

DOCKET NO. 56A

METRO MOBILE CTS OF NEW HAVEN, INC., : CONNECTICUT SITING
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY :
AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, : COUNCIL
MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF FACILITIES
TO PROVIDE CELLULAR SERVICE IN NEW HAVEN
COUNTY; AMENDMENT RESOLUTION. : September 10, 1986

F I N D I N G S O F F A C T

1. Metro Mobile CT of New Haven, Inc., (Metro Mobile), in accordance with provisions of sections 16-50g to 16-50z of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) on October 30, 1985, for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need (certificate) for the construction, maintenance, and operation of telecommunication towers and associated equipment buildings to provide Domestic Public Cellular Radio Telecommunication Service (cellular service) in the New Haven New England County Metropolitan Area (New Haven NECMA). (Record)
2. Metro Mobile proposed cellular tower sites for the towns of Beacon Falls, Guilford, Hamden, Milford, Naugatuck, North Branford, Wallingford, West Haven, and Wolcott, in the application listed as Docket 56. (Record)
3. On April 14, 1986, the Council approved tower sites proposed by Metro Mobile in the towns of Wolcott, Naugatuck, West Haven, Milford, Hamden, Guilford, and North Branford. (Record)
4. At a meeting held on May 28, 1986, the Council resolved to reopen Docket 56 upon the requests of the Town of Hamden and the West Rock Ridge Park Association, pursuant to section 16-501(d) of the CGS. (Record)

5. Pursuant to section 16-501(d) of the CGS, the Council, after giving due notice thereof, held a public hearing in the Council Chambers of the Hamden Town Hall on July 10, 1986, at 2:30 P.M. and 6:30 P.M. (Record)
6. The parties to the proceeding are the certificate holder and those persons and organizations whose names are listed in the Decision and Order which accompanies these Findings. (Record)
7. The following agency filed written comments with the Council pursuant to section 16-50j of the CGS: the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).
8. The Council took administrative notice of its record in Docket 56. (Tr. p. 19)
9. Metro Mobile had originally proposed to construct a new 180' tower in Hamden on West Rock Ridge. On February 19, 1986, Metro Mobile revised its application to propose the shared use of an existing 250' tower owned by Henry M. Zachs. An engineering analysis indicated that with structural modifications, this tower would be capable of supporting the five proposed antennas. Presently, this tower supports 19 antennas from the 90' to 244' level. (Docket 56, Finding 76)
10. Metro Mobile would add three dual reflectorized receive antennas at the 180' level of the existing tower and two whip type transmit antennas at the 170' level. (Docket 56, Finding 77)
11. The site of the existing tower is 450' above mean sea level, Zoned R-1, and contains an existing equipment building and five existing masts and towers ranging in height from 80' to 250'. The site is on private land surrounded by West Rock Ridge State Park.

Permission to build the existing tower was granted in 1978 by the Hamden Zoning Board of Appeals. The Hamden Zoning Board of Appeals placed no restrictions on any future additions to this tower.

(Docket 56, Finding 79)

12. Metro Mobile would construct a single story 15'x21' equipment building at the base of the existing tower, which is already fenced in. (Docket 56, Finding 78)
13. The Town of Hamden, the West Rock Park Association, the West Rock Ridge Advisory Council, and the City of New Haven opposed placement of the antennas on the existing tower on the basis of opposition to any type of structure within a park boundary. (Tr. pp. 21-22)
14. The Council on Environmental Quality opposes the use of the existing tower on the grounds that it should be the policy of the state to discourage further degradation of the state park environment, no matter how small. (Tr. p. 88)
15. The State Historic Preservation Officer found the Hamden site would have no effect on historical, architectural, or archaeological resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. West Rock Ridge State Park has been nominated to be included in the National Register of Historic Places. (Tr. p. 104; Docket 56, Finding 128)
16. Metro Mobile did not consider the use of existing roof tops in metropolitan New Haven as potential sites because this metropolitan area will be covered by the West Haven cell site, not a Hamden cell site. (Metro Mobile 1, Q. 1, p. 2)
17. The Hamden cell site approved by the Council in Docket 56 provides the necessary coverage and interface with other cell site coverages.

Its location on West Rock Ridge provides coverage in all directions, which could otherwise be screened by the ridge itself, in one or more directions, from another site not on West Rock Ridge. (Metro Mobile 1, Q. 1, p. 7)

18. The Hamden site provides overlapping coverage with the West Haven site in the metropolitan New Haven area. This overlap, in an area of predicted heavy use, would allow for continuous cellular telephone traffic-handling between the two sites. As demand increases, this would delay the future need for an additional site or sites to serve this area. The Hamden site would interface with the Wolcott and North Branford sites to the north and northeast of the site. (Metro Mobile 1, Q. 1, pp. 7-8)
19. The Hamden cell site would provide unduplicated coverage to the northwest and north to areas of Ansonia, Derby, Woodbridge, and Bethany along portions of routes 34, 63, 67, 69, 114, and 313. To the northeast, unduplicated coverage extends to Hamden and North Haven along portions of routes 10, 15, 17, 22, 80, and Interstate 91. These coverages are not provided by any other approved site. (Metro Mobile 1, Q. 1, p. 8)
20. Metro Mobile would strengthen the existing Hamden tower in order to maintain the structure's Zone C wind and ice load rating under Electronic Industry Association Standard RS-222-C. This strengthening would involve the replacement of several diagonal members below the 115' level of the tower and reinforcement of the tower foundation. (Metro Mobile 1, Q. 1, p. 5)
21. If the existing Hamden tower were not utilized to hold the proposed antennas, at least two or possibly three tower sites would be necessary to take its place. (Metro Mobile 1, Q. 1, p. 12)

22. The proposed antennas and equipment building would be constructed on a 300'x145' privately-owned parcel of land surrounded entirely by West Rock Ridge State Park. (Docket 56, Metro Mobile 1, Exhibit 4, pp. 12-13)
23. To strengthen the existing 250' tower for these additional antennas would cost \$16,200. The revised total cost figure for the proposed facility is estimated at \$472,749. (Docket 56, Metro Mobile 28, Exhibit 28)
24. The Council is unaware at this time of any current legal proceedings to remove the existing 250' tower. (Tr. pp. 124-125)
25. Metro Mobile explored the feasibility of various alternate tower consolidations at the Hamden site, including four existing towers on West Rock Ridge, two other possible alternate sites, and cell splitting in lieu of the Hamden site. (Metro Mobile 1, Q. 3, p. 16)