

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

RE: APPLICATION BY CELLCO  
PARTNERSHIP, d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS,  
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED  
FOR A TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY  
AT 723 LEETES ISLAND ROAD, (MEDLYN  
FARM), IN THE TOWN OF BRANFORD,  
CONNECTICUT

DOCKET NO. 413

Date: April 12, 2011

**PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF SCOTT HEFFERNAN**

**Q1. Please state your name and profession.**

A1. Scott Heffernan and I am the president and principal engineer for Transcom Engineering, Inc. ("Transcom"), which is located in Sterling, Massachusetts.

**Q2. What kind of services does Transcom provide?**

A2. Transcom provides wireless design services for both commercial and government projects including, but not limited to, evaluating possible sites for telecommunications facilities, system design, and determining radio frequency ("RF") coverage, capacity and interference for proposed telecommunications facilities.

**Q3. Please summarize your professional background in telecommunications.**

A3. I have a B.S. in Physics from Clark University and Certificates in Telecommunications Engineering and UNIX Programming from Northeastern University. I have over 15 years of experience in wireless engineering, which includes the design, integration, optimization and management of network build-outs for commercial wireless carriers such as Nextel, AT&T, Wireless, Cingular and Voicestream (T-Mobile's

predecessor). I have also been involved in network design for government entities such as the Department of Homeland Security, Department of the Army, Department of the Navy, and the United States Marine Corps. I have spent the last 6 years primarily as an independent contractor for T-Mobile, focusing on the design and integration of the T-Mobile wireless network.

**Q4. What services did you provide T-Mobile regarding the proposed Facility?**

A4. I evaluated T-Mobile's existing network in Branford, Connecticut, specifically within the areas surrounding the telecommunications facility proposed by Celco Partnership d.b.a. Verizon Wireless ("Verizon") at 723 Leetes Island Road in Branford ("Facility"). In doing so, I considered the general design of T-Mobile's network, the technical constraints in selecting certain proposed facilities, and the specific need for the Facility.

**Q5. Please describe T-Mobile's wireless network in Connecticut.**

A5. T-Mobile's predecessor entities began constructing a wireless network to provide Personal Communication Services ("PCS") in Connecticut in the mid-1990s. T-Mobile is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission to provide PCS service using frequencies in the 1900 MHz range and AWS service using frequencies in the 2100 MHz range. Current efforts are directed to providing signals to areas without coverage and meeting demand for additional capacity within the areas already served. Each new site must be chosen to meet the need for coverage and/or capacity without creating RF interference among sites.

**Q6. What requirements does the nature of wireless technology place on T-Mobile's selection of cellular tower locations?**

A6. Like all personal communications service providers, T-Mobile's wireless network is based on the principle of frequency re-use. T-Mobile must select cellular tower locations so that the towers provide sufficient signal strength overlap to allow a call to be "handed-off" between cellular tower locations without creating unnecessary duplicative coverage and frequency interference. Terrain variations may also limit the siting of cellular towers.

Technological advances in service, such as the availability of data and video services through customer handsets, are also significant factors in system development. Increased customer demand and expectations resulting from those advances drive the need for additional sites.

T-Mobile's required lower limit threshold is -84 dBm, which is expected to provide reliable in-vehicle coverage. A higher threshold level of -76 dBm is the minimum required to provide reliable in-building coverage. At levels below the -84 dBm threshold, T-Mobile's service to customers for voice and data services would experience signal degradation. In addition, levels below -84 dBm would adversely affect T-Mobile's ability to provide reliable E-911 services as mandated by the federal government. See T-Mobile's responses to the Council's First Set of Interrogatories, dated February 4, 2011.

**Q7. Please describe T-Mobile's need for the proposed Facility.**

A7. The Facility would be an integral component of T-Mobile's wireless network in Branford. There is a gap in coverage in this area, specifically along Route 146, Old Quarry Road, New Quarry Road, Andrews Road and Inner Circle, as well as the Amtrak

rail line that passes through the area and the areas surrounding the site of the proposed Facility. Please see T-Mobile's Responses to the Council's First Set of Interrogatories, dated February 4, 2011. The Facility, in conjunction with other existing and future facilities in Branford and surrounding towns, is necessary for T-Mobile to provide wireless services to people living and working in and traveling through this area of the State.

**Q8. How did you analyze the efficacy of the proposed Facility?**

A8. I used propagation prediction tools to determine the potential effectiveness of the proposed Facility in meeting the identified coverage need. That analysis took into account T-Mobile's coverage objective, T-Mobile's existing on-air sites in this area of the State and the existing terrain and vegetation. The analysis confirmed that the proposed Facility would provide service to the target area and would improve service generally within this area of Branford. The Facility would provide effective service with antenna arrays located at approximately 80 feet above grade level ("AGL"). At lower heights, the coverage in this area of Branford starts to deteriorate and fall below T-Mobile's minimum required threshold of -84 dBm.

**Q9. Was T-Mobile's search for a facility based upon your analysis of need?**

A9. Yes. T-Mobile's search for a facility in this area of Branford was based upon my analysis of need. T-Mobile initiated the site search in this area of Branford on or about July 10, 2008. The starting point for the search area was located between Route 146

and the Amtrak rail line approximately 0.3 miles west of the Route 146 Amtrak rail line crossing in Branford, Connecticut.

**Q10. Has a test drive been conducted in this area regarding the proposed Facility?**

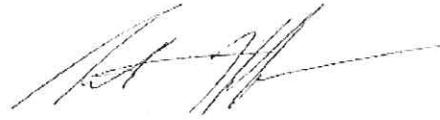
A10. Yes. T-Mobile continually drives its on-air sites for network analysis and propagation model tuning purposes. A wireless network is dynamic environment, subject to equipment, frequency and environmental changes. T-Mobile strives to have the most current test drive data available for any given area in its network. This allows for greater accuracy in its current network design of new facilities to ensure that each new facility is a quality edition to the network.

**Q11. Please summarize the basis for the height of the proposed Facility.**

A11. The analysis of this area of Branford confirmed that the minimum height required to cover the intended coverage objective is approximately 80 feet AGL. At lower heights, the coverage starts to deteriorate and fall below T-Mobile's minimum required threshold of -84 dBm. Accordingly, antennae located at the proposed height would allow T-Mobile to provide adequate coverage within the target coverage area. Please see T-Mobile's responses to the Council's First Set of Interrogatories, dated February 4, 2011.

**Q12. Is adequate coverage in this area of Branford necessary to provide consistent and reliable 911 service?**

A12. Yes. If the coverage within a specific area is inadequate, then not only does routine call reliability suffer, but so does 911 / emergency call reliability.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Heffernan

Sworn and subscribed to before me this  
12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2011.

Karen M. Bartholomew

*Notary Public*  
*My Commission expires*

KAREN M. BARTHOLOMEW  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES APR. 30, ~~2011~~  
2013

