

DOCKET NO. 100 - An application of SNET : CONNECTICUT SITING
Cellular, Inc., for a Certificate of :
Environmental Compatibility and Public : COUNCIL
Need for cellular telephone antennas : January 5, 1989
and associated equipment in the Town of :
Tolland, Connecticut.

OPINION

SNET Cellular, Inc. (SNET) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) on July 28, 1988, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) to construct a cellular telephone tower site in the Town of Tolland, Connecticut. The tower site would be an addition to the existing Hartford New England County Metropolitan Area (Hartford NECMA) and would provide cellular telephone coverage along a portion of Interstate 84, and State Routes 22, 44, 74, and 195 in the Tolland-Willington area.

In its application, SNET offers a proposed site and an alternative site. The proposed site would include a 150-foot tower and associated equipment building. Access to the proposed site would be via a new 350-foot access road. The proposed site has eight homes within a 1000-foot radius. The proposed site is within a 93-acre parcel of land and is surrounded by trees. The proposed tower would be visible from portions of I-84, Old Cathole Road, Vaalcom Road, and Ruops Road.

The alternative site would require a 180-foot monopole, as it is 30 feet less in elevation above mean sea level. Access to the tower and equipment building would be via a new 900-foot access road. The alternative tower site has 13 homes within a 1000-foot radius. The alternative site would be visible from I-84, Old Cathole Road, Route 195, Cora Road, and Vaalcom Road.

Both sites are situated within the same 93 acre parcel of land, 1600 feet apart. Neither site or its access road would cross inland wetlands. There are no rare and endangered species occurring in the vicinity of either site. Neither site would have an effect on historic or architectural features in the region. Coverage from the two sites would be similar.

Despite these similarities, the proposed site offers distinct advantages: a tower 30 feet shorter in height, an access road approximately one-third in length, and fewer homes within a 1000-foot radius. Visibility would be expected to be less with a shorter tower.

At the base of the towers electromagnetic radio frequency power density levels from each tower would be well below the Connecticut and American National Standards Institute safety standards for the proposed frequencies. The power density levels at the nearest homes would be much lower.

Based on its record in this proceeding, the Council finds that the effects associated with the construction and operation of a cellular telephone tower at the proposed Tolland 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 significant either alone or cumulatively with other effects, are not in conflict with the policies of the State concerning such effects, and are not sufficient to deny the application. Therefore, the Council will issue a Certificate for the construction of the proposed Tolland tower site.