# Comprehensive Assessment and Report

## Part II

# Environmental Resources and Energy Infrastructure of Long Island Sound

*Prepared by the*

Task Force on Long Island Sound

*Pursuant to*

Public Act No. 02-95 and Executive Order No. 26

**June 3, 2003**

At Eastern Connecticut State University

# Institute for Sustainable Energy

At Eastern Connecticut State University

**Joel M. Rinebold, Executive Director**

Office: Foster Building, 670-676 Main Street, 4th Floor, Willimantic CT 06226
Mailing Address: 83 Windham Street, Willimantic CT 06226

Phone: (860) 465-0251 Fax: (860) 465-0261
Email: ise@easternct.edu
www.sustainenergy.org

*This report was prepared with assistance from:*

**Levitan & Associates, Inc.**
100 Summer Street, Suite 3200
Boston, MA 02110

Phone: (617) 531-2818 • Fax: (617) 531-2826
Email: egc@levitan.com
www.levitan.com

*and*

**Normandeau Associates, Inc.**
25 Nashua Road
Bedford, NH 03110

Phone: (603) 472-5191 • Fax: (603) 472-7052
Email: nai@normandeau.com
www.normandeau.com



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

Executive Order No. 26, issued April 12, 2002, and Public Act No. 02-95, signed into law on June 3, 2002, established a Task Force to examine and evaluate the state's processes for balancing energy reliability and the need for transmission expansion projects, both for Connecticut and for the region, with enhanced protection of the natural resources of Long Island Sound.

Long Island Sound, occupying approximately 800,000 acres, is one of the largest estuaries in the U.S., where the tidal, sheltered waters support unique communities of plants and animals. Birds, mammals, fish, shellfish, and other wildlife depend on estuarine habitats as places to live, feed and reproduce. Numerous marine organisms, including many of the commercially valuable fish and shellfish species, depend on the Long Island Sound estuary at some point in their development. Long Island Sound is also economically important to the Connecticut-New York region for a variety of commercial and recreational purposes.

Long Island Sound presently provides a route between Connecticut and Long Island for two electric transmission cables, one natural gas pipeline, and two telecommunications lines, which have been installed on or beneath the seafloor during the last 35 years. In addition, there are various cables and infrastructure that connect offshore islands with the mainland.

Executive Order No. 26 was issued and Public Act No. 02-95 was enacted when there were a number of new or replacement energy infrastructure projects proposed within Long Island Sound. However, today, the only active projects are: the Connecticut Light & Power/Long Island Power Authority (CL&P/LIPA) 1385 Line Cable Replacement Project, the Islander East Pipeline Company, L.L.C. project, and the Cross-Sound Cable Company, L.L.C. project.

Despite substantial efforts to reduce energy use through conservation programs, the demand for energy in Connecticut and New York continues to grow. Since the New York and New England generation markets, excluding Vermont, were deregulated and the electric utilities began divesting their generation assets in the late 1990s, the region has experienced construction of new generation facilities, predominantly natural gas-fired. Connecticut alone has seen the addition of nearly 1,500 MW of new gas-fired generation since 1998. Construction of new generation facilities has been facilitated by technological and cost improvements, the availability of new natural gas supplies from Atlantic Canada, and the expansion of existing gas pipelines serving New England.

However, energy in New England and New York is not uniformly accessible to all areas in the region. For example, the Independent System Operator - New England (ISO-NE) has designated southwest Connecticut (SWCT) as a deficient load pocket due to constraints of the electric transmission system. The North American Electric Reliability

Council (NERC) concluded in its 2003 summer assessment that SWCT, New York City, and Long Island are "areas of concern" and susceptible to reliability problems. Deficient load pockets require the operation of more expensive local electric generation to meet both peak and normal load requirements because less expensive electric generation outside of the load pocket cannot be imported. ISO-NE has estimated such congestion costs in New England could range from $50 to $300 million in 2003, with most of those costs attributable to SWCT.

Historically, Connecticut has been a net importer of electric energy from New York; this may change soon as the region's fleet of new generation comes on line. New England, including Connecticut, has maintained important transmission interconnections with neighboring control areas. The transmission circuits between neighboring control areas help maintain grid reliability and voltage stability, and also provide an opportunity for market participants in other regions to purchase or sell power when it is economic to do so.

Like Connecticut, Long Island is a net importer of energy, with demand expected to grow at the rate of 100 MW per year through 2011. As an island with virtually no indigenous energy supply, Long Island must import nearly all of its energy by cable, pipeline, barge, or truck. Fuels such as landfill gas, refuse, wind, and solar power furnish only a few percent of Long Island's energy needs. Long Island has historically been underserved by the interstate gas pipelines, and has relied more extensively on fuel oil for home heating and electric generation than nearly any other area of the U.S. Expanding the gas pipeline capacity to Long Island would reduce Long Island's dependence on fuel oil for electric generation and home heating, and would offer other environmental benefits. Pipeline projects (both new lines and reinforcements to existing lines) have all been proposed with an expectation of serving residential, commercial, and industrial loads, including new on-island gas-fired power plant projects.

To meet the charge under Public Act No. 02-95, the Task Force conducted a comprehensive environmental assessment of Long Island Sound's natural resources and reviewed certain relevant information regarding energy and telecommunications infrastructure and regional energy needs. The assessment includes:

- An inventory and review of the natural resources of Long Island Sound, including information regarding the natural and man-made effects on such resources;

  A review of the existing regulatory framework for protecting Long Island Sound;

- A review of regional energy needs and infrastructure;

- A status update of existing and proposed energy and telecommunications infrastructure projects within Long Island Sound, including an assessment of the environmental impacts of existing infrastructure; and

- A review of the potential environmental and ecological impacts of energy and telecommunications infrastructure projects within Long Island Sound, including a discussion of marine construction and operation.

To better ensure energy reliability and provide for regional energy needs while enhancing the protection of the natural resources of Long Island Sound, the Task Force offers the following conclusions and recommendations:

## TASK FORCE CONCLUSIONS

### Inventory and Mapping of Existing Environmental Data on the Natural Resources of Long Island Sound (PA No. 02-95 Section 3(A))

An inventory of the available natural resource information required under PA No. 02-95 has been summarized. Much of the data presented was developed by state and federal agencies, and is useful in generally identifying the resources of Long Island Sound. However, substantially more detailed and timely resource information is required for comprehensive planning, and for making project-specific assessments and site-specific determinations of resource delineation, environmental impact, and engineering constructability.

Data gathered to facilitate the work of the Task Force have been developed as part of a Geographic Information System (GIS). The availability of GIS greatly facilitates the analysis, exchange, and use of information. Substantial valuable Long Island Sound resource data have not been digitized and thus are not available in a GIS format. Such data are nonetheless important and should not be ignored.

### Evaluation of the Relative Importance and Uniqueness of the Natural Resources and Identification of the Most Ecologically Sensitive Natural Resources Of Long Island Sound (PA No. 02-95 Section 3(B))

Resources discussed in Section 2.1 of the Summary of Background Information of this study and as identified by existing resource protection programs provide information related to the interrelationships, unique characteristics, and ecological sensitivity of natural resources of Long Island Sound. However, the Task Force cautions that this information is not and cannot be used as a substitute for site-specific reconnaissance for project-specific permitting, where the specific environment, users, timing, and project can be used to evaluate the relative importance, uniqueness and sensitivity of natural resources.

**Assessment of the Present Status, Future Potential and Environmental Impacts on Long Island Sound of Meeting the Region's Energy Needs that Do Not Require the Laying of a Power Line or Cable within Long Island Sound (Section 3(C)) And an Evaluation of the Methods to Minimize the numbers and Impacts of Power Line Crossings, Gas Pipeline Crossings, and Telecommunications Crossings within Long Island Sound, Including an Evaluation of the Individual and Cumulative Environmental Impacts of any such Proposed Crossings (PA No. 02-95 Section 3(D))**

Pursuant to PA No. 02-95 Sections 3(C) and 3(D), the Task Force is required to examine alternatives for avoiding or minimizing construction of energy and telecommunications infrastructure across Long Island Sound. Section 3(C) focuses on alternatives to constructing power lines or cables across the Sound; Section 3(D) focuses on methods to minimize numbers and impacts of crossings.[1] For convenience and completeness, Sections 3(C) and 3(D) have been combined to offer an evaluation of the status, potential, and environmental impact of each of the alternatives identified in Section 2.8. Evaluations of alternatives to constructing energy and telecommunications infrastructure projects across Long Island Sound can be grouped under the following categories:

Alternative routes for gas pipelines that do not cross Long Island Sound;

Alternative routes for electric cables that do not cross Long Island Sound;

Measures to expand, reinforce, or upgrade existing generation and transmission assets in Connecticut and Long Island that do not require cables crossing Long Island Sound;

Alternative fuels and energy sources that do not require Long Island Sound crossings;

Measures that reduce the demand for gas and electricity through conservation, load management, and demand response programs; and

Alternative telecommunications technologies that do not require laying of a cable across Long Island Sound.

**Inventory of Current Crossings of Long Island Sound and an Evaluation of the Current Environmental Status of those Areas that have Crossings (PA No. 02-95 Section 3(E))**

[1] The Task Force notes that an evaluation of the potential impacts for specific proposed crossings would be and/or has been performed and set forth in the project specific environmental impact statements and associated state regulatory reviews.

This inventory focuses on the five energy and telecommunications facilities that cross the Sound between Connecticut and Long Island. These facilities are separated both spatially (none of the five facilities are located in close proximity to one another) and temporally (none of the five facilities were constructed within the same time frame).

Two electric transmission cable systems:

The 1385 Line cable system, alternating current (AC), which is jointly owned by CL&P and LIPA and consists of seven cables that link Norwalk and Northport, Long Island; and

Cross-Sound Cable's 24-mile system, direct current (DC), consisting of a bundle of two solid dielectric cables and a fiber optic telecommunications cable, which traverses between New Haven and Brookhaven, Long Island (1,800 feet of cable has not been installed to depths required by permits.)

One natural gas pipeline, the Iroquois Gas Transmission System (Iroquois) pipeline, which extends across Long Island Sound from Milford, Connecticut to Northport, Long Island.

Two telecommunications cables:

AT&T's fiber optic cable, which traverses from East Haven to Shoreham, Long Island; and

MCI's fiber optic cable, which extends from Madison to Rocky Point, Long Island.

Information for this section was drawn in part from project status reports that the Task Force requested from the owners of the crossings.[2,3,4,5,6] Other data were compiled from presentations made by project proponents and regulators to the Task Force. In addition, reports, permits, and regulatory decision-making documents relevant to the five crossings were reviewed.

[2] Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L. P., Existing Pipeline "Project Status Update", received February 28, 2003.

[3] Cross-Sound Cable Company, LLC, Letter to Joel Rinebold from Jeffrey A. Donahue dated February 5, 2003.

[4] Islander East Pipeline Company. Letter to Joel Rinebold from Gene H. Muhlherr dated July 24, 2002.

[5] Northeast Utilities System Company (NUSCo). Letter to Joel Rinebold from Paula M. Taupier dated February 5, 2003.

[6] The Task Force requested information from AT&T and MCI, but did not get a response and was unable to acquire information other than that contained in the DEP permits, issued for these two projects.

**Evaluation Of The Reliability And Operational Impacts To The State And The Region Of Proposed Crossings Of Long Island Sound And An Evaluation Of The Impact On Reliability By Recommended Limitations On Such Crossings (PA No. 02-95 Section 3(F))**

Reliability issues associated with meeting the region's energy needs are complicated and dynamic. They involve interrelationships among a number of national, regional, state, and local entities. The Task Force recognizes the complexity of a number of interrelated tasks, the completion of which will help ensure the delivery of reliable energy to Connecticut consumers. These include predicting the interrelationship between natural gas supplies and reliable power generation; consideration of regional transmission system interconnections; minimizing vulnerability to terrorism; and avoiding the potential over dependence on one fuel source. The Task Force also recognizes that modern planning techniques using statistical modeling and simulation techniques require substantial investments.

Selecting alternatives that ensure reliable power and natural gas delivery must be a goal of a transparent regional energy planning process that uses preferential environmental standards for the protection of Long Island Sound. The Task Force anticipates that this process would include the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Independent System Operator for New England (ISO-NE), the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO), state agencies (e.g., Connecticut Energy Advisory Board (CEAB), the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC), and the Connecticut Energy Coordinating Authority (CECA)), and the public.

The integrated use of new, well-planned, and environmentally preferred infrastructure projects to provide market access to clean energy supply will reduce air emissions associated with obsolete and emergency generating facilities, which could possibly reduce costs to consumers. The certification and permit proceedings for facilities proposed to cross Long Island Sound should consider alternatives to ensure that both state and regional reliability needs are met with the least adverse impact on the environment.

**Recommendations for Providing For Regional Energy Needs While Protecting Long Island Sound to the Maximum Extent Possible (PA No. 02-95 Section 3(G))**

The Task Force's recommendations to ensure energy reliability and provide for regional energy needs, while protecting Long Island Sound, are listed in the Recommendations section below.

**Recommendations on Natural Resource Performance Bond Levels to Insure and Reimburse the State In The Event That Future Electric Power Line Crossings, Gas Pipeline Crossings or Telecommunications Crossings Substantially Damage the Public Trust in the Natural Resources of Long Island Sound (PA No. 02-95 Section 3(H))**

The Task Force's recommendations regarding natural resource performance bond levels are listed in the Recommendations section below.

## TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Task Force makes the following recommendations in no particular order:

### Interstate Coordination and Integrated Resource Management

*Expanded Role of the Connecticut Energy Coordinating Authority (CECA)*

Expand the role of the CECA to coordinate and facilitate communication with counterparts in New York and Rhode Island that share an interest in interstate energy and telecommunications infrastructure projects.[7] The CECA and its counterparts in neighboring states may consider mechanisms for coordination, including but not limited to, undertaking a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that seeks: consistent and compatible standards to determine public need and environmental preference standards for the protection of Long Island Sound; consideration of benefits and alternative solutions for energy reliability and energy facilities of regional significance; to set goals and encourage the collection of marine and coastal resource data; and to interact with the FERC and other agencies.

[7] A possible counterpart for New York could be the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), which is currently responsible for developing New York's energy plan, or LIPA, which is currently developing an energy plan for Long Island.

*Application of Environmental Preference Standards for the Protection of Marine and Coastal Resources*

The CECA should incorporate environmental preferences when reviewing and evaluating the environmental impacts of a project; the concepts of avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and compensation should be taken in that respective order.

*Potential Planning Mechanisms for Long Island Sound*

Connecticut should continue to work toward completing detailed resource data sets and mapping for Long Island Sound. With completion of detailed resource data sets and mapping for Long Island Sound, which is an essential step and requires a significant level of additional financial, personnel and time commitment, the legislature can then evaluate and, as appropriate, implement, or otherwise further the implementation of, specific planning mechanisms for Long Island Sound. Such resource protection based mechanisms may include the designation of marine protected areas, and/or the adoption of marine zoning.

*Natural Resource Performance Bond Levels*

Regulatory agencies should continue the practice of requiring performance bonds for projects that may affect Long Island Sound. Performance bond levels are presently and should continue to be based on a site-specific and project-specific estimation of potential damage, remediation, and monitoring.

**Other Legislative and Administrative Changes to the Siting Process**

*Application Guide for Electric and Fuel Transmission Line Facilities for Marine Projects*

The Siting Council should adopt the revised Application Siting Guide for Electric and Fuel Transmission Line Facilities for Marine Projects, as a guidance document for applicants.

*Certification Criteria: Need versus Benefit Standard*

Revise CGS Section 16-50p to replace "benefit" with "need" for the regulation of electric transmission lines that are substantially underwater,[8] including in Long Island Sound and adjacent estuaries.

[8] For purposes of this recommendation, underwater is defined as coastal, nearshore, and offshore waters; estuarine embayments; wetlands and watercourses including both tidal and freshwater; intertidal flats; and floodplains.

*Project Scoping Process*

Enhance the scoping process during the pre-application consultation period to ensure that the project proponent is fully informed regarding the concerns of the public, the CECA, and individual resource agencies.

*Independent Study*

Relevant issues that are not adequately addressed should be studied and analyzed by resource experts, or independent consultants, commissioned by the Siting Council, to further the development of reliable data.

The Siting Council should develop mechanisms to better communicate to the public the existing process and provisions for the independent study of issues.

*Public Availability of Siting Council Documents*

Establish and maintain docket records readily accessible to the public through the Siting Council's web site. At a minimum, the web site should contain a docket management system that allows information to be searched by docket number, date, and keyword. Require the electronic filing of specified materials from the applicant, parties, and intervenors.

**Other Legislative and Administrative Changes**

*Centralized Data Repository for Energy and Environmental Data within Long Island Sound*

Designate the Long Island Sound Resource Center at the University of Connecticut, Avery Point and/or the Map and Geographic Information Center (MAGIC) at the Homer Babbidge Library, University of Connecticut, Storrs as the repository for the Task Force's GIS (energy and environment) database, and other Long Island Sound information as developed.

*Submerged Lands Leasing Program*

The Connecticut legislature should investigate the viability of and structure for a comprehensive and expanded submerged lands leasing program.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 REGULATORY BACKGROUND

Executive Order No. 26, issued April 12, 2002 (Appendix A), and Public Act No. 02-95 (PA No. 02-95), signed into law on June 3, 2002 (Appendix B) established a Task Force to examine and evaluate the state's processes for balancing energy reliability and the need for transmission expansion projects, both for Connecticut and for the region, with enhanced protection of the natural resources of Long Island Sound. In the months leading up to passage of PA No. 02-95, a considerable number of proposals for both electric transmission cables and natural gas pipelines crossing Long Island Sound were placed before the Connecticut Siting Council (Siting Council) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). PA No. 02-95 placed a one year moratorium preventing any state agency from considering or rendering a final decision on any application relating to electric, gas, or telecommunications crossings of Long Island Sound. The moratorium does not apply to the project involving replacing the existing electric transmission cables between Norwalk, Connecticut and Northport, New York, and activities relating solely to the maintenance, repair, or replacement necessary for repair of electrical power lines, gas pipelines, or telecommunications facilities that currently serve islands or peninsulas off the Connecticut coast or harbors, embayments, tidal rivers, streams or creeks. Since passage of PA No. 02-95, many of the Long Island Sound crossing proposals have been cancelled or placed on hold.

Executive Order No. 26 and PA No. 02-95 also established a Working Group, specifically charged with evaluating issues associated with electric reliability in southwest Connecticut (SWCT), an area that has historically experienced electric congestion problems. The Working Group evaluated the economic considerations and environmental preferences associated with installing electric transmission lines underground or overhead, and examined the technical and economic feasibility of alternatives to expanding the regional high voltage transmission system into SWCT. The Working Group considered these alternatives with respect to a Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) proposal to construct a 345 kilovolts (kV) transmission line from Bethel to Norwalk, Connecticut.

Concurrently, the Task Force initiated its mission, focused on identifying and protecting the resources of Long Island Sound. The Task Force was similarly charged by statute to evaluate the necessity and benefit of electric, gas, and telecommunications infrastructure crossings of Long Island Sound, the individual and cumulative environmental impacts of such infrastructure crossings, and the contribution of such lines to the reliability and operation of the state's and the region's energy and telecommunications infrastructure. Section 3 of PA No. 02-95 sets forth eight specific matters to be addressed by the Task Force in an assessment and plan:

(A) **a comprehensive inventory and mapping of all existing environmental data on the natural resources of Long Island Sound, including, but not limited to: All coastal resources, as defined in**

**section 22a-93 of the general statutes, all points of public access and public use, locations of rare and endangered species including the breeding and nesting areas for such rare and endangered species, locations of historically productive fishing grounds and locations of unusual and important submerged vegetation;**

**an evaluation of the relative importance and uniqueness of the natural resources and an identification of the most ecologically sensitive natural resources of Long Island Sound;**

**an assessment of the present status, future potential and environmental impacts on Long Island Sound of meeting the region's energy needs that do not require the laying of a power line or cable within Long Island Sound;**

**an evaluation of methods to minimize the numbers and impacts of electric power line crossings, gas pipeline crossings and telecommunications crossings within Long Island Sound, including an evaluation of the individual and cumulative impacts of any such proposed crossings;**

**an inventory of current crossings of Long Island Sound and an evaluation of the current environmental status of those areas that have crossings;**

**an evaluation of the reliability and operational impacts to the state and region of proposed crossings of Long Island Sound and an evaluation of the impact on reliability by recommended limitations on such crossings;**

**recommendations for providing for regional energy needs while protecting Long Island Sound to the maximum extent possible; and**

**recommendations on natural resource performance bond levels to insure and reimburse the state in the event that future electric power line crossings, gas pipeline crossings or telecommunications crossings substantially damage the public trust in the natural resources of Long Island Sound.**

In addition, the Task Force's assessment and plan was to include, but not be limited to, a review and analysis of those criteria set forth in the Executive Order:

**An evaluation of methods to minimize the numbers and impacts of energy crossings within Long Island Sound;**

**Recommendations for providing for regional energy needs while protecting Long Island Sound;**

**(c) An assessment of the present status, future potential, and environmental impacts of proposed methods for laying of a power line, pipeline or cable; and**

**An identification of possible measures that may be taken to mitigate environmental impacts and maintain the aesthetic integrity of regions in Connecticut where it has been determined transmission must be sited.**

The broader scope encompassed by the elements of PA No. 02-95 Section 3 generally subsume the criteria included in Executive Order No. 26, as indicated in Table 1.

**Table 1 – Correspondence Between Executive Order No. 26 and PA No. 02-95**

| Executive Order Criteria | PA No. 02-95 Section 3 Elements |
|---|---|
| (a) | (D) |
| (b) | (G) |
| (c) | (C), (D), (E) |
| (d) | (C), (D) |

## 1.2 Task Force Participants

The Task Force has met on a regular basis since July 2002 in a series of collaborative meetings. PA No. 02-95 named the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University (ISE) as the Chair for the Task Force meetings. The member organizations of the Task Force are prescribed by Executive Order No. 26 and PA No. 02-95 and are identified in Table 2.

**Table 2 – Task Force Concerning the Protection of Long Island Sound**

| Organization | Participating representative |
|---|---|
| Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University | Joel M. Rinebold, Executive Director (*Chair*) |
| Department of Public Utility Control | Cindy Jacobs, Principal Financial Specialist<br>Michael Chowaniec<br>Robert Luysterborghs |
| Department of Environmental Protection | Betsey C. Wingfield, Director, Planning and Standards Division, Bureau of Water Management |
| Connecticut Siting Council | Philip Ashton<br>S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director |
| Office of Policy and Management | Marc Ryan, Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management |

| Organization | Participating representative |
|---|---|
| ISO-NE | Eric Johnson, External Affairs Representative |
| Federal Energy Regulatory Commission | Randy Mathura<br>William Zoller |
| DEP Bureau of Fisheries | Rick Jacobson, Assistant Director, Inland Fisheries Division |
| Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture | John Volk, (Director – retired)<br>David Carey, Director |
| Department of Agriculture | Bruce Gresczyk, Commissioner<br>Melanie Attwater (alternate) |
| Department of Transportation, Coastline Port Authority, Bureau of Aviation and Ports | Alan Stevens |
| Connecticut Seafood Council | Barbara Gordon, Executive Director |
| Long Island Soundkeeper | James Murkette |
| Save the Sound, Inc. | Leah Lopez, Staff Attorney |
| Connecticut Fund for the Environment | Penny Anthopolos, Staff Attorney<br>Jerry Shaw |
| Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey | Ralph Lewis, State Geologist - retired |
| TransEnergie U.S. | Rita L. Bowlby, Vice President Connecticut Government Affairs |
| SBC/SNET | Gregory J. Zupkus, Director, External Affairs |
| Connecticut Natural Gas and Southern Connecticut Gas | Tim Kelley<br>Mike Smalec (alternate)<br>Eileen Sheehan (alternate) |
| Yankee Gas Company | Patricia McCullough, Director of Environmental Management, Northeast Utilities System Company<br>Paula Taupier (Manager of Transmission Regulatory Planning, Northeast Utilities System Company, alternate) |
| Connecticut Light and Power | Elizabeth Barton (Day Berry & Howard)<br>Harold Blinderman (Day, Berry & Howard, alternate)<br>Charles Nicol (Northeast Utilities System Company, alternate) |
| United Illuminating Company | Michael Coretto, Director – Regulatory Strategy and Retail Access |
| Atlantic States Marine Fisheries | Ernest Beckwith, Director – retired, Marine Fisheries Division<br>Eric Smith, Assistant Director, Marine Fisheries Division |
| Representative from an applicant for a gas pipeline | Louise Mango |

The Task Force members called upon the resources of a diverse group of technical specialists who delivered valuable presentations at the collaborative sessions. A list of all technical presenters is included in Appendix G. The Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University engaged Levitan & Associates, Inc. (LAI), and its subcontractor, Normandeau Associates, Inc. (NAI), to support the Task Force by providing technical and market information regarding the region's energy infrastructure and environmental resources. LAI was also charged with facilitating some of the collaborative meetings and preparing this report. Meeting agendas, minutes, presentation materials, and other documents utilized by the Task Force have been collated under DPUC Docket 02-04-23.[9]

### 1.3 Comprehensive Assessment and Report – Part I and Part II

Until the Working Group's mission was completed on January 1, 2003, the Task Force and the Working Group held numerous joint meetings and informational sessions covering issues common to both the Working Group and the Task Force. The Working Group and Task Force both contributed to developing a framework intended to facilitate the comparison of alternative energy strategies and competing solutions that appropriately balances the need for cost-effective and reliable energy resources with Connecticut's commitment to protect its environmental resources. The Comprehensive Assessment and Report – Part I: Energy Resources and Infrastructure of Southwest Connecticut (Assessment Report Part I) issued on January 1, 2003, contains these joint recommendations, as well as conclusions and recommendations specific to the Working Group's mission.

Since January 1, 2003, the Task Force has continued to develop its assessment and plan for protection of Long Island Sound. This document, the Comprehensive Assessment and Report – Part II (Assessment Report Part II) is intended to comply with the requirements of PA No. 02-95 and Executive Order No. 26. Section 2 of this report presents a summary of the background information provided during the collaborative sessions by technical specialists, including many Task Force members. Section 3 and Section 4 of this report presents the conclusions and recommendations, respectively, of the Task Force. In this Assessment Report – Part II, the Task Force addresses the elements and criteria mandated by the both Executive Order No. 26 and PA No. 02-95.

[9] This can be viewed at http://www.state.ct.us/dpuc/database.htm.

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