

DOCKET NO. 118A - The Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police, Amended Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for construction, operation, and maintenance of telecommunications facilities in the Towns of North Canaan, Norfolk, and Litchfield, Connecticut. : Connecticut : Siting Council : September 9, 1992

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FINDINGS OF FACTS

1. The Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police (State Police), in accordance with provisions of sections 16-50k and 16-50l of the Connecticut Statutes (CGS), applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) on August 25, 1989, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) to construct telecommunications towers, associated equipment, and buildings in the Towns of North Canaan, Litchfield, Norfolk, and Sharon, Connecticut, to provide telecommunications service within Litchfield County. On November 16, 1989, the State Police withdrew the Sharon site from the application. (Application dated 8/25/89 and Letter of Withdrawal dated 11/16/89, Docket No. 118)
2. On February 5, 1990, the Council issued a Certificate to State Police for the construction, maintenance, and operation of these facilities in North Canaan at Troop B, in Litchfield at Troop L, and in Norfolk on Riggs Hill, with a condition requiring completion of construction within three years of the issuance of this Decision and Order, or within three years after the completion of any appeal from this Decision and Order [February 5, 1993]. (Findings of Fact, Opinion, Decision and Order, and Certificate dated 2/5/89, Docket No. 118)
3. The State Police, in accordance with the provisions of CGS section 16-50l(d), applied to the Council on July 20, 1992, for an amendment of the Certificate to extend the construction date from February 5, 1993, to February 5, 1996. (Amendment Application, Docket No. 118A)
4. The amendment application and notice thereof were served to all specified persons pursuant to CGS section 16-50l(b) and Regulations of State Agencies (RSA) section 16-50l-1(e). Affidavits of newspaper notice as required by statute and section 16-50l-1 of the RSA were attached to the amendment application. (Amendment Application, Docket No. 118A)

5. The State Police were unable to obtain bonded funding through the Office of Policy and Management until Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) requirements were met. This was accomplished on March 24, 1992. (Amendment Application, Docket No. 118A, Attachment B)
6. The State Police have not submitted development and management plans to the Council for the three sites in Docket No. 118. (Amendment Application, Docket No. 118A)
7. The State Police contend that it is not possible to complete a Development and Management Plan for Council approval, award a construction contract, and complete construction of the three sites before the expiration of the Council's Certificate by February 5, 1993. (Amendment Application, Docket No. 118A)
8. No comments or recommendations were received from the municipalities of North Canaan, Litchfield, or Norfolk. (Amendment Application, Docket No. 118A)
9. At a meeting of the Council on August 4, 1992, the Council determined that a change in the construction deadline would not result in any material increase in any environmental impact nor result in any substantial change in the location of all or a portion of such facilities and ruled, Pursuant to CGS section 16-50m(b), that no public hearing session would be necessary for the amendment. (Council Meeting Minutes, August 4, 1992)