

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

Re:

**The United Illuminating Company Application
For a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility
and Public Need for the Construction, Maintenance
and Operation of a Proposed 115 kV/13 kV Electric
Substation and Associated Facilities Located
at 3-7 Wildflower Lane, Trumbull, Connecticut**

Docket No. 317

October 19, 2006

**PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF
JOHN HEYDER, DIANA CHEVRETTE, AND SCOTT STANGER**

Q1: In what capacity do you appear before the Siting Council in this matter?

A1: We are testifying on behalf of the Wildflower Coalition.

Q2: Are you familiar with the issues relating to the application of The United Illuminating Company for the proposed substation at Wildflower Lane?

A2: Yes.

Q3: Who are the members of the Wildflower Coalition?

A3: Gail and Scott Stanger, 45 Stella Street, Trumbull, CT 06611;
Julie and Chet Jawor, 39 Stella Street, Trumbull, CT 06611;
Sandra and Domenico Carlini, 52 Stella Street, Trumbull, CT 06611;
Barbara and Mark Moser, 33 Stella Street, Trumbull, CT 06611;
Wendy and Marc Thompson, 22 Stella Street, Trumbull, CT 06611;
Laura and John Heyder, 27 Stella Street, Trumbull, CT 06611;
Debra and John Schmidt, 20 Vazzano Place, Trumbull, CT 06611;
Diana and David Chevrette, 21 Stella Street, Trumbull, CT 06611;
Nancy and James Glynn, 40 Stella Street, Trumbull, CT 06611; and
Linda and Robert Montanari, 46 Stella Street, Trumbull, CT 06611

Q4: When and for what purpose was the Coalition formed?

A4: The Coalition formed in February, 2006 after receiving notification from UI of its intention to propose Wildflower Lane as a site for a power substation to the CT

Siting Council. The purpose of forming was to protect our neighborhood from the impact a substation may have on our children, our families, and our homes.

Q5: What are the aspects of this proposal that the Coalition find objectionable?

- A5:
1. Proximity of substation to homes and backyards
 2. Proximity to children
 3. EMF emissions
 4. Displacement of the wildlife that currently live in that wooded area
 5. Property values
 6. Safety concerns
 7. Possibility of future substation expansion
 8. Destruction of the historic nature of the Nichols area
 9. Noise emanating from substation

Q6: How close will the substation be to the backyards of certain Coalition members?

A6: It is our belief that several of the neighbors are within 100 yards of the proposed substation. Specifically, the Stanger's property is within 50 feet of the proposed substation site.

Q7: Are recreational activities often played by families in those areas?

A7: Yes. Both the Stangers and Jawors have swimming pools in their back yards. The children in the neighborhood often play outside, ride their bikes in the circle at the top of the street and play basketball and other outdoor games. Neighbors gather in the summer for picnics, get together, block parties, and bocce.

Q8: How many children would you estimate play on a consistent basis in the Stella Street area?

A8: We would estimate that number to range from the 24 children who live on Stella Street to upwards of 75 in the surrounding streets including Vazzano Place, Huntington Turnpike, Rocky Ridge Road, as well as many friends of the children of Stella Street that often come to play and hang out in our neighborhood because there are so many children here who all play and hang out outside together.

Q9: What age range do most of these children fall into?

A9: The majority of the children range in age from 7-16, but include children as young as 3.

Q10: What specifically concerns the Coalition about the proposed substation's proximity to these children?

A10: The number one concern is the EMF exposure and the risks that exposure may have on their health. Another of the Coalition families has a child born with a spinal disorder that results in the propensity for tumors to grow. Her three siblings also have similar cancer risks. Several Wildflower families have had loved ones with cancer.

It is also a safety concern with children getting into the substation with the close proximity of the substation to our backyards. One of the Coalition members had a 12 year old nephew die from electrocution as a result of playing near the power lines near his home

Q11: What is the Coalition's concern regarding the EMF emissions?

A11: There is no reason to unnecessarily expose young families in a dense residential area to an additional and proximate source of EMF exposure if there is a safer alternative. The EMF levels provided in the Applications and supplemental filings reflect EMF values that some health agencies would consider unsafe. If an alternative location provides an opportunity to relocate the away from residences and young families, it should be required because there is only one certain protection from EMF- distance.

There was much discussion in earlier proceedings about what would be considered a safe distance from areas in which children congregated and spent significant amounts of time. The distance was closer to 300 feet and was certainly not the 50 feet between the Stanger's backyard/pool area and the substation site.

Q12: What is the Coalition's concern regarding the wildlife in the area?

A12: On a regular basis, we see wild turkey, hawks, fox, deer, and rabbits in our backyards that will be displaced by the construction, operation and maintenance of this substation facility.

Q13: What is the Coalition's concern regarding property values?

A13: A house is the single largest investment any one of us could have. We've been quoted by realtors that the property value will decrease up to 35% by having a substation in close proximity to our homes. Further, although there may be no definitive studies at this time, the perception and uncertainty about the dangers of EMF will certainly have a further devaluing effect on our properties. It will likely be very difficult to sell our home with a substation in our back yard.

Q14: What is the Coalition's concern regarding noise?

A14: The concern is based upon the applicant's failure to take readings at relevant points (close to residences that would be impacted by the increased noise to be produced by the substation), the uncertainty of the applicant's ability to actually ensure the

post construction readings they've represented, the impact of the increased noise to the neighbors living so close to the proposed substation, and the absolute lack of concrete data as to what noise levels those neighbors will experience.

Q15: Did you know when you purchased your properties that UI owned the parcels we now know as 3-7 Wildflower Lane?

A15: Some of the Coalition members who inquired into nearby property owners and discovered the UI ownership were informed that this was a training station for UI employees. Upon investigating the site they could see the training poles and the explanation thus made sense.

We could obviously see that power lines ran through an area off of Huntington Turnpike in very close proximity to homes that were already there. However, power lines run all over the place in CT and we did not suspect that UI owned the parcels on Wildflower Lane with any intention of putting a substation on that property. Nor would we have ever imagined that a substation would be considered so close to a residential neighborhood. Our development was not built until 1998 – 2000. UI bought those parcels in 1992 knowing that a substation would be needed in Trumbull.

One of the Coalition families purchased a home on Vazzano Place in April 2003. It was not disclosed that UI owned property on the next block, or that there were intentions of building a substation in the near future. Knowing that the Nichols section of Trumbull was historic, they did not think it was even a possibility. Additionally with new homes just up the block, this is something that should have been addressed before they were built. One other Coalition member just bought their house as close as May 2005 and also, there was no disclosure.

None of us would have purchased these homes if we had known UI's intentions for that property. Further, the entire development never should have been allowed to be built with UI's intention to build something so incompatible with a residential neighborhood.

Q16: What other properties has the Coalition considered as viable alternatives to the Wildflower Lane site?

A16: Quarry Road (Site 11) and Rocky Ridge Road a/k/a Quail Trail (Site 6D)

Q17: Why does the Coalition consider Quarry Road a good alternative?

A17. Quarry Road is an ideal location because it is in an industrial zone. It has no homes anywhere within 1,000 feet of the property. The property is fairly level. The transmission lines and structures run directly over this property already. It is abutted by highway, town owned land, state owned land, and open space and would not impact any residential neighborhoods. Initially UI reported that they did not believe that the owners would be willing to sell it; UI would be unwilling to lease it. However, it became apparent that the owners were willing to sell it at a fair market price, but

even so UI did not pursue it any further. It does not seem that Quarry Road has been evaluated thoroughly enough.

Q18: How did Site 6D come to fruition?

A18: Members of the Coalition contacted town representatives to find out if the Town had any open space on Town owned land that would be a more viable alternative to the Wildflower site. We approached them about the back of the Unity Park property. The Town agreed that the Wildflower location was too close to existing residences and the Town Engineer came up with 6D as the best possible alternative site.

Q19: Why is Site 6D a good alternative?

A19: Site 6D is a good alternative for several reasons:

1. It locates the substation on Town property;
2. Substantially further away from any residential abutter (more than 300 ft) than at Wildflower Lane (less than 100 feet);
3. The properties abutting this property would have no visibility of the substation;
4. The transmission lines already cross through this parcel; and
5. For all of the technical, environmental and land use reasons that Brian Smith, Town Engineer will explain.

Q20: If the Council make a determination that it is absolutely not feasible to move the substation to Site 6D or any other alternate Site, what is the Coalition's choice of stealthing options for the substation – in order of preference?

A20: The Coalition's choice of stealthing options, in order of preference is:

1. barn with concrete fence;
2. barn with chain link;
3. gas insulated substation w/ concrete panel fence;
4. open air substation w/ concrete panel fence

Q21: In what ways does the Coalition consider its neighborhood to be unique?

A21: There are many ways the Coalition considers its' neighborhood to be unique. Everyone in the neighborhood is roughly in the same age group with children also in the same age groups. We are all very friendly and close as friends. We get together in the neighborhood on a regular basis, both alone as adults and our children play together on a daily basis. We help each other out in need and are truly good neighbors and friends.

We live on a cul-d-sac which represents a very safe environment for our children to play outside with an extremely reduced risk of vehicle accidents. In other words we

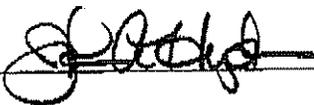
live on a safe street. The very presence of this substation within 100 feet of our neighborhood will forever change that perception.

Q22: Do you think that the proposed substation could have an impact on the quality of that neighborhood?

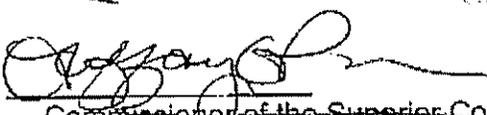
A22: Absolutely. We fear the health and safety of our children and our families. The substation will be visible to us at least 6 months out of the year when there are no leaves on the trees. It will be an unsightly eyesore to look at. It will decrease the value of our homes.

During the spring, summer and fall months our children play outside and swim in neighborhood pools (one of which will be less than 100 feet away from the Wildflower location). One of the most attractive attributes to living in our Trumbull neighborhood is the beauty and spaciousness of the outdoor yards. Having a visible substation as a next door neighbor will forever change that.

The statements above are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

10-19-06 
Date

Subscribed and sworn before me this 19 day of October, 2006

By: 
Commissioner of the Superior Court
Notary Public **TIFFANY G. PARA**
NOTARY PUBLIC
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES MAY 31, 2008

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10-19-06 Diana R. Chevette
Date

Subscribed and sworn before me this 19th day of October, 2006

By: Deborah O'Hara
~~Commissioner of the Superior Court~~
Notary Public
Deborah O'Hara
NOTARY PUBLIC
State of Connecticut
My Commission Expires 3-31-2011

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Date

[Signature]

Subscribed and sworn before me this 19 day of October, 2006

By: Patrice Chesler
Commissioner of the Superior Court
Notary Public

PATRICE CHESLER
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York
NO. 01CH4510282
Qualified in New York County
Commission Expires May 31, 2007