STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Docket No. 424

Victor Civie Richard Civie

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

May 21, 2012

### PRE-FILED TESTIMONY

RE: DOCKET NO. 424 - The Connecticut Light & Power Company application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Connecticut portion of the Interstate Reliability Project that traverses the municipalities of Lebanon, Columbia, Coventry, Mansfield, Chaplin, Hampton, Brooklyn, Pomfret, Killingly, Putnam, Thompson, and Windham, which consists of (a) new overhead 345-kV electric transmission lines and associated facilities extending between CL&P's Card Street Substation in the Town of Lebanon, Lake Road Switching Station in the Town of Killingly, and the Connecticut/Rhode Island border in the Town of Thompson; and (b) related additions at CL&P's existing Card Street Substation, Lake Road Switching Station, and Killingly Substation.

## 1. A Public Need For Project No Longer Exists.

Past projects have satisfied the public need for power. The Interstate Reliability Project no longer conforms to a long-range plan for expansion of the electric power grid serving the state and interconnected utility systems, that will serve the public need for adequate, reliable and economic service. The applicant did not provide adequate information. Pursuant to Connecticut State Statues 16-50 the application should be denied.

# 2. Underground Mount Hope Variation is Required by State Statue

Connecticut State Statue 16-50p(i) states:

"For a facility described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i, with a capacity of three hundred forty-five kilovolts or greater, there shall be a presumption that a proposal to place the overhead portions, if any, of such facility adjacent to residential areas, private or public schools, licensed child day care facilities, licensed youth camps or public playgrounds is inconsistent with the purposes of this chapter..."

The Mount Hope Underground Variation extended in accordance with the Town of Mansfield's stated and filed position, centered between poles 9067 and 9066 provides the smallest reduction in property values, eliminates concerns of risk in health to children and families and minimizes the negative impact on the forests fields and other natural landscapes. These underground facilities are both cost effective and technologically feasible.

The transmission lines will be adjacent to Mount Hope Montessori School, day care centers and residential areas. The project will effect 27 properties including the Beech Mountain development (Appendix A) located in the Beech Mountain area alone. The extension of the

underground variation past poles 9067 and 9066 will put the structures past the residential areas.

Underground cables take up less space than their overhead counterparts. The underground plan requires only a ten foot width. This saves 90 foot width of forest that is proposed to be cut. The underground portions comprise a very small portion of the total project.

The cost of facilities such as the Mount Hope Variation are economical. In this variation there is minimal road interface. No part of the underground cable runs in the direction of a road. Since the transmission lines can be placed within the ROW, no easements would have to be obtained for the actual underground cables. The cost for the underground configuration will be between 2-3 times greater than the overhead variation. In the past, configurations such as this have been regionalized. Regionalization occurs for costs that have accrued for just cause. An underground configuration required by State Statue certainly qualifies as just cause.

Richard Civie holds a bachelor's degree in Industrial Design Engineering.

Victor Civie was a 6 year Electrical Engineering Faculty member at the University of

Connecticut.

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I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing document was sent electronically or by U.S. mail to the Docket No. 424 service list on May 21, 2012.

### APPENDIX A

### Beech Mountain Development

Overview

Phase II of the development comprises 12 two acre + building lots located on top of Beech Mountain between Beech Mountain Road, Saw Mill Brook Lane and Mountain Road.

The majority of the lots have deep well drained soils that have septic system designs that do not need imported fill. The remainder of the tested lots can be approved for on site sewage disposal pending the approval of fill pads at each of the proposed sites. Typical soil analysis shows 3-4 feet light brown/orange fine sandy loam, loose and to 10' grey very fine to fine sand, some silt. No ledge has been found to 20'. All perk tests are at 1"/20 min or better. Well water has been found at 160 feet.

Deed restrictions apply. Only one dwelling house shall be permitted. Except by special approval from Developer exterior siding and trim shall be solid wood, stone, brick, stucco and superior quality vinyl. All utilities servicing the lot shall be installed underground from the street to any structure or development on the Lot. No animals, livestock, or poultry of any kind shall be raised, bred, or kept on the lot, except dogs, cats, or other household pets which may be kept provided they are not kept, bred or maintained for any commercial purpose. No signs, billboards, or advertising devices of any kind, except those used in any sale of the Lot or dwelling shall be placed or otherwise installed. Recreational vehicles, including boats and trailers, shall not be visible from the street. The living area of the dwelling house, exclusive of open porches and garages, shall not be less than 2,400 square feet. Floor area not entirely above grade shall not contribute to the total square foot requirements. Any new structures shall be of tasteful and aesthetically pleasing design constructed with long lasting materials and high construction standards harmonious with surrounding structures, topography, landscape and other improvements consistent with a high aesthetic quality.

Landscaping. All Lots shall be attractively landscaped and well manicured with a minimum of 1.5 acres kept as undisturbed forest. All Lots shall be kept sodded except in areas where other attractive landscaping features are placed. The Owner shall promptly re-sod any area on a Lot where sod has died or been removed. Outdoor Equipment, garbage and trash containers, tanks, bottled gas tanks, and swimming pool equipment must be not visible from any adjoining property, right-of-ways, or neighboring properties. Adequate landscaping shall be installed and maintained by the Owner to screen all such containers, tanks, equipment, and the like from view. Street intersections shall be so landscaped to permit safe sight across the Street corners, No fence, walls, hedge, shrub, planting, or other structure or landscaping shall be placed, nor vehicles or other objects placed, parked, or allowed to remain at the corner of a Property which will cause a traffic or sight problem.

