

Petition No. 543
Sprint PCS
Stratford, Connecticut
Staff Report
February 14, 2002

On February 8, 2002, Connecticut Siting Council (Council) staff S. Derek Phelps and Paul M. Aresta met Sprint representatives Julie Donaldson and Steven Florio for an inspection of a Connecticut Light & Power Company (CL&P) electric transmission line structure (No. 280) located between 645 and 695 Chapel Street in Stratford, Connecticut. Sprint proposes to modify the electric transmission structure for telecommunications use and is petitioning the Council for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) would be required for the proposed modification.

Sprint proposes to attach a total of three antennas, each measuring approximately 58 inches tall by eight inches wide by three inches deep, to three approximately three-inch diameter pipe extensions on the top of an existing approximately 78-foot tall lattice electric transmission structure. The top of the proposed panel antennas would be located at approximately 87 feet above ground level (AGL). A global positioning system antenna would be mounted at a height of 15 feet AGL on a fence post at the base of the structure. Sprint would install four power and/or communications cabinets on a 10-foot by 20-foot concrete pad underneath and within the footprint of the existing lattice structure. The concrete pad could accommodate three future cabinets. The proposed equipment area would be enclosed by a six-foot tall chain link fence with one additional foot of barbed wire. The proposed fence would have vinyl green slats for screening the proposed equipment.

A structural analysis dated December 10, 2001 concluded that no additional reinforcement of the lattice transmission structure is necessary for this proposal. The worst case power density for the proposed telecommunications operations at the site has been calculated to be approximately 27% of the applicable ANSI standard for uncontrolled environments. The proposed site is surrounded by low-density residential development. The closest residences are located approximately 100 feet southwest and 120 feet northeast of the existing lattice transmission tower. Sprint contends that the two residents located closest to the lattice transmission tower were informed of Sprint's proposal, and had no objections.

Sprint contends that the proposed modification would require minimal removal of vegetation; would have no direct impact on wetlands; would not adversely affect the environment or ecology; would have no impact on scenic, historic, or recreational values; and therefore, would not require a Certificate.