

Connecticut Attorney General's Office

Press Release

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S RESPONSE TO YESTERDAY'S BLACKOUT

August 15, 2003

"To suggest that Connecticut's actions enforcing environmental laws safeguarding Long Island Sound and protecting our consumers and economy caused a major blackout reaching from Ottawa to New York is ludicrous and false. Non-operation of the cable in no way caused or contributed to this massive blackout. Operation of the cable could not have alleviated the resulting emergency in any meaningful way because its capacity is miniscule compared to New York's needs.

New York must meet its own energy responsibilities to build generation capacity and transmission lines, as Connecticut and New England have done. New York's neglect cannot be excused by a blatantly political statement shifting the blame. We have taken the necessary and difficult steps to build consensus and site needed power plants and transmission lines, while Long Island has failed to build a major new power plant for twenty years. As we saw yesterday, New York's continued reliance on its neighbors for power leaves it vulnerable to power line failures and jeopardizes system reliability throughout the region.

We are prepared to take action if necessary to protect Connecticut's energy supply and prevent Cross Sound and LIPA from exploiting this situation. We have grave concerns about the validity of a federal order overriding state permits and laws that presently bar operation and protect critical environmental interests. Even under this order, the cable can be operated only if there is a genuine emergency and activating the cable alleviates that emergency without putting Connecticut's energy supplies at risk. Our state's energy situation is still uncertain. Our paramount goals are to safeguard Connecticut's power supplies, protect our consumers and economy, and stop this cable from

endangering and damaging Long Island Sound. We are reviewing our options for legal action if necessary."

[Back to the Attorney General's Home Page](#)

[Back to the Press Releases Page](#)

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