



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Petition No. 314
Springwich Cellular Limited Partnership
Bristol, Connecticut
December 15, 1993

On December 10, 1993, Brian Emerick and Colin C. Tait of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) and Robert K. Erling of the Council staff met Peter Van Wilgen of Springwich Cellular Limited Partnership (Springwich) for a field review of this petition in Bristol, Connecticut. Springwich is petitioning the Council for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need would be required under section 16-50k(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes for the installation of a new 120-foot cellular telecommunications monopole on a site off Willis Street owned by the Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P). The Willis Street site presently contains four towers. One tower, 125 feet in height, is owned by CL&P, one 123-foot tower is owned by TCI Cablevision, and two 80-foot guyed lattice towers are owned by the Southern New England Telephone Company (SNET). The two SNET towers are passive, with microwave radio signals from Wolcott reflected from one SNET tower to the other SNET tower and then redirected to a third existing SNET tower at the SNET Central Office on 85 Main Street in Bristol, Connecticut. The towers were the subject of an exempt modification in June 1993 in which Springwich installed cellular antennas on the two 80-foot SNET towers and installed a portable cell site building at the Willis Street site.

Springwich has experienced insufficient cellular coverage to the east of the Willis Street site in the Plainville-Bristol area, especially along Routes 6, 10, 177, 372, 229 and to the south along I-84. In order to provide adequate coverage along these routes, Springwich proposes to construct a new 120-foot monopole tower and then remove the two existing 80-foot guyed SNET towers. The two existing passive 10-foot panel antennas on the 80-foot towers would be replaced by two 2-foot diameter repeater dish antennas, and the cellular antennas transferred to the new 120-foot tower. The ground elevation at the proposed monopole site is 10 feet lower than the elevations of the existing CL&P and TCI towers. To clear the ridge of South Mountain and provide the required coverage to the east, 120 feet is the minimum tower height required. In addition to providing improved coverage to the routes mentioned above, the

proposed 120-foot tower would also improve coverage to the western portion of Bristol along Routes 6, 69, and 72 and enhance hand-off capability with an existing Springwiche cell site in Plymouth, Connecticut.

Springwiche would construct a new 12-foot by 26-foot equipment building near the base of the proposed tower and remove the existing portable building from the site. A new 12-foot wide gravel drive would be constructed, with brush cleared approximately two feet on each side. A new 8-foot high chain link fence would surround the proposed tower and equipment building.

The radio frequency power density from the cellular antennas added to the new 120-foot tower would be 0.17434 mW/cm^2 at a distance of 25 feet from the base of the tower, well below the latest ANSI standard for cellular frequencies.

Staff has consulted with CL&P regarding the type and function of antennas on the existing CL&P tower and possible consolidation of towers with Springwiche and SNET.

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