



**Connecticut  
Light & Power**

The Northeast Utilities System



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TESTIMONY OF RICHARD A. SODERMAN  
THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
and YANKEE GAS SERVICES COMPANY  
Energy and Technology Committee—March 9, 2010

**S. B. No. 415 (RAISED) AN ACT REVISING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONNECTICUT  
RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY BOARD AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
STATUTE.**

The proposed bill revises membership on the board of CRRA, and modifies existing law related to environmental justice communities. Our comments are limited to the expansion of provisions related to environmental justice mandates.

The proposed bill does two things: First, it adds the DPUC and DECD to the list of agencies for which project applicants seeking siting permits must address environmental justice participation plans. Second, it mandates that terms of a community environmental benefit agreement be negotiated. We respectfully oppose both of these provisions because it will delay and confuse current administrative processes and make providing service to customers more costly.

The DPUC and DECD do not issue siting permits. Thus, we believe that it is inappropriate to expand the listed agencies beyond the DEP and Connecticut Siting Council. Siting permits at these additional agencies have no meaning, so that it is unclear as to what projects the rules would apply to. Second, making negotiation mandatory means that applicants have no ability to contest a provision that a community may seek, even if such provisions were unreasonable or extravagantly expensive. As written, there is no provision for saying “no” to any demands.

Current law provides a reasonable path for considering environmental justice issues and mitigation without these changes. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.