



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

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Web Site: [www.state.ct.us/csc/index.htm](http://www.state.ct.us/csc/index.htm)

### CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

September 26, 2003

Lawrence J. Golden  
Pullman & Comley, LLC  
90 State House Square  
Hartford, CT 06103-3702

RE: **PETITION NO. 639** - University of Connecticut petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for a proposed cogeneration plant and substation to be constructed off of North Eagleville Road, Storrs, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Golden:

At a public meeting held on September 23, 2003, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and ruled that this proposal would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, and pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50k would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

This decision is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Council and is not applicable to any other modification or construction. All work is to be implemented as specified in the petition, dated July 31, 2003, and additional correspondence dated August 26, 2003.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the staff report on this project.

Very truly yours,

Pamela B. Katz, P.E.  
Chairman

PBK/laf

Enclosure: Staff Report dated September 23, 2003

c: Honorable Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor, Town of Mansfield  
Martin H. Berliner, Town Manager, Town of Mansfield  
Gregory Padick, Town Planner, Town of Mansfield



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Petition No. 639

University of Connecticut Cogeneration Plant

Storrs, Connecticut

Staff Report

September 23, 2003

On Friday, September 19, 2003 Connecticut Siting Council (Council) member James J. Murphy, Jr. with Derek Phelps of Council staff met with University of Connecticut (UConn) representative Larry G. Schilling, University Architect, Architectural and Engineering Services, and Gregory J. Padick, town planner of the town of Mansfield at the UConn Storrs campus for a field review of this petition. UConn is petitioning the Council for a declaratory ruling that a proposed cogeneration plant and substation to be constructed on its Storrs campus are not "facilities" which require a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need from the Council.

UConn plans to construct a combined electric, heat and chilled water facility at its campus in Storrs adjacent to its current steam and chilled water plant. UConn also plans to construct a new substation adjacent to the existing CL&P substation that serves the UConn Storrs campus.

In its petition the petitioner cites Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-50k(a) which establishes the specific criteria under which a "facility" is defined, and by which a certificate application would be required. This statute reads in part:

(3) any electric generating...facility using any fuel...but not including...a facility (i) owned and operated by a private power producer, as defined in section 16-243(b), (ii) which is a ...qualifying cogeneration facility under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, as amended, or a facility determined by the council to be primarily for the producer's own use and (iii) which has...in the case of a facility utilizing cogeneration technology, a generating capacity of twenty-five megawatts of electricity or less...

(4) any electric substation or switchyard designed to change or regulate the voltage of electricity at sixty-nine kilovolts or more or to connect two or more electric circuits at such voltage, which substation or switchyard may have a substantial adverse environmental effect, as determined by the council...

The petitioner notes that the generating capacity of the cogeneration plant is approximately 24 MW at 90° F and the plant's operating system computers will be programmed to restrict the output to 24.9 MW under all conditions. Moreover, UConn is a private power producer as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16243b(a)(3). Hence, the proposed project is not a "facility," as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-50k(a) and a certificate is not required.

The petitioner also asserts that the proposed substation would not pose a substantial adverse environmental effect because: 1) No new 69 kV transmission lines would be required. 2) No new distribution circuits would be constructed. 3) The new substation is adjacent to an existing substation. 4) The new substation is physically smaller than the existing substation. 5) The electric load is being transferred from the existing substation. 6) Property on which the substation is located is owned by UConn.

Mr. Padick remarked that the town has no outstanding issues relative to the proposed cogeneration plant or the proposed substation.

Mr. Padick remarked that town staff members have no outstanding issues relative to the proposed decision regarding Siting Council jurisdiction over the cogeneration plant or the proposed substation. Mansfield staff members have requested from the University more information on ammonia storage and use.