

May 18, 2004

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

Re: Docket No. 272 - Middletown-Norwalk 345kV Transmission Line

Dear Ms. Katz:

This letter provides the response to requests for the information listed below.

This filing completes all the requested information for the CSC-02 set of interrogatories.

Response to CSC-02 Interrogatories dated 03/31/2004
CSC - 056

Very truly yours,

Anne B. Bartosewicz
Project Director - Transmission Business

ABB/tms
cc: Service List

Witness: Roger C. Zaklukiewicz
Request from: Connecticut Siting Council

Question:

Has the applicant agreed to adjust the route along Riverside Drive in Norwalk, and to create a bikeway in this area, as described in the City of Norwalk's letter of August 14, 2003?

Response:

During initial discussions with Norwalk officials, the route originally proposed by the applicant was more direct, it included installing the transmission cables beneath Main Street and New Canaan Avenue (Rte 123) which are on the east side of the Norwalk River. At these meetings, Norwalk officials requested a new route be considered that would cross the Norwalk River at Belden Avenue, travel north along Riverside Avenue, and then cross the Norwalk River again at New Canaan Avenue. Although the route is longer and involves two river crossings, Norwalk officials believe the route will provide less impact to residents and businesses than the route originally proposed by the applicant. Incorporating the City of Norwalk's recommendation, the Application includes an underground route along Riverside Avenue, which is west of the Norwalk River.

The applicant has not agreed to construct a bike path along the Norwalk River. Should the underground cable be sited along Riverside Avenue, the cable would be placed either below or directly adjacent to the existing road surface. Norwalk officials have identified their desire to have a bike path constructed parallel to and east of Riverside Avenue. For significant distances, the bike path would be located within the stream channel encroachment line and close to the edge of the Norwalk River. Any consideration of using the construction efforts associated with the Companies' project as a basis for Norwalk's conceptual bike path are negated by the physical separation between the projects.

The Glenbrook Cables Project, a 115-kV underground cable project yet to be filed with the Connecticut Siting Council, proposes a route between the Glenbrook and Norwalk substations that includes installing a duct bank within Riverside Avenue. The two cable systems must be separated from one another to minimize the impacts of mutual heating between the cable systems which would adversely affect the cable ratings.

Additional discussions were recently held with the Norwalk officials regarding alternative routing of the Companies' Middletown to Norwalk 345-kV project. The Companies' presented several alternative routes on the east side of Norwalk River, thereby avoiding the two river crossings. Placing the 345-kV cable system beneath Wilton Avenue and Grand Street would minimize traffic congestion and impacts on commercial businesses along Byington Place, Belden Avenue and Riverside Avenue. Although the alternative routings addressed several of the City's concerns, Norwalk officials continue to prefer the route proposed in the CSC application. It is recognized that such construction would have an impact on the residents along Wilton Avenue and Grand Street.