

DOCKET NO. 113 - An application of Metro Mobile CTS of Fairfield County, Inc., for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for cellular telephone antennas and associated equipment in the Town of Ridgefield, Connecticut. :Connecticut
:
: Siting
: Council
:September 8, 1989

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Metro Mobile CTS of Fairfield County, Inc., (Metro Mobile) in accordance with the provisions of Sections 16-50g to 16-50z of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) on April 26, 1989, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications tower and associated equipment to provide domestic public cellular radio telecommunication service (cellular service) in the Town of Ridgefield within the Bridgeport New England County Metropolitan Area (Bridgeport NECMA). (Record)
2. The Council and its staff made an inspection of the proposed Ridgefield site on June 12, 1989. This inspection was publicly noticed in the Danbury News-Times, the Stamford Advocate, and the White Plains Reporter Dispatch. During the field review, Metro Mobile flew a balloon at the proposed tower site to simulate the height of the proposed tower. (Record)
3. Pursuant to Section 16-50m of the CGS, the Council, after giving due notice thereof, held a public hearing on the proposed tower site on June 12, 1989, beginning at 3:00 P.M. and continuing at 6:30 P.M. the same day. The hearing was held in the Ridgefield Town Hall Annex in Ridgefield, Connecticut. (Record)

4. The parties in the proceeding are the applicant and those persons and organizations whose names are listed in the Decision and Order which accompanies these Findings of Fact. (Record)
5. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) filed written comments with the Council pursuant to Section 16-50j of the CGS in a letter dated June 14, 1989.
6. Cellular service consists of small, overlapping broadcast regions, two to ten miles in diameter, known as cells. Each cell is served by a transmitter limited by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to no more than 100 watts effective radiated power per channel. Each cell is connected to a central switching point containing electronic apparatus uniting the cells into a system. Mobile units are limited by the FCC to a maximum of seven watts of effective radiated power. (Metro Mobile 1, Testimony, pp. 4-12)
7. The FCC has determined that the public interest requires two licenses for cellular service be made available in each market of each NECMA. (Metro Mobile 1, p. 6)
8. Applicants for FCC cellular system authorizations are not required to demonstrate a public need for the service, since the FCC has pre-empted this issue through the exercise of its primary jurisdiction. (Metro Mobile 1, p. 7, p. 9)
9. The FCC has pre-empted the State's regulations of cellular service in three major areas: technical standards to assure technical integrity of systems and nationwide compatibility, market structure, and state certification prior to federal application for a construction permit. (Metro Mobile 1, pp. 6-7)
10. As part of Metro Mobile's overall system, the proposed Ridgefield tower site is planned to overlap with existing cellular coverage from sites in Danbury and Wilton. (Metro Mobile 1, p. 16, Ex. 1, p. 32)

11. The coverage from the proposed Ridgefield tower site would include Routes 7, 33, 35, and 102 in the Town of Ridgefield. (Metro Mobile 1, p. 8, p. 10, Ex. 1, p. 32)
12. In its search for a tower site, Metro Mobile considered and rejected eight potential sites in the Ridgefield area. These include sites off of Laurel Lane in Redding, land owned by Knapp Brothers in Ridgefield, a water company standpipe 85 feet above ground level (AGL) in Ridgefield, the Coll property on Old Sib Road in Ridgefield, the IBM property off of Bennett's Farm Road in Ridgefield, a 12-acre parcel of land on Pickett Ridge Road in Redding, a 30-acre parcel of land on Fire Hill Road in Redding, and a 155-acre parcel located off of Pickett Ridge Road in Redding. These sites were rejected for reasons which included inconsistent land uses, unacceptable coverage, and sites which were unacceptable to the Town of Ridgefield. The applicant selected the proposed site because it was the only site that could meet the coverage objectives of both Metro Mobile and the Town, and because one tower could be developed that could be shared. (Metro Mobile 1, Attachment 1; Metro Mobile 2, Q. 1)
13. The proposed Ridgefield tower site is presently occupied by an existing 80-foot self-supporting lattice tower adjacent to the Ridgefield Police Department building. The proposed site, owned by the Town of Ridgefield, is on Governor Street in Ridgefield, Connecticut. (Metro Mobile 1, pp. 3-4, Ex. 1, p. 25)
14. The proposed site is zoned RA-Residential and has an elevation of 745 feet above mean sea level. The coordinates of the site are 41^o 16' 51" latitude and 73^o 29' 36" longitude. (Metro Mobile 1, Ex. 1, p. 18, p. 26)
15. Access to the proposed site would be via existing driveways. No removal of trees would be necessary during the construction of the proposed site. (Metro Mobile 2, Q. 6)

16. There are 18 homes within a 1,000-foot radius of the proposed site. The closest home is 200 feet from the proposed site. (Metro Mobile 1, Ex. 1, p. 4; Tr., p. 53)
17. The proposed monopole tower would be a 130-foot monopole. Two 13.5-foot wide platforms would be attached to the monopole. Two 15-foot omnidirectional whip transmit antennas would be mounted on the corners of one platform at the 128-foot level of the proposed tower. Six 11.5-foot transmit/receive antennas with reflectors would be mounted at the 121-foot level of the tower between the platforms. (Metro Mobile 1, p. 8, Ex. 1, p. 22, p. 24)
18. The total height of the structure, including antennas, would be 143 feet. (Metro Mobile 1, Ex. 1, p. 19)
19. The proposed tower would be owned by the Town of Ridgefield and used for communications by the Town of Ridgefield's fire, police, and emergency services. The Town's four antennas would be mounted 15 feet below the Metro Mobile transmit antennas, at approximately the 115-foot level of the proposed tower. (Metro Mobile 1, pp. 3-4; Tr., p. 12)
20. Metro Mobile would lease space for its electronic equipment in the basement of the Ridgefield Police Department building. (Metro Mobile 1, pp. 3-4; Ex. 1, pp. 2-3)
21. Utilities for the proposed tower would be available from the Ridgefield Police Department building. (Metro Mobile 1, Ex. 1, p. 27)
22. After construction of the proposed tower, the existing tower at the proposed site would be dismantled and removed. (Tr., p. 47)
23. Except for the Ridgefield Police Department building, there would be no buildings within the fall zone of the proposed tower. (Metro Mobile 1, Ex. 1, p. 27; Metro Mobile 2, Q. 2)

24. Approximately the upper 40 to 50 feet of the proposed tower would be visible from portions of Main Street in Ridgefield. The top 30 to 50 feet of the tower would be visible along portions of Branchville Road. Along Prospect Ridge Street, the top 50 to 60 feet of the tower would be visible. There would be little or no visibility of the tower from Sunset Lane. (Metro Mobile 1, Ex. 1, pp. 4-5)
25. Metro Mobile has not yet received approval from the FAA for construction of the proposed tower. (Metro Mobile 2, Q. 5; Tr., p. 13)
26. Based on conservative assumptions, the worst case electromagnetic radio frequency power density (power density) level for the proposed Metro Mobile antennas would be 0.0449 mW/cm^2 at the base of the proposed tower. The Town of Ridgefield antennas would contribute 0.0029 mW/cm^2 at the base of the proposed tower. The cumulative power density at the base of the tower for all antennas would be 0.0478 mW/cm^2 . (Metro Mobile LF 5)
27. The General Assembly has directed that the Commissioner of DEP shall by regulation adopt the standards recommended by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The ANSI Safety Standard for the proposed frequency level is 2.933 mW/cm^2 . (Metro Mobile 1, p. 12; CGS Section 22a-162(a))
28. Other than the climate control equipment, the proposed tower and equipment building would not be a source of noise. (Metro Mobile 1, Ex. 1, p. 3)
29. There are no existing records of federally endangered or threatened species or Connecticut species of special concern occurring at the proposed tower site. (Metro Mobile 1, Ex. E, p. 3)
30. According to the State's Historic Preservation Office, construction of the proposed tower would have no effect on historic, architectural, or archaeological resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. (Metro Mobile 1, Ex. E, p. 6)

31. Facility costs at the proposed Ridgefield tower site are estimated as follows:

Radio Equipment	\$175,300.00
Antenna Equipment and Mast	39,280.00
Power and Common Equipment	6,000.00
Land and Building	20,000.00
Miscellaneous (including site preparation and installation)	<u>82,200.00</u>
Total Cost	\$322,780.00

(Metro Mobile 1, Ex. 1, p. 23)

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