

DOCKET NO. 50

AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE : CONNECTICUT SITING
NEW YORK SMSA LIMITED PARTNERSHIP :
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL : COUNCIL
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE :
CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND :
OPERATION OF A FACILITY IN THE TOWN :
OF GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT, TO PROVIDE : July 9, 1985
CELLULAR SERVICE. :

O P I N I O N

New York SMSA Limited Partnership (the Partnership) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need on April 15, 1985, for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a 150' telecommunication tower and associated equipment building in the Town of Greenwich. This facility will provide Domestic Public Cellular Radio Telecommunication Service (cellular service) in the area between existing Southern New England Telephone (SNET) sites in Fairfield County and existing New York cell sites.

After issuing due notice, Council members and staff inspected the proposed site and held a public hearing on the matter in Greenwich on May 22, 1985. During this hearing, the Partnership presented testimony supporting its claims that the provision of cellular service to the area is necessary, that any adverse environmental effects are minimal, and that alternative sites were unacceptable.

The tower's aesthetic impact would be the prime change to the surrounding area. A dense local forest consisting of tall trees would reduce the visibility of this tower, which is well removed from any local residences. There are no known historic sites in the vicinity, nor is any portion of the site located in an inland wetland. Some tree clearing

would be necessary within the 50'x50' tower site, and along the path of the 285' access road. To control potential erosion, staked hay bales and straw mulch will be utilized.

Constructed as proposed, the tower will be capable of withstanding 125 mph winds with up to 2" of radial ice buildup. A 150 mph wind velocity would be required to inflict visible distress on the proposed tower foundation, and an even greater velocity would be required to cause the tower to collapse. The nearest travelled lane of the Merrit Parkway is some 180' from the tower, and the nearest occupiable building is 200' from the tower. The Greenwich Council Boy Scouts of America intends to move their tent platforms to a distance greater than 200' from the tower's base and the Council will condition its approval on this action. Therefore, even in the unlikely event of a tower collapse, no life or property would be threatened.

Radio frequency electromagnetic radiation power standards would be far below the standards of American National Standards Institute for this frequency, and therefore are not considered to be hazardous.

The Partnership has indicated a willingness to enter into negotiations with appropriate private entities or local, municipal or state agencies interested in sharing space on this tower. The Council continues to encourage strongly such tower sharing whenever possible.

In its search for potential tower sites the Partnership considered alternate sites within the search area. One was within 100' of a residential area and the other included a 150' water tank which may have presented interference problems. No suitable existing towers are located within the applicant's search area.

The public need for cellular service has been previously established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FCC has also established the technical standards for cellular service. The Partnership obtained a construction permit from the FCC on June 21, 1984.

The facility would not disrupt transmissions or receptions with SNET systems in overlapping areas, because of prior frequency coordination by the applicant with SNET.

Based on the foregoing, the Council will order that a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need be issued to the Partnership for the construction of this facility.