

DOCKET NO. 58A

AN APPLICATION FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE : CONNECTICUT SITING
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY :
AND PUBLIC NEED FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS : COUNCIL
TOWERS AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT TO PROVIDE :
CELLULAR SERVICE IN HARTFORD, MIDDLESEX, :
AND TOLLAND COUNTIES. : April 22, 1987

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

1. Hartford Cellular Company (Hartford Cellular) 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 January 15, 1986, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) for the construction, operation, and maintenance of telecommunications towers and associated equipment buildings to provide Domestic Public Cellular Radio Telecommunication Service (cellular service) in the Hartford New England County Metropolitan Area (Hartford NECMA). (Docket 58, Finding 1)
2. Cellular sites were proposed for the towns of Bloomfield (two), Glastonbury, Haddam, Hartford, Middlefield, Portland, Rocky Hill, Somers, and Willington, Connecticut. (Docket 58, Finding 2)
3. On April 14, 1986, the applicant amended its application to include proposed tower sites in the towns of Vernon and Windsor. (Docket 58, Finding 3)
4. The Council and its staff inspected the proposed Vernon tower site on May 21, 1986. (Docket 58, Finding 7)

5. Pursuant to section 16-50m of the CGS, the Council, after giving due notice thereof, held a public hearing on May 21, 1986, at 7:00 P.M. in the Vernon Center Middle School in Vernon. (Docket 58, Finding 8)
6. On July 15, 1986, the Council issued a Certificate to Hartford Cellular for the construction and operation of facilities to provide cellular service in the Hartford NECMA, including a site in Vernon owned by the Connecticut Water Company. (Record)
7. On August 26, 1986, the Council approved the transfer of the Docket 58 Certificate to Metro Mobile CTS of Hartford, Inc. (Metro Mobile). (Record)
8. On March 12, 1987, Metro Mobile submitted an application for an amendment to the Certificate issued by the Council in Docket 58. (Record)
9. The fee as prescribed by section 16-50v-1 of the Regulations of State Agencies (RSA) accompanied the application for amendment. (Record)
10. The amendment application was accompanied by proof of service as required by section 16-50l of the CGS. (Record)
11. The Council took administrative notice of its record in Docket 58. (Record)
12. The originally certificated Vernon tower site is a 60-foot by 60-foot, leased parcel of land off South Street owned by the Connecticut Water Company. This site has an elevation of 620 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) within an R-22 single family residential zoning district. The tower would be 250 feet from the base of an existing 80-foot Connecticut Water Company tank. (Docket 58, Findings 123, 124, 125)

13. With antennas, the certificated 160-foot Vernon tower would be a 173-foot lattice structure. A 15-foot by 21-foot equipment building would be constructed near the base of this tower. (Docket 58, Finding 126)
14. The certificated Vernon tower would be visible from the intersection of South Street and Janet Lane, from the intersection of Vernon Avenue and High Street, from the intersection of South Street and Henry Parkway, and from Middle Terrace. Very limited visibility would be obtained from Knollwood Drive. (Docket 58, Finding 127)
15. Based on conservative assumptions, the power density at the certificated Vernon site would be $0.0038411 \text{ mW/cm}^2$ at the base of this tower. (Docket 58, Finding 129)
16. A survey of the certificated Vernon site after Council approval revealed that the boundary of the leased parcel was located farther to the east than originally believed. Construction of a tower at this location would have placed a nearby residence within its fall zone. (Amendment application, p. 7)
17. The area of high elevation east of the existing water tank has been reserved by the Connecticut Water Company as a possible future water tank location. (Amendment application, p. 7)
18. The modified Vernon tower site is 250 feet west of the originally certificated Vernon tower site, on the same parcel of land owned by the Connecticut Water Company. (Amendment application, p. 8)

19. The modified site is a 30-foot by 30-foot by 50-foot by 23-foot parcel located 645 feet south of South Street. The elevation of the modified site is 650 feet AMSL, 30 feet higher than the certificated site. (Amendment application, p. 8)
20. As a result of the higher elevation of the modified site, Metro Mobile would reduce the height of its proposed tower by 30 feet to a 130-foot Rohn SSV Heavy Series lattice tower, which would be 143 feet high, including antennas. (Amendment application, pp. 8-9)
21. The modified Vernon tower would be located approximately 50 feet from the base of the existing water tank, and 425 feet from the nearest occupied residence. The equipment building would be constructed near the base of the tower. (Amendment application, p. 9, Exhibit B, p. 5)
22. The electromagnetic radio frequency power density would be $0.0066495 \text{ mW/cm}^2$ at the base of the tower. (Amendment application, p. 10)
23. From the intersection of Evergreen Road and Oxbow Drive, the visibility of the modified Vernon tower would range from little or no visibility to some visibility of the upper portion of the tower. Visibility from the intersection of South Street and Janet Lane would vary from little or no visibility to some visibility of the upper portion of the tower. Visibility from the north end of Bancroft Street would vary between one-quarter and one-half of the tower. Visibility from the intersection of Vernon Avenue and High Street would vary from little or no visibility to some visibility of the upper portion of the tower. (Amendment application, Exhibit F, pp. 1-2)

24. The Federal Aviation Administration has determined that the modified Vernon tower is not an obstruction, and obstruction marking and lighting are not required. (Amendment application, Exhibit D, p. 1)
25. The total cost of the modified Vernon site would be \$402,341, which is approximately \$8,000 less than the certificated Vernon site. (Amendment application, p. 9)