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**From:** Henkle, Terance [<mailto:thenkle@groton.k12.ct.us>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 20, 2011 7:51 AM  
**Subject:** CL AND P POWER OUTAGES

Good Morning,

As a resident of Gales Ferry and a retired meteorologist/oceanographer for the United States Navy here are some of my observations about Hurricane Irene. CL & P stated that they were going to go through Ledyard/Gales Ferry weeks before the storm to trim trees and bushes touching or in close proximity to their power lines. The company sent out a voice mail and a letter to the community stating that this was the reason for the multiple power outages within Ledyard/Gales Ferry. If you look at these towns history we have a lot of electrical power outages, even on clear days. CL & P stated that it was due to the trees and that they hired a company to go around the town to take care of this situation. We just lost power on 9/16 at about 3 am and power would not be restored until 11:45 am! The "method" of contacting residents for tree/brush removal was hit and miss.

Along Long Cove Road Road, Hyde Park, Blue Bird Dr., parts of Eagle Ridge Dr. no of the trees were trimmed back, and power lines were disabled. The method of clearing back the trees before the storm seemed hap-hazard, with no rhyme or reason. I watched as the tree company spent two days working on three houses on Eagle Ridge Dr., but left areas of over growth! Along Hyde Park and Long Cove Road there are numerous vines, tree limbs that are interfering with the established power lines. Please look at these areas yourself.

Respectfully,

Terry Henkle  
LCDR USN-Ret

**From:** William D. Saums [mailto:bsaums@centechsolutions.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2011 7:19 PM  
**Subject:** Public Hearing Sept 26 re: CL&P response

I believe our utility infrastructure has become unsustainable using overhead wires to transmit power, cable and telephone utilities. The combination of trees, ice and overhead lines is, unreliable, unsightly, expensive and dangerous. I believe CL&P and other utility crews did a great job responding. But "management" by CL&P of the response, especially sending lawyers as "liaisons" to each town was disingenuous, and the public is skeptical. I know I am.

The real issue, however, is why did there had to be a response at all? Our nation's economy is becoming increasingly reliant on in-home services such as telephone, high speed internet and power; both for at home workers, small businesses and consumers. As a telecommunications industry professional who has helped bring this revolution about, I think we need to upgrade our infrastructure once and for all. As a 25 year telco industry veteran, I'm well aware of the cost of burying these utilities. But I think the time to continue promote this emperor with no clothes has passed.

Utility poles grow ever taller and heavier as they carry more infrastructure. Our economy and to a certain extent our national security relies on this infrastructure too much to argue that it's cheaper to repeatedly repair downed utility lines due to downed limbs, fallen trees, high winds and ice storms. The cost to the economy in lost revenue for all businesses large and small, the cost to repeatedly respond and repair, the cost to purchase and run generators, and the cost of lost billed revenue for the utilities themselves is greater in total than the cost to invest in an underground infrastructure that is safer, requires less maintenance and is far more reliable.

We need to ask the question more forcefully and push back harder when provided with the answer that it's too expensive to bury utilities in the northeast. Does it cost more? No doubt. Is the cost prohibitive? Certainly not. We bury our water mains. Is the cost argument valid, or is it designed to protect the repair and response empire, including labor? Major cities do not have overhead power and telco, nor does the rest of the nation. Only the northeast accepts this outmoded form of delivering services intermittently at best.

The solution? Bury the utilities. Start now.

Thank you.

Bill Saums

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Ledyard Town Council, Ledyard resident and small business owner

To: Committee Examining Readiness and Response to Hurricane Irene  
Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

From: Elizabeth Jenkins-Donahue  
P.O. Box 62  
Voluntown, CT 06384

Re: Comments and suggestions About My Personal Experience

Date: September 23, 2011

My name is Elizabeth Jenkins-Donahue. I live at 34 Hi-top Hill Rd. in Voluntown, CT. I am a home healthcare nurse in northeast Connecticut as well as a private property owner in Voluntown. These two variables frame my perspective Tropical Storm Irene.

Early in the week of August 21, 2011 I began paying attention to the high potential that my personal and work life would be impacted by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene. Our home is situated on a heavily wooded lot 0.2 miles from Route 165 and has underground utility wires. We have a private well and because we do not have a history of losing utility service do not have a personal generator. My husband and I began to prepare assuring our water, battery and non-perishable food supply. During the week we trimmed trees and secured loose items.

In my work life I worked with my colleagues to prepare. Homecare providers are well trained in helping clients develop predetermined emergency plans and then set their plan in motion when an emergency is imminent. Plans include reminding patients to secure the same items I did in my personal life. They are also assisted with accessing extra medications, oxygen and other necessary medical supplies.

During this period as I traveled about the regions I noted branches over and close to utility wires, poles and transformers along state roads on both private and state property. I thought "Why aren't the utility companies trimming. In fact I haven't seen them trim in awhile!"

As the storm approached my husband and I intensified our planning based on damage predictions which turned out to be true. We lost power Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 A.M. It remained out for seven days and one hour on a street with underground wires close to a main state road with power less than a half mile away three days after the storm!

As a homecare nurse I became aware of vulnerable individuals, who had done emergency planning for the storm, left without access to emergency help, fresh water, and electricity to provide needed treatment. Many state and town roads were impassable resulting in delay of medical supplies. In two instances patients required hospitalization because they ran out of emergency supplies. Elderly housing facilities in

the region were without power for as long as seven days! That said our population serviced by the Jewett City Utility company were on line in less than two days.

I am extremely disappointed in our utilities' response to the storm. They failed in their shared responsibility for managing delivery to avoid public system failure. The utility providers must be proactive in the emergency preparedness planning. It is imperative they institute collaborative, on-going maintenance and trimming of any vegetation which can fall on lines and or wires. Just prior to emergencies, like Irene, the companies must step up these activities. Unfortunately in my community I did not observe any of this type of activity.

Thank you for holding these hearings. I look forward to learning the plans to avoid similar situations.

Elizabeth Jenkins- Donahue