

DOCKET NO. 38

AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY CONTINENTAL : CONNECTICUT SITING
CABLEVISION OF CONNECTICUT, INC., FOR A : COUNCIL
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY :
AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE ERECTION OF A :
COMMUNITY ANTENNA TELEVISION TOWER IN THE :
TOWN OF ENFIELD. : March 14, 1984

O P I N I O N

Continental Cablevision, Incorporated, (Continental) applied for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need for a community antenna television tower and associated equipment in the town of Enfield. The tower is proposed to receive microwave signals from the head-end facility in Stafford, Connecticut, from Springfield, Massachusetts, and from Hartford, Connecticut. The tower would transmit local and education programming to the head-end facility at Stafford for distribution throughout the system.

Based on the findings of fact attached hereto, the Council concludes that a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need should be issued in accordance with the attached decision and order for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed facility.

In reaching this decision, the Council considered the potential adverse environmental effects of the proposed facility, including the tower's visibility, construction impacts, and compatibility with present and potential land uses in the vicinity. The latter included possible use of the area as a town recreation area, and the possible development of a state park along the Scantic River flood plain corridor. These potential effects warranted careful attention to site and technological alternatives, all of which the Council found to be prohibitively expensive or to have potential environmental effects at least as severe as those of the proposal.

Notwithstanding the potential adverse effects, the Council determined that there is a public need for the proposed facility to provide the community antenna television service to the area as mandated by the State Legislature and the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC). The facility is necessary to provide economically the programming proposed by Continental in its application to the DPUC for the franchise. Additionally, the company will be able to use the facility for intracompany communications between its offices in Massachusetts and Connecticut. This facility will be used to provide CATV service regardless of the outcome of other siting decisions on other components in the proposed Continental system.

Therefore, the Council will order that a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need be issued for the construction, maintenance, and operation of the CATV tower and associated equipment as proposed.