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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



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CONNECTICUT  
SITING COUNCIL

Thomas F. Harrison  
Chairman

DATE: January 28, 2008

M. Howard Beach

TO: S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director  
Connecticut Siting Council

Bruce R. Fernandez

FROM: Thomas F. Harrison, Chairman *TH*

John M. Mandyck

RE: Woodstock Telecommunications Facility (Docket No. 350)

Earl W. Phillips, Jr.

In response to your request for consultation regarding the above referenced project, the Council on Environmental Quality has reviewed the application for the project. The Council recommends that the application be denied and that an alternative site be considered.

Richard Sherman

Norman VanCor

Section 16-50p(b)(1) of the Public Utility Environmental Standards Act states clearly that the Siting Council may deny an application for such a facility if it "would substantially affect the scenic quality of its location and no public safety concerns require the proposed facility to be constructed in such a location."

Barbara C. Wagner

Wesley Winterbottom

The setting of Black Pond is unusually wild and undeveloped. The Town of Woodstock has emphasized the importance of its scenic vistas in its Plan of Open Space and Conservation. The state has invested in forest land on the southern shore and provides a boat launch that allows the public to experience this rare visual resource. Certainly the view of the tower would detract from the natural setting sought by those who choose Black Pond to fish, boat and camp. The Council urges you to consider how the tower rising above the forested ridgeline will draw the eye, thereby creating a disproportionate disruption of the natural ambiance of this location.

Karl J. Wagener  
Executive Director

Section 16-50p(b)(1) specifically requires the Siting Council to examine whether a proposed facility would be located in an area of the state that the Council finds "to be a relatively undisturbed area that possesses scenic quality of local, regional, or state-wide significance." Black Pond has all three levels of significance. If this section of the statutes is ever to have meaning and applicability, it must apply to this remote, wooded public resource and recreation area. This Council concludes that a case has not been made that public safety concerns demand the facility to be constructed in the proposed location.

CC: Gina McCarthy, Commissioner of Environmental Protection