October 11, 2018

Dear Ms. Monroe

The prospect of the expansion of the power grid through Newington has been planned and discussed for years, with several meetings, mailings, and discussions over the past several years. Newington residents (including us) realize that progress is necessary, but always hope that larger transmission lines (or prisons, sewage plants, malls etc.) would be placed next to “the other guy”, and not next to our property… a normal trait to attempt to protect privacy, property value, and overall security.

However, the “other guy” argument mostly falls flat when it comes to the powerline expansion project that will further “slice and dice” Newington… (I will not belabor the past examples of the portioning of Newington over the last few decades by forces beyond our control… they are well documented)

The “other guy” argument does not work in this case because EverSource was provided with viable (and cheaper) alternatives to the present expansion plan. Apparently, EverSource chose to charge ahead with the present plan (even though cheaper and much less invasive alternatives were available) because they concluded that so much time and effort (and money) was spent on the present effort, they could not even consider much cheaper, less invasive, and better plans (especially for the residents of Newington).

We also suspect (although we cannot prove) that hubris plays a large part in the EverSource decision making process. This suspicion is fueled in part by information received from Newington Town officials during
the numerous public meetings that took place over the past several years.
We wholeheartedly denounce the present plan for expansion of the EverSource power line project through Newington, and ask that the plan be denied. We ask that EverSource be directed to consider the previous plans presented to them that will preserve Newington’s integrity, and not destroy so many property values.

Regards,
Valerie and Stephen Jacques
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