

ORIGINAL

DOCKET NO. 79

AN APPLICATION OF METRO MOBILE CTS OF : CONNECTICUT SITING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF : COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED
FOR CELLULAR TELEPHONE ANTENNAS AND ASSOCIATED
EQUIPMENT IN THE CITY OF DANBURY, CONNECTICUT. : SEPTEMBER 10, 1987

OPINION

Metro Mobile CTS of Fairfield County, Inc. (Metro Mobile), applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) on June 5, 1987, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, operation, and maintenance of telecommunication antennas and associated equipment to provide cellular telephone service from a site in the City of Danbury, Connecticut. The City of Danbury is within the Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk-Danbury, Connecticut/New England County Metropolitan Area (Brideport NECMA).

When considering cellular telephone antennas, under Section 16-50p of the General Statutes of Connecticut, the Council must consider the need for such antennas as proposed and the nature of their probable environmental impact, "including a specification of every significant adverse effect, whether alone or cumulatively with other effects, on, and conflict with the policies of the state concerning, the natural environment, ecological balance, public health and safety, scenic, historic and recreational values, forests and parks, air and water purity, and fish and wildlife . . ." The Council may not grant a Certificate unless it finds that these adverse effects or conflicts with state policies are not sufficient to deny the application.

The proposed Danbury antenna site is atop the roof of the Danbury Hospital. Four receive antennas would be mounted on the penthouse of the hospital. Two receive antennas would be mounted on the solar panels on the roof of the hospital. Two transmit antennas would be attached to the solar panel upper support bracket. Each receive antenna would be approximately nine feet in length. The two transmit and two receive antennas would extend approximately 13 and nine feet above the solar panels, respectively. There are currently ten antennas mounted on the hospital.

The proposed antennas on the solar panels would be visible from those surrounding areas from which the existing antennas are now visible. The antennas proposed for the penthouse would be visible from those areas in the vicinity from which the penthouse is now visible.

The proposed site would provide cellular coverage to the City of Danbury and to Routes 7 and I-84 in the area. The proposed cell site would overlap with sites planned for Newtown and southerly along Route 7.

Metro Mobile considered and rejected 30 other potential cellular antenna sites in the Danbury area. These sites were rejected due to insufficient size, lack of interest in leasing by property owners, and inadequate coverage. The location of the 13-story Danbury Hospital on a hill made it a candidate for an antenna site. Metro Mobile found no similar buildings within its search area.

The proposed site would have no significant impact on rare or endangered species or areas of unique historical significance. The location of the proposed antennas on a building supporting ten other antennas minimizes their visibility. The Council considered the insignificant visual impact of the antennas and the minimal electromagnetic radiation levels it would produce. The Council has identified no adverse environmental impacts that would result from the antennas, and no instances of inconsistencies with policies of the State of Connecticut. The Council will therefore issue a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Danbury cellular antenna site.

Because the hospital has a heli-pad and is close to the Danbury Airport, the City of Danbury has requested that the applicant be required to notify the Federal Aviation Administration of the proposed antenna installation, and provide it opportunity to comment. The Council will so order.

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