

DOCKET NO. 91A - SNET Cellular, Inc.,  
Amended Certificate of Environmental  
Compatibility and Public Need for  
cellular telephone antennas and  
associated equipment in the Town  
of North Stonington, Connecticut.

Connecticut

Siting

Council

April 30, 1990

#### OPINION

On December 4, 1987, SNET Cellular, Inc. (SNET) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) to attach its antennas to an existing guyed tower in North Stonington Connecticut. This tower was owned by an entity not regulated by the Council.

The Council's Decision and Order in Docket 91 was issued with orders for SNET to mount its antennas no higher than necessary on the existing tower, to prepare a Development and Management Plan with plans for evergreen screening around the fence surrounding the electronic equipment building, and to comply with any future radio frequency standards promulgated by State or federal regulatory agencies.

The existing tower was subsequently dismantled and replaced with a new self-supporting tower 10 feet taller. SNET constructed its equipment building approximately 15 feet from the sideline rather than the 25 feet originally proposed.

These unauthorized changes led to some confusion regarding the jurisdiction of the Town of North Stonington over the new tower. However, after further review, the Town of North Stonington finally approved the location of the SNET equipment building and the increase in height of the new tower.

The Council is troubled by the history of events leading to the construction of the new tower. Of particular concern to the Council is that plans for the replacement of the original tower were not disclosed or discussed during the Docket 91 proceeding. If such information or plans had been revealed in the public record of Docket 91, the public could have been better served through a proceeding which identified all pertinent issues, including tower visibility and Town building setback requirements. This amendment has involved the expenditure of unnecessary time and expense on the part of the Council, the Town of North Stonington, and the Certificate Holder. Nevertheless, the Council believes that the changes in the tower structure and building location have been thoroughly examined by local regulatory officials, and that local concerns

have been mitigated. Furthermore, this project, which results in the sharing of a tower by more than one entity, meets the Council's goal and the legislative policy of tower sharing, which may prevent the unnecessary proliferation of towers on the Connecticut landscape.

Based on the record of Docket 91, and the information provided in this amendment, the Council finds that the effects associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of this facility, including effects on the natural environment; ecological integrity and balance; public health and safety; scenic, historic, and recreational values; forests and parks; air and water purity; and fish and wildlife are not significant either alone or cumulatively with other such effects, and are not sufficient reason to deny the amendment. Therefore, the Council will amend Docket 91 to recognize the proposed changes to this facility.

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