

TS-SPRINT-159-030630 – Sprint Spectrum, L.P. d/b/a Sprint } Connecticut
PCS request for an order to approve tower sharing at an existing }
telecommunications facility located at 23 Kelleher Court, } Siting
Wethersfield, Connecticut. } Council

November 20, 2003

Opinion

On June 30, 2003, Sprint Spectrum (Sprint), L.P. requested the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) initiate a feasibility proceeding pursuant to Connecticut General Statute (CGS) 16-50aa (c) (2) to determine that Sprint's proposed shared use of an existing telecommunications tower is technically, legally, environmentally and economically feasible and meets public safety concerns.

The existing tower Sprint is seeking to share is owned by the Town of Wethersfield and is located at 23 Kelleher Court on the grounds of the Company No. 3 firehouse. The 180-foot tall tower was built for the Town by AT&T and was designed to accommodate public safety antennas, five common carriers, and four to six microwave dishes. The Town took possession of the tower in the fall of 2002.

At the time of Sprint's application, the Town, AT&T, and Verizon had antennas on the tower at different heights. Sprint sought to add antennas at the 163.5-foot level of the tower in order to cover an area where it had poor or non-existent service.

In response to complaints from residents of the neighborhood where the tower site is located, the Wethersfield Town Council enacted an ordinance that prohibited any additional commercial wireless communications carriers from adding equipment to the tower. This ordinance was passed on November 4, 2002.

Based on the record in this proceeding, we find that the Kelleher Court tower was designed to accommodate more commercial carriers than it is currently hosting; that the reason for the design of the tower was to provide for co-location to enhance its commercial potential and maximize the Town's ability to generate revenue from the tower; that the Town Council's moratorium prohibiting additional carriers discriminates against those carriers which are not on the tower providing a similar service as the carriers that are located on the tower; that Sprint has a gap in its coverage of the Wethersfield area; that Sprint would cover its existing gap if it were allowed to place antennas on the Kelleher Court tower; and that if Sprint is not allowed to place antennas on the Kelleher Court tower it would have to build a new tower to meet its coverage needs in the area. Therefore, we will issue an order requiring the owner of the facility to permit the proposed shared use upon appropriate terms, conditions or limitations.