

Petition 541
Remote Meter Reading Project - Cell Master Units
The United Illuminating Company
Staff Report
February 14, 2002

On January 22, 2002, Connecticut Siting Council (Council) member Gerald J. Heffernan and Council staff S. Derek Phelps and Paul M. Aresta met United Illuminating Company (UI) representatives Brian M. Horgan and Bohdan Katreczko for a field review of this petition. UI is petitioning the Council for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need would be required for the placement of an antenna and associated equipment at 74 Cottage Street, Derby, as part of a remote meter reading network.

UI proposes to install an approximately ten-foot tall by two and one-half inch diameter mounting pipe at the top of the tower to extend the proposed antenna above the existing antennas on the existing fire alarm tower. UI would then install a Cell Master Unit (CMU), consisting of an approximately ten-foot high by three-inch diameter antenna on the proposed mounting pipe approximately 75-feet above ground level. The proposed CMU would serve as a regional data collector for receiving transmitted metering information from micro cell controllers (MCCs), and then forward the metering data via land line to UI's corporate headquarters. The proposed base station equipment cabinet would be approximately 49 inches high by 44 inches wide by 20 inches deep. The equipment cabinet would be mounted approximately two feet above the ground level on a stand at the base of the tower.

The cumulative maximum electromagnetic power density for the tower including the emergency response antennas and UI's proposed operations would be approximately 9.1 percent of the applicable ANSI standard for uncontrolled environments.

UI has held informational meetings with the Town of Derby. A structural analysis received February 13, 2002, indicates that the existing tower is capable of supporting UI's proposed equipment. UI contends that the proposed project uses an existing structure to minimize potential adverse impacts, and that no wetlands would be impacted nor would any vegetation be removed or cleared.