

**DOCKET NO. 335** – MetroCast Communications of Connecticut, LLC application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Expansion of its existing CATV Headend facility located at 689 Old Colchester Road, Uncasville-Montville, Connecticut. } Connecticut  
} Siting  
} Council

July 26, 2007

### Opinion

On April 13, 2007, MetroCast Communications of Connecticut, LLC (MetroCast) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for the issuance of a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) to modify an existing community antenna television (CATV) headend facility located at 689 Old Colchester Road in the Town of Montville, Connecticut. The applicant is seeking to install nine satellite dishes, also referred to as earth stations, at its facility in Montville. The installation of these dishes would allow MetroCast to provide additional programming to its customers. As part of this expansion, MetroCast would also add a 30-foot by 50-foot concrete building in order to consolidate its technical facilities in one location at its Montville facility. There were no parties or intervenors in this proceeding other than the applicant.

MetroCast's Montville facility is on an 8.75 acre parcel located at 689 Old Colchester Road. There is an existing 350-foot guyed lattice tower on the property that was approved by the Town of Montville before the Siting Council existed. There are a number of antennas on the tower that receive off-air television broadcasts as well as antennas for Verizon (formerly Bell Atlantic Mobile), Cingular (formerly SNET), Federal Express, U.S. Secret Service, and Page New England. Part of MetroCast's application was to bring this tower and all of its antennas under the Council's jurisdiction. The tower is within a fenced compound that includes several equipment buildings used by MetroCast and the users of some of the tower's antennas. The new earth stations would be installed outside of this compound on its west and south sides. The tops of the earth stations would be approximately fifteen feet above ground level. As part of its expansion at this location, MetroCast would install a six-foot high chain link fence around the perimeter of its property.

The perimeter of the MetroCast property is heavily vegetated with mostly deciduous trees. None of the adjacent properties are visible from the vicinity of the fenced compound around which the earth stations would be installed. Because of their relatively low height, the earth stations should not be visible to nearby residences, at least during the time of year when leaves are on the trees. To further ensure minimal visual impact of the earth stations, the Council feels that some evergreens and other landscaping plants could be planted closer to them.

The area where the earth stations would be located is cleared so no trees would be removed to install them. There are no wetlands on the MetroCast property to be impacted by the installation of the earth stations.

Development of the site would not affect any rare, endangered, or special concern species. The proposed facility would have no effect on archaeological or historic resources.

The earth stations would only receive signals and would not produce any radio emissions.

The MetroCast (formerly Eastern Connecticut Cable Television) property has been used as a community television headend facility since 1972. The installation of the nine proposed earth stations would not represent a significant expansion or alteration of the property and its use. MetroCast is also obliged to make improvements to its operation to comply with requirements imposed by the Department of Public Utility Control when it approved the transfer of assets from Eastern Connecticut.

Based on the record in this proceeding, the Council finds that the effects associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed community antenna television headend 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 disproportionate either alone or cumulatively with other effects when compared to need, are not in conflict with policies of the State concerning such effects, and are not sufficient reason to deny this application. Therefore, the Council will issue a Certificate for the modification of an existing community antenna television (CATV) headend facility located at 689 Old Colchester Road in the Town of Montville, Connecticut.