

May 11, 2004

Pamela B. Katz
Chairman
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Docket No. 272 – Connecticut Light and Power Company and United Illuminating Company Application for a New 345-kV Electric Transmission Line Between Scovill Rock Switching Station in Middletown and Norwalk Substation in Norwalk

Dear Chairman Katz:

I am writing in support of the Motion of the Town of Woodbridge and City of Milford to Add Additional Hearing Dates filed May 10, 2004 (the “Woodbridge/Milford Motion”). The AG also supports the Motion of the Municipalities of Bethany, Cheshire, Durham, Easton, Fairfield, Hamden, Middlefield, Milford, North Haven, Norwalk, Orange, Wallingford, Weston, Westport, Wilton and Woodbridge to Reschedule Certain Filing Dates and to Add Additional Hearing Dates, also filed May 10, 2004 (the “Municipalities’ Motion”).

In the Woodbridge/Milford Motion, the movants respectfully request that the Connecticut Siting Council (“CSC” or “Council”):

- 1) permit the movants to file certain testimony identifying potential alternatives to the for the Connecticut Light and Power Company’s and the United Illuminating Company’s (jointly referred to herein as the “Applicants”) proposed route in each of the towns based on independent load flow analyses on July 28, 2004; and
- 2) schedule additional hearings to address this new testimony thereafter, presumably in early August, 2004.

In the Municipalities' Motion, the moving parties ask that the Council:

- 1) allow the movants to file certain testimony on May 25, 2004 for the currently scheduled June hearings. This testimony is currently due on May 18, 2004;
- 2) permit the Municipalities to file their testimony identifying potential alternatives to the Applicants' proposed route based on independent load flow analyses on July 7, 2004; and
- 3) schedule additional hearings on the subject matter of the Municipalities' testimony relating to alternative routes.

I agree with Woodbridge, Milford and the Municipalities that their requests were necessitated by events beyond their control and that their requests are essential to their ability to fully and fairly participate in these proceedings. Presenting and applying their evidence has required this additional time, which is also in the public interest because it will produce a more informed ultimate decision. Moreover, the granting of these motions will not delay the Council's current schedule of proceedings, but rather adds additional hearings that are necessary for a complete review of the Applicants' application and all possible system alternatives.

The CSC should grant both the Woodbridge/Milford Motion and the Municipalities' Motion for the following reasons. First, the movants must be afforded the opportunity to fully and fairly participate in this proceeding. See Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-50o(a). Needless to say, these towns cannot fully and fairly participate unless and until they have the opportunity present such evidence as may be required for a full and true disclosure of the facts. Second, the Municipalities are very directly affected by the Applicants' proposal. Therefore, the failure to allow the Municipalities the opportunity to present testimony relating to potential alternatives to the Applicants' proposed route could severely undermine public confidence in the fairness of this proceeding and in the ultimate outcome of this case.

Third, I respectfully submit that allowing all participants in this case the fair opportunity to present testimony as requested in these motions is necessary to enable the Council to discharge its obligation to carefully review all aspects of the application pending in this case.

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While granting these motions may cause some delay in these proceedings, it will be minor at most and is certainly necessary in the long run to fully and fairly deal with all of the important issues presented in this case.

Very truly yours,

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
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