

AN APPLICATION OF STORER COMMUNICATIONS : CONNECTICUT SITING
OF CLINTON, INCORPORATED, FOR A :
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY : COUNCIL
AND PUBLIC NEED TO CONSTRUCT A COMMUNITY
ANTENNA TELEVISION TOWER IN THE TOWN
OF HADDAM. : October 8, 1982

F I N D I N G S O F F A C T

1. Storer Communications of Clinton, Incorporated, (SC) in accordance with the provisions of section 16-50j-70 et seq of the Regulations of State Agencies, applied to the Connecticut Siting Council on June 21, 1982, for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need for the construction of a community antenna television tower near Foot Hills Road in Haddam, Connecticut. (Record)
2. The fee of \$500.00 accompanied the application. (Record)
3. The application was accompanied by proof of service as required by section 16-501(b) of the general statutes of the state of Connecticut. (Record)
4. Affidavits of newspaper notices were filed as required by section 16-50e(f) of the General Statutes. (Record)
5. Council members and staff made a ground inspection of the proposed site on August 16, 1982. (Record)
6. Pursuant to section 16-50m of the General Statutes, the Connecticut Siting Council, after giving due notice thereof, held a public hearing at the Old Town Hall, Main Street, Haddam, Connecticut on August 16, 1982. (Record)
7. No persons appeared or filed written comments in opposition to the application. (Record)
8. The parties to the proceedings are listed in the decision and order which accompanies these findings. (Record)

9. Pursuant to section 16-50j(f) of the General Statutes, written comments were filed by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Department of Economic Development, and the Department of Transportation. (Record)
10. The applicant holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the Department of Public Utility Control to serve cable television to CATV area 5 within the towns of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Durham, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook. (SC Exhibit 1, p. 1; Tr. p. 6)
11. The applicant seeks to erect the 50 foot tower in Haddam for the purpose of receiving microwave television transmission from its southerly head-end station and serving 2,000 homes in Haddam and Durham. (Tr. p. 6)
12. The applicant desires to duplicate the service now afforded to Clinton and Deep River which includes T.V. signals not relayed via any satellite. (Tr. pp. 11 & 12)
13. Microwave links are the core of Storer's system to provide CATV service. (SC Exhibit 1, p. 5)
14. The applicant considered other technologies besides microwave transmission for use in this linkup. (Tr. pp. 12 & 13; SC Exhibit 1, pp. 10 & 11)
15. The length of transmission cable needed as an alternative would be seven miles, resulting in a 30 amp cascade needed to feed Haddam. The signal at the end of the system would be marginal in quality and would be highly unreliable because of all the poles it would have to be attached to with their vulnerability to accident and weather. (Tr. p. 13; SC Exhibit 1, p. 5)

16. Stringing large diameter cables using feed-forward technology would not be economically feasible over the seven mile distance. (Tr. p. 13; SC Exhibit 1, p. 5)
17. The applicant believes microwave is technically and economically the best method of providing the service. (SC Exhibit 1, pp. 5, 11; Tr. p. 15; SC Exhibit 2, Q. 12)
18. A shorter tower is possible, but tree trimming would be necessary in a few years, and the applicant wishes to accede to the site owner's stipulations by trimming trees as little as possible. (Tr. p. 16)
19. The applicant's existing transmitter equipment would not be available for use with any other technology. (Tr. p. 24)
20. Access to the tower site is provided through an easement deed and not by fee ownership. (Tr. p. 29)
21. Program signals are received off the air and by satellite via an earth dish station. Signals are mixed together and transmitted by microwave to receiver sites. (Tr. p. 34)
22. The applicant states it would cost \$10 million a year to use a communications satellite for T.V. transmission purposes. (Tr. p. 35)
23. Once the tower is functional, service could be provided to Haddam and Durham areas within 90 days. (Tr. pp. 40 & 41)
24. The permanent easement and construction easement will cost \$15,000.00. The estimated cost of installation and construction of the tower is \$15,000.00. Tower and telecommunications equipment will cost \$40,875.00. Additionally, Storer has invested \$150,000.00 in transmitter equipment for the entire system. (SC Exhibit 1, p. 9; SC Exhibit 2, Q. 13)

25. The costs of the new tower installation will be shared by the entire Storer network. (Tr. p. 24)
26. Customers in Haddam and Durham will not be charged any more money for basic cable service than would be charged anywhere else in the franchise. (Tr. p. 25)
27. Existing towers were considered, but those available were owned by entities which have not responded favorably to past sharing inquiries or were not as suitable for the applicant's needs. (Tr. pp. 27, 28; SC Exhibit 1, pp. 9, 10)
28. The applicant did not approach Connecticut Light and Power with a request to share their tower two miles south of the proposed site, because other power companies have been unresponsive to sharing requests and the site would not be satisfactory for the proposed facility. (Tr. pp. 26 & 27)
29. The applicant proposes to construct a 50' Rohn tower with three legs anchored to a concrete pier on a 45 acre parcel of land near Foot Hills Road in Haddam. (SC Exhibit 1, pp. 2, 3)
30. A six foot diameter receive-only antenna ("dish") will be mounted at the 47 foot level. (SC Exhibit 1, p. 2)
31. Only limited tree trimming will be required at the tower site, and no trimming of the 30-40' trees will be required for microwave path clearance. (SC Exhibit 1, p. 8; SC Exhibit 2, Q. 4, 10)
32. The tower may be visible from some adjacent areas. (SC Exhibit 1, p. 8; SC Exhibit 2, Q. 10)
33. The tower will be painted gray. (SC Exhibit 1, p. 8)
34. The tower will contain no lights and will generate no noise. (SC Exhibit 1, p. 8)

35. No regulated wetlands will be affected by the proposed tower construction. (SC Exhibit 2, Q. 1)
36. The three historically and geologically interesting feldspar mine excavations in the vicinity will not be affected by the access road extension or by the tower construction operation. (SC Exhibit 1, p. 8; DEP comments)
37. No DEP properties will be affected by the proposed facility. (DEP comments)
38. Utility service to and programming signals from the tower will be temporarily carried by overhead line from the site to Foot Hills Road. (SC Exhibit 1, p. 3)
39. The temporary pole line will require some tree trimming but no tree elimination, and the pole line will be offset as necessary to minimize clearing. (Tr. pp. 20, 38)
40. Eventually, power and coaxial cable will be buried along the access road. (SC Exhibit 1, p. 3; Tr. p. 31)
41. Microwave radiation density at the 50 foot level on the tower is estimated to be less than 0.00037 microwatts per square centimeter which is well below all published standards. (SC Exhibit 1, p. 11; SC Exhibit 2, Q. 5)
42. A fence will surround the tower. (SC Exhibit 1, p.7; Tr. p. 21)
43. The single dish antenna will be capable of receiving a microwave signal from the applicant's Killingworth head-end facility. (SC Exhibit 1, p. 5)