

DOCKET NO. 41

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 AND :  
ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT IN THE TOWN OF :  
WINDSOR LOCKS. : May 15, 1984

O P I N I O N

Continental Cablevision of Connecticut, Inc., applied for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a community antenna television tower and associated equipment in the town of Windsor Locks. The tower is proposed to support one microwave antenna to receive signals from and transmit signals to the company's Stafford head-end facility.

Following the issuance of due notice, Council members inspected the site and surrounding area on April 4, 1984.

A public hearing was held on the evening of April 4, 1984, in the town of Windsor Locks. The applicant presented testimony and exhibits to support its claim that the facility is necessary to provide CATV service to this portion of the franchise area, that adverse environmental effects would be minimal, and that alternative sites and technologies were not available or appropriate.

The Council considered the probable adverse environmental effects of the proposed facility and concludes that they are not sufficient to deny the application.

The potential adverse environmental effects of the facility will be attributable almost exclusively to its visibility. Only the upper portion of the tower will be visible from the surrounding area as a result of the tree line adjacent to the site. An access road to the site already

exists, and no road improvement will be necessary. Clearing of vegetation will also be minimal with no tree cutting required. The level nature of the site and the sandy soil type present little if any erosion potential and no fill will be removed or added. The site is within an industrial zone, no residences are near the site, and the tower's design and location are such that any possibility of tower collapse would not endanger the public.

The applicant has sufficiently investigated and analysed alternative technologies and sites. None was found more appropriate than the proposal. Additionally, the applicant has indicated its willingness to share tower space with technologically compatible entities.

The public need for CATV service has been established by the State Legislature and the state Department of Public Utility Control which awarded Continental the Area 11 CATV franchise. The possible alternatives to this facility were sufficiently investigated by the Council and the applicant, and the Council finds that the environmental effects discussed above do not outweigh the need for this facility to provide that mandated service.

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