

DOCKET NO. 88 - AN APPLICATION OF : CONNECTICUT SITING  
METRO MOBILE CTS OF NEW HAVEN, INC.,  
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL :  
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR : COUNCIL  
CELLULAR TELEPHONE ANTENNAS AND  
ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT IN THE TOWN OF :  
SOUTHURY, CONNECTICUT. : MARCH 3, 1988

O P I N I O N

Metro Mobile CTS of New Haven, Inc. (Metro Mobile) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) on November 6, 1987, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) for the establishment of a cellular telephone tower site within the Town of Southbury. The Council held a public hearing on the proposed and alternative Southbury sites on January 4, 1988, in the Southbury Town Hall.

The proposed Southbury site is a 50-foot by 80-foot parcel of land on Luther Drive. Metro Mobile proposes to construct a 100-foot monopole here, which would be a 113-foot structure with antennas. This proposed site is within an area zoned R-60 Residential. Approximately 70 residences are within a 2,000-foot radius of the proposed site, the nearest of which is within 200 feet. The proposed tower would be constructed 15 feet from the pavement of Luther Drive and 55 feet from an existing Algonquin Gas Transmission Company (Algonquin) natural gas pipeline. Algonquin requested to the Council that Metro Mobile coordinate the design and installation of the tower grounding system with that company if the Council granted approval for this proposed site.

The alternative Southbury site is a 50-foot by 70-foot parcel of land off of Old Waterbury Road. The alternative site is zoned M2-Industrial, and has 17 homes within a 2,000-foot radius. The two nearest homes are about 900 feet distant. The owner of the alternative site has plans to develop the remainder of this property into an office complex.

Metro Mobile would construct a 230-foot monopole at the alternative site. The structure would be 243 feet in height, including antennas. However, the final height of this tower might be lower than this, because the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has indicated in a preliminary determination that a tower structure greater than 207 feet in height would constitute an obstruction to aerial navigation. Metro Mobile has requested further study of this height limitation from the FAA, and believes this study would be completed by early March, 1988.

The alternative tower site is 100 feet from the nearest portion of an entrance ramp onto Route I-84. No buildings or other structures are within the fall zone of the alternative tower.

Pursuant to repeated encouragement from the Council, Metro Mobile and its competitor, SNET Cellular, Inc. had proposed to construct a tower for joint use in Southbury, but objections by the Southbury Town Planning Commission caused the companies to withdraw their proposal. Consequently, Metro Mobile and SNET have developed their cellular systems on each side of Southbury, which now precludes the use of a shared tower in that town.

The Council looks forward to receiving such joint use proposals in future applications, and encourages the respective companies to continue the search for such proposals with the cooperation of local authorities, making clear the Federal Communications Commission dual policy and engineering limitations which may force less desirable installations if such opportunities are lost.

Either of the sites proposed in this application would overlap with the coverage of an existing Metro Mobile Naugatuck site to the east. Similarly, either of the Southbury sites would overlap with the coverage of either of the Newtown sites proposed in Docket 89.

The Council considered the potential environmental impacts of the proposed and alternative Southbury sites, and concludes that the alternative tower, although visible along I-84, would have less impact in its immediate surroundings. The proposed Luther Drive site is within a residential section of Southbury, while the alternative site has no nearby residences, is adjacent to a Route I-84 entrance ramp, and will eventually become part of an office complex.

The Council is, however, concerned that the final height of the alternative tower has not yet been determined by the FAA, and encourages the applicant to seek and receive future determinations from the FAA before submitting Development and Management Plans to the Council.

The alternative site would have no effect on rare and endangered species, or areas of historic significance. Electromagnetic radio frequency power densities would be well below current American National Standards Institute safety standards for these frequencies.

The Council will therefore deny the proposed tower site on Luther Drive and issue a Certificate for the alternative Southbury site on Old Waterbury Road.

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