

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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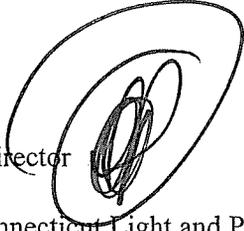
Internet: ct.gov/csc

Daniel F. Caruso

Chairman

December 21, 2006

TO: Parties and Intervenors

FROM: S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director 

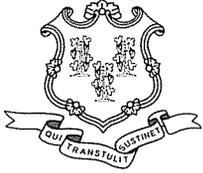
RE: **DOCKET NO. 272** - The Connecticut Light and Power Company and The United Illuminating Company Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Construction of a New 345-kV Electric Transmission Line and Associated Facilities Between Scovill Rock Switching Station in Middletown and Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, Connecticut Including the Reconstruction of Portions of Existing 115-kV and 345-kV Electric Transmission Lines, the Construction of the Beseck Switching Station in Wallingford, East Devon Substation in Milford, and Singer Substation in Bridgeport, Modifications at Scovill Rock Switching Station and Norwalk Substation and the Reconfiguration of Certain Interconnections.

Comments have been received on the Route 130 – Fairfield – Bridgeport (Ash Creek/Mill River/Sasco Creek Bridges) from the Department of Transportation, dated November 29, 2006. Attached please find a copy of the comments for your review.

SDP/FOC/laf

Enclosure

c: Council Members



Daniel F. Caruso
Chairman

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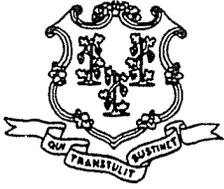
NOTICE OF SERVICE

I hereby affirm that a photocopy of this document was sent to each Party and Intervenor on the service list dated October 31, 2006.

Dated: December 22, 2006



Lisa Fontaine
Custodian of Docket No. 272



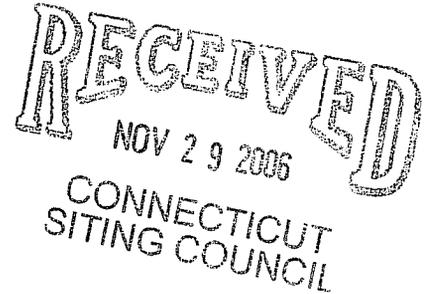
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546

Phone: November 29, 2006

Ms. Anne Bartosewicz
Project Director
Northeast Utilities Services Company
107 Selden Street
Berlin, CT 06037



Dear Ms. Bartosewicz:

Subject: 345 kV Transmission Lines
Route 130 - Fairfield – Bridgeport
Ash Creek/Mill River/ Sasco Creek Bridges

The Department of Transportation (“Department”) has been continuing its review of the various Northeast Utilities and United Illuminating Company (the “Utilities”) proposals for river crossings along Route 130 in Fairfield and Bridgeport. Based on the information received from the Utilities and the testimony that has been provided to date at the permit hearings, the Department will consider the following crossing method (utility bridges would be acceptable but do not appear to be in the public interest) to be acceptable at the locations listed:

Ash Creek – two crossing methods would be acceptable to the Department at this location. The preferred option, due to its limited impact on the transportation system, would be an open cut crossing of the waterway if it were found to be environmentally acceptable by the regulatory agencies. Such a crossing should be constructed a minimum of 25 feet from the existing structure and wing walls to allow sufficient area for future rehabilitation and/or reconstruction of the bridge structure.

The second acceptable crossing method would be horizontal directional drilling (HDD) beneath the structure, within the roadway pavement limits. This method would require long term closures of two lanes of Route 130 and would, therefore, have potential traffic impacts during peak travel periods. In addition, the long term closures may have an adverse economic impact on businesses in and adjacent to the construction area. Due to the concerns for transportation system operations and community impact, the following conditions would be required prior to proceeding with the HDD options:

- The Utilities would be required to provide a traffic mitigation plan acceptable to the communities involved and the Department. The Department will work with the Utilities and community officials to develop an acceptable plan.

- The Utilities will provide the necessary traffic mitigation and coordination with the Department and the communities at the Utilities expense.
- Any additional costs incurred by the Department during future rehabilitation or reconstruction of the Ash Creek Bridge as a result of the presence of the 345 kV transmission lines beneath the structure will be borne by the Utilities in accordance with the encroachment agreement.
- The Utilities, at their expense, will provide the Department with the necessary engineering, plans, and specifications to assure the protection of their facilities during any future rehabilitation or reconstruction of the bridge.

Mill River – due to the environmental concerns raised as a result of contamination of the Mill River sediments by others, it appears that it would be in the public’s interest to attach the 345 kV lines to the existing structure. If this option were to be pursued by the Utilities, the following must be provided to the Department and to the Town of Fairfield (Town):

- Complete engineering plans for the attachments to the structure, manhole locations, and other related facilities.
- Traffic mitigation plans acceptable to the Town and the Department, with all traffic mitigation costs and coordination to be provided by the Utilities at their expense.

Sasco Creek – the preferred option at this location to avoid transportation operational impacts would an open cut across the waterway if it were found to be environmentally acceptable to the permitting agencies. If it is determined that the environmental impacts would prohibit the issuance of a permit, the Department would permit the 345 kV transmission lines to be attached to the structure. The same conditions listed for a bridge attachment at Mill River would apply at this location.

As indicated above, the Department will consider attachment of the 345 kV transmission lines to the Sasco Creek and Mill River Bridges due to the environmental issues at these two sites. Attachment to any other DOT structure will not be considered unless site conditions at those locations would preclude other construction methodologies from being utilized.

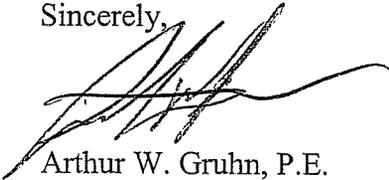
In addition, if the attachment alternative is utilized, it will be necessary to amend the existing Encroachment Agreement to address the issues related to this additional encroachment at the three bridge structures addressed in this letter. My staff will be preparing the Encroachment Agreement amendment and will be forwarding it to you as soon as the draft is prepared.

The Department remains to be committed to work with the Utilities, the communities, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Connecticut Siting Council to facilitate the installation of the 345 kV transmission line while maintaining the integrity of the state's transportation system. To that end, the Department will be contacting the elected officials in Fairfield and Bridgeport to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning the anticipated traffic impacts as a result of the methods outlined above. The development of this MOU between the communities and the Department does not relieve the Utilities of their obligation to coordinate and develop the necessary traffic mitigation plans with the communities and the department

Upon receipt of the engineering drawings, construction methodology, and traffic mitigation plans for the selected crossing options from the Utilities, the Department will provide an expedited review of the submissions. No construction activity may be undertaken at any of the above bridge locations until such time as the plans and specifications for the work are reviewed and approved by the Department, and the Encroachment Agreement amendment is signed by the Utilities and the Department.

Please continue to keep the Department apprised of the methods the Utilities select for each of the crossings, as well as any meetings with the communities to develop the traffic mitigation plans for the selected construction methodology. If you have any questions regarding these matters, please contact Mr. Joseph Obara at 860-594-3254 or Mr. Sohrab Afrazi at 860-594-3262.

Sincerely,



Arthur W. Gruhn, P.E.
Chief Engineer
Bureau of Engineering and
Highway Operations

cc: The Honorable John M. Fabrizi
The Honorable Kenneth A. Flatto
Ms. Gina McCarthy, Department of Environmental Protection
Ms. Jean Dellamarggio, DEP Hearing Officer
Mr. Derek Phelps, Connecticut Siting Council ✓
The Honorable Bill Finch, State Senator, 22nd District
The Honorable Edwin A. Gomes, State Senator, 23rd District
The Honorable John McKinney, State Senator, 28th District
The Honorable Charles Clemons, State Representative, 124th District

The Honorable Christopher L. Caruso, State Representative, 126th District
The Honorable John F. Hennessy, State Representative, 127th District
The Honorable Lydia N. Martinez, State Representative, 128th District
The Honorable Robert T. Keeley, State Representative, 129th District
The Honorable Felipe Reinoso, State Representative, 130th District
The Honorable Thomas Drew, State Representative, 132nd District
The Honorable Catherine Tymniak, State Representative, 133rd District
The Honorable Jack Stone, State Representative, 134th District
Mr. Jim Muntz, Northeast Utilities