DOCKET NO. 66

AN APPLICATION OF CABLEVISION OF CONNECTICUT, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE ERECTION OF A COMMUNITY ANTENNA TELEVISION TOWER AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT IN EASTON, CONNECTICUT.	:	CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
	:	November 10, 1986

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

1. Cablevision of Connecticut, Limited Partnership (Cablevision), 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 July 18, 1986, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) for the installation of Community Antenna Television (CATV) equipment in the Town of Easton, Connecticut. (Record)
2. The fee as prescribed by section 16-50v-1 of the Regulations of State Agencies (RSA) accompanied the application. (Record)
3. The application was accompanied by proof of service, as required by section 16-501 of the CGS. (Record)
4. Affidavits of newspaper notice as required by statute and section 16-501-1 of the RSA were also filed with the application. (Record)
5. The Council and its staff made an inspection of the proposed site on October 1, 1986. (Record)
6. Pursuant to section 16-50m of the CGS, the Council, after giving due notice thereof, held a public hearing on this application in the Samuel Staples School on Center Road in Easton, Connecticut, on October 1, 1986. (Record)

7. The parties to this proceeding are the applicant and those persons and organizations whose names are listed in the Decision and Order which accompanies these findings. (Record)
8. The following state agency filed written comments with the Council pursuant to section 16-50j of the CGS: The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). (Record)
9. Cablevision is presently unable to provide cable television service to the towns of Easton and Redding because the quality of the television picture which would reach subscribers in those towns would not meet the minimum Federal Communications Commission (FCC) standards for service which relies on trunklines and relays. (Cablevision 1, p. 3)
10. Cablevision proposes to construct facilities in Easton which would provide a direct 12-mile microwave signal path interconnecting Cablevision's existing Norwalk head-end facility with the proposed Easton head-end. When signals transmitted from Norwalk are received at the proposed Easton site, these signals would be transported via trunklines to subscribers in Easton and Redding. (Cablevision 1, p. 3)
11. The Norwalk head-end would transmit signals from the Galaxy I, Satcom F-3, and Satcom F-4 satellites to the proposed Easton head-end. (Cablevision 1, p. 5)
12. The proposed Easton site is located on Round Hill at an elevation of 550 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). The Norwalk site has an elevation of 257 feet AMSL. (Cablevision 1, p. 5; Cablevision 1, Exhibit 4; Cablevision Late File 7, Figure 2)

13. The proposed Easton site, owned by Nancy and Irving Silverman, is bounded by meadows and trees. Two two-way radio repeaters are mounted on telephone poles at this site, and the property also has antennas mounted on an X-frame pole. The proposed facility would be located 40 feet to the west of the two-way radio repeaters. (Cablevision 1, pp. 5-6; Cablevision 4, Q. 1; Tr., p. 33)

14. Access to the proposed Easton site would be via an existing dirt road. (Cablevision 1, p. 6)

15. The proposed Easton site has a direct line of sight to the Norwalk head-end facility. (Cablevision 1, pp. 6-7)

16. The Town of Easton Zoning Regulations designate the entire town as Zone B, which permits general farming and residential uses. (Cablevision, p. 6)

17. Cablevision proposes to construct a ten-foot by ten-foot by ten-foot concrete block equipment building. A 12-foot diameter antenna would be mounted on this building's external southwest wall, six feet above ground level, to receive signals from the Norwalk head-end facility. The proposed antenna would be dark gray in color. (Cablevision 1, p. 3; Tr., p. 24; Cablevision 1, Exhibit 1; Cablevision 4, Q. 3)

18. The overall height of the antenna and building would be 18 feet above the ground. (Cablevision 1, p. 4)

19. Six Microwave Associates 12 Gigahertz transmitters would be located within the proposed equipment building. (Tr., p. 24)

20. The proposed equipment building would be surrounded by a fence. The height and location of this fence would avoid interfering with signal paths to the proposed antenna. (Tr., pp. 24-25)

21. Utilities would be brought into the proposed Easton site underground. (Cablevision 4, Q. 5)

22. The Norwalk head-end site would be able to transmit 18 off-air services, 24 satellite services, ten Norwalk origination services, and five Eastern microwave services to the proposed Easton site. Thus, Easton and Redding subscribers would be offered a total of 57 channels. The proposed Easton head-end would be able to transmit six Easton services back to the Norwalk head-end facility. (Cablevision 4, Q. 20)

23. The proposed Easton head-end facility would provide interconnections between the public schools of Easton, Weston, and Redding, and the public schools of Greenwich, Stamford, Darien, Wilton, New Canaan, Norwalk, and Westport, thereby expanding an institutional cable television network. (Cablevision 1, p. 4)

24. The power density level at the proposed Easton site would be a maximum of 0.4 watts at the antenna input for each of the six television channels, resulting in a maximum of 2.4 watts, if all six channels were broadcasting simultaneously. (Cablevision Late File 7)

25. The 2.4 watts of radio frequency energy would be directed into a narrow beam to the Norwalk head-end receiving antenna. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) power density standard for the proposed frequency is five milliwatts per square centimeter. The energy level at the proposed Easton site would fall below the ANSI level within 15 feet of the proposed antenna. (Cablevison Late File 7)

26. The proposed Easton antenna and equipment building would be obscured from the view of nearby homes by a security fence built around the proposed facility and by trees planted by Cablevision. (Cablevision 4, Q. 6; Tr., p. 26)

27. Cablevision is willing to screen the proposed site from the north side with trees. No trees or screening would be placed directly in front of the proposed antenna. (Tr., pp. 40-41)

28. A portion of the proposed antenna would have limited visibility from Sport Hill Road and Center Road. It would not be visible from Adams Road or from Morehouse Road. (Tr., pp. 25-26)

29. The proposed Easton facility would be licensed with the FCC, but would not require approval from the Federal Aviation Administration. (Cablevision 1, p. 8)

30. Alternative sites investigated by Cablevision were Powell's Hill and Flirt Hill in Easton, the Weston Landfill and Meecham Farms in Weston, and Gilbert Hill and the Redding Lookout Tower in Redding. (Cablevision 4. Q. 11)

31. The proposed Easton facility would have no effect on the historic, architectural, or archaeological resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. (Cablevision Late File 6)

32. There are no known existing records of endangered or threatened species or species of special concern that would be affected by the proposed Easton facility. (Cablevision 4, Exhibit F)

33. An estimated 4,355 homes would be eligible for cable television service in the Easton-Redding area as a result of the construction of the proposed Easton head-end. Approximately 208 miles of new cable would have to be installed to provide service to these customers. (Cablevision 4, Q. 21)

34. An estimated 60% of the homes in the Easton-Redding area would eventually be served with cable television from the proposed Easton head-end facility. (Cablevision 4, Q. 21)

35. The costs for the proposed Easton site and antenna are estimated as follows:

Construction and leasehold improvements,		$ 20,000.00;
Associated equipment,		210,000.00;
	Total	$230,000.00.

(Cablevision 1, p. 8)

36. Estimated costs to provide an alternative cable network to Easton and Redding from the existing Norwalk head-end are as follows:

Addition of second cable strand through Norwalk,		$187,000.00;
Labor,		44,000.00;
Cable and hardware,		97,000.00;
Amplifiers and power supplies,		63,000.00;
	Total	$391,000.00.

(Cablevision 4, Q. 14)