Power Line Plan Sparks Controversy In Winsted

By JOHN TORSIELLO

WINSTED—Connecticut Light and Power Company officials were asked by selectmen Monday night to reconsider plans for a new 27,000-volt line in town, or seek an alternate route for the proposed line.

Concerned residents met with selectmen and CL&P officials to voice their concern, according to Jamie Scrimgeour, an associate with the community lawyer's office in Winsted. The proposed line would leave the substation on Case Avenue and proceed east on Gay Street to Chestnut Street, run along Holabird Avenue, cross to Oak Street to Walnut Street and then run along Brook and North Main streets.

Mr. Scrimgeour said many residents are concerned over the potential increase in the amount of electromagnetic radiation produced by the proposed line. Power company officials said the 27,600-volt line will have all its conductors wrapped in special jackets. A company spokesman said 4,800-volt lines are usually used in towns.

The community lawyer's office—designed to help residents deal with local issues—learned of CL&P's plan through a newspaper article and informed residents living in the area of the prooposed line about the project, he said. "We saw the article and thought it strange that we hadn't heard about it before," Mr. Scrimgeour commented.

About 100 residents signed a petition asking CL&P to reconsider the plan and the matter was brought up at the public discussion portion of the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Charlene LaVoie, the town's community lawyer, said CL&P officials indicated they would review the matter and respond to the selectmen's request.