



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Petition No. 431  
Sprint Spectrum, L.P.  
Staff Report  
October 8, 1999

On October 4, 1999, Connecticut Siting Council (Council) members Brian J. Emerick and Daniel P. Lynch, Jr., and Council Staff Joel Rinebold and Steve Levine met Sprint Spectrum (Sprint) representatives Julie M. Cashin, William Starr, Jeff York, and Bill McElwaine for inspection of a Connecticut Light & Power Company (CL&P) electric transmission tower at 705 Andrews Street, Southington. Sprint, with the agreement of CL&P, proposes to modify the transmission tower for telecommunications use and is petitioning the Council for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) is required for the modification. Sprint submits that the proposed modification will not have a substantial adverse environmental effect.

Sprint proposes to construct a PowerMount pole, antennas, and associated equipment within the 25 ft. by 25 ft. footprint of existing CL&P transmission line structure #653, which is part of transmission line west 1820 and east 1830. Tower #653 is an approximately 100-ft. high lattice structure located within the CL&P right of way crossing an apple orchard at 705 Andrews Street.

As proposed, the PowerMount pole would extend upward from grade, along the centerline of tower #653, to approximately 15 feet above the top of the structure. A low-profile platform carrying PCS antennas would extend an additional 2.5 feet above the top of the pole, therefore, to about 17.5 feet above the top of the CL&P transmission structure. The PCS equipment would be installed in cabinets placed on an 8.5 ft. by 20 ft. concrete pad built within the footprint of the CL&P tower. A 34 ft. by 34 ft., 6-foot high chain link fence would surround the site. Access from Andrews Street would be along existing Smith Street, which would be improved as a gravel road, and along a gravel access drive from Smith Street to the site. Power and telephone lines would be routed overhead along the length of Smith Street to a riser pole, and then run underground along the access drive to the tower.

At the request of the Council, Sprint has attempted to identify alternate routing for the utility line. Sprint asks that its original proposal be approved on the following grounds. Access lying parallel to but north of that proposed in the petition would be in closer proximity to the residence depicted on the site plan. Utilities could also be brought in by continuing further along Smith Street before turning back to the north and east. This configuration, however would: 1) be outside the limits of the CL&P right of way, necessitating additional leasing activity; 2) require additional utility poles and/or pull boxes; and 3) impact the underlying landowner's property to a greater extent than that proposed by Sprint in its petition.

The proposed PowerMount and associated equipment will not increase the noise levels at the existing site, under normal operating conditions, by six decibels or more. The worst case power density for the telecommunications operations at the site has been calculated to be 6.29% of the applicable standard for uncontrolled environments. Sprint contends that the proposed installation will not cause a substantial adverse environmental effect, and for this reason would not require a Certificate.