

me/100/000

50 Leavenworth Street  
Post Office Box 1110  
Waterbury, Connecticut  
06721-1110

Telephone: 203 573-1200  
Facsimile: 203 575-2600  
www.carmodylaw.com

# CARMODY & TORRANCE LLP

Attorneys at Law

Jason Christopher Hillman  
Associate

Direct: 203.575.2693  
jhillman@carmodylaw.com

January 30, 2008

ORIGINAL

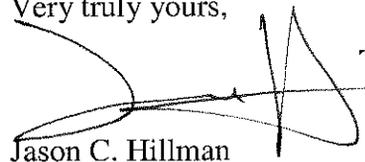
Daniel F. Caruso, Chairman  
Connecticut Siting Council  
10 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051

RE: PETITION NO. 834 -- Watertown Renewable Power, LLC, Petition for a Declaratory Ruling that No Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is Required for the Construction, Maintenance and Operation of a 30 MW Biomass Gasification Generating Project Located on Echo Lake Road, Watertown, Connecticut

Dear Chairman Caruso:

In connection with the above-referenced matter, enclosed please find an original and twenty (20) copies of the Pre-Filed Testimony of Gregory J. Oberst, Jr. on behalf of The Connecticut Light & Power Company.

Very truly yours,



Jason C. Hillman

Enclosures  
Copy to Service List

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

ORIGINAL

WATERTOWN RENEWABLE POWER, LLC PETITION  
FOR A DECLARATORY RULING THAT NO  
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY  
AND PUBLIC NEED IS REQUIRED FOR THE  
CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION  
OF 30 MW BIOMASS GASIFICATION GENERATING  
PROJECT LOCATED AT ECHO LAKE ROAD,  
WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT.

PETITION NO. 834

JANUARY 30, 2008

RECEIVED  
JAN 31 2008

CONNECTICUT  
SITING COUNCIL

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF GREGORY J. OBERST, JR. ON BEHALF OF THE  
CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY

Q Please identify yourself for the Council.

A. My name is Gregory J. Oberst, Jr. and I am a Senior Engineer, Transmission Line & Civil Engineering Department for Northeast Utilities Service Company ("NUSCO"). NUSCO is a Northeast Utilities system company that provides engineering and other support services to The Connecticut Light and Power Company ("CL&P") and other affiliate companies. My business address is Northeast Utilities Service Company, P.O. Box 270, Hartford, CT 06141-0270. I have attached my resume as Appendix A.

Q. What is CL&P's interest in this proceeding?

A. CL&P is primarily concerned with the transmission interconnection from the proposed site of the Petitioner's plant that will eventually be owned and operated by CL&P, the franchised electric transmission company in this part of Connecticut. As eventual owner of this interconnection line, CL&P needs to be assured that the interconnection to CL&P's transmission system conforms to all appropriate standards and engineering practices. In addition, CL&P seeks to ensure that the required work at the connection point to CL&P's transmission lines is also approved pursuant to this petition because it is an integral part of the Project approval.

Q. Will the connection to CL&P's transmission lines have any significant environmental effects?

A. Although the exact route has not been determined and it is not known if the interconnection line will be overhead or underground (CL&P believes that an overhead line is a superior environmental option), the interconnection that will occur at an existing CL&P 115-kV transmission line will not substantially impact the environment. The actual interconnection to the existing CL&P transmission line will occur in an actively maintained transmission right of way ("ROW"). It is likely that two structures (each of which will be no taller than the existing transmission towers) would be needed to support the actual connection. The construction activity required to complete the interconnection would have only minimal impact on the environment since it will occur in accordance with CL&P's standard environmental practices and occur within the maintained area of the existing ROW.

Q. Has the ROW for the transmission interconnection line been determined yet?

A. The exact route has not been determined but I do know it will likely traverse a small portion of the Mattatuck State Forest and an easement will be needed from the Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP").

Q. Which of the three transmission lines on the CL&P ROW will be used for the interconnection?

A. The 345-kV line will not be used for the interconnection. CL&P does not yet know which of the two 115-kV lines will be used for the interconnection since the Petitioner requested that CL&P study two interconnection options as part of the Feasibility Study. CL&P is concerned that any 115-kV interconnection facilities do not impact the 345-kV line nor affect CL&P's ability to fully utilize the existing ROW today or in the future.

Q. What concerns does CL&P have regarding such easement?

A. Since the Petitioner will be negotiating with the DEP, CL&P does not want the DEP to impose conditions on CL&P's use of the ROW that interfere with CL&P's ability to access, maintain and operate a safe and reliable transmission interconnection line. CL&P has provided the Petitioner with the terms of CL&P's standard transmission easement. The terms in CL&P's standard transmission

easement are designed to permit CL&P to meet regulatory and engineering standards necessary for the safe and reliable provision of energy transmission services.

Q. Has CL&P agreed with the Petitioner regarding the precise terms that must appear in the transmission easement that must be granted from the State of Connecticut (acting through DEP) to CL&P for the portion of the proposed transmission line that will travel over the Mattatuck State Forest?

A. No. But the Petitioner has informed CL&P that the Petitioner (i) will provide CL&P with status reports of the Petitioner's easement negotiations with DEP and (ii) understands that CL&P needs its standard transmission easement over the Mattatuck State Forest, and that any proposed modifications to that standard easement must be acceptable to CL&P.

Q. Are there enough details developed in this record so far for you to comment on the acceptability of the ROW conditions for the transmission line interconnection?

A. No, because as of this date, CL&P has not received confirmation from the Petitioner that the DEP will grant CL&P the standard transmission easement over the portion of the proposed ROW located in the Mattatuck State Forest.

Q. Because CL&P has not yet received confirmation from the Petitioner that the DEP will grant CL&P the necessary easement rights over this portion of the proposed ROW, what would be a solution to ensure that, should the Council approve this Petition, the transmission facility interconnection meets the required standards and corporate policies of CL&P?

A. I would urge the Council to adopt as a condition of approval language similar to that in found in Condition No. 7 in Petition No. 784, *Plainfield Renewable Energy, LLC petition for a declaratory ruling no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed construction, maintenance, and operation of a 37.5 MW Wood Biomass Generating Project, Plainfield, Connecticut. June 7, 2007*, which was a proceeding in which the petitioner, Plainfield Renewable Energy, LLC, was not able to provide CL&P with confirmation (at that point in time) that the petitioner would procure (for CL&P's benefit) CL&P's standard transmission easement rights over the entire portion of the proposed transmission ROW.

Q. Do you have proposed language for such a condition?

A. Yes. Consistent with the approach that was used and approved in the above-mentioned proceeding concerning Petition No. 784, I recommend that if CL&P is requested and accepts, a requirement to construct, or is required to assume ownership or operation of any portion of the interconnection facility and/or transmission line not located on CL&P's property, then the following conditions shall apply to any portion to be owned by CL&P:

The Petitioner shall provide the Council with a certification from CL&P to the effect that CL&P is satisfied (as determined by CL&P's in its sole discretion) as to the following conditions in subsections (i)-(v) below:

- (i) That the transmission line design and studies of potential electric effects be completed by the Petitioner's qualified consultant, by CL&P's consultant, or by CL&P employees, comply with applicable engineering, safety and other related laws, rules, regulations, standards and practices.
- (ii) That the Petitioner has demonstrated to CL&P's satisfaction that the Petitioner has acquired all rights necessary to enable CL&P to access, construct, operate, repair, replace and maintain the transmission line.
- (iii) That there are no underlying encumbrances, environmental impairments or other obstacles to the construction and maintenance of the transmission line.
- (iv) That all such necessary rights are assignable to CL&P.
- (v) That the Petitioner has undertaken, by agreement satisfactory to CL&P, to indemnify and protect CL&P against any expenses resulting from the exercise by the property owner (e.g., the State of Connecticut acting through DEP) of any right to require relocation of the line.

Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

A. Yes.

## Resume

Gregory J. Oberst, Jr.

---

### Summary

More than 30 years experience in all aspects of transmission line engineering & design including: routing/siting, right-of-way requirements, structural analysis & design, project coordination, material specification & procurement, cost estimating, scheduling, construction specification development, and expert testimony at municipal and state administrative hearings. Developed programs for scheduled maintenance and identifying need for maintenance. Provided forensic engineering for transmission material failures to identify trends and needed preventative maintenance. Conducted and oversaw engineering studies and R&D related to transmission lines.

### Home Address

172 Brimfield Road, Wethersfield CT, 06109

### Education

Bachelor of Science in Engineering with a Concentration in Structures & Mechanics, Old Dominion College, Norfolk, VA, 1969

### Experience

- 2003 – Present: Northeast Utilities Service Company  
Transmission Line & Civil Engineering, Senior Engineer
- 2001 – 2003: Obersthaus Associates, LLC  
Owner/Principal, performed transmission line engineering and studies
- 1982 – 2001: New York State Electric & Gas  
Transmission Engineering Department, various positions of increasing responsibility from Senior Engineer to Engineering Supervisor
- 1969 – 1982: General Public Utilities at Jersey Central Power & Light  
Transmission Engineering Department, various positions of increasing responsibility from entry level engineer to Senior Engineer

### Professional Affiliations:

- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Member
- Structural Engineering Institute (SEI), Member
- Northeast Transmission Group Member 1987 – present, Chairman 1995 -1996

### Professional Qualification:

Registered Professional Engineer:  
New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia

### Publications:

- *Pole Materials: One Engineer's View of What's Out There* Presented: Northeast Pole Conference, Binghamton, NY, October 2000
- *Lattice Tower Ground Line Corrosion and Mitigation: A Case Study* Presented: ESMO98, and the Northeast Pole Conference 2000
- *Structure Inspection Practices* Discussion leader at the Pennsylvania Energy Association