

APPLICATION BY GREATER HARTFORD
CATV, INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE
OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY
AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE PROPOSED
RECEIVING TOWER TO BE CONSTRUCTED
IN GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT. : POWER FACILITY
: EVALUATION COUNCIL
: JANUARY 11, 1980

O P I N I O N

I. General

This application is for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a community antenna television (CATV) tower and associated facilities on a 20 foot by 30 foot parcel of land west of Bell Street in Glastonbury, Connecticut. The proposed tower will receive microwave television signals from the applicant's transmitting tower and head-end facilities in Manchester, Connecticut, and will then provide cable TV service to Glastonbury customers from the proposed tower by way of coaxial cable along the public way.

A public hearing on the application was held at the Academy School, 2143 Main Street, on November 27, 1979. Prior to the hearing, members of the Council made ground inspections of the proposed site and several points from which it may be visible. In addition to advertised notice, notice was mailed in accordance with law.

The applicant presented testimony and exhibits to support its claim that the construction of the tower as proposed would not significantly adversely affect the environment. Two additional parties appeared in support of the project, and limited appearances were written in behalf of the project. No one voiced objections to the project.

II. Environmental Impact

The Council considered the proposed tower and site and concludes that a tower of the type proposed, on the site selected by the applicant, does not have a significant adverse environmental effect. The 90 foot self-supporting tower is visible from nearby residences, but its visual impact is not deemed significant enough to warrant placement in alternate locations. The Apple Hill area of South Glastonbury was initially considered by the Applicant but strong local opposition was expressed. John Tom Hill was also re-

viewed, but the cost of providing service from there to the center of Glastonbury would be excessive. The proposed facility has received the general approval of the abutting property owners, and at the present a large elm tree stands between the proposed site and the road. The proposed facility is sufficiently distant to avoid adversely affecting historically sensitive areas.

A six foot by eight foot equipment enclosure will be placed at the base of the tower, and the tower and equipment enclosure will be surrounded by a fence. By agreement with the owner, access to the site will be over an existing ten foot wide driveway to a nearby residence, and the applicant intends to construct an asphalt apron on the site to permit service vehicles to turn around. Shrubbery and trees will be planted to screen the installation, and utility services to the tower will be buried in an existing trench containing utility services for the nearby residence.

The tower is solely a receiving tower. It will not emit microwaves and the Council will so state in its order. The power density of the signals received at the tower will be .0022 microwatts per square centimeter, a level below any safety standard of which the Council is aware. From what is known about microwaves, the Council concludes that this tower will not adversely affect the health of those subject to the microwave beam path.

No state agency commented that this tower will have a significant adverse environmental effect. The proposed site is zoned rural-residential, and the proposal has been approved by the Town of Glastonbury Zoning Board of Appeals.

III. Conclusion

The Council concludes, based on its consideration of the entire record, including its field inspections, that a community antenna television receiving tower in Glastonbury, Connecticut will not have environmental effects which would justify selection of an alternate site or the denial of this application. The record does not suggest that there would be any significant adverse effect on, or conflicts with, the policy of the state concerning ecological balance, scenic and recreational values, air and water purity, forests and parks, or fish and wildlife. Constructing the facility in accordance with the proposed specifications should adequately safeguard public

health and safety. In the Decision and Order the Council is requiring a Development and Management Plan which will further protect the environment.

The need for community antenna television service is not a question to be reviewed by this Council as the General Assembly has determined that the existence of community antenna television service directly affects the public interest; consequently community antenna companies are franchised and regulated by the State of Connecticut. The Council under its jurisdiction reviews only the particular portions of the companies' utility plant.

The Council has not reviewed the need for this particular facility because under section 16-50i (a) (5) of the General Statutes of Connecticut our initial determination is whether or not the facility has a substantial adverse environmental effect, and if it does not a certificate should be granted without further inquiry.

Therefore, the Council concludes that a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need should be issued for the construction of the proposed community antenna television tower on the proposed site.