



State of Connecticut

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February 17, 2012

Kimberley J. Santopietro, Executive Secretary
Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Doc. No. 12-01-07, Application for Appeal of Holding Company Transaction Involving Northeast Utilities and NSTAR

Dear Ms. Santopietro,

The upcoming merger between Northeast Utilities and NSTAR raises the question of whether NU's stewardship of nearly 9,500 acres of conservation land will be changed. Currently, nearly 375 parcels of land owned by NU are included in a Memorandum of Understanding that guarantees the protection of the land and allows it to be purchased by municipalities for recreational use. Recently, conservation groups have expressed concern that the merger between NU and NSTAR may threaten this agreement, leaving the land open to potentially harmful development.

The land under NU's stewardship includes some of the most valuable open space in Connecticut and is an important natural resource, enriching both our environment and the lives of many Connecticut residents who use it for recreation.

I appreciate the difficult role that PURA plays in regulating our utilities in a way that benefits both their interests and the interests of the people of Connecticut. I strongly urge PURA to give serious attention to the concerns of our residents and conservationists, and hope that this vital agreement will be renewed.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Toni Boucher
State Senator – 26th District