

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

F I N D I N G S O F F A C T S

I. PROCEDURES

1. The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) acting by its agent, Northeast Utilities Service Company (NUSCO) applied to the Power Facility Evaluation Council on November 8, 1977 for an advisory ruling and determination that the construction of a proposed tower in Bethel will not have a substantial environmental effect and no certificate of environmental compatibility and public need is required for its construction.  
(record)
2. Alternatively, the applicant in accordance with provisions of section 16-50k(e) of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, revisions of 1958, revised to 1977, as amended, applied to the Power Facility Evaluation Council for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need for the construction of a telecommunications tower in the Town of Bethel.  
(record)
3. The fee of \$10,000 accompanied the application.  
(record)
4. The application, was accompanied by proof of service as required by section 16-501(b) of said General Statutes of the State of Connecticut.  
(record)
5. Affidavits of newspapers noticed as required by statutes in section 16-501-1 of the regulations of Connecticut State Agencies were also filed with the application.  
(record)
6. A ground inspection was made of the proposed site by several members of the Council and staff on November 23, 1978 to recommend to the Council whether an advisory ruling should be granted for the construction of a proposed tower.  
(record)

7. At a meeting of the Council held on November 29, 1978, NUSCO's request for an advisory ruling was denied.  
(record)
8. Power Facility Evaluation Council received briefs on or before January 4, 1978 from interested parties regarding Council's jurisdiction on health hazards.  
(record)
9. At a meeting of the Council held on January 23, 1978 the Council ruled that it has jurisdiction to hear and act upon evidence with respect to claimed hazards of the proposed tower.  
(record)
10. Pursuant to section 16-50m of said General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, the Power Facility Evaluation Council, after giving due notice thereof, held public hearings at Bethel High School, Bethel Educational Park, Judd Avenue, Bethel, Connecticut on January 31, February 1, February 6, February 23, March 6, March 7, March 10, March 29, and April 6, 1978.  
(record)
11. The parties to the proceedings are the applicant, the Connecticut Light and Power Company, and those other persons and organizations whose names are listed in the Decision and Order which accompanies these findings.  
(record)
12. The following state agencies filed written comments with the Council pursuant to section 16-50j(f) of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, The Department of Commerce, Council on Environmental Quality, The Department of Transportation, Department of Health, Department of Environmental Protection, Public Utilities Control Authority, and the Office of Policy and Management.  
(record)
13. Council members made ground inspections of the proposed site and the alternate sites before the hearing and during the course of the hearing.  
(record)

14. Council members and parties made a ground inspection of the proposed site and alternate site on April 6, 1978 to view a Kytoon flow from each site.

(record)

II. NEED

15. The proposed Bethel Tower and facilities would be a part of an expanded microwave system serving the Northeast Utilities System and would be one of more than 75 relay stations constituting a communications system shared by eight utility companies with interconnected electric systems serving the six New England states.

(Application p. 2)

16. A microwave system would perform the following functions:

1. Telemetering of operating information from generation and substation facilities to operating centers;
2. The operation of complex relaying equipment necessary to protect circuits and other facilities in the event of faults;
3. Direct supervisory control of electric system from operating centers.

(Application p. 3 - Tr. 1-31-78 p. 35)

17. The functions listed under 16 above require reliability particularly at times of natural disasters or major faults on the Northeast Utilities System or any of the interconnected electric systems.

(Application p. 3)

18. The Bethel microwave facility would relay between existing Norwalk and New Milford microwave facilities and complete a loop to parallel the Norwalk-Devon-Prospect-CONVEX path used since 1959.

(Application p. 4 - Tr. 1-31-78 p. 57 ff.)

19. The size of the southwestern Connecticut load, the presence of the Norwalk Harbor station, and the transmission interconnection between Norwalk and Long Island warrants reliable communication to the area.

(Application p. 4 - Tr. 1-31-78 p. 52)

20. All telemetry records that might indicate the prevalence of microwave system breakdowns were destroyed.

(Tr. 2-1-78 p. 406)

21. No quantification of the reliability of the telephone plus radio circuit backups from Millstone and Connecticut Yankee CONVEX is available.  
(Tr. 3-7-78 p. 1109)
22. There are no figures to substantiate Northeast Utilities' judgment that phone reliability is only 85 percent.  
(Tr. 3-7-78 p. 1127)
23. Since the new equipment was installed in Norwalk, Devon, and Bridgeport in the fall of 1977 the telemetering problems have diminished, but there are no records to substantiate this.  
(Tr. 3-10-78 p. 1312 ff.)
24. Operator's logs of problems with communications are destroyed and no maintenance records are kept.  
(Tr. 3-10-78 p. 1318 ff.)
25. There are no available records of the memoranda of discussions, letters, or studies of the problems with the microwave system.  
(Tr. 3-10-78 p. 1327)
26. No specific example could be given of a single, double, or multiple contingency breakdown which resulted from the absence of the communications redundancy that the Bethel facility would have provided.  
(Tr. 2-23-78 p. 608)
27. There was no evidence to quantify the length of the fade outs in a season.  
(Tr. 3-10-78 p. 1314)
28. There is no estimate of the dollars of cost incurred by uneconomic generation during communications failure.  
(Tr. 3-10-78 p. 1330)