

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

subject: Proposed 345kV Transmission Line
Facility between Middletown and
Norwalk, Connecticut by Northeast Utilities
(NU) and United Illuminating (UI).
Connecticut Siting Council - Docket 272

Date: April 22, 2004

Supplemental Testimony of Harry Harris

Bureau Chief

Bureau of Public Transportation

Connecticut Department of Transportation

Q: Mr. Harris, are you aware of the existence of an agreement between the Connecticut Department of Transportation and Northeast Utilities for the location of a 115 kV transmission within rail rights-of-way owned by the State of Connecticut?

A: Yes I am. The agreement allows Northeast Utilities to install a 115 kV transmission line along portions of the New Haven line which runs from New Haven west to the New York border.

Q: Did Northeast Utilities install the 115 kV transmission line within the rail rights-of-way pursuant to that agreement?

A: Yes they did.

Q: Do you know if that agreement gives Northeast Utilities the option to upgrade the existing 115 kV to a 345 kV transmission line?

A: No it does not.

Q: Do you know why the agreement does not contain an option to upgrade the existing 115 kV transmission line to a 345 kV transmission line.

A: Yes. There were two reasons. One was a legal reason and the other was a technical reason.

Q: What was the legal reason?

A: The Office of the Attorney General advised us that the Connecticut Siting Council had not authorized Northeast Utilities to install a 345 kV transmission line within the State of Connecticut. Therefore, in deference to the authority of the Connecticut Siting Council, we were told that the Department of Transportation lack the authority to grant an option for the installation of a transmission line that was not approved by the Connecticut Siting Council.

Q: What was the technical reason why the option was not included in the agreement?

A: Northeast Utilities wanted an option to upgrade the system to a 230 kV transmission line. The Department of Transportation was concerned about the ability of the catenaries to support the 230 kV transmission line. Some of the catenaries along the New Haven line date back to the early 1900's. However, while we were negotiating the agreement with Northeast Utilities, they came back to us and stated that a 230 kV transmission line was not standard in the industry and that they would like the option to upgrade to a 345 kV transmission line. The Department of Transportation had concerns about the substantial weight differential between the 115 kV lines and a proposed 345 kV line. We told

Northeast Utilities that before we could grant them an option to install a 345 kV transmission line along the New Haven line, they would have to conduct a technical feasibility study demonstrating that the catenary system could support the additional weight of a 345 kV transmission line.

Q: Did Northeast Utilities ever provide the Department of Transportation with a technical feasibility study to determine whether the catenaries along the New Haven line could support a 345 kV transmission line?

A: No they did not.

This concludes my supplemental testimony.