

DOCKET NO. 36

AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY CONTINENTAL
CABLEVISION OF CONNECTICUT INC., FOR A
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY
AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE ERECTION OF
COMMUNITY ANTENNA TELEVISION TOWERS IN
THE TOWNS OF EAST GRANBY, HARTLAND
AND UNION.

: CONNECTICUT SITING
:
: COUNCIL
:
: February 24, 1984

ORIGINAL

O P I N I O N

Continental Cablevision of Connecticut, Inc., applied for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of community antenna television towers and associated equipment in the towns of East Granby, Hartland, and Union. The towers are proposed to support microwave antenna or antennas to receive signals from and transmit signals to the company's Stafford head-end facility.

Following the issuance of due notice, Council members inspected the East Granby and Hartland sites and surrounding areas on December 15, 1983, and the Union site and surrounding area on December 21, 1983.

Public hearings were held on the evening of December 15, 1983, in East Granby and on the evening of December 21, 1983, in Union. The applicant presented testimony and exhibits to support its claim that the facilities were necessary to provide CATV service to a major portion of the franchise area, that adverse environmental effects would be minimal, and that alternative sites and technologies were not available or appropriate.

The Council considered the potential adverse environmental effects of the proposed facilities and concludes that they are not sufficient to deny the application.

The likely adverse environmental effects of the facilities will be attributable almost exclusively to their visibility. Only the tower at

the East Granby site will be visible from the surrounding area; this effect will be minimized by the short tower height, the background tree line, and planted screening. In Hartland and Union, heavy forest cover and surrounding topography effectively screen the towers. Access roads already exist to all three sites, and little or no road improvement will be necessary. Clearing of vegetation will also be minimal. Although the sites are within residential or agricultural zones, no residences are near the sites, and the towers' design and locations are such that any possibility of tower collapse would not endanger the public.

The applicant has sufficiently investigated and analysed alternative technologies and sites. None was found more appropriate than the proposal. Additionally, the applicant has indicated its willingness to share tower space with technologically compatible entities.

The public need for CATV service has been established by the State Legislature and the state Department of Public Utility Control which awarded Continental the Area 11 CATV franchise. The possible alternatives to these facilities were sufficiently investigated by the Council and the applicant, and the Council finds that the environmental effects discussed above do not outweigh the need for these facilities to provide that mandated service. These facilities are needed and will be used regardless of the outcome of siting decisions regarding other components in the proposed Continental system.

Therefore, the Council will order that a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need be issued for the construction, maintenance, and operation of the three towers and associated equipment as proposed.