

DOCKET NO. 130A - Metro Mobile
CTS of Fairfield County, Inc.,
Application to Amend its Certificate
of Environmental Compatibility and
Public Need for the construction,
operation, and maintenance of
cellular telephone antennas and
associated equipment in the City
of Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Connecticut

Siting

Council

August 22, 1990

OPINION

On August 9, 1990, Metro Mobile applied to the Council to amend its Certificate issued by the Council in Docket 130, relocating the equipment to a new ground-level shelter within an industrial courtyard adjacent to the Remington Arms Shot Tower (RAST) building. The cellular antennas would remain on the RAST roof. The approved cellular facility was originally planned with the cellular equipment located in an enclosed portion of the fifth floor of the RAST building with electronic cables linking the equipment to antennas on the building's roof.

The Council agrees with Metro Mobile's contention that airborne dust laden with lead from the manufacture of lead shot within the RAST building could create an unhealthy environment for company personnel and could be detrimental to the operation of its electronic equipment.

Furthermore, the relocation of the equipment to an outside shelter within an industrial courtyard adjacent to the RAST building would not increase any environmental effects on or off the site created by the construction and operation of the cellular facility. As now proposed, the equipment building would not be visible from off the site in any direction. In fact, this change would mitigate possible visual and architectural effects that could have resulted from the originally proposed placement of air conditioning vents from the equipment room through the fifth floor wall of the existing RAST building. While the originally proposed air conditioning vents were not expected to result in a significant negative impact, the Council supports all improvements to develop this architecturally important site as a cellular facility in the most environmentally beneficial manner possible. In addition the change in location would reduce the difficulties of construction and maintenance of the proposed facility. Consequently, the Council will approve this proposed amendment.

However, the Council believes that Metro Mobile should have researched and discovered the air quality conditions of the RAST building and the effects such air quality would have on cellular equipment and its personnel during its project analysis. In fact, this condition was specifically questioned by the Council during its review process, with no avail.

In keeping with the Council's responsibility to have its decisions based on a well researched record, and Metro Mobile's obligation to have all applications well prepared, Metro Mobile should in all future cellular applications prepare a more thorough analysis of its potential sites for all factors relevant to a Council decision, thus avoiding subsequent amendments, unnecessary waste of the Council's time and resources, and burden to the public of the site community.

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