

DOCKET NO. 91 - AN APPLICATION OF SNET : CONNECTICUT
CELLULAR, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF :
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC : SITING
NEED FOR CELLULAR TELEPHONE ANTENNAS AND : COUNCIL
ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT IN THE TOWN OF :
NORTH STONINGTON, CONNECTICUT. : March 22, 1988

O P I N I O N

On December 4, 1987, SNET Cellular, Inc., (SNET) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) to establish a cellular telephone tower site in the Town of North Stonington, Connecticut. SNET proposes to attach cellular antennas to an existing 180-foot tower. The antennas would be mounted between the 135-foot and 165-foot levels of this tower. SNET would construct a 22-foot by 24-foot equipment building near the base of the tower.

The proposed site is adjacent to an existing farm, and near an existing 350-foot guyed Cable Antenna Television tower. The proposed site is well removed from any nearby roads or residences.

An existing gravel road would provide access to the proposed site off of Wintechog Hill Road, and therefore no new access road construction would be necessary.

The existing tower, new equipment building, and a small existing building would be enclosed by the construction of a new eight-foot chain link fence. Traprock would be added within the enclosure around the proposed new equipment building.

Because of the tower's remoteness, it is unlikely that the addition of the 12-foot antennas would have a significant visual impact. The main visual impact from the construction of this facility would be the new equipment building and surrounding chain link fence. This portion of the facility could be screened by the planting of permanent evergreens as specified in a development and management plan.

The proposed facility would provide coverage to Routes 1, 2, 27, 184, 201, 214, and I-95 within the towns of North Stonington, Stonington, Preston, Ledyard, and Groton. The proposed facility would overlap with coverage from the proposed Norwich tower and from an existing tower in Waterford to form an addition to the New London New England County Metropolitan Area.

Electromagnetic radio frequency power density levels would be well below the current American National Standards Institute Safety Standards for the expected frequencies. The tower would not have to be obstruction marked or lighted as a result of the proposed antennas.

Under the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rulings, there are two competitors providing cellular telephone service in Connecticut. This concept, designed to foster a climate of business competition, could result in a proliferation of towers in a small, heavily developed state such as Connecticut. However, the Council is pleased to note that in this application, SNET's shared use of an existing tower meets the public interest to avoid proliferation of existing towers.

In furtherance of the public interest in sharing towers, the Council will certificate this proposed facility to be constructed on the condition that SNET not restrict the tower owner's ability to lease tower space to the other cellular service provider authorized by the FCC.

The Council weighed the potential environmental effects of the construction of this facility against the public need and services it would provide and decided they are not sufficient to deny the application. Therefore, the Council will issue a Certificate for the construction of the North Stonington facility.

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