

DOCKET NO. 53

AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY TELE-MEDIA : CONNECTICUT SITING
COMPANY OF NORTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT FOR
A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL :
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE : COUNCIL
ERECTION OF COMMUNITY ANTENNA TOWERS AND
ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT IN THE TOWNS OF :
BROOKLYN AND THOMPSON, CONNECTICUT. : October 8, 1985

O P I N I O N

Tele-Media Company of Northeastern Connecticut (Tele-Media) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of hub towers and receiving sites in the Towns of Brooklyn and Thompson, Connecticut. The Council visited the two proposed sites on September 4, 1985. Public hearings were held on this application the same day in Thompson and Brooklyn.

The Council considered the potential adverse environmental effects of the proposed facilities and concluded that they are not sufficient to deny this application. The major impact of these facilities would be their visibility. This is somewhat mitigated by the fact that both towers would be well removed from most homes and traffic. The Thompson tower, which will be lighted, will be visible over a considerable area, but its location in an Industrial Zone removed from most homes will serve to lessen potential visibility effects. The shorter Brooklyn tower, located in a rural area, would not be visible over as wide an area. Tele-Media has incorporated bends in both of its access roads to these sites which will preclude direct lines of sight to the towers from adjacent roadways. Trees will be left around the perimeters of the sites to provide seasonal screening, and the Council will require evergreen plantings to ensure year-round screening of the sites.

Although both sites have wetlands on them, these areas would not be damaged by constructing the facilities as proposed. Nevertheless, the Council will require an erosion and sediment control plan to safeguard these resources.

There are no known records of rare or endangered species occurring at either of these sites. Electromagnetic radio frequency power densities at these sites would be well below Connecticut standards for these frequencies, and therefore will not present a hazard to the general public.

After considering the potential adverse effects of CATV towers, such as their visibility, construction effects, and compatibility with present and future surrounding land uses, the Council determined that none of these potential effects would outweigh the need for these facilities. These facilities will allow Tele-Media to complete its proposed microwave network and provide CATV service to the towns of Brooklyn, Pomfret, and Thompson as required by the Department of Public Utility Control.

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