

DOCKET NO. 93 - AN APPLICATION OF METRO MOBILE : Connecticut  
CTS OF NEW HAVEN, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR : Siting  
CELLULAR TELEPHONE ANTENNAS AND ASSOCIATED  
EQUIPMENT IN THE CITY OF MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT. : Council

April 27, 1988

### OPINION

On January 19, 1988, Metro Mobile CTS of New Haven, Inc. (Metro Mobile) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) to construct a cellular telephone antenna site in the City of Meriden, Connecticut. Metro Mobile proposes to attach its antennas to an existing 150-foot lattice tower on West Peak. These antennas would be mounted between the 79-foot and 100-foot levels of this tower. Metro Mobile would use a portion of an existing equipment building to house its electronics equipment, and would also construct a 10-foot by 15-foot addition to this building.

The proposed site, with an elevation of 1020 feet above mean sea level, is the site of 18 existing towers used for a variety of communications and broadcast services. From this high ridgetop, Metro Mobile would be able to provide cellular coverage to the City of Meriden and Towns of Wallingford and Cromwell. Principal roads covered would include Routes I-84, I-91, I-691, 5, 15, 10, 58, 70, and 72.

Coverage from the West Peak site would overlap with existing coverage from sites in Wolcott, North Branford, Rocky Hill, and Portland, and a planned site in Middletown.

Access to the proposed site would be via an existing gravel access road from West Peak Drive. The existing tower base and a portion of the equipment building are surrounded by an eight-foot chain link fence.

The proposed site is well removed from any nearby residences or traveled roadways. It is unlikely that the addition of cellular antennas to this existing tower, clustered among other broadcast towers, would have a significant visual impact. The proposed expansion of the equipment building would also have minimal visual impact.

Electromagnetic radio frequency power density levels would be well below the current American National Standards Institute safety standards for the expected cellular frequencies.

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 like Connecticut. However, the Council is pleased to note that in this application, Metro Mobile's shared use of this existing tower meets the public interest by avoiding the proliferation of new towers. In furtherance of the public interest in sharing towers, the Council will certificate this proposed facility to be constructed on the condition that Metro Mobile not restrict the tower owner's ability to lease tower space to the other public and private entities authorized by the FCC in this state.

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 facility on West Peak in Meriden.

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