



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

10 Franklin Square
New Britain, Connecticut 06051
Phone: (860) 827-2935
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CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

April 13, 2000

Ronald C. Clark
Manager Real Estate Operations
Nextel Communications
100 Corporate Place
Rocky Hill CT 06067

Re: PETITION NO. 444 - Nextel Communications petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the modification of an existing Connecticut Light and Power electric transmission facility located between Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike (State Route 322) and Rahlene Drive in Southington, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Clark:

At a public meeting held on April 12, 2000, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and ruled that this proposal would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, and pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50k would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

This decision is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Council and is not applicable to any other modification or construction. All work is to be implemented as specified in the petition, dated February 18, and March 31, 2000.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the staff report on this project.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mortimer A. Gelston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mortimer A. Gelston
Chairman

MAG/FOC

Enclosure: Staff Report dated April 12, 2000

C: Mr. John Weichsel, Town Manager, Town of Southington
Rick Madej, CL&P



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Petition No. 444
Nextel Communications
Staff Report
April 12, 2000

On February 25, 2000, Connecticut Siting Council (Council) member Brian Emerick, and Council staff Fred Cunliffe met with Nextel Communications (Nextel) representatives Stephen Howard and Ken Heidorn and Scott Chasse of Diversified Technology Consultants on Rahlene Drive in Southington for inspection of an electric transmission structure. The structure is owned by Connecticut Light and Power Co. (CL&P). Nextel, with the agreement of CL&P, proposes to modify the structure by installing a Fort Worth PowerMount™ pole or approved equivalent and associated equipment for telecommunications use and is petitioning the Council for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) is required for the modification.

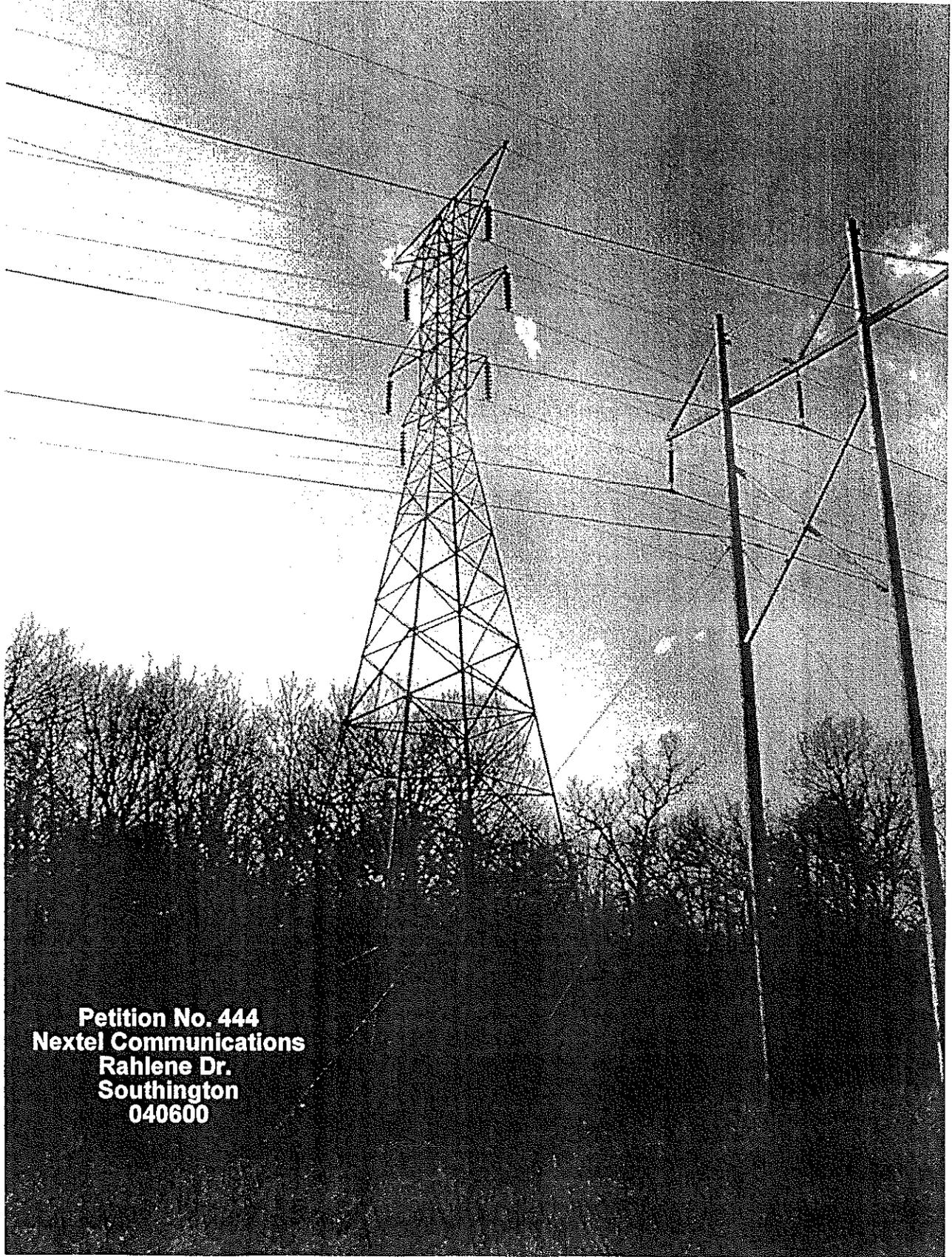
Nextel proposes to install a PowerMount™ within an existing lattice transmission support structure (no. 767) owned by Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P). The height of this structure is 91 feet above ground level (agl) and is located approximately 400 south of the Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike (State Route 322). The PowerMount™ would extend 20 feet above the existing CL&P structure for a total height of 111 feet agl. The PowerMount™ would support a triangular rack at the top with four panel type antennas affixed per sector. Electric and telephone service would be from an existing service pole on the Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike installed overhead 330 feet then placed underground for 120 feet, adjacent to the access drive, to a 12-foot by 16-foot equipment shelter. Nextel proposes to construct a 1,000-foot long by 12-foot wide gravel-covered access drive from Rahlene Drive to the site.

As now proposed, this access drive would be within CL&P's easement, would disturb 83 square feet of inland wetland, and require the extension of an existing 10-inch culvert. While the use of an adjacent sanitary sewer easement, owned by the Town of Southington, could technically be used as an access drive, Nextel contends the Town of Southington does not have the right to create or assign further easements for this property.

Nextel's equipment building and fenced compound has been relocated out of adjacent inland wetlands. Furthermore, Nextel proposes an inland wetland mitigation plan to include indigenous inland wetland plantings and seed mixture within a 400 square foot area immediately south of the proposed site.

The proposed site is within a 160-foot wide electric transmission right-of-way (ROW) with three circuit lines passing through this ROW. Surrounding land use is primarily residential with the nearest home approximately 300 feet east from the proposed site. A vegetative buffer of trees exists between the ROW and nearby homes. The worst case power density for the telecommunications operations at the site has been calculated to be 5% of the applicable standard for uncontrolled environments.

Nextel submits that the proposed modification will reduce the need for a new telecommunications tower by utilizing an existing structure and contends that the proposed installation will not cause a substantial adverse environmental effect, and for this reason would not require a Certificate.



**Petition No. 444
Nextel Communications
Rahlene Dr.
Southington
04060**