

DOCKET NO. 77 - AN APPLICATION OF METRO : CONNECTICUT SITING
MOBILE CTS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY, INC., : COUNCIL
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR
CELLULAR TELEPHONE ANTENNAS AND
ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT IN THE TOWN OF : August 4, 1987
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT.

O P I N I O N

Metro Mobile CTS of Fairfield County, Inc. (Metro Mobile), applied to the Connecticut Siting Council for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a facility to provide cellular telephone service in the Town of Trumbull, Connecticut. The proposed site would provide cellular coverage within the Bridgeport New England County Metropolitan Area (Bridgeport NECMA).

The proposed Trumbull antenna site would consist of the attachment of cellular antennas to an existing 486-foot communications tower. This tower presently supports 92 antennas used for two-way radio, commercial radio, and paging services. Metro Mobile would install its three receive antennas at the 250-foot level of this tower, and attach two transmit antennas at the 230-foot level. An existing equipment building at the base of this tower would house the necessary

cellular electronic equipment. Access to the tower and equipment building would be via an existing roadway from Video Lane. Existing telephone and utility lines would be used.

The proposed site would provide cellular coverage to Trumbull and portions of the towns of Monroe, Easton, Stratford, and the City of Bridgeport. Roadways covered would include the Merritt Parkway and Routes 25, 28, 59, and 127. The proposed Trumbull site would overlap with approved cellular sites in Shelton and Milford, and a planned site in Fairfield.

Several members of the public appeared before the Council at its hearing on June 17, 1987, to oppose the addition of the proposed antennas due to continuing problems of television and radio interference at nearby residences. They attributed this interference to the antennas now on the tower. The Council is troubled by these complaints. Nevertheless, the Council must rely on the evidence regarding cellular interference with radio and television signals. According to the record, cellular systems broadcast on a much higher frequency than those currently broadcasting from the tower. The Federal Communications Commission specified the technical standards used in cellular service to minimize interference with other forms of radio or television communications. Officials of Metro Mobile testified that Metro Mobile has not received any

complaints of television or radio interference from its cellular frequencies anywhere in the areas it provides service. Although it is possible that intermodulation might increase interference, the record indicates this is most likely to occur at lower frequencies and is unlikely to occur at the frequencies at which the applicant would operate.

Metro Mobile considered and rejected eight potential alternative sites in the Trumbull area. These sites were rejected for reasons of inadequate coverage, failure to reach lease agreements, and low elevation.

The proposed facility would not affect rare or endangered species or areas of unique historical significance. The visual impact of the addition of five antennas would be minimal. The use of an existing tower avoids the visual impact and other possible effects of a new tower. The Council has identified no adverse environmental impacts that would result from the facility, and no instances of inconsistency with policies of the State of Connecticut. The Council will therefore issue a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the proposed Trumbull facility.