

DOCKET NO. 44

AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE SOUTHERN : CONNECTICUT SITING  
NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR A :  
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY : COUNCIL  
AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION,  
MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF FACILITIES TO :  
PROVIDE CELLULAR SERVICE IN NEW HAVEN COUNTY : July 24, 1984

O P I N I O N

The Southern New England Telephone Company (SNET) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of six telecommunications towers and associated equipment in the towns of Branford, Guilford, Hamden, Milford, Waterbury, and Woodbridge to provide Domestic Cellular Radio Telecommunications service (cellular service) in the New Haven New England County Metropolitan Area (NECMA). Alternate sites were proposed in Branford, Guilford, Milford, and Waterbury. Subsequent to this application, SNET deleted its proposed Hamden site and proposed a site in North Haven as a replacement.

The Council visited proposed and alternative tower sites on April 13 and June 11, 1984. Public hearings were held on this application on June 11, 1984 in Waterbury and Hamden. The Council took administrative notice of its record in its proceedings in Dockets 35 and 40, which also pertain to SNET cellular service.

The Council considered the potential adverse environmental effects of the proposed towers and associated equipment and concludes that they are not sufficient to deny the application. The impact of proposed facilities will be primarily visual. No important historic or recreational facilities are in the immediate vicinity of the proposed facilities.

No regulated wetlands exist on any of the proposed sites, and tree clearing would be minimal.

Radio frequency electromagnetic radiation power densities at the proposed tower sites would be approximately 100 times lower than the present American National Standards Institute standard. Power densities calculated by SNET were based on worst-case assumptions. Such power densities are expected only intermittently, if at all.

In reaching its decision, the Council considered such potential adverse effects of the proposed facilities as their visibility, construction impacts, and compatibility with present and potential surrounding land uses. It is clear that the applicant also considered these matters; several alternative sites were proposed for Council consideration and one site was withdrawn when a better location was obtained. Based on the above considerations, the Council has determined that the proposed sites in Waterbury and Branford are preferable and that the alternative sites in Guilford and Milford are preferable.

The Federal Communications Commission has determined that a public need for the proposed service exists. The Council determined that these facilities are necessary to provide cellular services and to be compatible with future adjacent cellular systems. The use of these facilities to provide cellular service is not contingent on future siting decisions in adjacent areas.

Therefore, the Council will order that a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need be issued for the construction, maintenance, and operation of the telecommunications towers and associated equipment, more particularly specified in the Decision and Order accompanying this Opinion.