



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, Connecticut 06051
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CERTIFIED MAIL #Z276419604
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Peter van Wilgen
Director, Real Estate Operations
SNET Wireless, Inc.
500 Enterprise Drive
Rocky Hill, CT 06067-3500

RE: PETITION NO. 411 – Springwich Cellular Limited Partnership petition for a Declaratory Ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required to modify a Connecticut Light & Power high-voltage electric transmission line support structure located off 155 Harvest Ridge Road in Stratford, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. van Wilgen:

At a public meeting held July 29, 1999, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and ruled that the proposed modification to an existing electric transmission line structure located off 670 Chapel Street in Stratford, Connecticut, would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, and pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50k would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

This decision applies only to Petition No. 411, and is not applicable to any other modification or construction. All work is to be implemented as specified in the petition, dated March 12, 1999, and additional information dated July 16, 1999, conditioned on notification to the Council of the commencement of construction; submittal of an as-built tower profile and site plan; and attachment of antennas no higher than 126 feet above ground level on Connecticut Light and Power Company tower Structure 1321.

This facility has been carefully modeled to ensure that radio frequency emissions are conservatively below State and federal standards applicable to the frequency now used on this tower. Any additional change to this facility will require explicit notice to this agency pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 16-50j-73. Such notice shall include all relevant information regarding the proposed change with cumulative worst-case modeling of radio frequency exposure at the closest point of uncontrolled access to the tower base, consistent with Federal Communications Commission, Office of Engineering and Technology, Bulletin 65. Any deviation from this format may result in the Council implementing enforcement proceedings pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50u including, without limitation, imposition of expenses resulting from such failure and of civil penalties in an amount not less than one thousand dollars per day for each day of construction or operation in material violation.

Please notify the Council upon completion of construction. Enclosed for your information is a copy of the findings of fact for this project.

Yours very truly,


Mortimer A. Gelston
Chairman

MAG/RKE/tsg

cc: Mark S. Barnhart, Town Manager, Town of Stratford
J. Brendan Sharkey, Esq., Omnipoint Communications, Inc.
Dorian H. Hill, Principal Engineer, CL&P

FILE
COPY



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Petition No. 411

Findings of Fact

1. On March 12, 1999, Springwiche Cellular Limited Partnership (Springwiche) submitted a petition to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a determination by the Council that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need would be required for proposed modifications to a Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) high-voltage electric transmission line support structure in the Town of Stratford, Connecticut. (Springwiche 1)
2. In this petition Springwiche proposed to install cellular antennas and associated telecommunications equipment on existing CL&P structure 1322 on CL&P transmission line 1570 located off 155 Harvest Ridge Road in Stratford. (Springwiche 1)
3. On April 20, 1999, the Council held a public hearing on this petition at the Stratford Town Hall, beginning at 7:00 p.m. A public field review of structure 1322 (prime site), and adjacent structures 1323 (alternate one) and 1321 (alternate two) was held at 4:00 p.m. the same day. (Council notice dated March 26, 1999; Tr. p.2, p.33)
4. Structure 1322 is an 82-foot lattice transmission line tower, on which Springwiche proposed to add a Power Mount antenna post which would extend approximately 17 feet four inches above the existing structure. Surrounding land uses include residences to the north and east of structure 1322. The nearest residence is approximately 180 feet from the structure. (Springwiche 1; Springwiche 3, alternate site plan)
5. Structure 1323, located approximately 500 feet north of structure 1322, was also investigated as a possible Power Mount site. This structure is approximately 75 feet from the nearest residence. Signal propagation from this site would be diminished by trees located between structure 1323 and Route 15. (Springwiche 2, Q. 2)
6. Structure 1321 is a lattice tower approximately 101 feet in height located 900 feet south of structure 1322, at 670 Chapel Street. This tower is currently used by Omnipoint Communications (Omnipoint) as a telecommunications facility with its antennas located at 107 feet above ground level. The Council approved the use of this tower by Omnipoint on December 17, 1998. An existing Omnipoint equipment building is located immediately south of the base of the tower structure. (Springwiche Late File 1)
7. On July 16, 1999, Springwiche submitted a late file to the Council with a proposal to use structure 1321 in lieu of prime site structure 1322. Springwiche would add 12 panel antennas atop a power mount post which would extend approximately 24 feet above the top of the existing structure, with the centerline of the antennas 123 feet above ground level. Additional platform space would be provided for existing Omnipoint antennas on this structure at approximately 110 feet above ground level. A 12-foot by 26-foot Springwiche equipment building would be placed on a concrete pad adjacent to structure 1321. An 8-foot security fence would surround the equipment building. (Springwiche 3, alternate two site plan; Springwiche Late File 1)

8. Omnipoint would have the option of placing an additional platform on the Power Mount pole or surface mounting antennas to the pole. CL&P has requested the Power Mount be designed to support both the Springwich and Omnipoint antennas. To avoid interference, a minimum of 10 feet of separation between the Springwich and Omnipoint antennas is required. (Springwich Late File 1; Tr., p.9)
9. Power and telephone lines would be routed to structure 1321 in conduits within the existing right-of-way to the equipment building from existing utility poles or from manholes on Chapel Street. (Springwich Late File 1)
10. An existing 350-foot long gravel driveway to Chapel Street would serve as access to structure 1321 during construction and maintenance. (Springwich Late File 1)
11. Land uses surrounding structure 1321 include the Chapel Street School soccer field to the west, with 40-foot trees standing between the structure and the field; the CL&P right-of-way and Chapel Street to the south; wooded CL&P property to the west; and the CL&P right-of-way and Route 15 to the north. (Springwich Late File 1)
12. The nearest inland wetlands are approximately 310 feet north of the base of structure 1321. (Springwich 3, alternate 2 site pan)
13. The worst case radio frequency electromagnetic power density level at the base of structure 1321 would be 0.0503 mW/cm^2 , which is 8.59 percent of the maximum permissible exposure in uncontrolled environments, based on American National Standards Institute Standards. (Springwich Late File 1)