

APPLICATION BY NATIONAL RAILROAD  
PASSENGER CORPORATION FOR A CER-  
TIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPAT-  
IBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE  
PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATION TOWER  
TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN NEW HAVEN,  
CONNECTICUT

: POWER FACILITY  
: EVALUATION COUNCIL  
: June 10, 1980

O P I N I O N

I. General

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) applied for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a telecommunication tower on Amtrak property off Hallock Avenue in New Haven, Connecticut. The proposed tower will support a VHF FM two frequency base station of one transmitter and one receiver which will be part of Amtrak's regional maintenance of way radio system.

A public hearing on the application was held at the Hall of Records, Hearing Room, 200 Orange Street, New Haven, Connecticut on April 30, 1980. Prior to the hearing, Council members and staff inspected the proposed site. Notice of the hearing was duly advertised and notice was mailed in accordance with law.

The applicant presented testimony and exhibits to support its claim that the proposed tower construction would not significantly adversely affect the environment. One other person was made party to the proceeding, and no one spoke in opposition 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 applicant's Hallock Avenue, New Haven property, would not have a significant adverse environmental effect. The 100 foot monotube steel pole will be visible from the surrounding area, but its visual impact, considering the high degree of development around the site, is not deemed significant enough to deny the application or warrant placement at an alternate location. Amtrak's tower at 1435 State Street, New Haven, would not be satisfactory because the frequencies assigned to each system by the Federal Communications Commission are not compatible. Location of the tower more than one mile distant in any direction could interrupt the continuity of the system, cause interference with existing Amtrak radio systems, or reduce coverage of the system. The site is sufficiently removed from property borders and overhead electric traction trolley wires to avoid off-site damage or rail disruption in an unforeseen fall of the tower.

An eight-foot by ten-foot equipment enclosure and a forty-five foot wood pole will accompany the tower on the site, the latter to provide utility service. Steps on the tower will begin at ten or twelve feet above ground level. Access will be over an existing two lane private road which enters Amtrak property from Hallock Avenue. The Amtrak property is fenced and largely paved over, so landscaping and shrubbing will not be necessary.

The tower is solely a telecommunication tower. Microwave facilities could not utilize the tower due to wind loading, and sharing with other radio systems is not feasible due to interference. The radio system planned will not interfere with local television and radio reception, and the tower itself is not large enough to block those signals. The power density radiated by the proposed facility will be 3.9 milliwatts per centimeter squared at the tower site.

None of the responding state agencies commented that this tower will have a significant adverse environmental effect. **The** proposed site is zoned for light industry, and the facility conforms to the Municipal Plan of Development.

### III. Conclusion

The Council concludes, based on its consideration of the entire record, including its field inspection, that a telecommunication tower at the proposed site in New Haven 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 accepted construction and safety standards should adequately safeguard public health and safety. Due to the condition of the site, a Development and Management Plan will not be required for this tower construction.

The Council has not reviewed the need for this particular facility because under section 16-50i(a)(6) of the General Statutes of Connecticut, its initial determination is whether or not the facility has a substantial 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 telecommunication tower on the proposed site.