DOCKET NO. 66

AN APPLICATION OF CABLEVISION OF CONNECTICUT, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE ERECTION OF A COMMUNITY ANTENNA TELEVISION TOWER AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT IN EASTON, CONNECTICUT.	:	CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
	:	November 10, 1986

O P I N I O N

Cablevision of Connecticut (Cablevision) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on July 18, 1986, for the installation of Cable Antenna Television (CATV) equipment in the Town of Easton, Connecticut.

Upon the issuance of due notice, Council members and staff inspected the site of the 12-foot diameter antenna and associated equipment building and held a public hearing on the proposed facility in the Staples School in Easton on October 1, 1986.

At the present time, Cablevision is unable to provide the towns of Easton and Redding with cable television service because the current system of trunklines and relays is not able to meet minimum Federal Communications Commission standards. Cablevison therefore proposed to construct facilities atop Round Hill in Easton which would provide a direct line-of-sight microwave path to Cablevision's head-end facility in Norwalk. Signals transmitted from Norwalk to Easton would be distributed via trunklines to the communities of Easton and Redding. The proposed Easton facility would be capable of transmitting Easton-based signals to Norwalk. Additionally, the proposed Easton facility would provide interconnections between public schools in the towns of Easton, Weston, Redding, Greenwich, Stamford, Darien, Wilton, New Canaan, Norwalk, and Westport.

The proposed Easton site is 550 feet above mean sea level, surrounded by fields and trees. Visibility from nearby roads and residences would be limited. Cablevision would be willing to screen the equipment building and surrounding fence with evergreens, but the direct line of sight southwest to the Norwalk head-end must be kept clear of all obstructions. The dark gray color of the antenna on the concrete equipment building will serve to minimize its visibility.

The beam path of the Easton to Norwalk link would have an electromagentic radio frequency energy of 2.4 watts with all six channels broadcasting simultaneously. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard for the proposed frequency is five milliwatts per square centimeter. The energy level at the Easton site would fall below the ANSI standard within 15 feet of the antenna, and well within the boundaries of the owner's property. To ensure that the public will not be exposed to radio frequency energy above the ANSI standard, the Council will order an adequate security fence to prevent direct exposure to the beam.

No rare or endangered species are known to exist at the Easton site, and the facility would have no effect on the state's historic, architectural, or archaeological resources.

The Council has considered the potential adverse environmental effects of this facility and concludes that such effects are not sufficient to deny the proposal. Therefore, based on the foregoing, the Council will order that a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need be issued to Cablevision for the construction of this facility.