

02-04-23



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

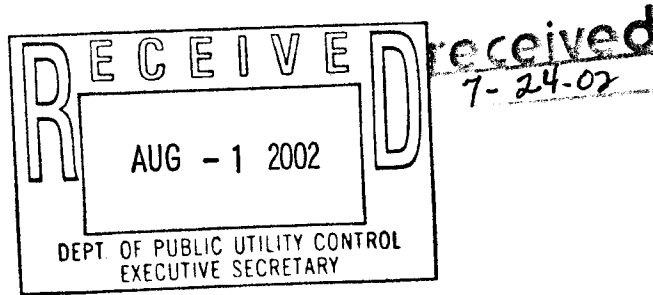
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



Bruce H. Gresczyk  
Deputy Commissioner

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July 22, 2002



Joel M. Rinebold  
Executive Director  
Institute for Sustainable Energy  
Eastern Connecticut State University  
83 Windham Street  
Willimantic, Connecticut 06226

Dear Mr. Rinebold:

Enclosed please find the Position Statement of the CT Department of Agriculture Concerning Gas and Electric Transmission Project Proposals in Long Island Sound per your request dated June 14, 2002.

Please contact me at (860) 713-2500 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bruce H. Gresczyk  
Deputy Commissioner

BHG/vrc

## POSITION STATEMENT

STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Concerning

GAS AND ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION PROJECT PROPOSALS  
IN LONG ISLAND SOUND

DOCKET NO. 02-04-23

- The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is designated as the lead state agency for matters concerning shellfish and aquaculture pursuant to CGS Sections 22-11d, 26-192 and 26-192a.
- It is the position of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture that the placement of cables and pipelines in Long Island Sound, including its coves, harbors, rivers and embayments; should be avoided.
- Cable and pipeline projects in Long Island Sound and adjacent aquatic environs should not be permitted unless all feasible alternatives have been exhausted and that the public benefit to Connecticut citizens is verifiably demonstrated to significantly outweigh the environmental impacts of the proposed project.
- Key shellfish production areas should not be used for the siting of utility projects.
- Should a determination be made to permit cable or pipeline installations in Long Island Sound; then the site should be selected to minimize negative environmental impacts effecting marine resources, marine habitat, commercial fisheries and aquaculture operations.
- If such suitable site(s) can be determined, then the establishment of a utilities corridor should be considered. Such corridor could be used for siting and consolidating multiple projects (telecommunications, electric, natural gas, or water). The number and size of utility corridors should be kept to a minimum.
- A portion of the revenues generated from commercial pipeline and cable projects should be used to establish an endowment to the State of Connecticut for the purposes of shellfish research and shellfish bed restoration.