

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SITING COUNCIL

* * * * *

CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER CO. * APRIL 24, 2012
* (7:10 p.m.)

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF *
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND *
PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONNECTICUT * DOCKET NO. 424
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, REQUEST FOR *
PARTY/INTERVENOR STATUS. *
REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE. *

* * * * *

BEFORE: ROBIN STEIN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD MEMBERS: Larry P. Levesque, DPUC Designee
Brian Golembiewski, DEP Designee
Edward S. Wilensky
James J. Murphy, Jr.
Dr. Barbara Currier Bell
Colin C. Tait
Philip Ashton
Daniel Lynch, Jr.

STAFF MEMBERS: Linda Roberts, Executive Director
Christina Walsh, Siting Analyst
Melanie Bachman, Staff Attorney

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1 . . .Verbatim proceedings of a hearing
2 before the State of Connecticut Siting Council in the
3 matter of an Application by The Connecticut Light and
4 Power Company for a Certificate of Environmental
5 Compatibility and Public Need, held at the Mansfield
6 Middle School Auditorium, 205 Spring Hill Road, Storrs,
7 Connecticut, on April 24, 2012 at 7:09 p.m., at which time
8 the parties were represented as hereinbefore set forth . .
9 .

10

11 CHAIRMAN ROBIN STEIN: Good evening,
12 everybody. My name is Robin Stein, I'm the Chairman of
13 the Connecticut Siting Council and we are here for Docket
14 No. 424. There are plenty of seats in the front, but I
15 can understand if for some reason you want to sit in the
16 back. Before I read our formal opening statement, I'd like
17 to welcome you to this third and final public comment
18 session on this Docket No. 424. I want to extend our
19 welcome on behalf of both the Council members and staff.
20 I also want to thank the town of Mansfield and the Mayor
21 Patterson for their hospitality.

22 Let me first tell you a little bit about
23 the Council. We are an executive branch agency of the
24 State of Connecticut. The scope of the Siting Council's

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1 exclusive jurisdiction is to provide siting review with
2 respect to proposals to develop large-scale, utility
3 infrastructure, such as power plants, substations, and
4 high-voltage transmission lines like the ones that are the
5 subject of tonight's hearing. To the extent that reliable
6 electric utility service has become part of modern life
7 our job is to ensure that such infrastructure meshes as
8 well as possible with our State communities.

9 The public mission of the Siting Council is
10 to act as an independent arbiter that balances the
11 statewide need for these projects, at the lowest
12 reasonable cost to consumers, with the need to protect the
13 environment and ecology of the state. We have before us
14 tonight an application by The Connecticut Light and Power
15 Company, CL&P, for a high-voltage electric transmission
16 line upgrade.

17 Clearly, we don't know your towns as well
18 as you do, therefore, we appreciate you telling us how the
19 proposal might affect you. And that's why this listening
20 tour is so important.

21 Your comments made here are essential to
22 this important siting process. We take your comments and
23 input seriously and weigh them heavily in our deliberative
24 process. And it is on that basis that I thank you again

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1 for taking the time to be here this evening.

2 And now for the more formal opening which
3 we're starting this hearing at approximately 7:10 p.m.
4 today, April 24, 2012 on Docket 424. The other members of
5 the council who are here, Brian Golembiewski, designee
6 from the Department of Environmental Protection, Larry
7 Levesque, designee from the Public Utilities Regulatory
8 Authority, Philip Ashton, Daniel Lynch, Senator James
9 Murphy, Dr. Barbara Bell and Edward Wilensky.

10 Members of the staff present are Linda
11 Roberts, our Executive Director, Melanie Bachman, Staff
12 Attorney, Christina Walsh, Siting Analyst, Lisa Fontaine,
13 Custodian of the Record, Gail Gregoriades, Court Reporter
14 and Aaron Demerist, Audio Technician.

15 This proceeding is a contested case under
16 the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, and will be
17 conducted in accordance with the applicable provisions of
18 the Connecticut General Statutes and regulations of
19 Connecticut state agencies on an application by CL&P for
20 certificate of environmental compatibility and public need
21 for the Connecticut portion of the interstate reliability
22 project that traverses the municipalities of Lebanon,
23 Columbia, Coventry, Mansfield, Chaplain, Hampton,
24 Brooklyn, Pomfret, Killingly, Putnam, Thompson, and

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1 Windham, which consists of (a) new overhead 345-kV
2 electric transmission lines and associated facilities
3 extending between CL&P's Card Street Substation in
4 Lebanon, the Lake Road Switching Station in the town of
5 Killingly, and the Connecticut/Rhode Island border in town
6 of Thompson; and (b) related additions at CL&P's existing
7 Card Street Substation, Lake Road Switching Station, and
8 Killingly Substation. The application was received by the
9 Council on December 23, 2011.

10 With respect to concerns regarding electric
11 and magnetic fields, EMF, in accordance with Public Act
12 04-246, our agency revised its "Best Management Practices
13 for the Construction of Electric Transmission Lines in
14 Connecticut." This document references the latest
15 information regarding scientific knowledge and consensus
16 on EMF health concerns. It also discusses advances in
17 transmission facility siting and design techniques that
18 can affect public exposure to EMF. This document, as well
19 as other informative EMF links can be found on the Siting
20 Council's website.

21 As required by law off-the-record
22 communications with any Council member or Council staff
23 member on the merits of this application is prohibited.

24 The parties and intervenors in the

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1 preceding are as follows: The applicant CL&P, Party NRG,
2 party Victor Civie; Party EquiPower, party UI, party
3 Richard Civie and a Party, Edward Hill Bullard.

4 The hearing held tonight is solely for the
5 public to make brief oral statements into the record.
6 Specifically, this is an opportunity for citizens who are
7 not formally participating in the process as a Party or
8 Intervenor to make their views known to the Council.
9 These public statements are not subject to cross-
10 examination and the submission thereof, does not entitle
11 the submitter the right to cross-examine the Applicant,
12 Parties, Intervenors, or the Council.

13 We have a number of people who have signed
14 up and the sign-up sheets are in the back, so in fairness
15 to everyone I'd like to request that you limit your
16 statements to three minutes. If you have written
17 statements we can take them in. They will become part of
18 the hearings as well. We do have one of those mechanisms,
19 stoplight, I prefer not to use it, so again, I hope that
20 you can all keep your remarks to the three minutes.

21 As I said, written statements can be sent
22 to the Council within 30 days from this hearing date
23 either by yourselves or your friends and neighbors and
24 they will be given the same weight as spoken statements.

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1 A verbatim transcript will be made of each hearing session
2 and all hearing transcripts will be deposited with the
3 Town Clerk offices in the towns previously mentioned. The
4 public hearings in the municipalities will conclude
5 tonight, The Council then will continue hearings for the
6 purpose of cross-examine of evidence by the Council Staff,
7 Parties and Intervenors. The evidentiary portion of this
8 hearing will begin on Monday, June 4, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.
9 at Central Connecticut State University.

10 Additional dates have been scheduled and
11 are posted on the Council's website. As I mentioned there
12 is, for those who haven't already signed up there is sign-
13 up sheet in the back.

14 For the benefit of the public who have not
15 been to the previous meetings, we've asked the applicant
16 to compile a short video that explains the general nature
17 of the application and I'll ask the applicant to show the
18 video now.

19 (Whereupon, a video was shown.)
20

21 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Two things,
22 one is I've been told that the stoplight mechanism will be
23 at least -- we'll turn it on for advisory purposes. I hope
24 again that we don't have to use it. As you can guess it

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1 works just like a stoplight. I'd also like to mention that
2 there are a number of individuals here this evening
3 representing Connecticut Light & Power and they will be
4 available after the formal part of this hearing, for any
5 of those of you who wish to -- if you have any specific
6 questions you want to ask them. I'd like to start with
7 government officials. I understand and the podium is
8 obviously here in the front. We have on the list Mayor
9 Eldrige.

10 MAYOR ELDRIGE: Thank you very much and
11 thank you for serving on this. This is not an easy task, I
12 know that.

13 I am the mayor of Windham and Windham will
14 be one that will be affected the most if we go to the
15 alternative route. My letter to the project manager on
16 December 9th regarding this interstate project, I stated
17 my support for the proposed route through the Mansfield
18 and the alternative route through Windham would clearly be
19 just too expensive and too damaging to the environment and
20 also needlessly destructive -- disturbed to the affected
21 property owners as such. As you can see on there, it would
22 just be an acquisition of land that you don't have the
23 right-of-way, or CL&P doesn't have the right-of-way over.

24 And to that, the Town Council which I bring

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1 forward is a resolution I was given on February 7th and
2 I'll just condense it down to basically say that, we gave
3 one to the Siting Council here, that recommended that the
4 CL&P follow the preferred alignment route and use the
5 existing right-of-ways that are already there and oppose
6 the alternative route that require acquisition of new
7 right-of-ways across the private property of Windham.

8 The CL&P proposed route is clearly, you
9 know, with the right-of-ways that it has and the overhead
10 lines it makes most sense and it doesn't disturb the
11 environment and it costs minimally and it also is
12 consistent to the environmental preservation.

13 Besides, you know, just being common sense
14 it is also going to bring a lot of new jobs to this area
15 and new money to the area which is very important to any
16 community as such. So I would like to say is just that the
17 Town of Windham supports the CL&P's preferred route and
18 the proposed application. Thank you very much.

19 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Are there any
20 other public officials, I don't have any. If not, yes,
21 would you like to please come up, give your name, and
22 please also, and this goes for everybody, spell your last
23 name. Thank you.

24 MATT HART: Matt Hart H-A-R-T, Town

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1 Manager, Town of Mansfield. I believe I might be on the
2 list a little bit further down.

3 CHAIRMAN STEIN: You are.

4 MR. HART: Would it be okay for me to go
5 now or would you prefer --

6 CHAIRMAN STEIN: You're up there so go
7 ahead.

8 MR. HART: Okay, excellent, thank you. I am
9 joined this evening by Linda Painter our Director of
10 Planning and Development and welcome to Mansfield. Thank
11 you for coming out to address our issues, to listen to our
12 concerns. The Town of Mansfield, while we recognize the
13 need for the project itself to meet regional power
14 demands, we don't think the proposed route is the best
15 route for this project.

16 I do want to point out, however, that we're
17 not endorsing, we're not endorsing the Windham south
18 route, are sympathetic to the points raised by Mayor
19 Eldridge, our colleague and our neighbor. And our
20 opposition to the proposed route, it's based on several
21 reasons and they're all detailed in the letter which we
22 submitted, letter submitted under the signature of Betsy
23 Patterson, our Mayor which I think you have.

24 And our concerns include several factors

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1 including what we think is inadequate consideration given
2 to the mitigation of the impacts of the project itself.
3 And that's really what I want to focus on, are several
4 proposed mitigation measures that we are suggesting to you
5 all that you consider. In Mansfield, in our town, we think
6 that the proposed project would negatively impact property
7 values for budding businesses, private schools, child care
8 facilities and homes as a result of the visual impact of
9 the project.

10 Public perception is a concern regarding
11 the safety of living or having schools and child care
12 facilities located near the lines. A general market
13 reluctance, if you will, to locate next to such
14 facilities. We have detailed these in our Exhibit A.
15 Mostly the properties that would be impacted by the
16 proposed route, in Mansfield, are residential.

17 So I'd like to speak to our proposed
18 mitigation measures in some detail if I could. First would
19 be to relocate Pole 39 at the Highland Golf Range. And
20 these mitigation matters are not listed in any order of
21 priority. I do want to emphasize that. As depicted in our
22 Exhibit B, the transmission line runs through the Highland
23 Golf Range due to the layout of the range the transmission
24 line doesn't -- the existing line doesn't interfere with

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1 the use of that range, however, the proposed line would
2 create an obstacle and we are recommending that this
3 proposed Pole 39 be relocated to accommodate their
4 concerns. We have heard that if that can't happen, we
5 think the owner would be in a position where they would
6 need to close the facility and we'd hate to see that
7 occur.

8 Second mitigation measure that we would
9 recommend is a use of the Mansfield underground variation
10 that was described up above and a modified variation for
11 the Mount Hope underground scenario. And those are
12 depicted -- those alterations to the Mount Hope variation
13 are as follows, that you would relocate the western
14 terminus of that variation to a point west of Saw Mill
15 Brook Lane to minimize those impacts and relocate the
16 eastern terminus to a point west of Route 195, Storrs
17 Road.

18 And as part of the implementation of any
19 underground variation, we think that the transition
20 station should be designed to use the smallest footprint
21 possible to reduce the amount of clearing that would be
22 needed. And use of these variations we do think that would
23 be consistent with state law.

24 A third measure that we're recommending

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1 would be to use EMF best management practices particularly
2 on the poles between Route 195, Storrs Road and Mansfield
3 Hollow, that area of town does include two child care
4 facilities and well as numerous private residences. So we
5 think additional mitigation is needed there.

6 A fourth recommendation that we have for
7 you would be to relocate -- require the utility to
8 relocate the Mount Hope Montessori School. We talked about
9 the public perception of the project and very concerned
10 about that. The school has been informed by various
11 parents, etcetera that they may be very reluctant to send
12 their children to the school if the proposed line is put
13 in place there. So we are recommending that the utility
14 relocate that school.

15 A fifth measure that we are recommending
16 would be to help facilitate a land swap between another
17 day care facility on Bassetts Bridge Road known as The
18 Green Dragon Day Care and Northeast Utilities itself. The
19 existing transmission line corridor runs along the rear
20 half of the day care's property; I guess there are ground
21 shocks in that area that limit the use of the property by
22 children. Northeast Utilities is currently licensing a
23 piece of property that's nearby. We think a solution to
24 this would be a land swap between the day care owner and

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1 Northeast Utilities.

2 A sixth recommendation that we have for you
3 would be to require the Hawthorne Lane alternative.
4 Implementation of the proposed route in the vicinity of
5 this subdivision would result in the loss of the visual
6 buffer that's presently there. So what we set out in
7 Exhibit D of our submission, shows that the alternative
8 would relocation the existing transmission line to the
9 south away from the homes that are presently located
10 there. And to facilitate this, the town has amended an
11 existing conservation easement that we have in place.

12 A seventh recommendation that we have would
13 be to use Design Option 2 in Mansfield Hollow State Park
14 due to the limited right-of-way we think that the
15 utilities should be required to use Design Option 2 which
16 would eliminate the need for any additional right-of-way
17 and restrict the clearing that would be required. We think
18 that this is the least invasive option.

19 An eighth proposal, eighth mitigation
20 measure would be various things that could be undertaken
21 to help minimize the impacts on working farms. There are
22 working farms in that area along Bassetts Bridge Road as
23 you saw on your tour and we think the utilities should be
24 required to strictly adhere to those mitigation measures

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1 that would help minimize the impact on those farms and
2 that would include limiting construction to non-harvest
3 seasons, restoring disturbed soils, minimizing the use of
4 herbicides and pesticides, etcetera.

5 And the final mitigation measure that we
6 are recommending to you concerns construction access.
7 While we understand the construction time frame will be
8 limited, we think it is important to protect the adjacent
9 single-family homes that are located there. Consequently
10 the construction access roads should be located as far
11 from the homes as possible.

12 So, in summary, I know that I have just
13 gone over quite a bit of detail; I think it is set out
14 much more clearly in the letter that we have provided to
15 you. We think that these mitigation matters are important.

16 In summary again, the town is opposed to
17 the proposed route, however, if the Siting Council does in
18 fact endorse the proposed route, we would like you to do
19 so only contingent upon the implementation of the various
20 mitigation measures that we've described.

21 Thank you very much, happy to take any
22 questions that you might have.

23 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. It's not a Q
24 and A but we appreciate your comments.

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1 Now I'd like to -- is there someone else -- this
2 is the time for elected officials, I thought you were
3 coming up before.

4 TONY MORAN: I thought I would let the Town
5 Manager go first. I'm Tony Moran. I am the Deputy Mayor of
6 Mansfield. For 30 years I've lived in Mansfield Hollow and
7 I lived there before the line went up and I can tell you
8 that the consequences of that line on that community were
9 quite significant.

10 The line went up before people really were
11 afraid of EMF and all of the -- before they were really
12 aware of the consequences of these power lines, but
13 clearly property values around those lines have dropped.
14 It's very clear that parents were are contemplating
15 sending their children to the Montessori School are going
16 to be particularly alarmed by the increased electricity
17 flowing through the area, however you want to define what
18 it is that they're afraid of. But they will be concerned
19 and the school is really put at risk. The Council has
20 heard a lot of testimony from members of the public from
21 all over parts of town. And it is very clear to members of
22 the Council that the impact of this line will be quite
23 negative on certain areas of town.

24 We've agreed that there are mitigation

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1 proposals and you've just heard the mitigation proposals
2 listed. We strongly support those. So I do hope that you
3 take this into very serious consideration and to have some
4 concern about the property owners and particularly the
5 businesses that will be directly impacted by these lines.
6 Thank you.

7 CHARIMAN STEIN: Thank you. Any other
8 public official? If not, I'd like to go to the public
9 sign-up list. Please spell your last name and also if
10 you're speaking from either close to the proposal, give us
11 your address so we know specifically -- relate that to
12 your concern and finally I'll apologize in advance if I
13 mispronounce anybody. The first person on the list is Tony
14 Sheridan.

15 TONY SHERIDAN: Good evening, Tony Sheridan
16 S-H-E-R-I-D-A-N. I represent the Chamber of Commerce of
17 Eastern Connecticut. We have 1,600 companies and the
18 footprint we are talking about footprint runs from Putnam
19 to Fisher's Island the Rhode Island border and out to the
20 Connecticut River. I'm here to talk about the importance
21 of reliable safe source of energy, environmentally sound.
22 There are several reasons why we need to find a way to try
23 and balance the community needs which are terribly
24 important and I speak as a former First Selectman of

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1 Waterford of eights. So I recognize the importance of the
2 public import here and you folks are great to be here to
3 hear it all, but we also have an issue with supply,
4 reliable supply of electricity in this part of the state.
5 We really need to find a way to balance the needs and make
6 sure this project can go forward in a cost-effective
7 manner. There have cases where some of the power lines
8 were required to be buried on the other end of the State
9 and it's cost prohibitive. I'm sure you folks are quite
10 aware of what I'm talking about.

11 I'm delighted to see that you are utilizing
12 the existing right-of-ways. That's the smart thing to do,
13 minimize the environmental impact. Finally, I'd like to
14 say there is a jobs component to this that is quite
15 significant and, as God knows. We all need more jobs.
16 Again, thank you for the opportunity to say a few words
17 and you folks have a difficult job, so thank you.

18 ERIC HAMMERLING: Good evening. My name is
19 Eric Hammerling H-A-M-M-E-R-L-I-N-G. I am the Executive
20 Director of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association.
21 CFPA is the first non-profit conservation organization
22 established in Connecticut in 1895. CFPA may best be known
23 for maintaining 825 miles of blue-blazed hiking trails in
24 Connecticut through a network of outstanding volunteers

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1 including several active volunteers involved with the
2 Friends of Mansfield Hollow. As you know, the Nipmuck
3 Blue-Blazed Trail runs through Mansfield Hollow State Park
4 and along the Fenton River in Mansfield as well as running
5 through the neighboring towns of Willington, Ashford and
6 Union.

7 Along the way, the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail
8 system crosses many different land ownerships, private,
9 corporate utility, municipal and state. And we work with
10 all land owners to keep these trails open and free for
11 public use. The Nipmuck Trail is crossed twice in
12 Mansfield by the route of the Interstate Reliability
13 Project. We've worked effectively with CL&P for decades
14 where transmission lines crossed the blue trails. In all
15 situations that I am aware of, CL&P has been terrific at
16 keeping CFPA informed well in advance of any transmission
17 line maintenance work that has to be done. When necessary
18 CL&P has helped with rerouting signage and materials, as
19 well as, opening and closing trails in coordination with
20 our volunteers to keep the public safe.

21 In some areas, CL&P has made its own lands
22 available as a site for blue-blazed trails. Similarly,
23 CL&P has been very good at providing briefings to CFPA on
24 the status of its other transmission upgrade projects and

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1 we've had several opportunities over the past few years to
2 ask questions about the siting process, construction and
3 related environmental considerations, erosion controls and
4 basins, wildlife habitat, etcetera.

5 CFPA has not taken a formal position on the
6 Interstate Reliability Project and we're certainly not in
7 the business of designing electric transmission lines.
8 Sustainable forestry, land conservation, environmental
9 education and trails are our mission focus. With that
10 being said, we've generally found CL&P and Northeast
11 Utilities to be excellent partners on the ground. When
12 construction within their right-of-ways would lead to a
13 conflict within existing trail, they've kept us informed
14 on timing and worked with us to make various site
15 improvements.

16 I wanted to speak tonight to thank CL&P for
17 its proactive communications efforts, their ongoing
18 commitment to land and trail conservation and to make a
19 request of them and you to continue these efforts to
20 communicate as the siting process moves forward. Thank
21 you.

22 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Richard Channey.

23 RICHARD CHANNEY: Good evening council
24 members -- Mansfield, Connecticut. I'd like to put into

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1 the record an addendum to my letter to the Siting Council
2 dated March 21st, 2012. I am the owner of Highland Ridge
3 Golf Range at 164 Stafford Road, Mansfield Center,
4 Connecticut. We provide golf recreation to Mansfield and
5 surrounding communities. We work with youth and adult
6 groups, schools with golf teams such as UConn and E.O.
7 Smith and golf classed with Mansfield's Park and
8 Recreation and other organizations.

9 We provide winter golf and lessons with our
10 golf simulators in our new building. We are the only golf
11 range in the community. CL&P right-of-way runs right
12 through the middle of our property. We own the land under
13 the right-of-way. As we felt the new lines would block our
14 business, we met with Mark Kimble of CL&P on 3/2/12 at the
15 range to discuss having the lines go underground or moving
16 a pole or two to the left side of the range. He told us he
17 could not do this due to cost. As we have no other
18 alternative at this time but to accept their plan as is, I
19 wrote a letter to Executive Director, Linda Roberts of the
20 Siting Council dated 3/21/12, which is on file with them
21 and I have an enclosure to my letter.

22 Recently after siting from each of our golf
23 tees, we have come to a final conclusion that the new line
24 as proposed would block us in such a way that the range

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1 would be unusable. Therefore, we feel that we would have
2 to close our range and golf business. My son, David, who
3 is the manager of the range and others we hire from time-
4 to-time, would lose their jobs.

5 When we built the range, we felt that
6 building a driving range was the highest and best use of
7 the land, as the power line right away ruins the 35 acres
8 for any other use other than recreation.

9 Finally, as we have a very large investment
10 in this business, if we cannot work out some kind of a
11 solution to this problem we will be asking for a buyout so
12 that we can put the lines where they -- excuse me, asking
13 CL&P for a buyout so they can put their lines wherever
14 they want them. Thank you for your time and consideration
15 in this matter. I also want to thank Matt Hart for
16 speaking on our behalf, Linda Painter and Mayor Patterson.

17 Just one final note, in your packet from
18 the town there is a map and you can see our golf range
19 right there. If you go over way on the left-hand side, I'm
20 a little bit shaky on my legs, but way over on the side
21 here where it comes in, that piece right there is Highland
22 Ridge Golf Range. You can see it splits it right down the
23 middle. If we are able to move the poles, I can give
24 Connecticut Light and Power some additional land for the

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1 right-of-way, as we have other land there. So we think one
2 pole, I think it's 38, if we move it a little bit forward
3 I don't think it would extend too much between the poles
4 and go down the left-hand side of our range that this
5 would work. I thank you for your time and consideration.

6 CHARIMAN STEIN: Thank you very much. The
7 next person on the list, Lee Hebert.

8 LEE HEBERT: Thank you, Commissioner and
9 members of the Siting Council. My name is Lee Hebert H-E-
10 B-E-R-T and I am out of Hampton, Connecticut. I've got a
11 written statement for you, I'm just going to take a couple
12 of pieces out of it for now and put something on the
13 record. I'm going to reference the Energy Bill which is
14 written and went into effect in 2011 and it's LCL No.
15 4531, an act concerning Connecticut's energy futures.

16 Dear Council Members, I request you deny
17 CL&P's request based first on the fact our country does
18 not need anymore power plants or transmission lines. And
19 further, the applicant, CL&P, is not upholding Connecticut
20 laws as mandated in Connecticut SB1, A couple of the key
21 sections I ask you to consider is section 55 subsection G
22 as a condition of their license the utilities must offer a
23 time and use rate option as directed in the law. And in
24 section 32, subsection 10, whenever available energy

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1 alternatives are equivalent give preference to capacity
2 additions for conservation and load management.

3 Actually, if you look at the energy bill
4 you'll find conflict after conflict after conflict with --
5 I don't even know why they wrote it if you are going to
6 let these power lines go on, but it talks about reducing
7 the cost of energy and goes on and on and on.

8 And what I also included in here is a
9 proposal that went to Norwich Public Utility and I've
10 copied Governor Malloy and Commissioner Esty because it
11 tracks with what they are trying to do with the energy
12 bill. What it boils down to is our country wastes more
13 energy every day that we could power multiple Japans 24-
14 hours a day. The missing link is energy storage. This
15 proposal covered a section of six different energy storage
16 systems off the shelf at Norwich Public Utilities is
17 considering. I was notified last week they're going to
18 start a pilot program.

19 I've also included in here, as a reference,
20 a letter that was written in Time Magazine by Michael
21 Grunwald, Pulitzer Prize winner, that states energy
22 efficiency is the missing fruit. We don't need any more
23 power plants or transmission lines. You can get that
24 pretty much anywhere on the Internet just by typing in

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1 whatever state you're interested in, California being the
2 most obvious and just CA energy storage or WA energy
3 storage. You can even go to different countries such as
4 Denmark, Germany, even China energy storage and find out
5 that everyone is saying the same thing. We've got to start
6 storing what we have already built, we don't need more
7 transmission lines and we don't need any power plants. So
8 you'll see that statement repeated and repeated and
9 repeated.

10 And for the final thing, I have included in
11 the package is a copy of -- it gives you the link to the
12 California ISO, it's caiso.com and you can look for
13 today's outlook and you can see the massive amount of
14 energy going to waste. It's like -- this original copy's
15 got squares on it and every square is the equivalent of a
16 Millstone or two or our world's largest fossil fuel power
17 plants. In every square between the top curve and the
18 bottom curve, which is a load, is totally going to waste,
19 paid for and going to waste. I guess that's my statement.
20 I'm going to leave you a copy of my request to deny this
21 proposal and a copy for each one of you.

22 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Next is Lori
23 Brown.

24 LORI BROWN: Good evening. My name is Lori

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1 Brown L-O-R-I B-R-O-W-N. Thank you very much for letting
2 me speak tonight. I'm the executive director of The
3 Connecticut League of Conservation Voters. We're a
4 statewide non-profit environmental organization dedicated
5 to protecting the State's land, air, water open space and
6 this includes policies that the State adopts on energy
7 issues and how they impact the resources in our State. I
8 am presenting some remarks from Tom Swarr S-W-A-R-R who is
9 our chair. He could not be here tonight so really, I
10 apologize to read this to you, I know it's not the best
11 way to present this but it will be fairly short.

12 We believe that the future vitality of
13 Connecticut depends on both reliable electricity supply
14 and responsible stewardship of our environmental
15 resources. Our organization does not have a formal
16 position on the Interstate Reliability Project and we
17 certainly don't claim to be experts with the technical
18 details of this project.

19 However, we do believe that the Siting
20 Council's review of this and other large infrastructure
21 projects is greatly strengthened by an open and
22 transparent process with all stakeholders present to fully
23 evaluate the impacts associated with the various
24 alternatives.

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1 The Connecticut League of Conservation
2 Voters has received briefings from CL&P over the years and
3 in particular on this project and the status of its great
4 projects overall. And we do feel that the company's made a
5 very good faith effort to reach out to the environmental
6 groups to hear concerns and to try to address them as they
7 moved forward with this project and to elicit feedback
8 from the groups. So I really do think that they have put
9 that effort into being proactive, straight forward
10 approach, supplying us with information and listening to
11 our concerns.

12 However, no amount of planning can ever
13 foresee every contingency that might be encountered during
14 an actual construction. So, despite the system level
15 benefits statewide we do recognize that the project's
16 impacts are really felt locally, and so different advocacy
17 groups have different perspectives and different agendas.

18 And some of those priorities can be in
19 conflict, but that's why we think it is very important
20 that environmental advocates stay engaged in the process
21 before, during and after the decision of the Siting
22 Council. And that we need to insure that everything is
23 fully vetted and that the project both meets the needs of
24 the Connecticut citizens and preserves our natural

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1 environment.

2 We do not attempt to speak for other
3 environmental groups. We do partner with a lot of groups
4 throughout the State. So we do hear and try to relay back
5 and forth information as best as possible. So everybody is
6 at least at the table and understands what the issues are.
7 And then we wanted to basically recognize tonight just
8 that CL&P has made an effort in their outreach and
9 communications and we ask of them and you to continue
10 these efforts as this process moves forward.

11 We do look forward to working with CL&P and
12 the other stakeholders involved, to make sure that during
13 any development or management phases of this project, how
14 we can learn together to adopt best management practices
15 and minimize any environmental impact. We have been doing
16 that with other major infrastructure projects in
17 Connecticut from transportation to other energy issues and
18 so very much would appreciate having more role as this
19 moves forward. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Emil Coman?

21 EMIL COMAN: Good evening. My name is Emil
22 Coman C-O-M-A-N. I am a resident of Bolton. My son Jacob
23 goes to Mount Hope Montessori in Mansfield and I'm going
24 to summarize the statement that I am going to submit

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1 online, my wife wrote this. We are very proud parents of a
2 child who has been blooming and blossoming in this school
3 and we have been concerned the very first time when we saw
4 the power lines next to the school and we believe, we
5 think that other parents are concerned especially new
6 parents who are looking for a good place for their child.

7 This school has been molding children for
8 50 years and they are doing an unbelievable job especially
9 at this time when early childhood education is emphasized
10 in this state. I think we should be looking at the value
11 in other ways than just money and consider such needs as
12 the Mount Hope Montessori School.

13 I'm going to submit, again, another written
14 statement. Thank you for this opportunity and please
15 consider also the effects on schools and child care
16 facilities. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Scott Welden?

18 SCOTT WELDEN: My name is Scott Welden, a
19 little tall for the short guy. Richard Scott Welden W-E-L-
20 D-E-N, 25 Hawthorne Lane. I live there with my wife, three
21 children and my mother. And I would like to urge the
22 Council if additional lines need to go through Mansfield
23 to please reconsider urging or directing CL&P to use the
24 Hawthorne variation. This variation flattens an angle,

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1 takes the line over road versus up into the yards of the
2 neighborhood. The variation maintains actually increases a
3 buffer of forested land between our homes and the lines.
4 The impact on the value of our houses would be obvious.
5 I'm sure you have lots of paperwork including the map, but
6 you would see the obvious impact on the value of the
7 homes. This shift would help create a large parcel of
8 forested land between homes so for environmental reasons
9 alone it's a good move.

10 One particular area that I would like to
11 spend a moment with is this, before my wife and I decided
12 to build at the site, we did extensive research on EMF
13 emissions, we were very concerned about that, our children
14 were very young at the time. And with all our research the
15 consensus that we came upon is that 300 feet is considered
16 a relatively safe distance but 300 feet less is an area of
17 great concern.

18 So, by conservative estimates looking at
19 the CL&P maps, the additional lines as CL&P proposes would
20 bring lines from a little over 400 to 280 feet to my home.
21 A little over 400 to 250 feet to one of my neighbors,
22 about 600 to 370 close to the 300 foot level at one home
23 and from 320 feet to 200 feet to a fourth home, so the
24 existing -- myself and my neighbors, most of us would be

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1 under the 300-foot area of concern. So for all those
2 considerations on the housing values, the environment, the
3 positive impacts of the shift and the health of the
4 residents of the Hawthorne neighborhood, I urge the
5 Council to please urge CL&P to use the Hawthorne shift.
6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Diane Dorfer?

8 DIANE DORFER: Hi, my name is Diane Dorfer
9 D-O-R-F-E-R. I'm on Exhibit D for what the town submitted
10 and also Map Sheet 9, if you would like to refer to that
11 while I am speaking. I live at 87 Bassett Bridge Road in
12 Mansfield. I own the Green Dragon Day Care. I am a
13 licensed home day care licensed by the State. I currently
14 care for five young children and three school-aged
15 children and I have two significant concerns I would like
16 to voice tonight.

17 One, regarding the access road that would
18 go to Pole Structure 9077 and the other regarding the
19 possibility of a property swap that Matt Hart had
20 mentioned. First, I ask that out of concern for the
21 children in my day care, the access road to the structure
22 be as far as possible from our property line. The noise,
23 dust and exhaust associated with the structure, with the
24 construction equipment would impede the use of our outdoor

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1 play areas if the road runs directly along our property.
2 We spend a lot of time outside. We're outside pretty much
3 any kind of weather except for downpours and even the
4 tractor that goes through the hay field to hay a couple of
5 times a year causes some of the kids to cry. So, the
6 equipment that I saw in that movie would terrify some of
7 my children, so the further away it is from our house the
8 better.

9 The second point of concern regards the
10 property sought with CL&P, in response to my concerns over
11 the effects of the project CL&P had provided us with a
12 license agreement to a parcel of CL&P owned land adjacent
13 and east of us, which is in Exhibit D, the town submitted.
14 It is similar in area to our property that's under the
15 right-of-way. I feel that this agreement is a good first
16 step, but not a long-term solution. The agreement is
17 renewed every five years and can be revoked at any time
18 with 90-days notice. This lack of permanence does not
19 allow us to use the land for day care uses as we intended
20 for our back acre when we bought the property.

21 We do a lot of gardening with the kids, we
22 have chickens, and sometimes we have other animals and our
23 parents like that a lot. They like that their kids go home
24 dirty. And not being able to use our back field limits

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1 what we are as a day care.

2 Additionally, the terms of the license
3 require us to carry \$2,000,000.00 of insurance requiring
4 us to pay an additional \$453.00 per year, more than we
5 otherwise would -- I have this documented. So CL&P has
6 expressed interest in a property swap, but you know, as I
7 discussed, but is restricted by an MOU with DEEP for first
8 right of refusal. I ask that the Siting Council or CL&P
9 request that DEEP release the property allowing for the
10 swap. The swap could be beneficial to all parties. CL&P
11 would have unimpeded access to, and control over, land
12 currently under easement and acquisition of our land would
13 connect the CL&P properties on either side of us.

14 All our points of concern with the project
15 would be alleviated by this swap in addition to the road
16 not being so close to us. Earlier I have submitted letters
17 of concern both on my behalf and some of my parents to
18 CL&P so I assume that somewhere in the record you have
19 that. I also have a copy of those today.

20 Underneath the power lines in the back, we
21 get ground shocks on humid days if there's any moisture on
22 the vegetation we get feel like insect bites. It took us a
23 while to figure out what was really going on. Also, if I
24 were to pick up a kid we shock each other. So, even though

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1 currently the lines only cover part of that we'd have to
2 go under that to get to the back half where the lines
3 aren't. It's not pleasant and if the lines in the future
4 cover the entire back half of our property, it pretty much
5 renders it useless to us and also parents EMF concerns.

6 I would like to note that should the property
7 swap occur, we would happily put our property, what would
8 be currently owned by CL&P, under conservation
9 restriction. That said the swap could be seen as neutral
10 or even beneficial as far as DEEP is concerned as both
11 parcels are prime agricultural land and in total more land
12 than, excuse me. All told there would be more land under a
13 CR at the end of the agreement.

14 I'd also like to note that I am not in
15 support of putting the lines underground; I think it would
16 be much more disruptive than having them above ground.
17 Contrary to what Matt Hart presented, I have to disagree
18 with the idea of the monopole. I think that concerns over
19 the power lines are as much perceived as real and frankly
20 the monopoles are unsightly. It makes it just seem so much
21 more present because they are so much taller, whereas the
22 H configuration is in line with what's already there and
23 five years after the project is over might not be as
24 noticeable as the big monopole. Thank you very much for

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1 your time.

2 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you very much.

3 Helene Marcy?

4 HELENE MARCY: Good evening, thank you. My
5 name is Helene Marcy, but I'll spell the whole thing since
6 it's confusing H-E-L-E-N-E M-A-R-C-Y. My daughter attends
7 Mount Hope Montessori School and my son will be attending
8 the school. I'm very concerned about the implications of
9 the CL&P project on Mount Hope's future. Not only am I
10 concerned about the construction, as she just mentioned,
11 surrounding the project and the impact on the kids and
12 parents days during that phase. But the proposed lines
13 look much more obvious and imposing than the current lines
14 and the new -- and would be closer to the kid's playground
15 area.

16 I'm worried about prospective parents
17 driving down to visit the school, seeing those new, larger
18 closer lines in addition to the existing lines together,
19 and turning right back around before they even walk in the
20 door to ask about them because they fear for their kids'
21 safety. I don't think, honestly, that Mount Hope can
22 survive the proposed project.

23 The school has been around a long time,
24 over 50 years as Emil said earlier and is an established

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1 and valuable part of the community. My family absolutely
2 loves the school and I would hate to see its doors closed
3 and so many kids denied a truly wonderful education
4 because of this project. Thank you.

5 CHARIMAN STEIN: Thank you. Stephen Bacon?

6 STEPHEN BACON: Good evening. Stephen Bacon
7 spelled B-A-C-O-N. I'm here tonight to address Field
8 Management Design Plan Alternative 7 commonly referred to
9 as the Hawthorne Alternative or Hawthorne Lane
10 Alternative. I am an attorney. I represent Christopher and
11 Jessica Duers, Scott and Christine Welden, Thomas and
12 Elmira Mindek and Wayne and Christine Hawthorne. My
13 clients reside at 21, 25, 27, 28 Hawthorne Lane here is
14 Mansfield. Although there's been an existing transmission
15 line through this neighborhood at Hawthorne Lane before my
16 clients homes were constructed, the proposed Interstate
17 Reliability Project contemplates the removal of a
18 substantial amount of tree and vegetated buffer between
19 these residences and the relocated transmission
20 facilities.

21 In response to this proposal and the
22 anticipated effects on their homes, these residents
23 initiated a process more than a year ago with Connecticut
24 Light and Power, the Mansfield Director of Planning and

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1 Development, the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission
2 and the Mansfield Town Council to put into effect a plan
3 that would mitigate the impacts of this project on their
4 homes.

5 With the cooperation of representatives
6 from Connecticut Light and Power, my clients were able to
7 fashion an alternative to the proposed route through their
8 neighborhood. By shifting transmission facilities to the
9 south Field Management Design Plans Alternative 7 would
10 preserve the existing buffer on their properties and
11 reduce the undesirable consequences that the project might
12 otherwise impose on them.

13 There has been substantial progress to make
14 this alternative a viable one, should the Siting Council
15 eventually approve the project application.

16 First, this alternative requires that a
17 portion of an existing conservation easement, held by the
18 Town of Mansfield, be relocated to a different area of the
19 neighborhood. After consideration by, and approval by, the
20 Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission, the Conservation
21 Commission, the Open Space Preservation Committee, my
22 clients have obtained approval from the Mansfield Town
23 Council for the execution of an amended and restated
24 conservation easement agreement contingent on approval by

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1 this Siting Council of this application and also approval
2 of the Field Management Design Plans Alternative 7. The
3 agreement and accompanied maps have been prepared and are
4 ready to be executed.

5 Second, the modification of easement
6 required for this alternative has been prepared by CL&P's
7 counsel and has been delivered to me along with survey
8 maps that would eventually be filed in the land records
9 should this alternative be approved.

10 Lastly, my clients and I have contacted
11 their mortgage lenders and have commenced the process of
12 complying with those lenders requirements, relative to the
13 eventual execution of subordination agreements to
14 subordinate all the existing mortgages to both the amended
15 easement and the modification of easement with CL&P.

16 I have been involved with this matter only
17 since January 30th of this year. A substantial amount of
18 leg work has been done by my clients prior to my arrival.
19 Their willingness to persevere despite countless meetings
20 and bureaucratic red tape is a testament to their earnest
21 desire to see the so-called alternative, Hawthorne
22 Alternative; incorporated into the final product should
23 the Siting Council approve this application.

24 It is our request that the Siting Council

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1 see fit to approve Field Management Design Plans
2 Alternative 7, if this application is approved. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Mike Palumbo?

4 MIKE PALUMBO: Hi, thank you for hearing me
5 today. My name is Mike Palumbo and that's P-A-L-U-M-B-O
6 and I'm not originally from Mansfield, in fact, I'm not
7 originally from Connecticut. I actually came here from New
8 York to go to UConn 20-years ago and after graduation I
9 really could have gone anywhere, but I chose to stay here.

10 Today I work for the State of Connecticut
11 and my guys go to Mount Hope Montessori up there in the
12 Hollow. For five of the years, in the past 20 years I
13 lived in the Hollow. In fact, our deputy mayor, Tony Moran
14 was my landlord and we have remained good friends.

15 If you had asked me 20-years ago if it was
16 possible for a city kid like me to fall in love with a
17 little woodland community like the Hollow, I would have
18 told you no, but that's exactly what happened.

19 If you know the history of the Hollow then
20 you know that 50-some-odd years ago, the community was
21 more or less destroyed by the Van project and then again
22 with the power lines that went in all for the benefit of
23 towns south of here. And well I don't dispute the
24 necessity of that project, the effects were devastating,

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1 it destroyed that community. I don't use that word
2 lightly, it destroyed it.

3 What's left of that community, what you see
4 there today are the remnants of that and it's taken about
5 50 years for it to recover and I use recover for lack of a
6 better word. There's not much business down there and what
7 is down there struggles to keep business going.

8 The impact on the residents and Mount Hope
9 Montessori and the park, as described by our town
10 officials, I think would be detrimental and I would just
11 encourage the Council to take into consideration the
12 proposals made by our town officials. Thank you very much.

13 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Frank Johnson?

14 FRANK JOHNSON: Good evening. My name is
15 Frank Johnson. I am the president of MAC, the
16 Manufacturing Alliance of Connecticut. I live in Bristol.
17 I work in Waterbury. I'm sorry to say I'm not from this
18 part of the State because it is a beautiful part of the
19 State. And as someone who served as a zoning chairman in
20 my town for 20 years, I certainly don't envy any of you
21 the task that lies ahead, as you try to balance the needs
22 of the State of Connecticut versus the needs and desires
23 of the local residents, but I'm sure you're up to the
24 task.

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1 I'm here this evening to speak in favor of
2 the CL&P proposal as it was presented, the Interstate
3 Reliability Project. Connecticut manufacturers along with
4 commercial customers and residential customers in the
5 State of Connecticut have endured high energy prices in
6 the State of Connecticut for too long.

7 Manufacturers support infrastructure
8 improvements that will reduce electric congestion, help
9 alleviate costly FMCC charges and increase the reliability
10 of the grid. These infrastructure improvements are vital
11 if we hope to maintain and expand the manufacturing base
12 that's in Connecticut.

13 We continually hear the governor and
14 legislators and other elected officials talk about the
15 importance of manufacturing jobs, the multiplier effect
16 that those jobs have on the community and the amount of
17 benefit that comes from having manufacturing in
18 Connecticut. And part of what we need to have here is an
19 ever developing infrastructure that can support developing
20 industry. So these changes, these infrastructure proposals
21 are important for Connecticut manufacturers because it
22 will correct some of the regional reliability problems
23 that we have in the State of Connecticut. It will
24 alleviate some of the congestion issues that we have in

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1 Southern New England and it will provide the necessary
2 reliability margin in the case of a generator or a power
3 line going down.

4 Our ability to attract future business
5 growth and expansion will rely in part on the assurance of
6 long-term reliable electric supply. CL&P's proposal to use
7 existing rights-of-way and above ground -- work above
8 ground seems to make the most sense given the cost
9 alternative of trying to go underground with these
10 proposals.

11 So we support this reliability project as
12 part of the new solution. These projects are expected to
13 generate thousands of jobs over a period of time in the
14 economy and more immediately will create at least 500 jobs
15 in the construction of these projects and bring about
16 \$2,000,000.00 in local tax dollars to the communities that
17 are affected.

18 CL&P has been proactive in working with the
19 manufacturing community, individual companies and the
20 manufacturing community in general to try to improve the
21 infrastructure in Connecticut. This is certainly a part of
22 that overall solution and therefore, we support CL&P's
23 application as it has been presented and I thank you for
24 the opportunity to comment tonight.

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1 CHARIMAN STEIN: Donald Hoyle?

2 DONALD HOLYE: My name is Donald Hoyle,
3 according to Hoyle, H-O-Y-L-E. I live at 125A Bassetts
4 Bridge Road. I speak both as a property owner and member
5 of Friends Mansfield Hollow. As a property owner, about
6 seven-years ago, I took advantage of putting photovoltaic
7 on my house. It was pushed by CL&P. The advertisement was
8 that if enough residents put photovoltaic on their homes
9 we could eliminate the need for peak because we would
10 supply it with the sun and that would help to eliminate
11 the sooty which I am happy to report that was eliminated.

12 I guess what I am suggesting is there's
13 other ways locally for towns to become more efficient or
14 not just more efficient but supply power in photovoltaic
15 on rooftops. I was at a DEEP panel a couple of weeks ago
16 and a creative proposal was if your home is on good site
17 then maybe you can combine with two or three other
18 neighbors and have the preferred site have the
19 photovoltaic put on it.

20 I am one that strongly believes we need to go to
21 alternative energies and if what I hear is right that
22 eventually this will be hooked up with Quebec
23 Hydroelectric, which I think is a positive. I think
24 hydroelectric is a source of energy. We have that

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1 available in the Mansfield area at the Kirby Mills and I
2 hope the site committee is aware of the potential that
3 that has to supply, they say half of the energy needed for
4 our schools and public buildings. If more communities
5 could do that and combine it with solar I think we could
6 raise or provide a lot more of our electricity.

7 Representing Mansfield Hollow, I also
8 attended another presentation by our Commissioner Esty at
9 the University of Connecticut, the Teale lecture after
10 integrating the need to put together the environmental
11 concern and the economic concern and I also say we have an
12 inspirational concern. And he said as a boy he was
13 grateful that he was taken out into nature, taught to
14 hunt, taught to fish and that this is something that we
15 need to preserve for future generations.

16 And so I see Mansfield Hollow as one of our
17 State parks that needs to be respected and realize we have
18 a thing for the future there. My fear is that after the
19 construction is done and I've looked at what's happened on
20 Route 6 in Johnson, Rhode Island and if that's any example
21 of the type of construction and I feel that for three or
22 five years it will be a park that will not attract anyone
23 to it and usually after three or five years, it becomes a
24 forgotten item and so that would be another elimination of

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1 one of our State parks. Thank you.

2 CHARIMAN STEIN: Thank you. George Jacoby?

3 GEORGE JACOBY: Thank you. George Jacoby, I
4 live at 32 Woodmont Drive in Mansfield, which is very,
5 very close to where the power line goes. As a matter of
6 fact, it's across the power line from the golf range that
7 he was talking about.

8 I speak as someone who has already been
9 negatively impacted by the power line situation. A few
10 years ago when that was going on in Columbia, I was hiking
11 in a conservation area there. I was on top of a hill,
12 basically the same altitude as the top of the poles when
13 they set off one of the implosions that they do to connect
14 the wires. It was by far the loudest noise I have ever
15 heard in my life.

16 Since then, I have tonight, ringing in my
17 ears 24-hours a day. So I'm here as someone who is alarmed
18 by my personal situation. I'm also here as someone who
19 understands that this region is completely full of hills
20 with hikers on them, not just at Mansfield Hollow but on
21 the trail and every place else in the area.

22 So, I've written this up as a series of
23 questions that I would ask CL&P and I hope that you would
24 ask the same things of CL&P. What's the decibel level at

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1 the bottom of the pole or a hundred yards or a quarter of
2 a mile? I would mention that I brought this up to CL&P at
3 one of the town meetings last year and one of their
4 engineers told me he thought it was several hundred
5 decibels.

6 How do your workers protect themselves? How
7 is the sound baffled, if at all, away from the ground and
8 is the sound baffled horizontally as well as down toward
9 the ground? If not, what's the decibel level at the top of
10 the pole?

11 How is a nearby pedestrian warned? I
12 understand that they knock on doors and tell everybody in
13 the neighborhood when that stuff is going on. I wasn't
14 from that neighborhood. I had no idea. I would also ask
15 them, have you ever not used the implosion technique
16 because of adjacent population centers, or anything and I
17 would urge you to consider that in this situation and as a
18 last question I'd say this is to CL&P, have you ever been
19 influenced to change your construction methods by anything
20 other than legal means? Thanks for your time.

21 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Wayne
22 Hawthorne?

23 WAYNE HAWTHORNE: Good evening. My name is
24 Wayne Hawthorne, H-A-W-T-H-O-R-N-E, 28 Hawthorne Lane.

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1 I'll just try not to be too repetitive from what has
2 already been said about the Hawthorne Lane alternative. I
3 just want you to know that we did start back in 2008 with
4 CL&P when they first came up with the overhead
5 transmission line proposal. And for some reason, a couple
6 of years after that, or in 2008, it got dropped and then
7 it resurfaced again a couple of years ago. Since then we
8 have worked well with CL&P. I, like many others, would not
9 like to have power lines in my front yard. However, if
10 it's going to be approved it would be a real positive to us
11 if we could get it moved to the south.

12 I saw your bus out there today, I hope
13 they explained the moving of the -- approximately 90 feet,
14 they have a 300-foot right-of-way which is good, but if we
15 could move the 300-foot right-of-way approximately 90 feet
16 to the south, it would run it over the cul-de-sac and over
17 an open field which I own and I would swap that land with
18 CL&P.

19 And right now we have a land swap between
20 two other homeowners in Mansfield on Hawthorne Lane,
21 that's sitting in escrow. If this is approved we can get
22 the right-of-way that we need over the conservation
23 easement and we would just swap land with CL&P. and they
24 have been very good with us and I would just hope from the

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1 Siting Council that, if in fact, you do approve the
2 application that you consider the EMFs and the
3 environmental impact on how much better it would be if we
4 moved them away from the tree line and kept a buffer zone
5 between our homes and Hawthorne Lane. I would hope that
6 you would make it mandatory that if you approve the
7 transmission lines, it would be mandatory that this
8 alternative be followed. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Chris is it
10 Duers?

11 CHRIS DUERS: Hello, my name is Chris Duers,
12 last name is D-U-E-R-S. I'm also a resident of Hawthorne
13 Land and I know we've gone over all the details. I got
14 involved in the effort when we moved to Hawthorne Lane a
15 couple of years ago, and as discussed it would be a major
16 -- it would be a pretty significant impact on everybody in
17 our neighborhood so rather going through the details
18 again, you might have also been visually able to see
19 today.

20 I would just suggest, with working on this
21 the past year or so, that the effort that has gone into
22 the plan for the alternative with my neighbors, with the
23 Town of Mansfield and the various councils and bodies that
24 work with the Town of Mansfield, the attorney that we've

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1 employed and the drafting firm also that we have employed
2 to get a good plan together. My neighbors and also CL&P --
3 that it really represents the best of what people can do
4 when a project like this is being planned, when the need
5 is being assessed, I also urge you very strongly to
6 recommend the Hawthorne Lane alternative. It's just an
7 excellent example of what we can all do as we go ahead and
8 try to make the needs of the State and the area met -- the
9 energy needs of the State to meet those needs. Thank you.

10 CHARIMAN STEIN: Thank you very much. Peter
11 Orr?

12 PETER ORR: Hi, I'm Peter Orr, that's O-R-
13 R. And I wish to express some concerns regarding the power
14 line work proposed to be done on my property in Thompson,
15 Connecticut. I live in Thompson at 260 Quanic Road, P.O.
16 Box 447. This property is on maps Volume 11, Maps 133 and
17 134 and I have approximately 100 acres in this area which
18 there are four proposed tower sets on this property. And
19 this is the property that exits Connecticut into Rhode
20 Island. My property line is the Connecticut Rhode Island
21 border.

22 I also lease farmland on Map V11, Map No.
23 116 on Heritage Road in Putnam. I am a dairy farmer in the
24 area and on all these properties I grow various crops and

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1 so forth. And I and my farm derive income from these
2 farming activities. And I wish to know the details of the
3 procedures proposed to be used on the land, on the
4 property. I do not want my ability to farm to be
5 disrupted. I do expect the property to be returned to its
6 native state and previous productive status. I would like
7 to know, again, the detailed procedures that CL&P plans to
8 do for the actual land before the plans are finalized, so
9 that input can be given before the procedures are
10 finalized and left for the future. And I also expect that
11 there will be communication with the appropriate State and
12 local authorities with regards to these procedures.

13 I just mentioned terms as I'm mentioning
14 procedures, you know, the land is productive as in its
15 native state and once the land is disturbed with the
16 various procedures that are being proposed, such as pads
17 for construction materials, roads that are being -- I take
18 it from the description, leapfrogged with regards to
19 constructing access roads, putting in gravel and then
20 removing it, in that process we're disrupting the
21 productivity of the land. Once you disrupt the
22 productivity of the land, it potentially is gone forever
23 unless appropriate procedures are handled with regards to
24 how that process is done.

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1 And so I respectfully request the
2 Connecticut Siting Council to have CL&P go through the
3 details of the actual procedures that are going to be done
4 on the land. Thank you very much.

5 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Paul Miller?

6 PAUL MILLER: Mr. Chairman, members of the
7 Council my name is Paul Miller, M-I-L-L-E-R. I have a
8 dairy farm in Woodstock, Connecticut. We lease property
9 from approximately seven property owners that own land
10 under the transmission lines, approximately 400 acres of
11 crop lands that we lease that the transmission lines go
12 over.

13 My biggest concern is timing of when these
14 transmission lines are going in. Is it going to be done
15 doing the cropping years -- during the cropping season
16 when we're going to have crops planted? Are we going to be
17 reimbursed for damages done to our crops when they come in
18 and drive through them with their access roads and rip up
19 the spaces for the towers?

20 I'm very concerned about the crossing of
21 prime-ag lands, this transmission line from its being to
22 the end crossed many prime-ag and I think the Department
23 of Ag should be involved in identifying these prime-ag
24 lands and have some input into how they are being restored

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1 after the transmission lines are removed -- the
2 construction debris and the access roads are removed.

3 Many construction projects tend to have the
4 process of leaving construction debris behind whether it's
5 boulders or piles of dirt and we need to make sure that
6 this land is returned to productive crop land. I'm very
7 concerned about this and I would hope that you would share
8 our -- of have the Department of Ag share their knowledge
9 with you on how to return lands to their productive state.
10 And I will leave with you a copy of my comments. Thank
11 you.

12 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Michael Weitz?

13 MICHAEL WEITZ: Good evening. My name is
14 Michael Weitz, W-E-I-T-Z. I reside at 447 Bassett Bridge
15 Road. I own into the right-of-way of the power lines
16 currently and I think we're all feeling, not in my
17 backyard scenario, we're here today because this project
18 will impact our property values and land use and the
19 beauty of our area.

20 I own a construction company. I went to
21 Eastern Connecticut State University. I decided to stay in
22 the area. I have been in the Willimantic/Mansfield area
23 for over 28 years. And because I am in the construction
24 industry I just am concerned that if this project goes

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1 through that CL&P has done a good job about communicating
2 to everybody, but once they get this right-of-way granted,
3 who is there to police them, their actions and what kind
4 of recourse will we have because things do happen during
5 the construction process and as individuals we're going to
6 have less rights than as some of the larger concerns that
7 are being addressed here.

8 For instance, there is going to be blasting
9 and I'm concerned about wells along the way and the
10 disruption of water. I'm also concerned about foundations
11 and structures, what will happen during that blasting
12 time. Will there be proper monitoring? Will somebody come
13 through and monitor the wells now to see what the flow
14 rates are? What's going to happen to them if those flow
15 rates are reduced? Are we going to be able to have
16 recourse? Are we going to be able to be compensated if
17 things are done that affect our properties in that way?

18 I'm also concerned with the guide wires
19 because we're all talking about the poles and where
20 they're going, but there are guide wires that will come
21 out over 75 feet. How will that impact those areas in the
22 clearing for those guide wires? How will the properties be
23 left after the fact, I'm concerned with erosion, runoff
24 and contamination.

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1 So those are some of the things that I am
2 concerned about as far as the construction goes. Some of
3 the other things are just kind of points that I've been
4 looking at over the time. I am a member of the local
5 Chamber of Commerce and I know we need jobs in the area,
6 but let's be real about this. How many local Connecticut
7 companies and local people will be employed by this? For
8 sure it's going to go out to the lowest bid and they'll be
9 companies from out of state, so we'll be coming and doing
10 the work and are we truly going to benefit from these
11 people.

12 I've also done work here in the last 28
13 years and if you look at our phonebooks and if you have
14 driven around today, you have noticed that in our area,
15 there is no manufacturing basically left. Our need for
16 electricity is not growing and you look at the amount of
17 people that live here, it is strongly reduced. How are
18 these lines going to be beneficial to the towns that it is
19 going through? I don't mind helping my neighbor, but I
20 don't want to bear the burden of the cost if our rates
21 aren't going to be reduced in electricity and our needs
22 are being met right now and we're going to bear the burden
23 of the reduce in our property values to help generate
24 electricity to other areas that might need it more. And

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1 are there better routes to get this electricity there,
2 then through our properties and affecting us.

3 And also just citing things that I have
4 been reading in the Hartford Courant, this was in the
5 opinion page Monday, April 23rd. And they're talking about
6 micro-grids and fuel cells as being a better alternative
7 to these large power lines which are also more susceptible
8 to storm damage and other things that can happen. And in
9 all the years that I have lived here, in terms of grid
10 reliability, we generally lose power when people hit
11 telephone poles.

12 I've never seen a major line go down and us
13 have a grid problem in a while since we have been here. I
14 think there have been a couple of incidents not due to the
15 power lines themselves, but more in the transmission of
16 the power. My concern is that we are trying to move this
17 lines through Massachusetts and Rhode Island, but to what
18 alternative sources are we moving them to and are they any
19 cleaner sources than what we're using right now. Who is
20 really going to benefit from this? We're thinking the
21 infrastructure will really benefit us in the State of
22 Connecticut or is it truly just going to benefit the
23 people at CL&P to be able to increase their profits and
24 really not help the consumer in any way, shape or form.

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1 So just to recap, I hope that there will be
2 a way that the Siting Council or whoever is responsible,
3 will set up some sort of an arbitrator that as individual
4 property owners, we may be able to go to them if we sense
5 that there are things going on with the construction that
6 do not conform to what needs to happen, if people start
7 driving on my property in ways that they shouldn't be. And
8 also my last concern is one that is not really CL&P's
9 responsibility because we tend to have a lot of people who
10 like to litter along these power lines. I have on numerous
11 times had to go up and clean up from them. But with larger
12 access roads running through and no gates going up
13 anywhere, I'm, concerned with litter and people coming up
14 and coming into these properties which we own, and
15 possibly getting hurt and having a lawsuit and other
16 things of that nature happening.

17 So I do hope that you will help us set up
18 ways that as individuals we will have a way to go through
19 arbitration and be compensated if guidelines are not met
20 and construction tends to go haywire. Thank you for your
21 time.

22 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you very much.
23 Kathleen, is it Tonry?

24 KATHLEEN TONRY: Thank you for your work

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1 here on behalf of Connecticut citizens. My name is
2 Kathleen Tonry, T-O-N-R-Y. I'm a professor at UConn and a
3 parent of a four-year old currently at Mount Hope
4 Montessori School and hopefully a future parent as well.
5 You'll have to excuse my breathlessness because I am a
6 little over eight-months pregnant. That's part of the
7 reason that I'm here tonight. What I'd like the Council to
8 consider is the relationship between risk and choice that
9 will adversely affect the Mount Hope School.

10 When my husband and I were looking for
11 preschool options for our daughter a couple of years ago,
12 we discovered that public options in this area are pretty
13 limited. And so, they are pretty much oversubscribed. So
14 we first starting looking at Mount Hope out of necessity
15 and it was one of three area options.

16 We ultimately decided for Mount Hope
17 because of the curriculum, the teachers and the delightful
18 outdoor space and we now feel very fortunate to have found
19 it. But now as you look ahead to the future of this baby
20 on the way, I'm looking forward to being a Mount Hope
21 parent for many years to come. But this project makes this
22 project a fraught one.

23 CL&P unfortunately simply cannot assert
24 that there is no risk to our most vulnerable population.

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1 Indeed, since the early '90s, there have been persistent
2 and well publicized concerns about a possible correlation
3 with childhood cancers, especially childhood leukemia and
4 these are admittedly weak correlations. And I understand
5 that we all have to do our collective part to try to
6 accommodate the risks and challenges of our need for
7 reliable energy and the business and manufacturing needs
8 of the State as a whole. But I hope you'll agree that if
9 you would choose to place our most vulnerable population,
10 preschool children, at risk, even if that risk is a slight
11 one or one that hasn't been thoroughly correlated.

12 Presumably this is why CL&P is required by
13 State statute to present a variation for projects like
14 this one near day cares and schools. So my point is that
15 it will be difficult to imagine choosing to place my child
16 in a situation where there is a risk, however slight that
17 risk may be. For me as a parent, it's not just about
18 aesthetics or perception; it is not necessarily a NIMBI
19 argument, although I think we have heard a lot of good
20 reasons why those arguments can be considered. But rather
21 again, about this balance between risk and choice that
22 parents face as they think through crucial options for
23 children.

24 So, in short, I really doubt that Mount

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1 Hope Montessori can survive if the proposed plan for
2 overhead lines proceeds. Thank you for listening to our
3 concerns.

4 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Sorry, Barbara Byron?

5 BARBARA BYRON: Good evening. My name is
6 Barbara Byron; I'm a long-term resident of Mansfield
7 Center. I also have concerns about the proposals and many
8 of the people here have echoed some of these concerns.

9 One of these concerns is about, mostly the
10 health concerns, EMF cause changes on cellular levels that
11 aren't fully understood now and I don't think even the
12 range, the safety range, these things aren't really well
13 understood. I don't have any personal connections to the
14 Mount Hope Montessori School, but I'm concerned about the
15 children there. There are correlations with childhood
16 leukemia.

17 A couple of years ago my daughter was
18 looking for a home to buy in the Mansfield area and we
19 found a beautiful home which was better than any of the
20 others we saw, but there were overhead transmission wires
21 running right along by it. And after much consideration
22 and study, we decided not to buy the home. It's perhaps a
23 coincidence, but we later found out that the man living
24 there suffered from Parkinson's.

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1 I also -- the Mansfield Town has recently
2 upgraded the center and puts lights and walkways in and I
3 also think that running these large overhead wires would
4 destroy the charm of the area. And mainly the concern is
5 with health concerns and that's what I have to say.

6 CHARIMAN STEIN: Thank you very much. Ed
7 Hall?

8 ED HALL: Good evening. My name is Ed Hall,
9 H-A-L-L, 35 Mansfield Hollow Road in Mansfield Center. I
10 have the privilege of looking at three structures from my
11 home. I've lived on the property for 65 years as of next
12 month and when the power company came through in the late
13 '60s to widen their right-of-way, I wasn't greatly in
14 favor of it.

15 I hadn't started building a home where it
16 is now, but I had a plan to do that. They also said they
17 would come back with another set of wires on the same
18 right-of-way. They are about 30 years behind when they
19 projected in the late '60s, but I feel for the Montessori
20 School, my neighbor, adjoining property. But they came
21 after the wires were there. Most people that are suffering
22 from it did, but that's not significantly important, I
23 don't think now. I do know the power company was
24 thoughtful in foresighted enough back in the '60s to get a

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1 right-of-way wide enough and use one side of it, so they
2 do have a place.

3 I'm not an expert on whether they need the
4 transmission line, but I'd like to think that if they are
5 going to spend two-hundred-million dollars to build it,
6 they probably do have a need for it. I do know that what
7 they did in the late '60s early '70s, they cleaned up
8 after the contractors, left everything better than they
9 found it. There were no problems of any sort.

10 I'd urge you people to take into account all
11 these factors that people have mentioned. And most of them
12 have mentioned provision that would make life better for
13 them, which I think should be included if at all possible.
14 Thank you very much.

15 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you, sir. Ron
16 Manizza?

17 RON MANIZZA: Good evening. My name is Ron
18 Manizza, M-A-N-I-Z-Z-A. I live at 456 Bassett Bridge Road
19 in Mansfield Center. I am also the vice president of the
20 Friends of Mansfield Hollow State Park, a local
21 organization that helps maintain the park and keep it in
22 its pristine condition that it is right now. I have
23 concerns, obviously, as a resident who is right next to
24 the power lines. I will be losing all of my trees.

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1 Although, CL&P first showed me an artist's rendition of
2 what would be removed from in front of my property. I then
3 got the specifications to measure directly from the power
4 lines out to the edge of where they're going to do the
5 clear-cut and it will be all of the trees.

6 I have brought this up in front of our Town
7 Council. They are very aware of it. I would like you to
8 seriously consider what Matt Hart has told you about
9 trying to protect our town in the best way possible. We
10 realize that these lines are going to half to go through
11 for what reason, in our area, we don't know because this
12 power is not going to benefit us in any way.

13 I want you to consider a monopole system
14 that will raise the lines higher and be much safer than
15 what we have right now or a possibility of an underground
16 system which I know is going to be more expensive.

17 The lines that currently exist on the
18 properties, as they are going through, are old. They leak
19 badly. They make a lot of noise during humid weather,
20 during rain storms and during snow storms. You can hear
21 the obvious leak of the antiquated lines. If they were to
22 put in a monopole system, as they have in some sections of
23 Mansfield Hollow, they would be able to use a smaller
24 footprint, not have to widen the lines, not have to remove

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1 all the trees and be able to utilize both sides of the
2 monopole system. Currently there is a monopole in
3 Mansfield Hollow of which they only use one side of the
4 pole. And now they are proposing to put a double power
5 line through -- double pole line next to that.

6 I think you need to really take a look at
7 this and see what the best way is to put up the most
8 efficient system that will be the least devastating to our
9 area. Thank you very much for your time and welcome to the
10 Town of Mansfield.

11 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you and that
12 exhausts the list of speakers. Before closing I just want
13 to remind you that, although the public session is ending
14 now, public comments in writing can still be sent to our
15 office, actually until after 30 days of the last
16 evidentiary hearing date.

17 The first evidentiary hearing date is on
18 Monday, June 4th, as I mentioned beginning at 11:00 at
19 Central Connecticut State University. And note that
20 although the public is not allowed to speak at the
21 evidentiary portion of these proceedings, you're welcome
22 to attend and to listen and gather information on the
23 project. And the Siting Council will, in fact, use that
24 opportunity to try to elicit answers to many of the

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1 questions that have been raised today.

2 Again, there are, I think, still people
3 from CL&P in the back if you want to talk to them after
4 the hearing.

5 So, thank you all for your participation
6 and please drive home safely. Thank you.

7

8 (Whereupon, the hearing adjourned at 9:05
9 p.m.)