

DOCKET NO. 89 - AN APPLICATION OF : CONNECTICUT SITING
METRO MOBILE CTS OF FAIRFIELD
COUNTY INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF :
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND : COUNCIL
PUBLIC NEED FOR CELLULAR TELEPHONE
ANTENNAS AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT :
IN THE TOWN OF NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT. : March 3, 1988

O P I N I O N

On November 6, 1987, Metro Mobile CTS of Fairfield County, Inc., (Metro Mobile) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) for a proposed tower site in the Town of Newtown, Connecticut. Metro Mobile included in its application a proposed site and an alternative site.

The proposed Newtown site is west of Commerce Road. It is 10 to 15 feet from the Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) railroad tracks, and is within an area zoned M-5, Industrial. The proposed site is near an industrial park; however, land to the west is zoned residential, while to the south is the Fairfield Hills Hospital. Thirty residences are within a 2,000-foot radius of the proposed site. The proposed Newtown tower would be a 180-foot monopole, totaling 193 feet including antennas. The proposed tower would be visible from nearby residential areas, Route I-84, and from Fairfield Hills Hospital. Both Commerce Road and the Conrail railroad tracks would be within the fall zone of this tower.

The alternative Newtown tower site is 300 feet north of Route 34, and 130 feet south of Route I-84 entrance ramp. The alternative site is zoned B-3 professional and has 20 residences within the 2,000-foot radius. A 180-foot monopole, 193 feet including antennas, would be constructed on the alternative site. This tower would be visible from nearby portions of Routes 34 and I-84.

The area surrounding the proposed Newtown site is more residential than the alternative site. Additionally, the proposed tower would probably be visible over a greater portion of Newtown than the alternative site, which is in a less densely populated area adjacent to Route I-84. The alternative site is more removed from the center of Newtown, which features a prominent, well-known flagpole.

Either of the towers included in this application would provide adequate coverage to Metro Mobile within an area of overlapping coverage from an existing Danbury site to the west, and one of two proposed Southbury sites in Docket 88. Primary coverage from the Newtown site would be to Routes I-84, 34, and 25 in the Newtown area.

Based on visual factors, surroundings, and total environmental impact, the alternative site would be less intrusive than the proposed Newtown site. Neither site would have a significant effect on rare and endangered species or areas of historical significance. Electromagnetic radio frequency power densities at these sites would be well below current American National Standards Institute safety standards for these frequencies.

Based on the above factors, the Council will deny the proposed Newtown site and issue a Certificate for the alternative Newtown tower site.

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