

1937 - 2012

International Brotherhood  
of Electrical Workers

Local 420

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Waterbury, CT 06705

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**Sean Scanlon**

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Good Morning / Good Afternoon Honorable Elected Officials and Representatives  
of the Development and Planning Committee:

I have been here before on more than one occasion to alert our elected officials of the dangerously low staffing levels at Connecticut Light and Power Company. According to the 1976 Shareholders Report, Connecticut Light and Power Company serviced 850,892 customers. In 1975, Local 420's jurisdiction, which is the western portion of Connecticut, had approximately 430 linemen. As I speak today, the CL&P customer base is approximately 1.2 million and the number of linemen today in Local 420, fluctuates from approximately 190 linemen down to 175; a reduction exceeding approximately 200 linemen since 1975.

I must reiterate, in 1975 our customer base was 850,892 and we had 430 linemen. Today our customer base is approximately 1.2 million and we have approximately less than 190 linemen.

Many of the other job classifications that we represent also play a vital role in any storm restoration event have been greatly reduced, particularly, storeroom personnel.

Our recommendations have long been to insure the former DPUC, today's PURA, and/or the State legislators to create legislation similar to Massachusetts that would insure necessary staffing levels; no less than our 1975 staffing levels; due to the fact that there has always been, and still is, an abundance of utility contractors on Connecticut Light and Power Company properties.

In conclusion, I must mention again the newly imposed limited 16 hours or less of restoration time our Union members are held to in any storm restoration event. We are not saying that working more than 16 hours a day be mandatory, but any employee involved in storm restoration that wants to work more than 16 hours, should be allowed to restore your power after any type of storm event.

I will be more than happy to answer any questions from the Committee.

Sincerely,

*John K. Unikas*

Assistant Business Manager

LU 420 - I.B.E.W.

JKU/mbr

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**LOCAL 420 - I.B.E.W.**  
**LOSS OF LINE PERSONNEL**

**2012**

<b><i>NAME</i></b>	<b><i>AREA</i></b>	<b><i>DATE LEFT</i></b>
John McGuinn	Newtown	Became Supervisor 2-5-12
Greg Nypert	Torrington	Retired 1-31-12
Paul Weske	Waterbury (System Projects)	Became Supervisor 2-5-12
Rich Canale	Stamford	Discharged 2-16-12
Thomas Nurse	Transmission Line	To LU 457 (Danielson) 2-5-12
Jeffrey German	Transmission Line	To LU 457 (Projects East) 1-22-12
Jon-Paul Thompson	System Projects West	To LU 457 (Projects East) 1-8-12

**2011**

<b><i>NAME</i></b>	<b><i>AREA</i></b>	<b><i>DATE LEFT</i></b>
James Christiano	Waterbury	Discharged 12-5-11
Edwin Patten, Jr.	Norwalk	Resigned 8-24-11
Kevin Kelly	Waterbury	Deceased 6-11-11
Joseph Kurjiaka	Newtown	Retired 5-31-11
Rich Boulli	Torrington	Retired 4-30-11
Paul Turcotte	Torrington	Retired 4-30-11
Gerald Asklar	Torrington	LTD 3-8-11
Wayne Douglas	Falls Village	Retired 1-31-11
Carl Lindstrom	Simsbury	Retired 1-31-11
Thomas Trumbley	Waterbury	Retired 1-31-11
Thomas Normand	Waterbury	To LU 457 (E. Hampton) 10-16-11

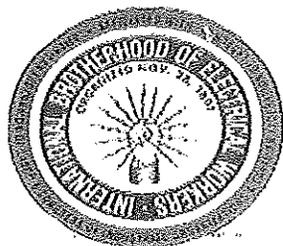
**2010**

<b><i>NAME</i></b>	<b><i>AREA</i></b>	<b><i>DATE LEFT</i></b>
Shawn Hunt	Falls Village	Relocated Out-of-State 11-28-10
Douglas Wright	Simsbury	Retired 9-30-10
Paul Albert	Torrington	Retired 8-31-10
Frank Mitchell	Newtown	Retired 7-31-10
Carmen Accuosti	Waterbury	Retired 6-30-10
James Thompson	Stamford	Retired 5-31-10
Steve Bruno	3333	Became Supervisor 5-30-10
Gregg Cavalier	Norwalk	Discharged 3-15-10
Harold Nadeau	Falls Village	Retired 1-31-10
Charles Diorio	3333	Retired 1-31-10
Sylvester Hawthorne	System Projects West	To LU 457 (Madison) 8-22-10
Jose` Martinez, Jr.	Waterbury	To LU 457 (New Britain) 6-20-10

2009

<i>NAME</i>	<i>AREA</i>	<i>DATE LEFT</i>
John Doherty	Torrington	Discharged 8-19-09
Jose` Frias	System Projects West	Discharged 6-9-09
Barry Whorley	System Projects West	Resigned 5-11-09
Joseph Mancini	Waterbury	Became Supervisor 5-3-09
John Unikas	New Milford	Retired 3-31-09
Michael Begley	Waterbury	Became Supervisor 3-8-09
James Sewitsky	Newtown	Retired 1-31-09
Vincent DeMauro	Norwalk	To LU 457 (Tolland) 1-25-09
Paul Garofalo	Waterbury	Discharged 1-12-09
Wesley Farrow	Greenwich	Discharged 1-9-09
Devon Walters, Jr.	Greenwich	Discharged 1-7-09

**TOTAL OF LOST LINE PERSONNEL: 41**



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**Sean Scanlon**

February 6th, 2007

Dear

We at Local 420 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, would like to express our opinion concerning *LCO No. 5818, Sec. 8; Sec. 16-32g; staffing levels.*

The Connecticut Light and Power Company conducted a large hiring campaign in the years of 1968 through 1973. The linemen hired in this era are eligible for retirement as you read this correspondence and, to our knowledge, the Company does not have a plan to replace or increase this aging workforce. "On the job training" is an integral part of a line mechanic's five year training program and the vast experience and knowledge of our senior linemen is in danger of not being passed down to a new generation.

The existing line departments in our districts have been systematically reduced and the following are a few examples of the areas represented by this local union.

- 1.) Stamford: In 1986 had 23 line mechanics. In 2006 - 17. Down 6.
- 2.) Norwalk: In 1986 had 28 line mechanics. In 2006 - 24. Down 4.
- 3.) Newtown: In 1986 had 39 line mechanics. In 2006 - 23. Down 17.
- 4.) Waterbury: In 1986 had 38 line mechanics. In 2006 - 31. Down 7.

Meanwhile, The Connecticut Light and Power Company customer base has grown dramatically since 1986 and miles of overhead and underground wire has been installed.

In 2006, the Company insisted that they needed 24 hour coverage for emergency power interruptions in the Waterbury, Norwalk and Newtown facilities. This resulted in creating a seven man Troubleshooter organization. These seven troubleshooters were taken from the already short-handed line departments in these three areas and placed on 24 hour seven day coverage with a rotating shift work schedule. This rotating shift reduced the everyday line department workforce and, therefore, reduced the number of new service installations, existing service upgrades and pulling of old utility poles out of the ground which was mandated to be done by the DPUC. The DPUC can also inform you of the numerous and frequent customer complaints concerning the long waiting periods to have a new service installed at residential and commercial locations. Without proper staffing levels to run wire and install meters, businesses cannot open and residential customers cannot move into their new homes.

February 6th, 2007

Page 2

The line departments are not the only areas where worker reductions took place. Electricians and Cablesplicer numbers are also down. We are all too familiar with what occurred recently with the underground facilities in Stamford, Waterbury, Hartford, Meriden and New Britain. Most of these dangerous underground explosions, manhole fires and extended outages can be directly linked to a lack of routine maintenance and inspections of an outdated and overloaded urban underground electrical system.

In a previous rate case, Connecticut Light and Power Company was granted an opportunity to hire an additional 100 line mechanics, but for some unknown reason, failed to do so.

In 1998, the Company created a "*System Projects Department*" dedicated to working on large 3 phase wire running jobs of 120 man hours or more. This newly formed department will show an increase of 10 plus or minus line mechanics in Local 420's jurisdiction. These additional line mechanics do not respond to emergency outages or on call assignments; again they are dedicated to the large job sites of 120 hours or more.

Another situation that changed in late Summer of 2006, was the "*on call assignments.*" Historically, for the 35 years I have been working for Connecticut Light and Power Company, the call person was on call and ready to respond to emergencies from 3:00 p.m. Tuesday until 7:00 a.m. the following Tuesday; 8 straight days. Presently, line mechanics and electricians are only on call for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This situation leaves Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday without a call person in the line and electrical departments. This practice is resulting in extended outage times and customer inconvenience.

One of our greatest concerns of low staffing levels is the fury of mother nature. In the early 70's, Connecticut experienced a state-wide and devastating ice storm. This storm disrupted power to thousands of Connecticut Light and Power customers for a long period of time. Some Connecticut Light and Power customers did not have electric service for over a week. In 1985, Hurricane Gloria wreaked havoc on the State and again, widespread damage and extended outages occurred. If any of these situations happened today with the inadequate staffing levels, the increased number of customers and additional miles of wire, the outcome would be dire straights. Electricity would be interrupted for weeks when (not if) another of these natural disasters occurs.

We need legislation and bills introduced by this committee and the DPUC to guarantee increased staffing levels in Northeast Utilities that will assure reliability and experienced service that the consumers of Connecticut deserve.

Finally, we would also like to add that these jobs would be steady, good paying positions for Connecticut residents.

February 6th, 2007

Page 3

In closing, we would like to thank you for granting us this opportunity to express our ideas and opinions and we would be more than willing to discuss this with you further and answer any questions you might present.

We are looking forward to meeting with you.

Very truly yours,



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John K. Unikas  
Business Manager / Financial Secretary  
LU 420 - I.B.E.W.



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Frank E. Cirillo  
Assistant Business Manager  
LU 420 - I.B.E.W.

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February 13th, 2007

*Good Afternoon Chairman and Distinguished Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:*

We are here today to speak about the dangerously low staffing levels at the Connecticut Light and Power Company. We realize that staffing is a complex issue, but we are here to present facts and figures from 1975 to the present. These facts and figures were obtained from our numerous staffing meetings with the Connecticut Light and Power Company and from the Northeast Utilities annual reports.

According to the 1976 annual report, Connecticut Light and Power Company / Helco served 850,892 customers. According to our 1975 staffing records, Local 420's jurisdiction had approximately 430 Line Mechanics. In 2005, the annual report showed that Connecticut Light and Power Company/Helco, grew to 1.2 million customers, an increase of 349,108 customers in the State of Connecticut. Our staffing levels at the present, is approximately 190 Line Mechanics, a reduction of 239 Line Mechanics.

In the early 1970's, the State of Connecticut was devastated by an ice storm. Connecticut Light and Power customers were without power for days, and in some areas weeks. In 1985, Hurricane Gloria unleashed a fury on the State of Connecticut that interrupted service to over 500,000 Northeast Utility customers. (Please refer to our letter to the Committee dated February 6th, 2007). Restoration efforts lasted days and, in some areas, weeks. When (not if) storms of these magnitudes strike Connecticut again, the people of the State, will be without

February 13th, 2007

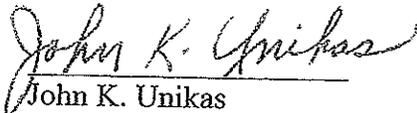
Page 2

power almost two to three times longer than 1975 and 1985. Again, we must mention, in 1975 we had 430 Line Mechanics. In 2007, we have 191 Line Mechanics. In 1975, we serviced 850,892 customers. In 2005, we serviced 1.2 million. These low staffing levels also contribute to a backlog of regular work that is usually contracted out. These could be great paying jobs for Connecticut residents.

We also represent many other job classifications, some of which have been dramatically reduced over time. These other classifications also play a vital role during emergency restorations.

Upon request, we will submit information pertaining to these other classifications. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,



John K. Unikas

Business Manager / Financial Secretary

LU 420 - I.B.E.W.



Frank E. Cirillo

Assistant Business Manager

LU 420 - I.B.E.W.

JKU/FEC/mbr

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