

Petition No. 494  
Springwich Cellular Limited Partnership  
North Branford, Connecticut  
Staff Report  
November 30, 2000

On November 20, 2000, Connecticut Siting Council (Council) member Edward Wilensky and Christina Lepage of the Council staff met with Springwich Cellular Limited Partnership (SCLP) representative Theresa Ranciato-Viele at 763 Federal Road, Brookfield, Connecticut for inspection of an electric transmission structure. The property and structure is owned by Connecticut Light and Power Co. (CL&P). SCLP, with the agreement of CL&P, proposes to modify the structure by installing antennas 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.

SCLP proposes the installation of three 8-foot panel antennas on top of a mounting pole. The antennas will extend approximately 10-feet above the existing 90.8-foot transmission line monopole structure (#2683). The centerline of the antennas will be at about 96.8 feet above ground level (AGL) with the top of the antennas at 100.8-feet AGL.

Access to the site will be from Federal Road through an existing CL&P right-of-way. SCLP is proposing to install a 67-foot long driveway with a turn-around to access the structure during construction activity and all regular maintenance. A 2-foot retaining wall will be installed to separate the access road and the telecommunications equipment compound, which is at a higher level. Concrete stairs will be built to separate the two levels.

An 11'x20' equipment building will be placed on a 12'3"x21' concrete pad at the base of the tower. The equipment shelter will contain 12 batteries, which would provide power in the case of a commercial power failure. An 8-foot high chain-link fence will be installed around the entire facility for security of the site. Landscaping will consist of several 6 to 8-foot arborvitae trees to camouflage the fence. Electrical and telephone services will be provided to the property via an existing utility pole #2378, which is located on Federal Road. The power and telephone lines will be installed in underground conduits beneath SCLP's access driveway.

The proposed site is located east of Route 7 (Federal Road) in Brookfield. The site is bordered by commercial buildings and parking lots to the north and by undeveloped land to the south and east. The zoning designation of this site is "Central Business District". The nearest residence is approximately 500 feet to the east of the site.

SCLP states that the equipment will not be seen since it will be enclosed in the equipment building at the base of the structure. SCLP also contends that all erosion and sediment control measures shall be installed as necessary.

The worst-case power density for the telecommunications operations at the site has been calculated to be 14.30% of the applicable standard for uncontrolled environments.

SCLP submits that the proposed modification of the structure would not require a Certificate because it 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.