

AN APPLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN : CONNECTICUT SITING
NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR
A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE : COUNCIL
CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND
OPERATION OF FACILITIES TO PROVIDE
CELLULAR SERVICE IN THE TOWNS OF
EAST LYME AND WATERFORD, CONNECTICUT. : December 22, 1986

O P I N I O N

The Southern New England Telephone Company (SNET) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need for the construction, operation, and maintenance of telecommunication towers and associated equipment buildings in the towns of East Lyme and Waterford to provide Domestic Cellular Radio Telecommunications Service (cellular service) in the New London New England County Metropolitan Area (NECMA).

The Council visited the proposed sites and an alternative to the proposed Waterford site on October 15, 1986. A public hearing was held in Waterford on the evening of October 15, 1986. The Council took administrative notice of its record in its proceeding in Docket 45, which pertained to SNET cellular service.

The Federal Communication Commission has determined that a public need for cellular service exists. The Waterford tower will provide coverage to the towns of Waterford, New London, Groton, portions of Ledyard and Montville, eastern Long Island Sound, and Fishers Island. The East Lyme tower will provide coverage to the towns of East Lyme, Old Lyme, Lyme, and eastern Long Island Sound. The Council finds that these facilities are necessary to provide cellular service. The establishment of these facilities to provide cellular service is not contingent on future siting decisions in adjacent areas.

In its deliberations, the Council considered such potential adverse effects of the facilities as their visibility, construction impacts, and compatibility with surrounding properties.

The impact of the proposed facilities would be primarily visual. The Waterford tower at the proposed landfill site would be less visible from some of the residences on Miner Lane than the alternative tower site located on the Occhionero property. The proposed Waterford landfill site because it would involve less construction. There are no known records of rare or endangered species occurring at any of the proposed or alternative sites. The State Historic Preservation Officer has determined that the construction of towers at the sites in this application would have no effect on the State's historic, architectural, or archaeological resources. Radiation power density levels for these radio frequencies will be well below the American National Standards Institute levels.

Based on these considerations, the Council has determined that the environmental effects of either of the proposed sites is insufficient to justify denying Council approval, and that the Waterford landfill tower site is preferable to the Waterford alternative tower site. Therefore, the Council will order that a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need be issued for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed Waterford landfill tower site and East Lyme tower site.