

APPLICATION BY NORTHEAST UTILITIES SERVICE
COMPANY FOR THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER
COMPANY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED RESPECTING A
PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATION TOWER TO BE
CONSTRUCTED IN BETHEL, CONNECTICUT. : POWER FACILITY
: EVALUATION COUNCIL
: May 4, 1978

C O N C U R R I N G O P I N I O N

I agree with the minority opinion that there is a public need for a proposal microwave tower in Bethel. In this proceeding, I find that a microwave communication system is an appropriate and desirable means for the applicant to monitor and control its facilities; that the tower in Bethel would eliminate deficiencies in the applicant's existing telecommunication system, making it more reliable and cost effective; and that the applicant has met the burden of proof imposed by the Council.

At the same time, I cannot find that the microwave tower in its proposed location has a negligible adverse environmental effect. Having viewed the rural landscape in the vicinity of the proposed structure and a simulation of its specter on that landscape, I support the contention that it would be an incongruous and alien visual element to those who inhabit and use the area. Consistent with a responsibility to "assure for all residents of the state aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings" (P.A. 77-154 Section 1(b)). I must accord that facility a significant impact on the setting in which it has been proposed.

Though the tower may be appropriate and desirable, it is not absolutely essential to the functioning of the applicant's plant. Need has been demonstrated; nevertheless, the tower's adverse effects and conflicts which it raises regarding state policy are, in my judgment, sufficient reason to deny the application.

Therefore, I concur with the majority that a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need not be issued.

The view in the majority opinion is well taken that this applicant, and future applicants, with the aggressive support of the Council, have an obligation to use all practicable means to undertake on-going exploration into the shared use of towers in order to mitigate impacts such as this facility would have.