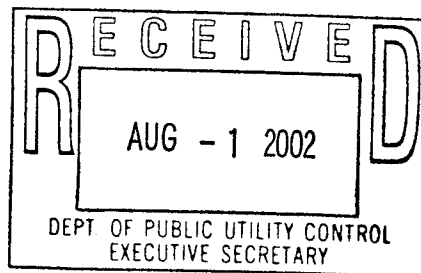


Hallstrom, Christi (Energy Institute)

From: Paula.Jackson@uinet.com
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2002 3:49 PM
To: rineboldj@easternct.edu
Subject: UI Comments re: Task Force



comments_to_task_
force.DOC

Joel,

Attached please find UI comments.

-Paula

(See attached file: comments_to_task_force.DOC)

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**Preliminary Position Statement of The United Illuminating
Company
Supporting the Work of the Public Act No. 02-95 Legislative Task
Force**

UI Representation on the Task Force

Public Act No. 02-95 provides for a representative of each electric distribution company to participate on a task force to support the efforts of the Institute for Sustainable Energy in developing a comprehensive environmental assessment and plan. The United Illuminating Company (UI), as the electric distribution company serving more than 315,000 customers and a population of 730,000 in seventeen municipalities in southwestern Connecticut, is pleased to provide a representative to participate in the task force's work. Pursuant to Public Act 98-28, UI has divested its non-nuclear generation assets and is in the process of completing the divestiture of its nuclear generation assets. As a result, consistent with the legislative restructuring mandates, UI's focus is on delivering electricity to its customers safely and reliably. Therefore UI's interest as a participant in the task force's work is to assure that the interconnected electric transmission system is robust and available, enabling UI to deliver electricity safely and reliably to retail customers.

The Task Force's Statutory Undertakings

Public Act 02-95 sets forth specific matters to be addressed by the task force. The task force, in working with the Institute, is charged with obtaining information as to the current status of electric, gas and telecommunications lines crossing or within the Long Island Sound; developing information as to the potential environmental impacts of such lines, now and into the future; and developing information about the contribution of such lines to the reliability and operation of the remainder of the state's and region's energy and telecommunications infrastructure.

UI's Preliminary Position

UI believes that the information acquired by the task force and the Institute for Sustainable Energy will be helpful in developing an informed assessment and report. UI cannot comment on the gas and telecommunications infrastructure, but does provide its preliminary comments with respect to the electric transmission system issues.

In reviewing the information collected on crossings of Long Island Sound, it is important that the task force and the Institute consider this specific information within the context of the interconnected electric infrastructure that connects the states within New England and that connects New England to other parts of the Northeast region. Regional planning is a critical part of planning and operating a reliable transmission system for all customers. UI believes that any recommendations should consider ISO-NE's current role and the role of the emerging Regional Transmission Organization in the transmission planning process.

It is also important that we continue to support the agencies that have been statutorily mandated to consider issues related to the siting of facilities. The regulatory framework plays a critical role in balancing all the aspects and impacts, positive and negative, of infrastructure projects. In particular, the Connecticut Siting Council and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection have worked to minimize environmental impacts consistent with maintaining and upgrading our infrastructure to meet increasing demands. These agencies have consistently implemented fair and reasonable processes designed to facilitate their independent evaluation of applications related to electric system infrastructure. UI believes that any recommendations should focus on improving the process for considering applications related to electric system infrastructure.

Finally, UI submits that the task force should provide information and expertise to the Institute on a broad basis. Aiming the task force's work at individual projects could result in a short-term assessment and report that do not adequately consider the longer term. Electric system planning and operation must consider both the short term and the long term.

UI looks forward to participating in the task force and assisting the Institute of Sustainable Energy in its work.

July 26, 2002