

In The Matter Of:

*Application from the Connecticut Light & Power Company
d/b/a Eversource Energy for a Certificate*

*Public Comments Session
September 22, 2016*

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1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT
2 CONNECTICUT Siting Council

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4 Docket No. 468

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6 Public Comments Session

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8 Application from the Connecticut Light & Power
9 Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for a Certificate of
10 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Southwest
11 Connecticut Reliability Project that traverses the
12 municipalities of Bethel, Danbury, and Brookfield, which
13 consists of (a) construction, maintenance and operation of a
14 new 115-kV double-circuit electric transmission line entirely
15 within existing Eversource right-of-way and associated
16 facilities extending approximately 3.4 miles between
17 Eversource's existing Plumtree Substation and Town of Bethel
18 to its existing Brookfield Junction in the Town of
19 Brookfield; (b) refiguration of two existing 115-kV
20 double-circuit electric transmission lines at Eversource's
21 existing Stony Hill Substation in the Town of Brookfield; and
22 (c) related substation modifications.

23
24 Held Before:

25 ROBIN STEIN, Chairman

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A P P E A R A N C E S

Council Members:

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SENATOR JAMES J. MURPHY, JR., Vice Chairman

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BY: BRIAN HENEERY, ESQ.

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APPLICANT'S SWORN WITNESSES:

David Coleman

Eric Davison

Julia Frayer

Raymond Gagnon

Paul Knapik

Louise Mango

Gabor Mezei

Farah Omokaro

Allen Scarfone

Christopher Soderman

1 (Commenced 7:02 p.m.)

2
3 MR. STEIN: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'd
4 like to call to order this hearing of the Connecticut Siting
5 Council. Today is Thursday, September 22, 2016, about 7:00
6 p.m. My name is Robin Stein. I'm the chairman of the State
7 of Connecticut Siting Council. Other members of the Council
8 present are Senator James Murphy, our vice chairman, Mr.
9 Ashton, Dr. Klemens, Mr. Lynch. Members of the staff present
10 are Attorney Bachman, our staff attorney and executive
11 director, and Mr. Mercier, our siting analyst.

12 This is the continuation of a public hearing
13 that began at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon. Copies of the
14 hearing program and siting counsel procedures are available
15 for members of the public behind me over there.

16 This hearing is held pursuant to the provision
17 of Title 16 of the Connecticut General Statutes and the
18 Uniform Administrative Procedure Act upon application from
19 the Connecticut Light & Power Company or Eversource Energy
20 for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public
21 need for the Southwest Connecticut Reliability Project that
22 traverses the municipalities of Bethel, Danbury, and
23 Brookfield, which consists of construction, maintenance, and
24 operation of a new 115-kV electric transmission line entirely
25 within an existing Eversource right-of-way and associated

1 facilities, extending approximately 3.4 miles between
2 Eversource's existing Plumtree substation in the town of
3 Bethel to its existing Brookfield junction in the town of
4 Brookfield, and reconfiguration of two existing 115-kV
5 double-circuit electric transmission lines at Eversource's
6 existing Stony Hill substation in the town of Brookfield and
7 related substation modifications.

8 This application was received by the Council
9 on June 29, 2016. The applicant published notice of the
10 filing of the application to the Council in the Danbury News
11 Times on June 10th and June 16, 2016. The council's legal
12 notice of date and time of this hearing was published in the
13 Danbury News Times on August 10, 2016. At the council's
14 request, the applicant erected signs in conspicuous locations
15 along the transmission line route and the substation sites so
16 as to inform the public of the name of the applicant, the
17 type of facility, the hearing date and location, and contact
18 information of the Council. This afternoon, members of the
19 Council, staff, and public personally conducted a field
20 review of the proposed project in order to observe firsthand
21 the potential effects of the proposal.

22 This hearing session tonight has been reserved
23 for the public to make short statements into the record.
24 These public statements are not subject to questions from the
25 parties or from the Council, and members of the public making

1 statements may not ask questions of the applicant or the
2 Council. These statements will become part of the record for
3 Council consideration. A signup sheet is available for those
4 who elect to participate over to my right.

5 As a reminder to all, off-the-record
6 communication with a member of the Council or a member of the
7 council's staff upon the merits of the application is
8 prohibited by law.

9 I wish to note for those who are here and for
10 the benefit of your friends and neighbors who are unable to
11 join us for the public hearing session that you or they may
12 send written comments to the Council within 30 days of the
13 date hereof, and such written statements will be given the
14 same weight as if spoken at the hearing.

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

21 A verbatim transcript will be made of this
22 hearing and deposited in the clerk's offices of the town of
23 Bethel, city of Danbury, and town of Brookfield for the
24 convenience of the public.

25 Before I call on the members of the public to

1 make statements, I ask the applicant to make a very brief
2 presentation to the public describing where the facility is
3 located and why it is necessary, and what alternatives were
4 investigated. I think there's going to be a presentation on
5 the screen.

6

7 (The presentation was viewed.)

8

9 MR. STEIN: Thank you. We'll now call from the list of
10 those of you making public statements. Obviously, the mic is
11 right there. Two things: one, I will apologize in advance
12 if I mispronounce your name. I'm sorry. I'll do the best.
13 And also, when you get up there, would you please spell your
14 last name so the stenographer has accurate information?

15 The first individual's name is Gail Dyer.

16 MS. DYER: My name is Gail Dyer, D-y-e-r. I live at 6
17 Sky Edge Lane, the and power lines are abutting -- I think
18 that was the word used today -- my property. I moved into my
19 house almost 40 years ago, and there were nice little power
20 lines there that concerned me. Never realized or ever
21 dreamed that they'd become what they are today, and they're
22 still getting more blown up as we go.

23 I've lived through three constructions on that
24 property. The first one being the towers, the second one
25 being the cell towers that were put in, and the third one

1 being a cell tower on top of the cell tower going in with a
2 lovely will shantytown underneath it that kids used to draw
3 on. My wonderful kitchen all of a sudden became this wired,
4 high-power line look, something that I did not even think of
5 when I first moved in.

6 Now, none of this was supposed to impact me.
7 Ugly, yes, but it wasn't supposed to impact me. I worked
8 from home for several years. When they first went in, this
9 first cell tower on top of the power lines, I had to get all
10 new cordless phones in the house. I had to work. Could not
11 use them.

12 Secondly, very disruptive. The construction
13 period is horrible. So I need to know, or would like to
14 know, what are the hours of operation, who do we call, and
15 who enforces those hours of operation because it's extremely
16 disruptive to our lives.

17 By the way, going back to the cell tower and
18 shanty lines, there are noises from that that come out of
19 there, one little shanty to one of the cell towers that makes
20 horrible compressor noises during the day, constantly,
21 practically everyday.

22 So the thing is, it has been disruptive.
23 There's going to be more power lines. But it really bothers
24 me that Eversource, or CL&P, was my neighbor. My neighbor
25 does not take care of their property. And now we have this

1 ugly thing -- we go and say everything that everyone else has
2 said about the devaluing of my property. I certainly
3 wouldn't want -- I'd have to go, Wow, those are beautiful
4 cell towers and power lines. But the thing is that it's
5 overgrown. There's a stream, been there for almost 40 years.
6 There's a stream that runs through their property. It's
7 overgrown and needs to be dredged. I mentioned it in the
8 open house, I mentioned it to the person who came to my
9 house.

10 And by the way, I was one of the lucky ones.
11 We talked about the open house today. I was invited because
12 I'm an abutting property owner, but I told other names to go,
13 some of them came, some of them didn't. But this has not
14 been handled well. I know people here don't even know what's
15 going on because they were not invited to the meetings. They
16 didn't see all their charts and everything else. I was one
17 of the lucky ones, if you want to say, but I actually think
18 that if our neighbor is supposed to be Eversource, we have
19 these ugly things on our property. We have no say whether
20 they go in or not, that at least, the property should be
21 maintained, that we shouldn't see shantytowns next to our
22 houses. It's just not a lovely environment to be in.

23 Again, I would like to know about the
24 construction. The construction, who do we call, and how soon
25 does it get fixed once we call? There should be some

1 parameters for the people who live in the community who are
2 impacted by this. Thank you.

3 MR. STEIN: Joan -- I'm not sure -- Gereg-Bradley?

4 MS. GEREG-BRADLEY: That's correct. Thank you. I'm
5 Joan Gereg, G-e-r-e-g, hyphen, Bradley, B-r-a-d-l-e-y, 66
6 Ridgedale Road. I'm an abutting property owner. I think
7 probably should have gotten an invitation to come tonight,
8 but I didn't. If it happened to be in the insert from my
9 bill, I pay my bills online; so I don't usually look at those
10 inserts. So I heard about it because of my neighbors.

11 Anyway, a number of concerns. The need for
12 this, I was under the impression that we're all supposed to
13 save energy. We're supposed to by LEDs, we're supposed to
14 install solar, energy-efficient appliances and so forth. So
15 our energy usage supposedly is to go down, so I'm wondering
16 about the need. I know our population in Fairfield County
17 has risen slightly, .24 percent, I think, in the last year or
18 so. So it's rising, but not by that much. And
19 manufacturing, of course, is sound; so there's no need for
20 that electrical power there either.

21 I'm also concerned that all of these proposals
22 go through our local organizations, planning and zoning for
23 example, and inland/wetlands also. That area has been
24 flagged right behind my house, anyway, as a wetland. So
25 there is a viable stream running in that area, and really,

1 nobody's been maintaining it. It's gotten clogged. A number
2 of us are afraid it's going to back up into our properties
3 eventually. It does run down to Target and underneath
4 Target, and eventually into the Still River. So I'm hoping
5 somebody's going to look at the wetland aspects of that
6 particular area right behind my house. Anyway, so I'm
7 wondering who in our town is going to be monitoring that. I
8 hope that we have someone that we neighbors can go to as an
9 actual person in our town to monitor that.

10 I also have a concern about our wildlife out
11 there. The area is a forestry area, has a little meadow in
12 it. We do have some interesting critters out there that are
13 living with us, and I'm hoping they will be protected during
14 this time of construction, should it take place. I'm
15 concerned about the time of the year this might also take
16 place in light of the wildlife consideration.

17 Thank you very much for taking my concerns
18 into consideration.

19 MR. STEIN: Thank you. The next one is Barbara
20 Fernandez.

21 MS. FERNANDEZ: Thank you. My property is 29 Birch
22 Drive. I've been there almost 10 years, and I did not know
23 about this hearing taking place before speaking to the first
24 selectman. I wasn't notified or contacted by Eversource
25 since the letter in June. My property will be directly

1 impacted. The vegetation clearing that they've proposed is
2 excessive and unreasonable. Our house is on an incline, so
3 we're up on a hill, and it goes down; so if they clear out
4 our trees, we're going to see everything in the corporate
5 park, which is in our back yard. There's nothing tall enough
6 that you could put in my backyard as a buffer to, you know,
7 hide any of the corporate park; it's just not going to be
8 tall enough.

9 I'm concerned that because the bottom half of
10 my land going toward the corporate park is wetlands. They've
11 assured me that they're going to take all precautions, but it
12 worries me. I know that we have a breeding bird habitat in
13 our area. Our back yard is a home to redheaded woodpeckers;
14 we have brown bats; we have vesper sparrows, yellow breasted
15 chats; we have beautiful cardinals, and we have brown
16 thrashers. I enjoy feeding my birds. I have lots of pet
17 birds inside and outside, so they're a big part of my home.
18 Also, we have livestock. We have chickens. I'm worried
19 about their welfare as well when the construction takes
20 place.

21 With the tree clearing, we're going to have a
22 lack of privacy. Right now, when it's full bloom,
23 summertime, we can't really see too much of anything around
24 the corporate park, which is really nice. It's a nice, quiet
25 residential area. The trees buffer a lot of the noise of the

1 big trucks going in and out over the speed bumps.

2 I'm also worried about decreased property
3 value. I definitely wouldn't buy my house if I knew this
4 project was going in. I don't feel that it's environmentally
5 compatible. I feel that the public health and safety, such
6 as the EMF, the electromagnetic fields are going to be at
7 issue. These things are known carcinogens. They attract
8 pollutants, and I know there's going to be changes in the
9 levels of EMFs going on 24 hours a day. I'm worried about,
10 you know, my children, my neighbors' children, and the towers
11 will be coming 60 feet closer to our residence.

12 With two years to complete this project, air
13 quality is a factor to me too. A lot of the industrial
14 lubricants are all made with toxic pollutants, and they're
15 going to be in and out, which also would affect the wildlife
16 on our property and around. I feel it's going to jeopardize
17 the welfare of my land agriculturally, and my livestock,
18 including my chickens, my dogs, my cats. For any animal in
19 the area, I can't feel that any of this is going to be safe.

20 The transmission route is not reasonably
21 necessary. I feel that Eversource's proposal is out of
22 convenience of the current right-of-way. It does not
23 consider the interests of the public and environmentally
24 sensitive areas. We're becoming more electrically efficient,
25 and this means less demand. So I'm kind of wondering why

1 they need to put a whole nother tower in addition to what
2 they have now. None of the determining factors have
3 occurred, such as thermal overload or low voltage stated in
4 their proposal.

5 Ten years ago, I'm not sure if everybody
6 knows, but 10 years ago they put in a 115 kV line. Now, 10
7 years later, they're proposing to do another line and tower,
8 too. What's going to happen in 2026? Are we going to get
9 another proposal for another line to run? The maps that
10 Eversource provided were out of date. They were not current;
11 they did not show current land. And also, articles that were
12 printed in the newspaper were very misleading. In the
13 Danbury News Times, it was written that the project would
14 require cutting two-and-a-half acres of trees and vegetation.
15 In Eversource's proposal online, they claimed 9.5 acres of
16 clearing, which is much more than two-and-a-half.

17 Also, they said in The News Times, no trees
18 would be cut from the wetlands areas. In Eversource's
19 proposal, they state three-and-a-half acres of wetland trees
20 were going to be cut. So a lot of information is misleading.
21 I don't think a lot of the public knows the details, and
22 we're relying on media to tell us what's going on. If we
23 actually read, which I went online and read the entire
24 proposal, I was very disappointed with a lot of the things
25 that they said. As you know, I wrote two letters to you

1 which go greatly into detail about what my concerns are, so I
2 really appreciate your consideration in all the details that
3 I've written; and if you need an extra copy, I have one.
4 Thank you.

5 MR. STEIN: Thank you. The first selectman from
6 Brookfield, Mr. Dunn.

7 MR. DUNN: I might have something. Can I give to you?
8 My name is Stephen Dunn, D-u-n-n is my last name, and it's
9 S-t-e-p-h-e-n. I'm the first selectman of Brookfield,
10 Connecticut, and I live in Brookfield.

11 I am going to talk about one thing, the
12 substation in Brookfield, town of Brookfield; and what I want
13 to start to say is, the building of the Deer Trail access
14 road will seriously cause many avoidable problems for the
15 residents of this cul-de-sac you for the two years that we
16 are told it will take to finish this project. There are
17 children who live on this road and attend school. The work
18 is scheduled to start at seven a.m. on. Work will be done
19 and trucks and other large construction vehicles will be
20 operating on the road during the time the children walk up
21 the street to get the bus and also return down street in the
22 afternoon when they get home from school.

23 Eversource has told us that they do not wish
24 to disturb wetlands near the site of the substation. The
25 closest wetlands are approximately 80 to 100 feet to the

1 north across the railroad tracks from their property and
2 where the substation is, in an area -- and also now in an
3 area less than 10 feet from the new proposed entrance on Deer
4 Trail. According to my inland/wetlands officer, and if you
5 look at the map with the green on it, I circled where the
6 wetlands are and where the new access road is proposed to be.
7 So the new access road will be much closer to wetlands than
8 they currently are the current access road. The wetlands
9 empty from the proposed entrance on Deer Trail draining into
10 a culvert that goes across the Deer Trail Road into a small
11 wetlands pond in front of one house on Deer Trail. All of
12 the catch basins on the road also drain into the same
13 Wetlands pond. From information supplied by the owner of
14 this property, this wetland pond may drain by pipe between
15 this property and the next property to the east and then into
16 another pond. It then travels from pond to wetland into a
17 brook that ultimately drains into the Long Island Sound.
18 Putting an entrance to the substation on Deer Trail raises a
19 very real possibility of an ecological disaster if any
20 vehicle that entered Deer Run were to have an accident and
21 spill fuel oil or other material into the wetlands adjacent
22 to the access road. That would be almost impossible to
23 remediate due to how close these wetlands are to the proposed
24 new substation entrance on Deer Trail.

25 The residents of Deer Trail were never

1 notified until three weeks ago by phone that there was a
2 change in the Eversource plan for the access road. This
3 seems to be both unfair and unacceptable. Today, while
4 speaking with an Eversource representative, we were told that
5 the residents of Deer Trail were not notified immediately of
6 this proposed change to the entrance because they were not
7 abutting neighbors. As their houses were directly across the
8 street from the Eversource property, 20 feet away, and
9 Eversource is telling us that because you're across the
10 street, I don't need to notify you.

11 In the town of Brookfield, anyone within 100
12 feet of your property line is considered an abutter and must
13 be notified in writing. While I have not been able to verify
14 all the state laws, state law is different than town law,
15 simple common sense says that you would notify every abutting
16 property of the proposed work. And I think it would behoove
17 Eversource, as a good corporate citizen, as a matter of
18 decency, to notify the five families who live on Deer Trail,
19 whose lives will be drastically affected by this construction
20 for two years, especially considering the fact that the road
21 they live on will now become a construction site entrance for
22 two years while this work is done.

23 Eversource has said to me that they need a new
24 access road to install a piece of equipment they described as
25 a 25 MVar synchronous condenser. They told me that this

1 piece of equipment is too large to bring on the existing
2 access road or the access road that was originally proposed,
3 but can only be brought in the property by creating a new
4 access road off of Deer Trail. I have enclosed, if you look
5 at the colored brochure, a picture of these condensers, and
6 I've done some research on it; and on average, these
7 condensers are six to eight feet wide, 10 to 12 feet load,
8 and 12 to 15 feet long. I think that that piece of equipment
9 could be brought in on almost on any semi in the United
10 States. I don't think you need a whole new road to bring in
11 a piece of equipment that large.

12 We ask that the Siting Council deny Eversource
13 the right to build an access road off of Deer Trail. Their
14 lack of open transparency in notifying our residents is very
15 troubling to me. The existing road or new road off of Stony
16 Hill would, according to their own report, meet their needs,
17 be more ecologically friendly, prevent the damage that might
18 occur to the wetlands, which are right next to the road
19 they're proposing on Deer Trail while at the same time having
20 the benefit of not throwing the lives of our residents into a
21 cauldron of turmoil for more than two years. The right thing
22 to do is that Eversource access this substation from Stony
23 Hill Road. The residents of Deer Trail recognize and
24 acknowledge the need of Eversource to build and maintain a
25 resilient electric infrastructure for all the residents of

1 Connecticut. It is important goal, and we support that goal
2 both in the town and the residents. However, there's no need
3 to turn a neighborhood into a construction site for two years
4 when there is a more acceptable solution that works well for
5 all parties. Thank you very much.

6 MR. STEIN: Thank you. Shawn Sorbello.

7 MR. SORBELLO: Shawn Sorbello, S-o-r-b-e-l-l-o. First
8 name is Shawn, S-h-a-w-n. 27 Hearthstone Drive is where I
9 live with my wife and two children.

10 Oddly enough, we were here at 3:00 o'clock
11 today, and there were only three homes mentioned during that
12 two-hour session, and my home was one of them. If you look
13 at where the wooden stakes driven into the ground a couple of
14 weeks ago, it's a lot closer than people think to our
15 property line. It's right along the right-of-way, and that
16 stake marked 10 14 is right now about 47 feet from the corner
17 of my fence. And so the proposals today, we were talking
18 about the foot pads being somewhere in the area of 25 to 40
19 feet in square. So one of the things that I'm concerned
20 about is this decimation of our trees. And right now, we
21 have a nice buffer. We've lived in tremendous balance with
22 the former CL&P and now Eversource, and it is going to be
23 grossly out of balance when that entire tree line is torn to
24 the ground because with 47 feet between that stake and the
25 property line, there's no way of getting around it. There

1 are no trees left. So what will we have? We have this
2 exposed former line that really isn't a problem right now
3 except that they're beneath the foliage, and we have a new
4 line going in.

5 The environmental impact is tremendous. I've
6 lived there almost 11 years, and every year, if you look into
7 the wildlife, it's a massive migratory route for all animals
8 down there. And one thing in particular, there's a red tail
9 hawk that nests right there in that area and gives birth of
10 two young every single year. Every single spring we see, you
11 know, the flight pattern, and the fun unfolds.

12 The home value issue has not really been
13 addressed. I was at the open house, and one report, the
14 Chalmers report -- I might be mispronouncing it, it may be
15 Calmer's [phonetic] -- that report is weak at best, and the
16 inclusion are really light. And they're basically saying in
17 this report with a parallel demographic that one year of
18 adjustment and then leveling off might happen. That report,
19 and really, the only one that exists in the Appraisals
20 Journal of 2009, August of 2009, it's basically stating that,
21 you know, there are a lot of factors in this equation; but
22 one factor that's not being taken into consideration is that
23 the report took place from 1999 to 2007. And this new normal
24 market that we're existing in is not something we've figured
25 out yet. And Bethel is behind the curve with the rest of the

1 country whose gains are increasing in market value, and we're
2 decreasing.

3 So I'm here today to basically propose some
4 things. Obviously, A, don't go through that right-of-way.
5 That right-of-way is right now in balance with the
6 neighborhood. It's in balance with, you know, the ecosystem.
7 If it goes through as planned, there's tremendous imbalance.
8 The environmental impacts are going to be irreversible. The
9 home values are going to, guarantee, go down and stay down,
10 and I'm not sure Bethel's entire market can withstand that.

11 Part of the problem with this whole thing is a
12 lot of people are completely unaware; and I do want to take a
13 moment to take a step back and advocate on behalf of
14 Eversource because I was here earlier today. Lorraine from
15 Eversource reached out to me early on, we met face-to-face
16 and encouraged me to come to the open house and actually
17 encouraged me to come tonight. So I think there was
18 tremendous due diligence there. In the other areas cited, I
19 think there's gross neglect. I don't think there's due
20 diligence in alternatives; I don't think there's due
21 diligence in the area of environmental impact. So one of the
22 things I'm also proposing is alternatives. If we have to go
23 through that right-of-way, let's go underground. The reason
24 why the trees have to come down is the proposed line has
25 what's called, quote, sway factor impact. And so the sway

1 factors are due to the sagging lines, have to go -- we've got
2 this 345 and this 115 on the end. Apparently, they have to
3 sag. I don't know how far down, but they have to sag. And
4 through a tremendous storm, they might actually hit each
5 other. Well, at their minimum with that stake going into the
6 ground as mentioned before, we're talking about 47 feet off
7 of my property line. If we go underground, we have no sway
8 factor. If we have no sway factor, we can go closer and
9 closer and closer to the current infrastructure.

10 If we listened to the panel earlier today,
11 they proposed some great ideas. We do not need a 20-foot
12 wide access road; we could narrow it to 12 to 15 and
13 therefore not impact the trees, bury the lines. If we have
14 to go through that right-of-way, which I honestly don't
15 believe we do, but if we have to do it, let's put them
16 underground.

17 Thank you for your time. I was very pleased
18 to hear this panel speak earlier today. You actually gave me
19 somewhat of hope that we have a chance to stay in our home.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. STEIN: The next one is Roy Steiner. If anybody
22 hasn't signed up and intends to speak, please sign up now.
23 We only have a few more on the list. And you know, we want
24 to use the list, so please if you intend to speak, please
25 sign up. Thank you. I'm sorry. Mr. Steiner?

1 MR. STEINER: Good evening. Roy Steiner. Our business
2 -- S-t-e-i-n-e-r. Our business address is 2 Park Lawn Drive.
3 I'm also a resident of Bethel. I appreciate the time to
4 speak tonight, and we have spoken with Eversource, with
5 Lorraine, so we have had some conversations. We're the
6 owners of Berkshire Corporate Park, approximately 120 acres
7 of land in Bethel and approximately 80 acres of land in
8 Brookfield that is, you know, affected by this right-of-way.
9 It goes through our property, probably about three quarters
10 of a mile. The right-of-way is located somewhere within our
11 property.

12 We market the park as a first-class business
13 park. That business park typically has been primarily
14 offices, Duracell was there, switched around to light
15 manufacturing offices and a variety of different uses,
16 healthcare in there, what have you. Emissions from the power
17 lines have always been a problem for us with marketing the
18 buildings. Especially the corporate clients such as
19 Duracell, they've expressed serious concerns; and we have
20 lost deals over the power lines being situated where they
21 are. With this additional line being put in, I think it's
22 really going to make this problem much worse.

23 Some of the concerns that I have are the pole
24 heights. First of all, you know, I would like to see it
25 underground; but if we have to work with it above, my

1 concerns are that the heights they have noted are between 95
2 and 135 feet of heights on poles, whereas the other poles are
3 150 feet. Typically, the corporate buildings have been laid
4 out so that the lower side of the window heights are
5 typically set so that when you look out as the personnel in
6 the offices are looking out, they definitely don't look at
7 the wires; they're actually looking underneath the wires. I
8 have a huge concern, as these wires come down closer it's
9 just going to be a tanglement of wires that everyone is going
10 to look at. It's bad enough that we have to try to market
11 with [inaudible]. Now we're moving them closer to the
12 building. In fact, at this time, we're actually renovating
13 our own offices, and we're actually the closest building to
14 it. The right-of-way is actually right on the corner of our
15 building. So these poles being what they are, 50 feet off or
16 30 feet off the right-of-way, I mean, they're literally right
17 on top of our offices. So I have some very big concerns as
18 far as the heights go. If we could keep them up at higher
19 elevations at least so it's the same plan as the other ones.
20 I would like to see them on the same poles, if we could. I
21 would like to not see -- I see different designs on the pole
22 structures. The new ones, I see some with what I call a
23 double-stanchion-type pole with lines off either side.

24 I'm concerned about the width. I recognize
25 all [inaudible] within the existing right-of-way, but the

1 tree growth along the sides of the right-of-way now are
2 typically oaks, hickories, and what have you in the
3 Brookfield section, and they definitely hang over the
4 right-of-way. If all those trees have to come down, it's
5 going to open up the entire corporate park to looking right
6 at the lines.

7 So those are some of the bigger concerns. The
8 other concerns that I have is I don't want to see a
9 proliferation of cell towers going on properties. We have
10 had a constant battle with this. We're, you know, we are not
11 endorsed ourselves putting cell towers within the corporate
12 park. You know, this has been going on and just continuing
13 along, and you know, we really don't like seeing the poles.
14 We definitely don't like seeing additional implements being
15 put on these [inaudible] design for those.

16 So I appreciate your time, and I appreciate
17 Eversource's working with us; and I'm hoping we can do some
18 slight changes. Thank you very much.

19 MR. STEIN: Thank you.

20 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Harold Christensen. Harold,
21 C-h-r-i-s-t-e-n-s-e-n. I would like to have something input
22 into the record regarding this proposal, and it has to do
23 with any house that is abutting the proposed additional line
24 that's going to be put in. And I know my daughter and her
25 husband and family live in one of those houses. But there's

1 other houses that are affected, and my concern, I'll leave
2 the environmental concerns aside because they have already
3 been addressed, but my concern has to do with the economics
4 and the proposed impact on the market value of the homes that
5 are abutting these additional lines. And what I would like
6 to put into the record is that any house that has an impact
7 on market value such that the market value drops, and I
8 believe the houses that are right along these lines, the
9 market values will drop. We should put something in the
10 record that says the homeowners should be somehow reimbursed
11 for the decline in the market values. And I know some
12 studies have been done in the past where they say the market
13 decline is temporary, and I'm not so sure in this particular
14 situation that it's going to be temporary because you take a
15 lot of trees away, and the buffer areas are somewhat gone;
16 and so certain homeowners, they're going to be looking right
17 at these lines not that far from their property. And so
18 there's going to be some reduction in market values.

19 At a minimum, what would be, at least what
20 would be somewhat of an offset is if a homeowner does
21 experience a market decline that somehow in the cost of this
22 project factor that in and somehow make the homeowners, you
23 know, somewhat reimbursed for this particular situation.

24 I don't know how many homeowners are affected.
25 I know of at least three or four, but there's probably 10 to

1 20 that are affected. So please put that in the record, and
2 I would like it somehow addressed in the minutes. Thank you.

3 MR. STEIN: Thank you. Alan --

4 MR. OLAGUE: Olague.

5 MR. STEIN: Olague.

6 MR. OLAGUE: Thank you. Good evening. My name is Alan
7 Olague, O-l-a-g-u-e. I'm a resident of Deer Trail Drive,
8 Brookfield. I'm going to speak also on behalf of my
9 neighbors of the concerns we have over the Stony Hill
10 substation modification.

11 Back in April, we were approached by Lorraine
12 for the project of modifying the substation. And we were
13 told this was going to be a two-year project. Don't worry.
14 It's within Eversource property, and we will use an access
15 road that is behind wetlands. We weren't too thrilled about
16 it, but we said fine.

17 About a month ago, we were told, Change of
18 plans. It's slightly cheaper to go through the cul-de-sac,
19 rip it up, and build a permanent road to give us an easier
20 access way to our substation. I think this is ridiculous. I
21 think if there was no other access point, I could see the
22 feasibility of the plan. The fact that there is an access
23 point, and I thank Mr. Dunn for eloquently stating his
24 objections, the fact that there exists an access road doesn't
25 really necessitate the use of ripping up a quiet cul-de-sac

1 to access a substation.

2 Some of our major concerns, of course, are
3 traffic safety, quality of life. I have two young children,
4 a five- and a seven-year-old. I walk them to the bus stop
5 every morning. A line, a parade line of cement trucks being
6 there, and Eversource truck would be escorted by a man in a
7 vest. Would this greatly improve the quality of life of my
8 children? I don't believe so. There's no need to build an
9 access road in the cul-de-sac, a quiet a little street, when
10 they already have an access road. That's our major concern.

11 I'm alarmed at the lack of transparency by
12 Eversource. Looking to other people's concerns, especially
13 the horror stories of prior construction projects, add to my
14 concern, and I know to my neighbors' concern, not even adding
15 in the loss of property value. A bought this home a year
16 ago. We think it is a nice cul-de-sac, never once
17 considering it would be ripped up to face a substation.

18 Thank you very much.

19 MR. STEIN: Thank you. Do we have any more? The first
20 selectman from Bethel, Mr. Knickerbocker.

21 MR. KNICKERBOCKER: Good evening, and welcome to Bethel.
22 To the commission, my name is Matthew Knickerbocker,
23 K-n-i-c-k-e-r-b-o-c-k-e-r, and I am the first selectman of
24 Bethel. I did drop off some written testimony for your
25 perusal, so rather than reiterate what's in there, let me

1 just summarize what many of my neighbors have already said.

2 I believe that this project, I may disagree
3 with some people, I do believe it's necessary, having been an
4 elected official through four weather-related, very serious
5 power outages, I do accept the reliability goal of this
6 project. However, I do believe that it is far too
7 disruptive. It's disruptive environmentally; it does too
8 much damage to wildlife; it disrupts people's lives and
9 provides too much visual impact and quality-of-life impact.
10 And briefly, what I put in the written testimony is that
11 rather than following the line to the east side of the
12 existing right-of-way, I had suggested that the line being
13 strategically moved to the east side in some areas and west
14 side in others in order to minimize the impact.

15 However, I want to add something verbally
16 tonight that does not appear in my written statement. It
17 just occurred to me this afternoon, and shame on me for not
18 thinking of it earlier. I would really ask this commission
19 to send this project back to Eversource and ask them to
20 examine the feasibility of re-engineering the existing towers
21 to prevent any further disruption. It may be possible to
22 re-engineer that so that the line can be applied to the
23 existing towers without taking out the tree line and without
24 the impact, or as one gentleman said earlier, looking at the
25 feasibility of moving it underground. That may require

1 taking out trees, too, so that may not be the preferred
2 solution. But I would like to examine the possibility of
3 avoiding any additional disruption whatsoever, especially as
4 my neighbor pointed out, along Birch Drive, there is a
5 natural buffer that exists. It's a sound buffer and a visual
6 barrier that separates the industrial park from her property
7 and her neighbor's property, and it would take probably more
8 than a decade for anything that's planted there to replace
9 that. It would have a tremendous impact on the entire Birch
10 Drive neighborhood. So I ask that Eversource re-engineer
11 those and come back to you with better plans. Thank you very
12 much for the opportunity to speak tonight.

13 MR. STEIN: Thank you very much. Just a couple of
14 things. That is the last of the speakers on the list. I am
15 about to close the hearing, but I want to mention, just first
16 of all, the process. Obviously, the Council has not taken
17 action. We will bring this up at a subsequent meeting.
18 Also, if there are, and I just want to make the "if,"
19 capitalize the "if," if it were to be approved, then there is
20 a second step, which requires a development and management
21 plan. Some of these the construction details people have
22 asked about, such as hours of construction, those types of
23 things, will be detailed. So there is that process. Again,
24 emphasizing the "if."

25 I also want to say that I don't think they're

1 hiding, but there are several representatives from Eversource
2 in your presence, so if you want to attempt to grab them
3 after the hearing is closed, and if you have specific
4 questions, I'm sure that they'll, to the extent they can,
5 answer them.

6 So again, before closing the hearing, the
7 Siting Council announces that briefs and proposed findings of
8 fact may be filed with the Council. And again, as part of
9 our process, they must be filed no later than October 24,
10 2016. Again, anyone who either did not speak this evening or
11 if you have a neighbor who couldn't be here, but you wish to
12 make your views known, you may file written comments with the
13 Council within 30 days; so there still is time to do that.

14 The Council will, after we gather all of this
15 information and all public comments, will issue our draft
16 findings of fact, which we will make public and will be done
17 obviously prior to the Council making any final action.

18 Copies of the transcript of the hearing will
19 be filed at the clerk's offices in the town of Bethel, the
20 city of Danbury, and the town of Brookfield. And I hereby
21 declare the hearing adjourned. I want to thank you all for
22 your participation. Drive home safely. Thank you.

23
24
25 (Adjourned: 7:54 p.m.)

Kirsten Telhiard

Kirsten Telhiard, LSR #361