



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION

POWER FACILITY EVALUATION COUNCIL

Petition No. 54
Winsted, Connecticut
April 17, 1980

Mr. Tait, Mr. Clapp, and Mr. Reid met Ms Austin and Mr. Petruzzi of Northwest Cablevision, Inc. to review the construction described in Petition No. 54.

Northwest Cablevision is experiencing interference with signals sent from New York by signals received from Boston. The Boston stations broadcast with greater output which results in the Boston signals interfering with clear reception of New York signals. The company proposes to solve this problem by adding to their head-end facility on Platt Hill a broadband VHF troposcatter parabolic reflector. This reflector will face south southwest (New York), and reflect and concentrate the New York signals to a new antenna (not mentioned in this petition) which will receive the reflected and concentrated signals. In order to minimize reception of the Boston signals, the new antenna will be mounted on a pole located in front of the reflector at an elevation lower than the existing head-end facility.

Presently, two of the four 90 foot poles which comprise the head-end facility support antennas which receive the New York stations. Unless they are needed for continued picture clarification, these two poles and antennas may be removed after the reflector and new antenna are in place.

The reflector is to be constructed on Northwest Cablevision property immediately south of the existing head-end facility, and the new receiving antenna will be placed approximately 135 feet away with the antenna approximately five feet above the reflector's base. The exact location of the new receive antenna will depend upon results of signal strength tests to be conducted after the reflector is constructed.

The parabolic reflector will be 150 feet wide, no more than 90 feet high, and ten and one half feet deep. It is a lattice type structure consisting of six steel poles, three guys per pole, and supporting steel beams. The reflector surface will be aluminum wire spaced two inches apart on the support structure. Foundations will be made on concrete and steel bars grouted into holes drilled in the bedrock.

Access to the site is a stone and dirt road. The soil is stony and shallow, and the access road is eroded to the bedrock on the steep sections. No new or additional access will be necessary for the proposed construction, but some access improvement may be required. Stabilization of the access road will be difficult due to the shallow and stony nature of the soil.

A small amount of clearing will be necessary for the parabolic support structure. Some clearing may be necessary in between the reflector and the new antenna depending upon signal strength. Cutting, grading, or filling is not anticipated.

The existing head-end facility (four poles approximately 90 feet high) is not very visible from distant locations; however, it is visible from nearby roads, such as Platt Hill Road, Route 263, and two other town roads. The head-end is visible from

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some nearby residences (approximately 15 or fewer). The reflector base is approximately ten vertical feet below the base of the head-end. Since both the head-end poles and the reflector poles are 90 feet high, the six reflector poles and supporting lattice beams should be ten feet lower than the existing head-end structures. This should leave the reflector nearly as visible as the existing head-end.

Impacts on natural systems and land-use should be minor, but the proposed facility will probably be visible from nearby homes and roads.

The Council must decide whether or not the project proposed in Petition No. 54 is a modification as defined in 16-50i(d) or a new facility as defined in 16-50i(a) 5.

Duncan C. Reid
Environmentalist

April 18, 1980