



Town of Durham

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTWOMAN

*PRIDE in the Past,
FAITH in the future.*

January 13, 2005

*Maryann P. Boord
First Selectwoman*

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

Re: Docket No. 272 - The Connecticut Light and Power Company and The United Illuminating Company application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a new 345kV electric transmission line and associated facilities between the Scovill Rock Switching Station in Middletown and Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, Connecticut

Dear Chairman Katz:

In my prior communications to the Council in this proceeding, I have necessarily focused my comments on the potential adverse impacts of the proposed overhead 345 kV lines within several residential areas in Durham, because I believe that my primary duty in this proceeding is to protect the safety of my constituents in their own homes. However, I also wish to bring to the Council's attention the potential adverse impacts of the proposed overhead 345 kV lines on certain Town-owned property in Durham. This property is open space used and enjoyed by Durham residents for many recreational purposes. That property is the Dunn Hill Road Property, and is identified as (shaded) parcel 1A1 in the Town Map attached to this letter entitled "Town of Durham, Connecticut – Open Space Database". The Designation 1A1 is explained in the Open Space listing on the map as "Town of Durham"- "Fee" – Open Space".

Durham purchased the Dunn Hill Road Property in 1968. The Dunn Hill Road Property consists of approximately 140 acres and abuts a public golf course (Parcel 5). The Dunn Hill Road Property is used for passive recreational activities such as Boy Scout camp-outs, hiking, horseback riding and fishing.

The existing 115 kV transmission lines are also identified on the attached town map as a shaded linear feature No. 7, which is described as "Utility ROW", and run parallel to the northern edge of the Dunn Hill Road Property. The existing 115 kV lines are on towers less than 60' tall, approximately 10 feet lower than the surrounding tree canopy. If the overhead 345 kV transmission lines as proposed are constructed in the existing right-of-way, those lines will be placed on towers potentially 135' tall, or perhaps even taller. This will have an enormously adverse impact on the viewsheds within the Dunn Hill Road Property, which open space viewsheds are the primary attribute and value of

this town owned recreational asset. Additionally, it is likely that public use of the Dunn Hill Road Property will fall off as a result of concern on the part of Town residents regarding increased EMF exposure from the 345 kV lines. This will further significantly reduce the value of the Town's investment in the Dunn Hill Road Property, which was purchased with an eye toward providing an area for the Town's residents to enjoy the outdoors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maryann P. Boord".

Maryann P. Boord
First Selectwoman

Town of Durham, Connecticut OPEN SPACE DATABASE



2000 0 2000 4000 Feet



- (1) Town of Durham
 - a) Fee
 - 1) Open Space
 - 2) Cemetery
 - 3) Town Facility
 - b) Easement
- (2) State of Connecticut
 - a) Fee
 - 1) Open Space
 - b) Easement
 - 1) Farmland Preservation
- (3) Land Trust
 - a) Fee
 - b) Easement
- (4) Town of Wallingford
 - a) Fee
 - b) Easement
- (5) Private Recreation - Sport Clubs, Golf Courses, Camps Associations, Durham Fair
- (6) Regional District 13
- (7) Utility ROW

