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DOCKET NO. 158 - An application of Springwich Cellular Limited Partnership for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a cellular telecommunications tower and associated equipment for a proposed site located approximately 0.3 miles west of Hoskins Road, near the intersection of Andrews Road, Bloomfield, Connecticut.	:	Connecticut Siting Council
	:	May 6, 1993

Opinion

On November 20, 1992, Springwich Cellular Limited Partnership (Springwich) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a telecommunications facility in the Town of Bloomfield, Connecticut. The proposed facility would expand and improve cellular telephone service in Hartford County within the Hartford New England County Metropolitan Area.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has determined that there is a general public need for cellular service. The Council must balance the need to provide cellular service with the need to protect the environment, including public health and safety, and minimize damage to the State's scenic, historic, and recreational values.

On June 23, 1992, Springwich submitted a Notice of Exempt Modification to the Council for the use of an existing 140-foot guyed lattice tower owned by the Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) and located off Hoskins Road in Bloomfield, Connecticut. The exempt modification was approved by the Council on July 15, 1992. Springwich subsequently constructed an equipment building, made improvements to the existing access road, and attached its cellular antennas at the 50-foot level of this tower. Springwich was then able to provide partial cellular coverage to portions of the Towns of Bloomfield and Simsbury.

The coverage provided by the existing cellular antennas does not overlap with coverage from adjacent Springwich cell sites in Hartford, Enfield, South Windsor, or Canton. Additionally, many roads in Granby, Bloomfield, Windsor Locks, and Simsbury experience poor cellular coverage. Bradley International Airport is presently without coverage.

To provide the needed coverage to these towns, link together existing coverage from nearby cell sites, and partially deload area cellular telephone traffic during peak calling periods, Springwich proposes to construct a new 180-foot lattice tower and attach its cellular antennas between the 140-foot and

160-foot levels of this tower. The existing 140-foot CL&P tower on the proposed site would be removed, and the antennas presently on this tower would be transferred to the new 180-foot tower. The proposed tower would be owned by CL&P, and jointly used by CL&P, Springwich, the Simsbury Police Department, and the Town of Bloomfield Committee on Emergency Medical Services for civil defense purposes. As an alternative to constructing a 180-foot lattice tower, Springwich would construct a 160-foot monopole tower for its own use only at the proposed site, while leaving the existing 140-foot tower as it is.

The proposed tower site, owned by CL&P, is located approximately 1600 feet from Hoskins Road and 1700 feet from the nearest residence. To construct the proposed tower, minimal tree clearing would be required. There are no inland wetlands within the proposed tower construction site. There are no known populations of federal or State endangered and threatened species or state species of special concern occurring on the proposed site. The construction of the proposed tower would have no effect on any sites of historical significance in the area.

Electromagnetic radio frequency power density levels are of concern to the Council. However, the maximum power density levels at the proposed site from the proposed cellular antennas would be approximately three percent of the Connecticut standard for human exposure to radio frequency electromagnetic fields, and fifteen percent of the 1991 recommended American National Standards Institute standard for human exposure to radio frequency electromagnetic fields.

The Council strongly encourages the use of existing towers whenever possible. Such tower sharing reduces the unnecessary proliferation of towers, has minimal additional visual impact, and minimal effect on the environment. To fulfill this goal, we will approve a single shared tower and deny the proposed alternative to construct a second tower. Furthermore, we have identified the existence of a 100-foot CL&P repeater tower approximately 1000 feet to the west of the proposed site. To consolidate facilities on Talcott Mountain ridge for a net reduction of tower facilities, we will require the Certificate holder to request CL&P to undertake an engineering analysis to determine if the antennas on this repeater tower can be satisfactorily transferred to the proposed tower, and the existing repeater tower removed.

Based on its record in this proceeding we find that the effects associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed 180-foot lattice tower at the proposed site, 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 disproportionate

either alone or with other effects when compared to policies of the state concerning such effects, and are not sufficient reason to deny the application. Therefore, the Council will issue a Certificate for the construction, maintenance and operation of the proposed 180-foot lattice tower off Hoskins Road in Bloomfield. Such certification will be conditioned upon the Certificate holder submitting a Development and Management (D&M) Plan for approval by the Council prior to the commencement of tower construction. The D&M Plan shall also include detailed plans for the tower, tower foundation, and tower lighting; locations of all antennas to be attached to this tower; location of the security fence; detailed plans for site clearing; and detailed plans for erosion and sediment control for the tower construction area. The Certificate holder shall consult with the tower owner for an engineering analysis of the existing 100-foot repeater tower on Talcott Mountain ridge to determine if the antennas on the repeater tower can be satisfactorily transferred to the new tower and the repeater tower removed.

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