



TOWN OF GREENWICH

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Peter J. Tesei
First Selectman

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **Greenwich Officials Disappointed with Connecticut Siting Council Ruling**

GREENWICH, CT – Greenwich First Selectman Peter J. Tesei expressed disappointment with the Connecticut Siting Council’s ruling that would allow construction of a new open-air substation in central Greenwich.

In a decision received Thursday from the Siting Council, Eversource was granted a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to build a new substation at 290 Railroad Ave. and to install 2.3 miles of 115-kilovolt transmission lines from the Cos Cob substation to the new substation.

“The Town is exploring all of its legal options with the intent of filing an appeal,” Mr. Tesei said in a prepared statement on Friday. “Several of our key Town department heads and I met with counsel today to review our options.”

“We are disappointed that the Siting Council did not take into consideration the arguments presented by the Town, its consultants and legal counsel,” Mr. Tesei said. “We believe the Siting Council failed to recognize that Eversource did not demonstrate a need for this project. Eversource was unable to show that the reliability of electric service in Greenwich would be improved by this \$100 million expenditure. The ratepayers of the State of Connecticut should not bear the burden of this exorbitant project, which the Town did not ask for and which the State does not need.”

Mr. Tesei said that he and Town officials including Town Planner Katie DeLuca, Department of Public Works Commissioner Amy Siebert and Conservation Director Denise Savageau, are also concerned with the design and location of the new substation. The location approved by the Siting Council is at 290 Railroad Ave., the site of the Pet Pantry store, and next door to the Airgas facility. The Siting Council ordered that the new substation be an open-air facility, rather than fully-enclosed, as sought by the Town for safety and security reasons.

Mr. Tesei did note that while the Nov. 14 decision is disappointing, the Town's efforts in opposing Eversource's proposals over the last two years have resulted in significant achievements, including preventing the use of oil-filled cables and horizontal directional drilling that would have had significant adverse environmental effects in Bruce Park. In addition, even if the transmission line is built, the Town's sewer force main will be protected.

"The Town remains committed to protecting its vast natural resources, and more importantly, its residents," Mr. Tesei said. "We will continue to pursue all options to do so."

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