

DOCKET NO. 91 - An application of SNET Cellular, Inc., for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for cellular telephone antennas and associated equipment in the Town of North Stonington, Connecticut. : Connecticut Siting Council : March 22, 1988

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. SNET Cellular, Inc. (SNET) in accordance with the provisions of Sections 16-50g through 16-50z of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) on December 4, 1987, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a cellular telephone facility. The proposed facility would provide domestic public cellular radio telecommunications service (cellular service) in the Town of North Stonington as an addition to the New London New England County Metropolitan Area (New London NECMA).
(Record)
2. The fee as prescribed by Section 16-50v-1 of the Regulations of State Agencies (RSA) accompanied the application. (Record)
3. The application was accompanied by proof of service as required by Section 16-501 of the CGS. (Record)
4. The Council and its staff made an inspection of the proposed North Stonington site on February 8, 1988. (Record)

5. Pursuant to Section 16-50m of the CGS, the Council, after giving due notice thereof, held a public hearing on this application in the Kelly Junior High School in Norwich on February 8, 1988, beginning at 7:30 p.m. (Record)
6. The parties in this proceeding are the applicant and those persons and organizations whose names are listed in the Decision and Order which accompanies these findings.
(Record)
7. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) filed written comments with the Council pursuant to Section 16-50j of the CGS on January 19, 1988. (Record)
8. Cellular service consists of small, overlapping broadcast regions, two to ten miles in diameter, known as cells. Each cell is served by a transmitter limited by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to no more than 100 watts effective radiated power per channel. Each cell has a central switching point containing electronic units limited to a maximum of seven watts of transmitted power. (Docket 45, Finding 11)
9. Transmitters at the tower sites would broadcast in the frequency band of 880-890 MHz. (Docket 45, Finding 21)
10. Cellular service is an improved mobile telephone service. Prior to the introduction of cellular service, mobile telephone communication was provided by simplex mobile service, which was regulated by the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC). Eventually, cellular

- service will replace simplex mobile service. (Docket 45, Finding 25)
11. The FCC has preempted the states's regulation of cellular service in three major areas: public need, technical standards, and market structure. (Docket 45, Finding 36)
 12. Nationally, a public need exists to improve the present mobile telephone service, due to the simplex system's limited capacity, congested channels and long waiting times. (Docket 45, Finding 28)
 13. The FCC has established the technical standards for cellular service to ensure the efficient use of the allotted frequency spectrum and to ensure nationwide compatibility. (Docket 45, Finding 35)
 14. The FCC has reserved to the states jurisdiction with respect to charges, classifications, practices, services, facilities, and regulation of service by licensed carriers. (Docket 45, Finding 37)
 15. According to FCC rules, there will be two licenses awarded in each NECMA to provide competition. One will be awarded to a wireline company, the other to a non-wireline applicant. (Docket 45, Finding 38)
 16. SNET proposes to attach its antennas to an existing guyed tower 180 feet in height on a site owned by Gerald A. Goguen, 1600 feet north of Wintechog Hill Road in North Stonington. (SNET 1, Section II, p. 7, p. 15)

17. The proposed site has an elevation of 450 feet above mean sea level and is within an area zoned residential (R-80). (SNET 1, Section II, p. 15)
18. The proposed site is adjacent to an existing farm, and adjacent to an existing 350-foot Cable Television Antenna Tower. Access into the proposed site would be via an existing roadway. Utilities would be brought into the proposed site underground. (SNET 1, Section II, p. 15, p. 19; Tr; pp. 15-16)
19. SNET proposes to attach its cellular antennas between the 135-foot and 165-foot levels of the existing tower. These antennas would be 12-foot omnidirectional vertical whip antennas. (SNET 1, Section II, p. 2)
20. There are presently three repeater antennas on the existing tower used for maritime frequencies. (SNET 2, Q.3; Tr., p. 10)
21. The North Stonington Board of Appeals granted the owner of the tower a variance to construct this tower on December 9, 1986. The tower was completed in November 1987. (SNET 2, Q.2)
22. SNET would construct a single-story, 22-foot by 24-foot building to house electronic equipment near the base of the existing tower. A nearby existing equipment building would remain in place. Both buildings and the tower would be surrounded by an eight-foot chain link fence. (SNET 1, Section II, p. 1, p. 12)

23. The proposed North Stonington facility would provide coverage to Routes 1, 2, 27, 184, 201, 214, and I-95 within the towns of North Stonington, Stonington, and portions of Preston, Ledyard, and Groton. This would expand SNET's existing Waterford service area in the New London NECMA. (SNET 1, Section II, p. 6, p. 10, p. 28)
24. The tower owner requested Federal Aviation Administration approval for the existing tower. This approval was granted, and no obstruction marking or lighting were required for this tower. (SNET 1, Section II, p. 2)
25. The electromagnetic radio frequency power density (power density) would be 0.095170 mW/cm^2 at the base of the existing tower, based on conservative assumptions. This would be well below the current American National Standards Institute safety standard of 2.933 mW/cm^2 for the proposed frequency. (SNET 1, Section II, p. 22)
26. The proposed North Stonington facility installation costs are as follows:
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| Radio Equipment | \$179,515.00; |
| Antenna equipment | 5,000.00; |
| Power and common equipment | 171,570.00; |
| Land and building | 191,600.00; |
| Miscellaneous (including site preparation and installation) | <u>43,600.00;</u> |
| Total | \$591,285.00; |
- (SNET 1, Section II, p. 23)