



**Connecticut
Light & Power**

The Northeast Utilities System



The Northeast Utilities System

TESTIMONY OF RICHARD A. SODERMAN
THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
and YANKEE GAS SERVICES COMPANY
Energy & Technology Committee—March 18, 2010

S. B. No. 461 AN ACT CONCERNING SITING COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS AND DECISIONS.

This proposed bill would add to the considerations the siting council must make before issuing a certificate of public need. Specifically, the addition of new subdivision H to sec. 16-50p(a)(3) would require the Council to certify in its decision:

“(H) That it has considered the manufacturer's recommended safety standards for any equipment, machinery or technology.”

We oppose this provision as drafted.

If this provision were to be applied to transmission lines and substations, such certification may not be possible in a Council decision. In many and perhaps most cases, we will not know who the manufacturer will be until after Siting Council approval has been obtained and the job is put out for bid. And, even if we did, the "recommended safety standards" for all of the equipment, machinery and technology in a 30 mile long transmission line with several substations would provide an onerous burden on the Council and choke the administrative record. This concern is taken care of now by a requirement that all electric facilities will comply with the National Electrical Safety Code. We suggest that this finding should be enough to assure that safety is adequately considered.

As we read the draft proposal, it was not clear to us that this subdivision was to apply to all facilities, or to just communications towers (pursuant to subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of section 16-50i) described in existing subdivision (G) that precedes the new (H). Subsection (i) covers generation facilities, again, a place where manufacturers should be known prior to a Council decision. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this bill.