

TOWN OF DURHAM
Public Meeting
August 17, 2005
7:00 PM
Durham Public Library

Subject: Middletown Norwalk Project Detail Design

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM with a brief presentation by First Selectwoman Maryann Boord. Mrs. Boord reviewed the history of the project, noting that efforts during Docket 272 had been successful in affecting changes to the plan in three major areas: the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) ordered the utility companies to employ EMF mitigation techniques, the Royal Oak Bypass will part of the plan, and the municipalities will have input into the Development and Management (D&M) Phase of the project, which is what tonight's meeting is providing.

State Representative Raymond Kalinowski then spoke, thanking the CSC for their work and encouraging attendees to speak up regarding their concerns.

Mrs. Boord recognized John Holly from Senator Ed Meyer's Office.

Anne Bartosewicz, Project Director from Northeast Utilities, presented a video "fly-over" of the Durham/Middlefield section of the project as well as a series of GSI aerial views and a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the main points of the project. Ms. Bartosewicz noted that the taller single poles, which would replace the double line of poles, would range in height from 109 feet to 190 feet. The areas, which call for higher pole height, are in response to resident concerns regarding Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) exposure. She explained that this evening's meeting was being held to allow individual property owners to make specific requests regarding height and appearance of the poles, as well as suggestions for limited shifting within the existing rows. Once the CSC receives this input, other considerations, such as foundation size, view scape and the desires of other nearby landowners will be taken into consideration.

Ms. Bartosewicz then fielded general questions from various residents.

John Landers of 264 Skeet Club Road asked if any of the poles would be lit. Ms. Bartosewicz responded that since none of the poles would be over 200 feet, the threshold at which the FAA requires lighting, none of the poles would be lit.

An unidentified resident stated that she can hear humming in the poles which currently sit about 50 feet from her house. Ms. Bartosewicz replied that the new poles would emit a very negligible amount of noise, significantly less than what can be heard now.

Doug Vizard of 30 Hemlock Court asked whether Northeast Utilities' (NU) magnetic field calculations had taken into consideration weather conditions and bird excrement. Ms. Bartosewicz was not sure. He also asked who would be liable if people's EMF concerns were proven to be true. She replied that the CSC would be submitting an EMF Mitigation Plan and would utilize "best practices," but she assumed that the state itself, rather than the CSC specifically, would be liable in any lawsuit regarding EMF harm.

Another resident asked why so many poles in neighborhoods were at the 190 foot level. Ms. Bartosewicz responded that this was done to assuage neighborhood fears regarding EMF concerns. Asked what she would prefer near her home, Ms. Bartosewicz replied that she would prefer the 109 foot pole, which would limit the visual pollution, as she does not agree with the opinion that there is a correlation between exposure to EMF's and the incidence of various forms of cancer.

Debbie Herscher of 37 Elihu Drive asked what the highest electric load on these lines would be on a high volume day, such as on the hottest day of summer. Ms. Bartosewicz took her phone number in order to research and get back to her on this item.

Mr. Vizard asked about the construction schedule. Ms. Bartosewicz responded that the current window is an early 2007 start, which would run through sometime in 2009. This schedule would be "tightened" as the time got closer.

Diana McCain of 262R Skeet Club Road noted that the aerial view did nothing to help affected residents picture the visual impact of a pole as viewed from an individual property. Ms. Bartosewicz noted that the poles pictures on the easels had been taken at various locations around Durham, though not from each neighborhood's vantage point. Ms. Bartosewicz indicated NU did not have the ability to provide a pictorial view of the visual impact from each residence involved.

John Landers of 264 Skeet Club Road asked if the wires on the new poles would be further from his house than the current ones (now at 70 feet). Ms. Bartosewicz replied that they would be further away, though she could not pinpoint just how much further.

At 8:00 PM, the meeting broke into neighborhood group discussions which gathered at the maps depicting their respective neighborhoods. A representative from NU was available at each easel group to take notes and answer questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia E. Dynia

