



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Raised Bill No. 6682

LCO No. 4473

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE SITING COUNCIL REVIEW OF
UNDERGROUND OR UNDERWATER TRANSMISSION LINES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of section 16-50p of the
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (2) The council shall not grant a certificate for a facility described in
5 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i which is substantially
6 underground or underwater except where such facilities interconnect
7 with existing overhead facilities, either as proposed or as modified by
8 the council, unless it finds and determines: (A) A public [benefit] need
9 for the facility; (B) the nature of the probable environmental impact,
10 including a specification of every single adverse and beneficial effect
11 that, whether alone or cumulatively with other effects, conflict with the
12 policies of the state concerning the natural environment, ecological
13 balance, public health and safety, scenic, historic and recreational
14 values, forests and parks, air and purity and fish and wildlife; (C) why
15 the adverse effects or conflicts referred to in subparagraph (B) of this
16 subdivision are not sufficient reason to deny the application; (D) in the

17 case of a new electric transmission line, (i) what part, if any, of the
18 facility shall be located overhead, (ii) that the facility conforms to a
19 long-range plan for expansion of the electric power grid of the electric
20 systems serving the state and interconnected utility systems and will
21 serve the interests of electric system economy and reliability, and (iii)
22 that the overhead portions of the facility, if any, are cost-effective and
23 the most appropriate alternative based on a life-cycle cost analysis of
24 the facility and underground alternatives to such facility and are
25 consistent with the purposes of this chapter, with such regulations as
26 the council may adopt pursuant to subsection (a) of section 16-50t, and
27 with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission "Guidelines For the
28 Protection of Natural Historic Scenic and Recreational Values in the
29 Design and Location of Rights-of-Way and Transmission Facilities" or
30 any other successor guidelines and any other applicable federal
31 guidelines; and (E) in the case of an electric or fuel transmission line,
32 that the location of the line will not pose an undue hazard to persons
33 or property along the area traversed by the line. For purposes of
34 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, a public benefit exists if such a
35 facility is necessary for the reliability of the electric power supply of
36 the state or for the development of a competitive market for electricity.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Connecticut Siting Council, when reviewing an application for an underground or underwater transmission line, to consider the public need for such line, rather than the public benefit for such line.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]