

DOCKET NO. 51

AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE SOUTHERN
NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR A
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY
AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION,
MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF FACILITIES
TO PROVIDE CELLULAR SERVICE IN HARTFORD
AND MIDDLESEX COUNTIES.

: CONNECTICUT SITING
:
: COUNCIL
:
: September 26, 1985

O P I N I O N

The Southern New England Telephone Company (SNET) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications tower and associated equipment building in the towns of Old Saybrook and Enfield to provide Domestic Cellular Radio Telecommunications Service (cellular service) as an addition to its existing Hartford NECMA.

The Council visited the Old Saybrook site on August 7, 1985, and the Enfield site on August 12, 1985. Public hearings were held on this application in Old Saybrook on the evening of August 7, 1985, and at Enfield on the evening of August 12, 1985. The Council took administrative notice of its record in its proceedings in Dockets 35, 40, and 45, which also pertain to SNET cellular service.

The Council considered the potential adverse environmental effects of the proposed facilities and concluded that they are not sufficient to deny this application. The major impact of the facilities would be primarily visual. The Department of Environmental Protection, (DEP), has a long range plan to purchase available property along the Scantic River in Enfield to create a recreational area. The Council recognized the Enfield tower's potential effects on the Scantic River recreational area

and requested visibility site line diagrams of this area from the applicant. These site lines indicated that the Enfield tower would not be visible from the banks of the Scantic River because of the steepness of the terrain and the screening of trees in the area. The SNET tower in Enfield would be some 45 feet shorter than an existing Continental CATV tower some 250' away. Although the SNET tower would be some 4500' from the landfill's entrance, only 50' of new access road would have to be constructed. Thus, the tower is located a considerable distance from Town Farm Road but will need only a short new access road. The Enfield tower site and access road will not encroach upon wetlands within the landfill. The Old Saybrook site will not encroach upon wetlands, but the access road leading to the tower site will cross four wet areas. Culvert pipes will divert water and staked hay bales will be utilized for erosion control. This site will have an 1800' access road, although 1670' of existing road will be utilized and only 130' of new road clearing is necessary. Thus the facility will be located at a considerable distance from homes while not requiring significant new road construction.

There are no known records of rare or endangered species occurring at either of these sites. Radio frequency electromagnetic radiation power densities will be well below the Connecticut standards for these frequencies.

In its deliberations, the Council considered such potential adverse effects of the facilities as their visibility, construction impacts, and compatibility with present and future surrounding land uses. The Council determined that none of these potential effects would outweigh the public need for these facilities. The Federal Communications

Commission has determined that a public need for cellular service exists. The Council has found that these facilities are necessary to provide cellular service and to make the system compatible with future adjacent cellular systems. Future siting decisions regarding cellular service in adjacent areas will not be contingent on the establishment of these facilities.

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