

DOCKET NO. 303 – Sprint Spectrum, L.P. application for a } Connecticut
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for }
the construction, maintenance and operation of a } Siting
telecommunications facility located at 723 Farmington Avenue, }
New Britain, Connecticut. } Council

June 28, 2005

Opinion

On January 27, 2005, Sprint Spectrum, L.P. d/b/a Sprint PCS (Sprint) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) for the construction, maintenance and operation of a wireless telecommunications facility located at the Polish Falcons Alliance of America, Inc. property located at 723 Farmington Avenue, New Britain, Connecticut. The purpose of the proposed facility is to provide coverage to the Farmington Avenue/Corbin Avenue area of New Britain.

Sprint proposes to construct a 110-foot monopole and associated compound on the 31-acre Falcons Club property. The property is used for recreational purposes and contains a lighted ball field, picnic pavilion, and cleared, grassy areas. The tower site is in a cleared area in northeast corner of the parcel abutting wooded A.W. Stanley Park and Pulaski Middle School property. The tower setback radius would be contained within the property.

The facility would include a 75-foot by 75-foot equipment compound at the base of the tower. Access would be provided by an existing paved driveway on the property. Underground utilities would be installed from an existing utility pole on the property. Evergreen plantings are proposed along the perimeter of the compound.

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

The Council finds the site appropriate for telecommunications use due to its relatively remote location in a developed suburban area. Residential areas exist primarily south of the site with an additional residential area mixed with commercial development west of the site along Farmington Avenue. Undeveloped A.W. Stanley Park and Pulaski Middle School property buffer the site from neighborhoods to the north and east.

The greatest visibility impact of the site would be to abutting residences to the south along Joy Lane. Although bands of trees offer screening from most residences, a few homes would have open views of the tower. To help mitigate views of the site from these residences, the Council will order the planting of deciduous trees along the existing paved driveway, contingent upon consent of the landowner, to provide additional screening of the compound and tower.

The radio frequency power density levels at the base of the proposed tower would be well below federal and state standards for the frequencies used by wireless companies. If federal or state standards change, the Council will require that the tower be brought into compliance with such standards. The Council will require that the power densities be remodeled in the event other carriers add antennas to the tower.

Based on the record in this proceeding, we find that the effects associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of a telecommunications facility 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 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, we will issue a Certificate to Sprint for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a 110-foot monopole telecommunications facility at 723 Farmington Avenue, New Britain, Connecticut.