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CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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APPLICATION OF)
METROCAST) DOCKET NO.: 355
COMMUNICATIONS OF)
CONNECTICUT, LLC FOR)
CERTIFICATE OF)
ENVIRONMENTAL)
COMPATIBILITY AND)
PUBLIC NEED FOR A CATV)
HEADEND FACILITY IN)
MONTVILLE, CT) May 24, 2007

**PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF JOHN F. DEE IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION
OF METROCAST COMMUNICATIONS OF CONNECTICUT, LLC**

1 **Q. Please state your name, title, and business address.**

2 A. My name is John F. Dee. I am the General Manager of MetroCast Communications of
3 Connecticut, LLC ("MetroCast" or the "Company"). The Company's address is
4 MetroCast Communications of Connecticut, LLC, 61 Myrock Avenue, Waterford, CT
5 06385.

6
7 **Q. What are your professional qualifications?**

8 A. I have over 20 years experience in the cable television industry, primarily in operations
9 management. Prior to joining Metrocast, I had served as Vice President and General
10 Manager for Charter Communications in Connecticut. I also served as Northeast
11 Director of Operations for Avalon Cable and previously as Regional Operations Manager
12 for Pegasus Communications in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut. I have served
13 as the General Manager of MetroCast since September 1, 2006.

1 **Q. Have you previously participated in cable proceedings before the Connecticut Siting**
2 **Council (the “Council”)?**

3 A. While I have not testified in Council hearings, I have been involved in working with the
4 Council. In 1996, Pegagus Communications needed to relocate its headend facility. The
5 process involved a site inspection by Council Staff and a favorable report ensued. Also,
6 Charter’s Connecticut operations involved several certificated CATV towers, and I was
7 part of the team involved in the preparation of the notice of exempt modification for
8 Charter’s CATV tower and headend facility in Ashford, Connecticut.

9
10 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

11 A. My testimony is to support the Company’s application for a certificate of environmental
12 compatibility and public need for the expansion of an existing headend facility at 689 Old
13 Colchester Road, Montville, Connecticut.

14
15 **Q. Please describe MetroCast’s reasons for this Application?**

16 A. In September 1, 2006, MetroCast became the CATV company operating in the franchise
17 territory formerly held by Eastern Connecticut Cable Television, Inc. (“Eastern”). The
18 Department of Public Utility Control (“DPUC”) approved this transfer and issued a
19 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (also known as a “Franchise”) to
20 MetroCast. We have enclosed a copy of the DPUC Decision as Exhibit 13 to our
21 Application in this proceeding. As part of the DPUC approval, MetroCast committed to
22 undertake an extensive, twenty-five million dollar plus project that would require the

1 upgrade/rebuild of the cable system to convert it into a technologically modern
2 broadband network, capable of delivering scores of programming choices and other
3 advanced services, such as enhanced digital services, increased Internet access
4 capabilities, and cable telephony. As part of this modernization, the Company is taking
5 steps to locate each of its satellite earth stations in one location, which, among other
6 things, will result in increased efficiencies and a centralized location from where to
7 deliver these new advanced services. A review of the Company's existing assets and
8 facilities determined that expanding MetroCast's existing facilities at 689 Old Colchester
9 Road was the most logical means to accomplish this goal. At this site, the new earth
10 stations necessary to deliver MetroCast's advanced CATV services can easily be
11 consolidated and located next to an existing CATV tower, which will allow for the easy
12 and efficient integration of these facilities into the Company's CATV system. The
13 Company's proposed headend expansion will result in MetroCast's franchise area having
14 some of the most advanced CATV services available in Connecticut.

15
16 **Q. Please describe the additional services that will be provided by MetroCast upon**
17 **completion of this project.**

18 A. Addition of the nine earth stations to the Company's CATV facilities will result in an
19 immediate benefit and upgrade to the quality and quantity of CATV services presently
20 available in MetroCast's franchise territory. In addition to 89 new channels of
21 programming, expansion of the headend facilities will result in a wide array of increased
22 broadband, telecommunications, and advanced services, including cable telephony.

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Q. Please describe the existing CATV tower located at 689 Old Colchester Road.

A. The existing CATV tower located at 689 Old Colchester Road was originally constructed by Eastern in 1972, which predated the Council’s jurisdiction over CATV tower facilities. In 1988, Eastern performed a one-to-one replacement of the tower, that resulted in construction of the tower currently on the site. The Company’s application does not propose to modify or change any aspect of the existing CATV tower. However, the Company is using the Application as a vehicle by which the Council will have jurisdiction over the CATV tower as a certificated facility on a going-forward basis.

Q. Please describe the construction of the proposed earth stations.

A. The construction of the earth stations is quite simple and, in addition to all related electrical, conduit, and wiring work, will take no longer than 14 days. Basically, contractors will need to mark and pour foundations for each of the earth stations, upon which pre-fabricated satellite dishes will be installed. MetroCast already has lined up contractors to perform the work and confirmed the installation timeframes.

Q. What kind of maintenance will the earth stations and related equipment require on a going-forward basis?

A. There is very little post-construction work of any kind that will need to be performed on the earth stations and related equipment. MetroCast is installing nine Prodelin 4.5M RxO earth stations that feature a rugged design and special coating in order to be protected

1 from the elements, including salt, pollution, and contamination encountered in coastal
2 and industrial areas, winds up to 125 mph, and temperatures ranging from -40 to 160° F.
3 (See Exhibit 10).
4

5 **Q. Is there anything else you would like to tell the Council?**

6 A. Yes. Because time is of the essence, the Company very much appreciates the expedited
7 manner by which the Council has scheduled a hearing on this Application. MetroCast is
8 working within both a tight business, and tight regulatory schedule to expand its headend
9 facility and begin offering its new, advanced CATV services. Under the DPUC's
10 Decision, MetroCast must complete its full system upgrade/rebuild to be fully activated
11 and ubiquitously deployed by no later than March 1, 2009. The nature of projects such
12 as this requires that the upgrade/rebuild be activated on almost a town-by-town basis.
13 Because the Company is well on its way to completing the first town of its
14 upgrade/rebuild, the Council's approval process will ultimately impact when the
15 residents of that community receive the Company's expanded programming line-up,
16 along with the provisioning of advanced services. Finally, it is worth noting the time
17 and effort MetroCast has invested with the Council (both pre- and post-filing of the
18 Application) and the Town of Montville in order to make this process as smooth and as
19 open as possible. As indicated by Exhibit 9 to the Application, the Town of Montville is
20 supportive of the Company's application and is looking forward to the new, advanced
21 services soon to be available to all customers of MetroCast.
22

1 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

2 A. Yes, it does. I would like to thank the Council members and staff for their courtesy
3 during this proceeding.