

ORIGINAL

DOCKET NO. 76 - AN APPLICATION OF CENTURY
CABLE MANAGEMENT CORPORATION FOR A
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY
AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A
COMMUNITY ANTENNA TELEVISION TOWER IN THE
TOWN OF EAST HADDAM, CONNECTICUT.

CONNECTICUT SITING
COUNCIL

August 4, 1987

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

1. Century Cable Management Corporation (Century), in accordance with provisions of Sections 16-50g to 16-50z of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) on March 26, 1987, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a community antenna television (CATV) head-end site, which would include a CATV tower, satellite dish, and equipment building in the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut. (Record)
2. The fee as prescribed by Section 16-50v-1 of the Regulations of State Agencies (RSA) accompanied the application. (Record)
3. The Council and its staff made an inspection of the proposed head-end site on June 3, 1987. (Record)

4. Pursuant to Section 16-50m of the CGS, the Council, after giving due notice thereof, held a public hearing on this application in the East Haddam Town Office Annex in East Haddam, beginning at 3:00 P.M. on June 3, 1987, and continuing at 7:00 P.M. the same day. (Record)
5. The parties to the proceeding are the applicant and those persons and organizations whose names are listed in the Decision and Order which accompanies these findings. (Record)
6. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) filed written comments with the Council pursuant to Section 16-50j of the CGS. (Record)
7. Century holds a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) to provide CATV service to the Towns of Old Lyme, Lyme, East Haddam, Salem, and that portion of Haddam which lies east of the Connecticut River. (Century 1, p. 3)
8. The Town of Old Lyme and a portion of Lyme are the only towns in this franchise presently receiving CATV service. These signals are purchased from Eastern Connecticut Cable TV, Inc. (ECCTV). (Century 1, p. 3)
9. The proposed East Haddam head-end would allow Century to offer CATV service in the Towns of East Haddam, Salem, and that portion of Haddam east of the Connecticut River. Century would also connect the proposed head-end with its present cable

system in the Towns of Lyme and Old Lyme to shorten the cascade in those towns and improve television picture quality and service reliability. A cascade is a series of connected amplifiers used to increase signal strength through cable lines. (Century 1, p. 4)

10. Salem would require 30 amplifiers; East Haddam, 70; Lyme, 12; and Old Lyme, 16 amplifiers. (Century 2, Q. 22)
11. At the request of the DPUC, Century conducted studies of various methods of providing CATV service to its franchise area. The studies included such alternative methods as connecting by cable to Century Norwich Corporation in the Town of Colchester, connecting by cable to the head-end of ECCTV in the Town of Montville, connecting by cable to Group W Cable's lines in the Town of East Hampton, and microwave distribution from head-ends in the Towns of Montville, East Hampton, and Killingworth. ECCTV owns the Montville head-end, Group W Cable owns the East Hampton head-end, and Storer Communications owns the Killingworth head-end. (Century 1, p. 4)
12. Century employed a realtor to contact property owners in the East Haddam area regarding the availability of alternative tower sites. Of the five property owners contacted, one responded. Further investigation revealed this property is one-half mile into the woods along an abandoned road. Several

hundred trees would have to be removed to facilitate satellite reception. Century rejected this alternative site because of the expense involved and the environmental changes required to develop a head-end site there. (Century 1, pp. 7-8)

13. Connecting by cable as described above would involve amplifier cascades too long to reach all areas of the Century franchise area. The use of microwave distribution would require the use of one or more towers. (Century 2, Q. 21)
14. The proposed head-end site is at the end of Parker Road in East Haddam on property owned by Mary Dean. The property is a 480-acre parcel containing two residences and a barn, and is presently used for cattle grazing and hay crops. Of the total parcel, 311.8 acres, including the proposed tower site, are located east of Parker Road. (Century 1, Exhibit C, pp. 4-6)
15. The proposed site is on the crest of a hill, with an elevation of 590 feet above mean sea level, and is the second highest point in East Haddam. (Century 1, p. 8; Century 1, Ex. F; DEP letter of 4/30/87)
16. The proposed site is zoned Two Acre Residential, and is relatively isolated from residential development. There are five other homes on Parker Road, besides those owned by the Dean family, one-quarter to one-half mile to the north at elevations lower than the proposed site. (Century 1, p. 4; DEP letter of 4/30/87.)

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Findings of Fact

17. The proposed site has no wetlands or sensitive wildlife habitat. (Century 2, Q. 9; DEP letter of 4/30/87)
18. A search of the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base shows no record of any rare or endangered species in the area of the proposed East Haddam head-end site. (DEP letter of 5/11/87)
19. The proposed tower would be 300 feet in height, and guyed in three directions at five levels in each direction, for a total of 15 guys. (Century 1, p. 1; Century 2, Q. 1, Q. 3)
20. The proposed tower would hold 20 television and FM receiving antennas. No transmitting antennas are planned. (Century 1, p. 2)
21. The proposed tower would be obstruction marked and lighted under Federal Aviation Administration regulations. The proposed tower would be lighted with a flashing beacon at the top and lights half-way up the tower. Strobe lights would not be required. (Century 1, Ex. F; Tr., p. 53)
22. The proposed tower would be designed for a wind pressure of 30 p.s.i. with one-half inch of radial ice on the tower members, as defined by Electronic Industries Association Standard RS-222-C. (Century 2, Q. 4)
23. The proposed tower would be 440 feet from the nearest occupied residence. There are four residences within a 2,000-foot radius of the proposed tower site. A barn on the owner's

property would be within 300 feet of the base of the tower. No fencing of the tower site is planned, due to its remoteness. (Century 2, Q. 1, Q. 2; Tr., p. 14)

24. No soil tests have been conducted at the proposed site. (Century 2, Q. 18)
25. Engineering studies of signal strength in eastern Connecticut indicate that Boston television stations WSBK and WLVI and New York television station WPIX would not be useable if the height of the proposed tower was reduced to 250 feet. In addition, reception of Boston stations WGBH, WBZ, and WCVB would be marginal to poor. Century believes 300 feet is the minimum tower height to provide the proposed service. (Century 2, Q. 5; Tr., pp. 19-20)
26. A five meter satellite dish capable of receiving signals from two satellites would be installed near the base of the proposed tower. (Century 1, p. 2)
27. A 20-foot by 20-foot by 10-foot head-end building would be constructed near the base of the proposed tower. This building would contain electronic signal processing equipment to filter and amplify signals prior to their injection into the trunkline. (Century 1, p. 2; Century 4, Q. 24)
28. A few trees on the proposed site might have to be removed to allow clearance for guy wires and the construction of the proposed satellite dish. (Century 1, pp. 4-5; Tr., p.16)

29. The house on the property of the proposed site possesses local architectural and historical significance. (State Historic Preservation Officer letter of 6/3/87)
30. Power, telephone, and trunk cables would be placed underground between the proposed head-end building and Parker Road. (Century 1, pp. 2-3)
31. A 300-foot gravel drive to serve as access would be extended into the proposed site from Parker Road. (Century 1, p. 3; Century 2, Q. 2)
32. The upper portion of the proposed tower might be visible from some homes along Parker Road, although there would be some screening by trees. The proposed tower would not be visible from the intersection of Parker Road and Mill Road, from the intersection of Parker Road and Millington Road, from the intersection of Sheepskin Hollow Road and Millington Road, from Gillette Castle, or from the Connecticut River. The proposed tower would be visible from the Oak Ridge Camp, with intermittent views along portions of Warner Road, and from Gates Road. (Century 5, Q. 23; DEP letter of 4/30/87)
33. The trunk lines from the proposed site would pass approximately 6,400 dwellings. (Century 2, Q. 16)

34. The proposed East Haddam head-end facility construction, equipment and improvement costs are estimated as follows:

Site preparation	\$ 10,000.00
Building	10,000.00
Tower	40,000.00
Antennas	24,000.00
Signal processors	32,600.00
Modulators	23,500.00
Satellite antenna	10,000.00
Receivers	27,000.00
Dish foundation	6,500.00
Cabinets	3,500.00
F.M. processors	8,000.00
Cable	3,500.00
Air conditioner	<u>600.00</u>

TOTAL: \$199,200.00

(Century 1, p. 9)

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