

AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY COMMUNITY TELEVISION SYSTEMS, INC., d/b/a ROLLINS CABLEVISION OF CONNECTICUT ("ROLLINS") FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE ERECTION OF A FIVE-METER EARTH STATION RECEIVER IN THE TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT. : CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL : February 24, 1984

O P I N I O N

Community Television Systems, Inc., d/b/a Rollins Cablevision of Connecticut ("Rollins") applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need on November 23, 1983, for a five-meter earth station receiver in the town of North Branford, Connecticut. This facility serves Area I cable television franchise. This earth station has been in operation since April, 1983. No certificate was sought prior to installation because Rollins was unaware of changes in state regulations pertaining to CATV towers and related equipment; the Council believes this error was made in good faith.

Upon the issuance of due notice, Council members inspected the site of the earth station and held a public hearing on the application at the North Branford Intermediate School on January 9, 1984. The applicant presented testimony to support its claims that this earth station is necessary, that any adverse environmental effects are minimal, and that alternative sites or technologies are unavailable or inappropriate.

The Department of Environmental Protection, in written comments, concluded that the environmental effects of this facility are limited to visual impacts, and that concentration of all such facilities at one site is preferable. The Department of Economic Development commented that the earth station is compatible with the environment and provides additional basic television signals.

The Council has considered the adverse environmental effects of the earth station and concludes that such effects are not sufficient to deny the proposal, particularly in view of the fact that the site already has two earth stations

and a large antenna tower. The earth station is not visible from any nearby roads or homes, and there are no known historic or recreational areas in the vicinity. The earth station is not located in an inland wetland, and no tree clearing was necessary. Hazards from an earth station collapse are minimal, if they exist at all.

Since the earth station is a receive-only facility, radio frequency electromagnetic radiation power densities are not significant.

The public's need for CATV service has been established by the Connecticut legislature and the Department of Public Utility Control which awarded Rollins the franchise for this area. The applicant has demonstrated to the Council's satisfaction that the earth station meets a public need. The earth station receives signals from the Galaxy I Satellite and enables all of Rollins' subscribers to receive the Spanish International Network. Additionally, the new earth station may be used for other signals if the signal sources change, as appears possible. This would allow the removal of one of the existing earth stations.

The applicant considered alternative technologies to constructing this earth station, but such alternatives were found to be impractical. An alternative site was considered, but it was not at sufficient elevation. The present site is the most desirable from a technical point of view and because of the advantage of locating all of Rollins' facilities at an existing well-screened site.

Based on the foregoing, the Council will order that a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need be issued to Rollins Cablevision for the erection of this earth station.