



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Petition No. 172
Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation
Staff Report
January 26, 1987

On January 5, 1987, Chairperson Gloria Dibble Pond, Owen Clark, and Robert K. Erling of the Siting Council met Phillip Accardi and Mark Dudzik of Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation (CNG), Allen Smith and Russell L. Brennemann representing CNG, and Walter Micowski of Data Beam Systems Corporation. CNG is petitioning the Siting Council for a declaratory ruling that telecommunications facilities it proposes to construct would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

CNG proposes to construct four towers. The purpose is to test a system to transmit data on the consumption of utility services directly to CNG offices, obviating the need for meter readers. The test would conclude by July 1, 1988. The towers would each be 150-foot Rohn self-supporting antenna towers, measuring 2.5 feet in width at the base, tapering to one-foot in width at the top. Whip type antennas, approximately 10 feet in length, and two and 7/8 inches in diameter, would be installed atop these towers.

CNG may also place a rooftop antenna on a building in downtown Hartford, and a 10-foot antenna may be placed atop CNG offices at 100 Columbus Boulevard in Hartford. (The petition field review team did not visit these sites).

The disposition of the towers and rooftop antennas at the conclusion of the test is unclear. The petition states that "The towers will be . . . temporary . . ." However, it also states:

At the close of the test period, CNG will either remove the structures or will pursue further proceedings before the Siting Council if any are required.

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If the testing establishes the viability of the network, CNG plans to expand the system to a total of 8-10 towers which will cover the entire CNG service area and serve its approximately 130,000 customers.

To communicate with these towers, small microwave transmitter units would be installed at customer locations to monitor and transmit natural gas consumption data to these towers, which in turn would transmit information to a master base unit. The CNG computer system would use the information to automatically process bills.

The four proposed tower sites are all located on CNG-owned property. The proposed New Britain site is located off Winchell Street in an industrial-zoned area. The nearest home is 180 feet away. In Glastonbury, the proposed tower would be installed atop a one-story brick building, located off of Keeney Street. The nearest residence is 300 feet in distance. The proposed Rocky Hill site is located off of Cromwell Avenue. The area is zoned for manufacturing. A 125-foot CNG tank is located nearby. The nearest home is 460 feet away. In Bloomfield, the proposed site is off of Simsbury Road in a residential-zoned area. The nearest home is 280 feet away.

According to CNG, since the towers would be less than 200 feet in height, they would not be obstruction marked or lighted under Federal Aviation Administration rules. Power density levels at the fence boundaries of the proposed sites would be between $.000006 \text{ mW/cm}^2$ and $.00000006 \text{ mW/cm}^2$, levels well below American National Standards Institute guidelines for these frequencies. The sites would be enclosed by fencing.

CNG maintains the proposed system would reduce the travel of 26 meter readers in the Hartford area, who, using their own transportation, travel 75,000 miles per year. It is estimated that each proposed tower and antenna site would cost approximately \$6,000 to construct. Construction would be completed within 90 days of Council action.

Some of the proposed towers would be visible from nearby roads and residences. CNG would attempt to minimize tower visibility by the use of tree screening and tower painting.

Robert K. Erling
Siting Analyst

RKE/cp

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