

Pre-Hearing Interrogatories, Set Two

The United Illuminating Company  
Docket No. Life Cycle 2011

Witness: Mr. Charles Eves  
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- Q-CSC-1: Does The United Illuminating Company (UI) believe its transmission line capital and construction costs are still similar to other northeastern utilities?
- A-CSC-1: Yes, UI believes its transmission line capital and construction costs are still similar to other northeastern utilities.

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- Q-CSC-2: Are there any additional factors not discussed in the 2006 Council interrogatory responses that have impacted UI's capital and construction costs for transmission lines? If so, please identify these factors and the impacts they have on transmission line life-cycle costs.
- A-CSC-2: There are no additional factors that have impacted UI's capital and construction costs for transmission.

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- Q-CSC-3: Does UI believe that its transmission line operating and maintenance (O&M) costs are still similar to other northeastern utilities?
- A-CSC-3: Yes. UI believes transmission line O&M costs remain similar to other northeastern utilities.

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Q-CSC-6: Are there any updates or changes to the factors provided in the 2006 Council interrogatories that have an impact on UI's overhead transmission line capital costs? If so, please identify these factors and the impacts they have on transmission line life-cycle costs.

A-CSC-6: There are no updates or changes to the factors that have an impact on UI's overhead transmission line capital costs.

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- Q-CSC-7: Are there any updates or changes to the factors provided in the 2006 Council interrogatories that have an impact on UI's underground transmission line capital costs? If so, please identify these factors and the impacts they have on transmission line life-cycle costs.
- A-CSC-7: There are no updates or changes to the factors that have an impact on UI's overhead transmission line capital costs.

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- Q-CSC-8: Since the 2006 Council interrogatories, have there been any updates or changes regarding UI's overall philosophy related to siting and construction of new transmission lines? If so, please identify these changes and the impacts they have on transmission line life-cycle costs.
- A-CSC-8: There have been no updates or changes regarding UI's overall philosophy related to the siting and construction of new transmission lines.

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Q-CSC-9: Are there any updates to the coordination of transmission and distribution planning activities within UI or in conjunction with the ISO New England Regional System Planning process? If so, please discuss the changes and the impacts they have on transmission line life-cycle costs.

A-CSC-9: There are no process changes regarding the coordination of transmission and distribution planning activities within UI and the ISO New England (ISO-NE) Regional System Planning process that have impacted transmission line life-cycle costs. UI fulfills its obligation to provide reliable service to its customers and to meet the reliability standards mandated by national and regional authorities responsible for the transmission system: the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC) and ISO-NE. Transmission Planning studies are conducted in accordance with the regional process as outlined in Attachment K of the ISO-NE Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT). The study results identify reliability transmission needs in UI's service territory relating typically to capacity limitations, unacceptable voltage performance and high short circuit levels. After a Needs Assessment study is completed by ISO-NE and UI, its results are discussed for stakeholder input at a Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting. To address the distribution and transmission system needs, a Solution study, which would include transmission line life-cycle cost comparison, is performed determining the preferred solution as agreed by both ISO-NE and UI. After the preferred solution is vetted at a PAC meeting, a filing with the CSC regarding the proposed transmission project is made by UI.

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- Q-CSC-10: Since the 2006 interrogatories have there been any significant changes in the costs of right-of-way for underground or overhead transmission lines? If so, please discuss the nature and extent of these changes.
- A-CSC-10: No. The costs of right-of-way for overhead and underground transmission lines remain project, market and site specific.

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- Q-CSC-12: Has UI's use of herbicides or growth retardants changed in any way since the 2006 Council interrogatories? If so, please describe these changes and their effect on transmission line life-cycle costs.
- A-CSC-12: The Company does not currently use herbicides or growth retardants for rights-of-way maintenance.

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Q-CSC-13: Have there been any additional regulations, policy changes or other factors that may impact the environmental or safety costs associated with UI's use of herbicides or growth retardants? If so, please identify the regulations or policy changes and discuss the effects they have had on life-cycle costs.

A-CSC-13: The Company does not currently use herbicides or growth retardants for rights-of-way maintenance.

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Q-OCC-3: Ref. Responses to Interrogatories CSC-002 and -004. Provide the depreciation life by transmission plant categories as listed in the Responses to CSC-002 and -004.

A-OCC-3:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Transmission Plant</u>	<u>Average Service Life</u>
350.1	Easements	85 years
352.0	Structures and Improvements	45 years
353.0	Station Equipment	45 years
354.0	Towers and Fixtures	50 years
355.0	Poles and Fixtures	50 years
356.0	OH Conductors and Devices	30 years
357.0	UG Conduit	45 years
358.0	UG Conductors and Devices	30 years

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- Q-OCC-8: Provide the operations and maintenance (O&M) costs to date for the underground Bethel-to-Norwalk 345kV XLPE cable lines. Include O&M costs for associated overhead-to-underground transition stations and cable splicing vaults. Detail in narrative form the experience to date with operating and maintaining these underground lines.
- A-OCC-8: UI does not operate or maintain any segment of the Bethel-to-Norwalk 345kV XLPE cable lines.

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- Q-OCC-13: Ref. *Life Cycle 2007 Report (2007 Report)*, pp. 20-23. In comparing underground to overhead costs, the 2007 Report includes issues such as land costs, materials costs escalation, degree of complexity, and transient voltages. Regarding other types of costs associated with the Bethel-to-Norwalk undergrounding that have a significant impact on Connecticut consumers, provide the average per-mile costs charged to Connecticut consumers due to: (a) localization of the underground line by ISO-New England, and (b) the added 46 basis points ROE incentive that was secured from FERC for use of “advanced technology” related to the length of the underground line.
- A-OCC-13: UI did not design or construct and does not operate or maintain any segment of the Bethel-to-Norwalk 345kV XLPE cable lines.