tuesday, the Town of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 204</p> <p>1 proceedings were adjourned at 8:20 p.m.) 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 203</p> <p>1 Fairfield, their representatives, will have 2 the opportunity also to cross-examine the 3 applicant. So it isn't just a one-way. 4 There is an opportunity to question and to 5 ask for the things that you've been asking in 6 a direct way. 7 Also, I just want to note that 8 anyone who has not become a party or 9 intervenor but who desires to make his or her 10 views known to the Council, again, if you 11 have friends who are unable to come or if you 12 have additional material you want to submit, 13 you have that opportunity until the record 14 closes, which will be 30 days after the -- 15 the 7th of April. 16 Again, also, which I encourage 17 you particularly to read the transcript of 18 the evidentiary hearing, and also, obviously, 19 this hearing be -- will be made available and 20 filed at the -- again, at the Town Clerk's 21 Office in Fairfield and Easton. 22 And I hereby declare the 23 hearing adjourned, and thank you all for your 24 participation, and drive home safely. 25 (Whereupon, the above</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 205</p> <p>1 CERTIFICATE 2 I hereby certify that the foregoing 68 3 pages are a complete and accurate 4 computer-aided transcription of my original 5 verbatim notes taken of the Public Hearing in 6 Re: Petition No. 1120, THE UNITED 7 ILLUMINATING COMPANY PETITION FOR A 8 DECLARATORY RULING THAT NO CERTIFICATE OF 9 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED 10 IS REQUIRED FOR THE PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO 11 THE EXISTING HAWTHORNE SUBSTATION LOCATED AT 12 180 HAWTHORNE DRIVE, FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT, 13 which was held before ROBERT STEIN, 14 Chairperson, and SENATOR JAMES J. MURPHY, 15 JR., Vice Chairperson, at the Education 16 Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 501 Kings 17 Highway East, Fairfield, Connecticut, on 18 March 31, 2015. 19 20 21 22 _____ 23 Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M 857 24 Court Reporter 25 UNITED REPORTERS, INC. 90 Brainard Road, Suite 103 Hartford, Connecticut 06114</p>

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