

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

O P I N I O N

Hartford Cellular Company (Hartford Cellular) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) for the construction, maintenance, and operation of telecommunications towers and associated equipment in the towns of Bloomfield, Glastonbury, Haddam, Hartford, Middlefield, Portland, Rocky Hill, Somers, and Willington on January 15, 1986. This application was designated Docket 58. On April 14, 1986, Hartford Cellular amended its application to include proposed tower sites in the towns of Vernon and Windsor. On July 15, 1986, the Council issued a Certificate to Hartford Cellular for the construction of nine tower sites in the Hartford New England County Metropolitan Area (Hartford NECMA), including a tower site in the Town of Vernon. The Council approved the transfer of this Certificate to Metro Mobile CTS of Hartford, Inc., (Metro Mobile) on August 26, 1986.

Subsequent to Council certification, a survey of the approved Vernon tower site indicated that the boundary of the tower property was located farther to the east than originally believed. This would have placed a nearby residence within the approved Vernon tower fall zone. The owner of the site, the Connecticut Water Company, indicated to Metro Mobile that it had reserved adjacent space on its property for a possible future water tank next to its existing water tank.

As a result, Metro Mobile found it necessary to move the site of its Vernon tower. On March 12, 1987, Metro Mobile submitted an application for an amendment to its certificate for the Vernon tower site.

The modified Vernon tower site described in the amendment would be approximately 250 feet west of the certificated Vernon tower site on the same parcel of land owned by the Connecticut Water Company. The modified location is 30 feet higher in elevation than the originally approved Vernon site. As a result, Metro Mobile now proposes to construct a tower 30 feet shorter in height than the originally approved 160-foot tower. Additionally, the modified tower site would be 425 feet from the nearest occupied residence.

The modified 130-foot tower would be no more visible from surrounding roads and neighborhoods than the certificated 160-foot tower. Electromagnetic radiation power density levels at the base of the modified fenced-in tower site would be well within the levels generally recognized as safe for these frequencies. The tower would not be an obstruction to navigation, and therefore would not be obstruction marked or lighted, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

The Council considered the visual impact of this tower and the minimal electromagnetic radiation it would produce, and has decided they are not sufficient to deny this application for amendment. The Council will therefore grant the requested amendment to the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Vernon tower site.