

**In The Matter Of:**  
*STATE OF CONNECTICUT*  
*CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL*

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*Docket No. 474*  
*August 22, 2017*

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## 1 STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## 2 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

3  
4 Docket No. 474

5 The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a  
6 Eversource Energy application for a Certificate of  
7 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for  
8 the Greater Hartford-Central Connecticut  
9 Reliability Project that traverses the  
10 municipalities of Hartford, West Hartford, and  
11 Newington, which consists of (a) construction,  
12 maintenance and operation of a new 115-kilovolt  
13 (kV) electric transmission line within existing  
14 Eversource, Amtrak and public road rights-of-way  
15 and associated facilities extending overhead  
16 approximately 2.4 miles and underground  
17 approximately 1.3 miles between Eversource's  
18 existing Newington Substation in the Town of  
19 Newington and existing Southwest Hartford  
20 Substation in the City of Hartford; (b)  
21 modifications to a .01 mile section within  
22 existing Eversource right-of-way of the existing  
23 overhead 115-kV electric transmission line  
24 connection to the Newington Substation (Newington  
25 Tap); and (c) related modifications to Newington  
Substation and Southwest Hartford Substation.

18 Public Comment Session held at the Newington  
19 Town Hall Auditorium, 131 Cedar Street, Newington,  
20 Connecticut, on Tuesday, August 22, 2017,  
21 beginning at 6:31 p.m.

22  
23 H e l d B e f o r e:24 SENATOR JAMES J. MURPHY, JR., Vice Chairman  
25

1    A p p e a r a n c e s :

2

3            Council Members:

4                    ROBERT HANNON

5                    MICHAEL HARDER

6                    DR. MICHAEL W. KLEMENS

7                    LARRY P. LEVESQUE, ESQ.

8                    DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.

9                    ROBERT SILVESTRI

10

11            Council Staff:

12                    MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.

13                    Executive Director and

14                    Staff Attorney

15

16                    MICHAEL PERRONE

17                    Siting Analyst

18

19            For the Connecticut Light and Power Company:

20                    CARMODY TORRANCE SANDAK & HENNESSEY LLP

21                    195 Church Street

22                    P.O. Box 1950

23                    New Haven, Connecticut 06509

24                    BY: ANTHONY M. FITZGERALD, ESQ.

25

1           SENATOR MURPHY: Ladies and gentlemen,  
2 I'd like to call this hearing to order this  
3 Tuesday, August the 22nd, 2017, at approximately  
4 6:30 p.m. My name is James J. Murphy, Jr. I'm  
5 vice chairman of the Connecticut Siting Council.

6           Other members of the Council are Robert  
7 Hannon, designee for Commissioner Robert Klee of  
8 the Department of Energy and Environmental  
9 Protection; Larry Levesque, the designee for  
10 Chairwoman Katie Dykes with the Public Utilities  
11 Regulatory Authority; Robert Silvestri; Dr.  
12 Michael W. Klemens; Michael Harder; and Daniel P.  
13 Lynch, Jr. Members of the staff with us tonight  
14 are Melanie Bachman, Executive Director and Staff  
15 Attorney; and Michael Perrone, our siting analyst.

16           This is a continuation of a public  
17 hearing that began at 3 p.m. this afternoon.  
18 Copies of the hearing program and the Council's  
19 Citizens Guide to siting Council Procedures are  
20 available for members of the public over here.

21           This hearing is held pursuant to the  
22 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General  
23 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative  
24 Procedures Act upon an application from The  
25 Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a

1 Eversource Energy for a Certificate of  
2 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for  
3 the construction, maintenance, and operation of a  
4 transmission line that traverses the  
5 municipalities of Newington, Hartford, and West  
6 Hartford, Connecticut. This application was  
7 received by the Council on June the 7th, 2017.

8           The applicant published notice of the  
9 filing of this application to the Council in The  
10 Hartford Courant and the West Hartford News on May  
11 4th, and May the 11th 2017. The Council's legal  
12 notice of the date and time of this hearing was  
13 published in The Hartford Courant on July the  
14 25th, 2017. Upon this Council's request, the  
15 applicant erected signs at conspicuous locations  
16 along the proposed and all-underground alternative  
17 routes so as to inform the public of the name of  
18 the applicant, the type of facility, the hearing  
19 date and it's location, and contact information  
20 for this Council.

21           This afternoon members of the Council,  
22 staff, and the public personally conducted a field  
23 review of the proposed project in order to observe  
24 firsthand the potential impact of this proposal.

25           The hearing session tonight has been

1 reserved first for the public to make short  
2 statements into the record. These public  
3 statements are not subject to questions from the  
4 parties or the Council, and members of the public  
5 making statements may not ask questions of the  
6 parties or the Council. These statements will  
7 become part of the record for the Council's  
8 consideration.

9 A sign-up sheet is available for those  
10 who would like to participate. And I think that  
11 sign-up sheet is over here at the podium.

12 As a reminder to all, off the record  
13 communications with members of this Council or a  
14 member of the Council's staff, upon the merits of  
15 this application, is prohibited by the law.

16 I wish to note that the parties and  
17 intervenors, including their representatives and  
18 witnesses, are not allowed to participate in the  
19 public comment session. I also wish to note for  
20 those who are here, and for the benefit of your  
21 friends and neighbors who are unable to join us  
22 for this public comment session, that you or they  
23 may send written statements to the Council within  
24 30 days of the date hereof; and such written  
25 statements will be given the same weight as if

1 spoken this evening. If necessary, party and  
2 intervenor cross-examination that began at the  
3 hearing session held at 3 this afternoon may  
4 continue after the public comments.

5           This evening we ask each person making  
6 a public statement in this proceeding to confine  
7 his or her statements to the subject matter before  
8 the Council, and to avoid unreasonable repetition  
9 so that we may hear all of the concerns you or  
10 your neighbors may have. Please be advised that  
11 the Council cannot answer questions from the  
12 public about the proposal.

13           A verbatim transcript will be made of  
14 this hearing and deposited at the Newington and  
15 West Hartford Town Clerk's Office and the Hartford  
16 City Clerk's Office for the convenience of the  
17 public.

18           Before I call on members of the public  
19 to make statements, we're asking the applicant to  
20 make a brief presentation to the public here this  
21 evening describing the proposed project, why it is  
22 necessary, and what alternatives you investigated.

23           KENNETH BOWES: Thank you, Chairman.  
24 My name is Kenneth Bowes. I'm the vice president  
25 of transmission performance for Eversource Energy,

1 and also the lead witness for this proceeding.

2           The Greater Hartford Central  
3 Connecticut Reliability Project was developed in  
4 response to a need for transmission system  
5 improvements identified by ISO New England, the  
6 independent system operator. The project will  
7 address the needs, both thermal and voltage  
8 issues, and enhance the reliability of the  
9 electric system.

10           The proposed project has several  
11 components as follows: A new 115 kV transmission  
12 line, which would extend a distance of  
13 approximately 3.7 miles from Eversource's  
14 substation in Newington, Connecticut, located at  
15 185 Cherry Hill Drive, through the Town of West  
16 Hartford to the Southwest Hartford Substation  
17 located at 219 New Park Avenue in the City of  
18 Hartford.

19           The new transmission line will provide  
20 a transmission line between these two substations  
21 that are presently not connected. Modifications  
22 to accommodate the new transmission line at both  
23 Newington and Southwest Substations are part of  
24 this project as well. The reconfiguration of one  
25 of the existing 115 kV transmission lines at



1 Newington Substation is also part of this  
2 application.

3           The project route travels through the  
4 Newington Substation to the Amtrak right-of-way,  
5 approximately 1.3 miles in Newington. This  
6 portion of the project will be installed  
7 underground for approximately 0.8 miles along an  
8 existing Eversource right-of-way, which has five  
9 distribution circuits for about 0.14 miles along  
10 the State Highway 173, Willard Avenue, and then  
11 for about 0.13 miles along a local road, Shepard  
12 Drive. At that point we will go onto the existing  
13 Amtrak and Fastrak right-of-way for 2.4 miles,  
14 including 0.17 miles in Newington, 1.64 miles in  
15 West Hartford, and 0.56 miles in Hartford.

16           The Amtrak right-of-way currently has  
17 two Amtrak rail lines, as well as the recently  
18 developed Fastrak bus lane, which extends along  
19 the west side of the right-of-way. This new 115  
20 kV transmission line has been carefully designed  
21 in consultation with Amtrak to avoid impacts of  
22 both of these rail lines, Amtrak's future plans  
23 for expansion of rail service, and also the bus  
24 route.

25           The transmission structures along this

1 Amtrak right-of-way generally range from 95 to 110  
2 feet. There are two new -- or two modifications  
3 to the existing application around what would be a  
4 new rail station in West Hartford. At either end  
5 of the overhead segment there's a transition  
6 structure where there's transition from overhead  
7 to underground. Those will be approximately 95 to  
8 105 feet tall.

9           The substation and Newington Tap  
10 modifications include expansion of the fence lines  
11 entirely on Eversource owned property. Each will  
12 be approximately 0.3 acres. Overall, Eversource  
13 has designed this project to carefully balance the  
14 need for improvements to the electric system, and  
15 the avoidance and minimization of impacts to the  
16 public, to the environment, to cultural resources  
17 and for provision of a cost-effective solution.  
18 The use of this hybrid transmission line with an  
19 overhead and underground segments saves ratepayers  
20 approximately \$39 million versus the  
21 all-underground alternative. Thank you.

22           SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you. We'll now  
23 turn to the public portion of the hearing this  
24 evening.

25           Is there any elected officials who

1 would like to address us from the public?

2 (No response.)

3 SENATOR MURPHY: If not, as it stands  
4 now, I have one person that is signed up. So if  
5 other people are interested in speaking this  
6 evening, I urge you to put your name on the sheet  
7 if you're interested. If not, that's fine.

8 Jonathan -- I'm not sure of the last  
9 name -- Morreale?

10 JACQUES MORREALE: My name is Jacques  
11 Morreale.

12 SENATOR MURPHY: Spell your last name  
13 for us, and address, please.

14 JACQUES MORREALE: My name is Jacques  
15 Morreale. I live at 123 Cherry Hill Drive. I'm  
16 here today --

17 SENATOR MURPHY: In which town,  
18 Newington?

19 JACQUES MORREALE: Newington, yes.

20 I'm here today just to see what you had  
21 in mind. I'm glad to see that you had intended to  
22 put it down underneath the existing lines through  
23 my neighborhood.

24 One of my biggest concerns was that if  
25 you put up a high power line, you'd be able to see

1 it anywhere in the neighborhood, and it would ruin  
2 the property values. So I'm against power lines.

3 The portion that runs along the  
4 Fastrak, I was so happy to see Fastrak go in,  
5 because that was just a terrible area, and Fastrak  
6 cleaned it all up. It's quite nice now.

7 And I'm afraid if the power lines go in  
8 at heights that you just described, that it would  
9 look bad and make the town, not only Hartford, but  
10 also Newington, look bad when you drive by you can  
11 see the power lines. They're huge.

12 If there's some way to put them  
13 underground, that's all I would like to say. If  
14 they put them underground there, keep it all  
15 underground in the route that they intended, I  
16 think that would be most preferable to the  
17 aesthetics of the towns involved.

18 SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you.

19 I lost my list. Is there anyone else  
20 who would care to address us this evening?

21 (No response.)

22 SENATOR MURPHY: If not, the Council  
23 will now close the public comment session of this  
24 hearing and resume the evidentiary session of the  
25 hearing that began this afternoon.

1           Do we have anything left unattended to,  
2 Mr. Fitzgerald?

3           MR. FITZGERALD: No, Senator Murphy, I  
4 don't believe so, from our point of view. We  
5 rest.

6           SENATOR MURPHY: I'm going to close  
7 this hearing, evidentiary, as well as the public  
8 hearing.

9           Before closing this hearing, the  
10 Connecticut Siting Council announces that briefs  
11 and proposed findings of fact may be filed with  
12 the Council by any party or intervenor no later  
13 than September the 21st, 2017. The submission of  
14 briefs or proposed findings of fact are not  
15 required by the Council, rather, we leave it to  
16 the choice of the parties and intervenors.

17           Anyone who has not become a party or  
18 intervenor, but who desires to make his or her  
19 views known to this Council, may file written  
20 statements with the Council within 30 days of the  
21 date hereof.

22           The council will issue draft findings  
23 of fact, and thereafter the parties and  
24 intervenors may identify errors or inconsistencies  
25 between the Council's draft findings of fact and

1 the record. However, no new information, no new  
2 evidence, no new argument, and no reply briefs  
3 without our permission will be considered by the  
4 Council.

5                   Copies of this evening's transcript  
6 will be filed at the Newington and West Hartford  
7 Town Clerk's Office and the Hartford City Clerk's  
8 Office. I hereby declare this hearing adjourned.  
9 Thank you for your participation, and drive  
10 carefully.

11                   (Whereupon, the above proceedings were  
12 adjourned at 6:48 p.m.)

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## 1 CERTIFICATE

2 I hereby certify that the foregoing 13 pages  
3 are a complete and accurate computer-aided  
4 transcription of my original stenotype notes taken  
5 of the Public Comment Session in Re: DOCKET 474,  
6 The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a  
7 Eversource Energy application for a Certificate of  
8 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for  
9 the Greater Hartford-Central Connecticut  
10 Reliability Project that traverses the  
11 municipalities of Hartford, West Hartford, and  
12 Newington, which consists of (a) construction,  
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19 existing Newington Substation in the Town of  
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24 overhead 115-kV electric transmission line  
25 connection to the Newington Substation (Newington  
Tap); and (c) related modifications to Newington  
Substation and Southwest Hartford Substation,

18 which was held before SENATOR JAMES J. MURPHY,  
19 JR., Vice Chairman, at the Newington Town Hall  
20 Auditorium, 131 Cedar Street, Newington,  
21 Connecticut, on August 22, 2017

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23 -----

24 Lisa L. Warner, L.S.R., 061

25 Court Reporter

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