In The Matter Of:
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 474
August 22, 2017

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 474

The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Greater Hartford-Central Connecticut Reliability Project that traverses the municipalities of Hartford, West Hartford, and Newington, which consists of (a) construction, maintenance and operation of a new 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line within existing Eversource, Amtrak and public road rights-of-way and associated facilities extending overhead approximately 2.4 miles and underground approximately 1.3 miles between Eversource's existing Newington Substation in the Town of Newington and existing Southwest Hartford Substation in the City of Hartford; (b) modifications to a .01 mile section within existing Eversource right-of-way of the existing overhead 115-kV electric transmission line connection to the Newington Substation (Newington Tap); and (c) related modifications to Newington Substation and Southwest Hartford Substation.

Public Comment Session held at the Newington Town Hall Auditorium, 131 Cedar Street, Newington, Connecticut, on Tuesday, August 22, 2017, beginning at 6:31 p.m.

Held Before:

SENATOR JAMES J. MURPHY, JR., Vice Chairman
Appearances:

Council Members:

ROBERT HANNON

MICHAEL HARDER

DR. MICHAEL W. KLEMENS

LARRY P. LEVESQUE, ESQ.

DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.

ROBERT SILVESTRI

Council Staff:

MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.

Executive Director and
Staff Attorney

MICHAEL PERRONE

Siting Analyst

For the Connecticut Light and Power Company:

CARMODY TORRANCE SANDAK & HENNESSEY LLP

195 Church Street

P.O. Box 1950

New Haven, Connecticut 06509

BY: ANTHONY M. FITZGERALD, ESQ.
SENATOR MURPHY: Ladies and gentlemen,
I'd like to call this hearing to order this
Tuesday, August the 22nd, 2017, at approximately
6:30 p.m. My name is James J. Murphy, Jr. I'm
vice chairman of the Connecticut Siting Council.

Other members of the Council are Robert
Hannon, designee for Commissioner Robert Klee of
the Department of Energy and Environmental
Protection; Larry Levesque, the designee for
Chairwoman Katie Dykes with the Public Utilities
Regulatory Authority; Robert Silvestri; Dr.
Michael W. Klemens; Michael Harder; and Daniel P.
Lynch, Jr. Members of the staff with us tonight
are Melanie Bachman, Executive Director and Staff
Attorney; and Michael Perrone, our siting analyst.

This is a continuation of a public
hearing that began at 3 p.m. this afternoon.
Copies of the hearing program and the Council's
Citizens Guide to siting Council Procedures are
available for members of the public over here.

This hearing is held pursuant to the
provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative
Procedures Act upon an application from The
Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a
Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a transmission line that traverses the municipalities of Newington, Hartford, and West Hartford, Connecticut. This application was received by the Council on June the 7th, 2017.

The applicant published notice of the filing of this application to the Council in The Hartford Courant and the West Hartford News on May 4th, and May the 11th 2017. The Council's legal notice of the date and time of this hearing was published in The Hartford Courant on July the 25th, 2017. Upon this Council's request, the applicant erected signs at conspicuous locations along the proposed and all-underground alternative routes so as to inform the public of the name of the applicant, the type of facility, the hearing date and it's location, and contact information for this Council.

This afternoon members of the Council, staff, and the public personally conducted a field review of the proposed project in order to observe firsthand the potential impact of this proposal.

The hearing session tonight has been
reserved first for the public to make short
statements into the record. These public
statements are not subject to questions from the
parties or the Council, and members of the public
making statements may not ask questions of the
parties or the Council. These statements will
become part of the record for the Council's
consideration.

A sign-up sheet is available for those
who would like to participate. And I think that
sign-up sheet is over here at the podium.

As a reminder to all, off the record
communications with members of this Council or a
member of the Council's staff, upon the merits of
this application, is prohibited by the law.

I wish to note that the parties and
intervenors, including their representatives and
witnesses, are not allowed to participate in the
public comment session. I also wish to note for
those who are here, and for the benefit of your
friends and neighbors who are unable to join us
for this public comment session, that you or they
may send written statements to the Council within
30 days of the date hereof; and such written
statements will be given the same weight as if
spoken this evening. If necessary, party and intervenor cross-examination that began at the hearing session held at 3 this afternoon may continue after the public comments.

This evening we ask each person making a public statement in this proceeding to confine his or her statements to the subject matter before the Council, and to avoid unreasonable repetition so that we may hear all of the concerns you or your neighbors may have. Please be advised that the Council cannot answer questions from the public about the proposal.

A verbatim transcript will be made of this hearing and deposited at the Newington and West Hartford Town Clerk's Office and the Hartford City Clerk's Office for the convenience of the public.

Before I call on members of the public to make statements, we're asking the applicant to make a brief presentation to the public here this evening describing the proposed project, why it is necessary, and what alternatives you investigated.

KENNETH BOWES: Thank you, Chairman.

My name is Kenneth Bowes. I'm the vice president of transmission performance for Eversource Energy,
and also the lead witness for this proceeding.

The Greater Hartford Central Connecticut Reliability Project was developed in response to a need for transmission system improvements identified by ISO New England, the independent system operator. The project will address the needs, both thermal and voltage issues, and enhance the reliability of the electric system.

The proposed project has several components as follows: A new 115 kV transmission line, which would extend a distance of approximately 3.7 miles from Eversource's substation in Newington, Connecticut, located at 185 Cherry Hill Drive, through the Town of West Hartford to the Southwest Hartford Substation located at 219 New Park Avenue in the City of Hartford.

The new transmission line will provide a transmission line between these two substations that are presently not connected. Modifications to accommodate the new transmission line at both Newington and Southwest Substations are part of this project as well. The reconfiguration of one of the existing 115 kV transmission lines at
Newington Substation is also part of this application.

The project route travels through the Newington Substation to the Amtrak right-of-way, approximately 1.3 miles in Newington. This portion of the project will be installed underground for approximately 0.8 miles along an existing Eversource right-of-way, which has five distribution circuits for about 0.14 miles along the State Highway 173, Willard Avenue, and then for about 0.13 miles along a local road, Shepard Drive. At that point we will go onto the existing Amtrak and Fastrak right-of-way for 2.4 miles, including 0.17 miles in Newington, 1.64 miles in West Hartford, and 0.56 miles in Hartford.

The Amtrak right-of-way currently has two Amtrak rail lines, as well as the recently developed Fastrak bus lane, which extends along the west side of the right-of-way. This new 115 kV transmission line has been carefully designed in consultation with Amtrak to avoid impacts of both of these rail lines, Amtrak's future plans for expansion of rail service, and also the bus route.

The transmission structures along this
Amtrak right-of-way generally range from 95 to 110 feet. There are two new -- or two modifications to the existing application around what would be a new rail station in West Hartford. At either end of the overhead segment there's a transition structure where there's transition from overhead to underground. Those will be approximately 95 to 105 feet tall.

The substation and Newington Tap modifications include expansion of the fence lines entirely on Eversource owned property. Each will be approximately 0.3 acres. Overall, Eversource has designed this project to carefully balance the need for improvements to the electric system, and the avoidance and minimization of impacts to the public, to the environment, to cultural resources and for provision of a cost-effective solution. The use of this hybrid transmission line with an overhead and underground segments saves ratepayers approximately $39 million versus the all-underground alternative. Thank you.

SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you. We'll now turn to the public portion of the hearing this evening.

Is there any elected officials who
would like to address us from the public?

(No response.)

SENATOR MURPHY: If not, as it stands now, I have one person that is signed up. So if other people are interested in speaking this evening, I urge you to put your name on the sheet if you're interested. If not, that's fine.

Jonathan -- I'm not sure of the last name -- Morreale?

JACQUES MORREALE: My name is Jacques Morreale.

SENATOR MURPHY: Spell your last name for us, and address, please.

JACQUES MORREALE: My name is Jacques Morreale. I live at 123 Cherry Hill Drive. I'm here today --

SENATOR MURPHY: In which town,

Newington?

JACQUES MORREALE: Newington, yes.

I'm here today just to see what you had in mind. I'm glad to see that you had intended to put it down underneath the existing lines through my neighborhood.

One of my biggest concerns was that if you put up a high power line, you'd be able to see
it anywhere in the neighborhood, and it would ruin
the property values. So I'm against power lines.

The portion that runs along the
Fastrak, I was so happy to see Fastrak go in,
because that was just a terrible area, and Fastrak
cleaned it all up. It's quite nice now.

And I'm afraid if the power lines go in
at heights that you just described, that it would
look bad and make the town, not only Hartford, but
also Newington, look bad when you drive by you can
see the power lines. They're huge.

If there's some way to put them
underground, that's all I would like to say. If
they put them underground there, keep it all
underground in the route that they intended, I
think that would be most preferable to the
aesthetics of the towns involved.

SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you.

I lost my list. Is there anyone else
who would care to address us this evening?

(No response.)

SENATOR MURPHY: If not, the Council
will now close the public comment session of this
hearing and resume the evidentiary session of the
hearing that began this afternoon.
Do we have anything left unattended to, Mr. Fitzgerald?

MR. FITZGERALD: No, Senator Murphy, I don't believe so, from our point of view. We rest.

SENATOR MURPHY: I'm going to close this hearing, evidentiary, as well as the public hearing.

Before closing this hearing, the Connecticut Siting Council announces that briefs and proposed findings of fact may be filed with the Council by any party or intervenor no later than September the 21st, 2017. The submission of briefs or proposed findings of fact are not required by the Council, rather, we leave it to the choice of the parties and intervenors.

Anyone who has not become a party or intervenor, but who desires to make his or her views known to this Council, may file written statements with the Council within 30 days of the date hereof.

The council will issue draft findings of fact, and thereafter the parties and intervenors may identify errors or inconsistencies between the Council's draft findings of fact and
the record. However, no new information, no new
evidence, no new argument, and no reply briefs
without our permission will be considered by the
Council.

Copies of this evening's transcript
will be filed at the Newington and West Hartford
Town Clerk's Office and the Hartford City Clerk's
Office. I hereby declare this hearing adjourned.
Thank you for your participation, and drive
carefully.

(Whereupon, the above proceedings were
adjourned at 6:48 p.m.)
CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 13 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original stenotype notes taken of the Public Comment Session in Re: DOCKET 474, The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Greater Hartford-Central Connecticut Reliability Project that traverses the municipalities of Hartford, West Hartford, and Newington, which consists of (a) construction, maintenance and operation of a new 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line within existing Eversource, Amtrak and public road rights-of-way and associated facilities extending overhead approximately 2.4 miles and underground approximately 1.3 miles between Eversource's existing Newington Substation in the Town of Newington and existing Southwest Hartford Substation in the City of Hartford; (b) modifications to a .01 mile section within existing Eversource right-of-way of the existing overhead 115-kV electric transmission line connection to the Newington Substation (Newington Tap); and (c) related modifications to Newington Substation and Southwest Hartford Substation, which was held before SENATOR JAMES J. MURPHY, JR., Vice Chairman, at the Newington Town Hall Auditorium, 131 Cedar Street, Newington, Connecticut, on August 22, 2017.

[Signature]

Lisa L. Warner, L.S.R., 061 Court Reporter