

FOR THE INTERVENORS LEE AND KAORI HIGGINS,
PETER AND ELIZABETH JANIS, AND RICHARD AND SUSAN
KOSINSKI:

BERCHEM, MOSES, AND DEVLIN, P.C.
27 Imperial Avenue
Westport, Connecticut 06880
BY: IRA W. BLOOM, ESQUIRE
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HEARING RE: NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS (AT&T)
FEBRUARY 9, 2012 (7:00 PM)

1 . . .Verbatim proceedings of a hearing
2 before the State of Connecticut Siting Council in the
3 matter of a Petition by New Cingular Wireless PCS LLC
4 (AT&T) for a Declaratory Ruling, held at the Greenwich
5 Town Hall, 101 Field Point Road, Greenwich, Connecticut,
6 on February 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., at which time the
7 parties were represented as hereinbefore set forth . . .

8

9

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN COLIN C. TAIT: Ladies and
11 gentlemen, this hearing is called to order this Thursday,
12 February 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

13 My name is Colin Tait, Vice Chairman of
14 the Connecticut Siting Council.

15 VOICES: We can't hear you --

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: I'll -- I'll try
17 again. Ladies and gentlemen, this hearing is called to
18 order this Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

19 My name is Colin Tait, Vice Chairman of
20 the Siting Council. Is that adequate?

21 VOICES: No.

22 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Louder?

23 VOICES: Yes. Yes, please.

24 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: We'll try again.

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1 Ladies and gentlemen --

2 VOICES: Yes -- (applause) --

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: -- my name is Colin
4 Tait, Vice Chairman of the Connecticut Siting Council.

5 Other members of the Council are Brian
6 Golembiewski, the designee of Commissioner Dan Estey, the
7 Department of Environmental -- of Energy and
8 Environmental Protection; Larry P. Levesque, the designee
9 for Commissioner Kevin M. DelGobbo, the Public Utilities
10 Regulatory Authority; Edward S. Wilensky; James J.
11 Murphy, Jr., and Dr. Barbara C. Bell.

12 Members of the staff are Linda Roberts,
13 our Executive Director; Melanie Bachman, our staff
14 attorney; Christina Walsh, our Siting Analyst.

15 The court reporter is Gail Gregoriades and
16 our audio technician is Aaron DeMarest. There you go.

17 This is a continuation of a public hearing
18 that began at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon. Copies of the
19 hearing program and the Council's Citizens Guide to
20 Siting Council Procedures are available for members of
21 the public.

22 This hearing is held pursuant to the
23 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
24 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act

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1 on a Petition from New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC, for a
2 Declaratory Ruling that no Certificate of Environmental
3 Compatibility and Public Need is required for the
4 proposed installation of a concealed tower on a water
5 tank and associated equipment at a water treatment plant
6 located at 455 Valley Road, Greenwich, Connecticut.
7 This petition was received by the Council on October 5,
8 2011.

9 On December 19, 2011 a legal notice was
10 published in the Connecticut Post and the Greenwich
11 Times announcing the time, date, and place for this
12 hearing.

13 Upon this Council's request, the
14 Petitioner erected a sign at the proposed boundary on
15 January 26, 2012 so as to inform the public of the name
16 of the petitioner, the type of facility, the hearing
17 date and location, and contact information for the
18 Council.

19 Also upon the Council's request, the
20 Petitioner flew a balloon at the site today between the
21 hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to simulate the height
22 of the proposed facility.

23 This afternoon members of the Council,
24 staff, and public personally conducted a field review of

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1 the site where the Petitioner seeks to develop the
2 proposed facility in order to observe firsthand the
3 potential effects of the proposal.

4 This petition is governed by the
5 Telecommunications Act of 1996, which is administered by
6 the Federal Communications Commission, which prohibits
7 the Council from considering the health effects of radio
8 frequency emissions on human health and wildlife to the
9 extent that the emissions from towers are within the
10 federal acceptable safe limit standard, which standard is
11 also followed by the State Department of Public Health.
12 The federal act also prohibits the Council from
13 discriminating between and amongst providers of
14 functionally equivalent services. So that if one carrier
15 already provides service for an area, other carriers have
16 the right to compete and provide services in the same
17 area.

18 The hearing tonight has been reserved for
19 the public first to make short statements into the
20 record. These public statements are not subject to
21 questions from the parties or the Council, and the
22 members of the public making statements may not ask
23 questions of the parties or the Council. These
24 statements will become part of the record for Council

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1 consideration. A sign-up sheet is -- a sign-up sheet is
2 available for those who would like to participate.

3 Now the decisions the Council needs to
4 make include, but are not limited to, whether the
5 Petitioner has met its burden of proof that there's a
6 gap in cell coverage that would be resolved by the
7 proposed facility, and whether the proposed facility will
8 have a substantial adverse effect -- environmental
9 effect.

10 As a reminder to all, off-the-record
11 communications with a member of the Council or a member
12 of the Council staff upon the merits of this petition is
13 prohibited by law.

14 I wish to note that parties and
15 intervenors, including their representatives and
16 witnesses, are not allowed to participate in the public
17 comment session because they have their own proceedings.

18 I also wish to note for those who are here
19 and for the benefit of your friends and neighbors who are
20 unable to join us for the comment session tonight, that
21 you or they may send written comments to the Council
22 within 30 days of the date hereof. And such written
23 statements will be given the same weight as if spoken at
24 the hearing tonight.

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1 We ask each person making a public
2 statement in this proceeding to confine his or her
3 statements to the subject matter before the Council and
4 to avoid unreasonable repetition so we may all hear the
5 concerns that you and your neighbors may have.

6 Please be advised that the Council cannot
7 answer questions from the public about the proposal.
8 However, once everybody has had an opportunity to make a
9 statement, the Council will ask members of the Petitioner
10 to directly address the questions and concerns expressed
11 by you and your neighbors.

12 A verbatim transcript will be made of the
13 hearing and deposited in the Town Clerk's Office of
14 Greenwich for the convenience of the public.

15 Is Senator Frantz here?

16 A VOICE: He spoke earlier, but he's not -
17 -

18 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Yes, he did, that's
19 right. Is Representative Carmillo here?

20 A VOICE: He's in transit.

21 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Okay. Before I
22 call on members of the public to make statements, I would
23 ask the Petitioner to make a very brief presentation to
24 the public describing where the facility is proposed to

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1 be located, why it is necessary, and what alternatives
2 were investigated.

3 MR. CHRISTOPHER B. FISHER: Good evening.
4 My name is Chris Fisher. I represent AT&T.

5 As Vice Chairman Tait mentioned, this is a
6 proposal by AT&T in a petition pending before the Council
7 principally to improve wireless service in the area
8 around Valley Road and Westover Road in Greenwich and
9 Stamford.

10 The proposal itself involves the Aquarion
11 Water Treatment Facility, as most of you know I'm sure,
12 located on Valley Road. The details of the facility are
13 included in a number of the submissions that AT&T has
14 made to the Council, but just to briefly describe it --
15 Peter, if you could just help -- Peter, could you help me
16 just for a second -- thanks -- we've got some photos --

17 (pause)

18 MR. FISHER: The easiest way to describe
19 this is by using the photosimulations that are included
20 in what the Council has received. What you see on the
21 left is the existing water tank. This shot was taken in
22 close proximity to the water tank along Valley Road.

23 What you see on the right is the actual
24 proposed facility. AT&T would propose to install a tower

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1 structure on top of the water tank. It would extend
2 approximately 17 and a half feet above the water tank.
3 It would be enclosed within a stealth material enclosure
4 and painted green to match the water tank. The overall
5 height as extended would go to 64 feet above grade at the
6 location of the water tank itself. The additional
7 details for the facility are included on the plans that
8 have been submitted.

9 Immediately adjacent to the water tank
10 there would be a 150 square foot shelter. It would have
11 a brick façade and a pitched roof; it would look like a
12 shed. Within that shelter would be the equipment and
13 other components of the facility itself to make it
14 operate and be able to provide service in the area.

15 These are some additional details that are
16 included in the drawings. As you can see, all of the
17 tower work, antennas, and other components of the
18 facility on the water tank would be enclosed within that
19 structure.

20 Chairman, I believe that's our
21 presentation.

22 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Thank you. I will
23 now call on members of the public from the list that I
24 have before me. There's a list to be signed by the

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1 microphone if you haven't signed up and would like to
2 speak. Mr. Peter Moss, followed by Sam Romeo. Would you
3 spell your --

4 MR. PETER MOSS: I am Peter Moss --

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Spell your name and
6 give us your address so the court reporter can get it.

7 MR. MOSS: M-o-s-s --

8 A VOICE: I'm not sure that microphone --

9 COURT REPORTER: Your microphone is not -
10 -

11 AUDIO TECHNICIAN: The microphone is not
12 on.

13 MR. MOSS: Oh, I'm sorry. Can you hear me
14 now -- (audio feedback) --

15 A VOICE: Yes, we can.

16 MR. MOSS: Hi --

17 COURT REPORTER: Spell your last name --

18 MR. MOSS: -- how is this?

19 VOICE: Yes.

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: It sounds okay.

21 MR. MOSS: I live at 690 River Road in Cos
22 Cob. I have been involved for several decades in trying
23 to protect the Mianus River in various ways, including
24 being deeply involved in the establishment of what's

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1 called the Mianus River Greenway, which this is in, which
2 is an official state greenway. In fact, the first
3 official state greenway. I am also on the Board of the
4 Mianus River Watershed Council, and in the past have been
5 on the DEP Rivers Advisory Committee and the Connecticut
6 Greenways Council.

7 I think this is a really lousy proposal.
8 In fact, I would call it abusive. Abusive to the
9 neighbors who live so close to it, abusive to the public
10 because it adds an ugly projection to the view of a
11 lovely pond that many people appreciate by various views
12 and even boating on the pond, but most of all abusive to
13 just about every concept we have of watershed protection
14 and water supply protection. It violates Greenwich's
15 setback requirements from drinking water sources. It
16 violates every idea of water company land protection.

17 I am absolutely dismayed that AT&T has
18 provided you apparently with maps that indicate, falsely
19 in my opinion, that this site is not Class 1 watershed
20 land. They somehow have found someone to draw, from what
21 I saw, a little yellow dashed line between the water tank
22 and the river and said that Class 1 is only on the river
23 side of that line. But you can just look at that picture
24 and know that -- that it, for one thing, drains into the

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1 river. Probably they were -- they were saying it doesn't
2 drain into the river, but in fact if you look at the
3 statute defining Class 1 land, it simply says land -- all
4 land owned by a water company which is within 250 feet of
5 high water or reservoir. It actually doesn't even say
6 anything about drainage. But in fact, this water tank --
7 (audio failure) -- unrelated to water supply on Class 1
8 water company land. It would be hard pressed even on
9 Class 2 water company land.

10 I should also point out that even
11 drainage below it drains -- that the river goes
12 eventually into something called Mianus Pond, which is
13 about a mile downstream and formed by a different dam
14 that has an official status as an emergency backup water
15 supply in case of a drought emergency. The idea being
16 presumably that that water could be pumped back up to the
17 filter plant and treated if -- if there was that serious
18 a drought.

19 I listened in to the testimony at 3:00
20 o'clock and I think there were just many unanswered
21 questions. For example, exactly what is going to be in
22 this equipment shed, what kind of chemicals are going to
23 be there, is it going to be a bank of batteries, are they
24 lead acid batteries, is there going to be the possibility

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1 of sulfuric acid leaks of batteries exploding? This
2 whole idea of a backup generator with probably gasoline
3 or diesel fuel supply, the Applicant wants you to believe
4 that in a blizzard with no power, with panic, that people
5 are always going to put this in exactly the right place
6 and if there's a leak, nothing will end up in the river.
7 I find that hard to believe. And I think the neighbors
8 really need more time to dig into these things. People
9 haven't known about this very long and there are a lot of
10 unanswered questions. They -- they didn't even know what
11 the water tank is used for. I think that could be an
12 issue. And what would happen if there's a hurricane or a
13 hundred mile per hour wind that knocks this over and
14 damages the facility?

15 There area a couple of other issues that
16 I'd like to raise. The signal -- the electromagnetic
17 signals coming off of this right on the edge of a water
18 body, my understanding is they will bounce off the
19 water. My question is does that raise the possibility
20 that the bouncing signals combined with the direct
21 signals could cause a magnitude of field that would
22 exceed federal standards for those houses right across
23 the river from it? I -- I think you should get that
24 answered.

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1 The same is actually true of noise. I --
2 I heard them talk about some noise emanating from the
3 backup facilities. This pond is an incredible amplifier
4 or at least carrier of noise. In my experience if people
5 are having a conversation there, you can hear it houses
6 across the pond, like 400 yards up the pond, as if
7 they're talking right in your backyard. And if there's a
8 constant noise from there, that's going to be an issue
9 for people who live there.

10 I -- I'd like to make a general comment
11 and I hope it's not out of line. I -- I hope it won't
12 shock you if I say that for anyone who's been observing
13 this cell tower business around here, the process is out
14 of control. It sort of reminds me of the bank branch
15 issue -- (laughter) -- where they seem to try to build
16 things anywhere they can, anywhere it's easy to do it,
17 and maybe for similar kind of reasons, to preclude a
18 competitor for doing it or just because it is the
19 easiest and cheapest site. If this process were working
20 properly, people would be identifying the best possible
21 sites, the least intrusive sites, and make all of them
22 share them. Now this area already has AT&T signals --

23 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: We -- we have a lot
24 of people here tonight, sir, that would like to speak, so

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1 --

2 MR. MOSS: Yeah. Well I just wanted to
3 make the point there are alternatives, there are other --
4 I know of other sites that would be better than this
5 though I won't go into that. There are AT&T signals,
6 there are even better Verizon signals. Why aren't they
7 sharing the source of those signals. Or the idea of more
8 expensive technology, they should be paying the cost.
9 The neighbors and the public should not be paying the
10 cost. The users of the services should be paying the
11 cost.

12 But -- but most of all, this is a bad idea
13 because of the water supply issues. To me it would be
14 unbelievable to approve something with the potential
15 dangers this has literally 50 feet from the entrance to a
16 major public water supply. It -- it would just be an
17 astonishingly bad precedent. Thank you.

18 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Thank you, sir.

19 (applause)

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Mr. Romeo, followed
21 by Mr. Harris. Is Sam Romeo here?

22 A VOICE: He's late.

23 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Is Mr. Harris here?
24 Followed by Scott Coffrey.

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1 A VOICE: Caffrey.

2 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Caffrey. I'm
3 sorry. Give -- spell your name for the court reporter
4 and give your address, sir.

5 MR. RICK HARRIS: Yes, sir. My name is
6 Rick Harris, H-a-r-r-i-s. And my address is 664 River
7 Road in Cos Cob.

8 You know, Peter did a good job of
9 basically sharing I think all of our neighbors' and
10 citizens' sentiments and concerns. To just maybe take
11 that one extra level -- and you guys, the members of the
12 Siting Council here, you have a really difficult task at
13 hand. I mean how do you weigh out whether one extra bar
14 of service on someone's cell phone is worth all of this?
15 Imagine a bunch of neighbors just kind of going against a
16 big conglomerate like AT&T to say no and to find a better
17 location. It's like -- as Peter said, it's almost
18 impossible.

19 And you know, this is the wrong site.
20 This affects peoples' houses visually, a neighborhood, a
21 pond. And then there's the environmental concerns. I'm
22 not smart enough to know about the waves and if it
23 bounces off the water and if it hurts and all that stuff,
24 but it just seems wrong. It seems like there could be

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1 better locations. It seems like there's alternatives
2 here. And we are not getting the time to discuss it.
3 We're not getting a chance -- it's like everything is
4 happening one, two, three.

5 I'm sure most of the citizens here and
6 neighbors are aware of what happened with Verizon last
7 week. Their cell tower site on King Street and a diesel
8 tank leaked almost 900 gallons of diesel fuel into a
9 stream that was almost 800 plus feet away. It wasn't
10 supposed to happen, there was containments, there was
11 failsafes, there was everything in place. And guess
12 what? It happened. Today one of the attorneys for AT&T
13 -- and I don't want to misquote it, but I believe they
14 said that there's no plans for a generator right now,
15 which means that maybe there are later. And you know
16 what, thinking of that, 50 feet away from a drinking
17 water supply that Aquarion supplies 130,000 plus people,
18 households with that water.

19 And I get it guys. We live in a day and
20 age of cell phones. We live in a day and age where cell
21 phones are necessary. I have one. But guess what, the
22 Titanic wasn't supposed to sink, the space shuttle wasn't
23 supposed to blow up. Stuff happens. And god forbid if
24 any of that happened right here on our drinking water, it

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1 would just be horrific.

2 So I just implore you people to say no to
3 this, work together and let's find another location, and
4 there has to be better places. Thank you.

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Thank you, sir.

6 (applause)

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Mr. Caffrey,
8 followed by Tom Aggresta -- I'm sorry if I mispronounced
9 your name, sir. I can't quite read the name. Tom -- A-
10 g-g --

11 A VOICE: That's okay, I got it.

12 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: You got it. I'm
13 sorry, sir. My handwriting is terrible, so I sympathize.
14 Okay, Mr. Caffrey.

15 MR. SCOTT CAFFREY: Hi. My name is Scott
16 Caffrey, spelled C-a, f as in Frank, f as in Frank, r-e-
17 y. I live on 4 North Street in Cos Cob, Connecticut.

18 Well thank you first for the opportunity
19 this evening to present to you and to voice my concern
20 over this issue.

21 Just to give you a brief background of my
22 relationship with the community of Greenwich, I grew up
23 here in Greenwich. I moved away for about 12 years for
24 school. I -- I did some service for a year where I --

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1 through a Catholic program and taught English in
2 Thailand, and I worked for a few years prior to deciding
3 to come back to Greenwich with my wife to raise a family.
4 We looked at over 30 houses in the area and -- before
5 finding our current home in North Mianus, where we have
6 been for now -- for two years now, and we're raising a
7 son who's a little bit less than a year old. What
8 attracted us to North Mianus was the neighborhood, as
9 well as the proximity to a nursery school, as well as an
10 elementary school which is in walking distance of your
11 home and where I hope to send my son when he's of proper
12 age.

13 We live at the top of the hill on North
14 Street and have direct sight to the water tank. With the
15 cell tower, it's going to be an obvious obstruction of
16 our view, of our beautiful area, which was a major
17 attraction for us to come to North Mianus. The height of
18 this structure as you know is going to increase by about
19 33 percent, from 46 to 64 feet. And simply, it's going
20 to look ridiculous in an area where the only thing else
21 you see are the tops of rooftops, as well as the tops of
22 trees.

23 On one hand the water tower is necessary
24 for the safety of the community. This proposed cell

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1 tower is not necessary. We live in a neighborhood where
2 it's all commercialized and simply do not need, nor do we
3 want a cell tower in our neighborhood. Now from AT&T's
4 perspective this is simply a business issue. They're
5 trying to build as many towers wherever they can to make
6 as much money as they can. They're trying to take the
7 human element out of this decision. And I think that's
8 simply wrong.

9 You know, from my perspective this is a
10 quality of life issue and I just do not see any benefit
11 at all that this cell tower brings to our neighborhood.

12 So in summary, just to reiterate, as a
13 concerned parent, property owner and resident, I do not
14 believe that this cell tower will bring any benefit to
15 our community. And once again, I thank you for your
16 time, and I encourage you to consider what you would do
17 in our shoes to protect your family and your quality of
18 life. Thank you.

19 (applause)

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Thank you. Tom --

21 MR. TOM AGRESTA: Tom Agresta. That's all
22 right. It's a good American name. A-g-r-e-s-t-a. I
23 live at 674 River Road, which is directly -- is that all
24 right -- directly across from -- from this tank. We've

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1 been there since '93, so I've seen everything on this
2 river for the past 20 years.

3 And I was at the 3:00 o'clock earlier
4 today and there were a couple of things that I wanted to
5 talk about that was kind of wrong. First, it was a mild
6 day on the river. It was not a windy day. That wind
7 whips. It whips so much that we have a canoe that was
8 not tied down one day and it took it and blew it across
9 the river to the other bank. So that was a very mild day
10 today. So we were talking about the balloons floating
11 away, it -- it was a mild wind.

12 The other thing is we talked about dropped
13 calls, I work in the city and I take the train, I work 14
14 hours, but today I came in and I stayed here and I was on
15 my cell phone the entire day, and not one dropped call.
16 So that tells me that there are current towers, current
17 service not being used by this company. So when it comes
18 to that point, I don't know if I can trust much of what I
19 heard at 3:00 o'clock.

20 But what I really want to talk about is
21 the value that it's going to affect the property in the
22 neighborhood. Part of it -- it's -- it's going to,
23 obviously we all know, reduce the value of our
24 properties. And to me that's very important because I've

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1 taken my life there very seriously. I had a sewer -- I
2 mean I had a septic tank, which I cleaned out yearly. In
3 fact, my septic guy said I do it too often. But I did
4 not want any spill from my septic into that river. I
5 have never used fertilizers and I've never used
6 pesticides. The town was asked by I think some state
7 department to clean up these rivers and they forced us to
8 connect to a sewer system. The sewer system -- just to
9 be part of the program was \$20,000.00 out of my taxes,
10 personal taxes. And then for me to connect from where I
11 live because it was through rock ledge, three days of
12 blasting, it was over \$20,000.00. I am \$40,000.00 in
13 hock to keep this river clean. And now we're being
14 presented with this Frankenstein tower. I -- so -- I
15 know people sacrifice a lot more than I do, but at the
16 same time sometimes enough is enough.

17 I've cleaned -- I've crossed the river and
18 I've cleaned the banks. Aquarion, look at the mess that
19 they leave on their yard. I call them every year, please
20 clean up. They think that's clean. There's a propane
21 tank there and there's two empty cases I believe of
22 chlorine sitting there, those two white boxes. I mean
23 I'm losing my motivation to take care of this river. And
24 this is just going to be the nail in the coffin.

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1 So I think we have to ask more questions
2 of why this is necessary. I don't believe it is. The
3 biggest question is -- I had service all day. Why aren't
4 they on those same towers that already exist? That's
5 about it. Thank you.

6 (applause)

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Thank you, sir.

8 (pause - tape change)

9 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Mr. Luzzi -- Robert
10 Luzzi, followed by Liz Menten.

11 MR. ROBERT LUZZI: Good evening. I'm
12 Robert Luzzi. That's L-u-z-z-i. Those are z's like
13 zebras. I live at 16 Chestnut Street in Cos Cob with my
14 wife Yasuko, who is sitting right here with my two young
15 kids, Darren who's four and Matthew who's eight. Our
16 house is 125 meters from the proposed tower. When we
17 bought this house only eight months ago, our only major
18 concern was that the Aquarion water facility exists in
19 this otherwise residential neighborhood.

20 We were okay with the way the facility is
21 currently built and used for water use, but we were
22 worried about what other commercial use this land might
23 be used for in the future. So my wife was very diligent
24 and she went down to town hall, she got a copy of the

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1 deed provided by the town to Aquarion, and we were
2 comforted by the restrictive covenant in the deed, which
3 says very succinctly -- and I'll read it to you because
4 it's very short and very clear -- the premises hereby
5 conveyed shall be used for water works purposes and shall
6 revert to the town herein if successor and assigns in the
7 event the premises cease to be used for water works
8 purposes. To lay folks like us, this unambiguous
9 language seemed very clear to very clearly limit the land
10 to water use. But just in case, we had our real estate
11 attorney review the deed, and he came to the very same
12 conclusion. As you can imagine, my wife and I are now
13 horrified that AT&T and Aquarion are considering a cell
14 tower on this site, because no reasonable person can
15 conclude that a cell tower has any connection whatsoever
16 with water use.

17 How can such a clear and undisputable
18 restrictive covenant be so clearly disregarded? In fact,
19 if land was restricted to water use -- that was
20 restricted to water use can now be used for cell phone
21 transmissions, what other non-water use can it be used
22 for next? Where do we draw the line? What, if any,
23 rights do neighboring property owners have against such a
24 violation of a deed restriction we relied upon in

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1 purchasing this property. This is a very big -- this is
2 perhaps the biggest investment most or all of us make.

3 As my tall house stands at the top of the
4 steep hill where North Street meets Chestnut far above
5 the Mianus River Valley base of the proposed tower, part
6 of my house is now -- will be level with the tip of the
7 tower. My wife looked out of our house today and smack
8 level with our house she was looking at that balloon
9 only 125 meters away. This means that not only will I be
10 able to clearly see the tower from my house, but my home,
11 like countless other homes in this hilly neighborhood,
12 will receive the direct impact of the RH emissions from
13 the proposed tower. In fact, my children's bedrooms and
14 those of many other kids in the neighborhood may be
15 directly or nearly level with the tip of that tower and
16 getting hit directly by that -- by those emissions.

17 Additionally, this residential area will
18 now have to endure the construction noise and traffic,
19 and subsequently the AT&T employees coming in and out of
20 the area to maintain and service the facility.

21 For all of these reasons, in addition to
22 the others mentioned by my fellow peers before me, I
23 respectfully beseech the CSC to reject this cell tower
24 proposal and find a less harmful location for it. Thank

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1 you.

2 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Thank you.

3 (applause)

4 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Miss Menten,
5 followed by Steve Dolan.

6 MS. ELIZABETH MENTEN: Thank you for this
7 opportunity to speak as a member of this community. My
8 name is Elizabeth Menten, M-e-n-t-e-n, and I own a home
9 directly across from the water -- from Aquarion at 656
10 River Road in Cos Cob. My family has been in town for 40
11 years, and I've raised three children in this
12 neighborhood. It's a great neighborhood and it's filled
13 with wonderful families.

14 Simply put, this is such a bad idea, that
15 it frightens me that it has gotten this far. We are
16 talking about compromising a scarce and precious
17 resource, drinking water, for the sake of AT&T's bottom
18 line.

19 I think most of us know and are fully
20 aware of the variety of alternatives to this tower that
21 are available and in use today, DAS being the primary
22 among them, and microcells, and it goes on and on. For
23 so many reasons, but the most obvious being our new
24 climate of weather extremes, it's not -- it is not safe

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1 as proposed, nor can I envision an adaptation which could
2 make the erection of such a structure immediately
3 adjacent to a water supply safe. No. The answer must be
4 no.

5 Senator Frantz clearly outlined the
6 issues this afternoon, and I would second that statement.
7 He -- he spoke briefly about driving down Valley Road and
8 losing coverage for a moment. I think that it's come to
9 be understood that using your cell phone in the car, with
10 or without your hands, is unadvised. So if AT&T is
11 trying to help us to have opportunities to do that,
12 they're not doing anybody a service. If there is an
13 issue for somebody in particular with AT&T in their home,
14 they can buy a booster, which I have, and there's no
15 problem. So we don't need this cell tower.

16 Despite the unseemly maneuver by AT&T to
17 circumvent our town's commissions, a further indication
18 of how bad a concept this is, the answer must still be
19 no. Thank you.

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Thank you.

21 (applause)

22 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Steve Dolan,
23 followed by Elizabeth Agresta.

24 MR. STEVEN DOLAN: Hi, good evening.

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1 Steven Dolan, D-o-l-a-n. I reside at 2 Palmer Terrace,
2 Riverside, with my wife and three children, and I'm a
3 friend of the neighbors and intervenors.

4 As a citizen, taxpayer, and voter of the
5 State of Connecticut, there's something that really
6 concerns me. I find it very troubling that when these
7 neighbors asked for a 30-day delay in these proceedings,
8 AT&T made zero concession. In addition to that, they
9 were unable to come up with any reason why a reasonable
10 delay would cause them any grief.

11 An extension would allow -- would have
12 allowed for additional time to review the application, as
13 well as potential risks; for example, environmental
14 risks. And I think we all understand what happened with
15 Verizon Wireless as they demonstrated last week in Rye
16 Brook.

17 In addition to that, it was brought to my
18 attention that after today's survey, there could be some
19 questions about the structural integrity of the water
20 tower.

21 Greenwich neighbors of the two previous
22 cell tower applications had many, many months and time to
23 prepare for the action needed to take to make these
24 important decisions. In addition to their everyday

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1 family work and commitments, these guys, these neighbors
2 had less than 90 days to research -- to do the research
3 necessary to confront a multi-national company that is
4 AT&T Wireless.

5 From their action it's very clear that
6 AT&T has absolutely no intention to consider the public
7 input, nor consider alternative designs that would be in
8 less conflict with this residential area.

9 It scares me as a resident of Greenwich to
10 think that a company like AT&T can come on in and
11 steamroll a neighborhood for their own commercial gain.
12 Thanks for your time tonight.

13 (applause)

14 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Elizabeth Agresta.

15 MS. ELIZABETH AGRESTA: My name is
16 Elizabeth Agresta, A-g-r-e-s-t-a. My husband, Thomas, my
17 three children and I live at 674 River Road in Cos Cob,
18 across the river from the proposed cell tower.

19 The Aquarion Water Company is located on a
20 property rich in historical value and interests. I would
21 like to give you a brief sampling of this. According to
22 information taken from an article by Susan Nova of News
23 Times and the Historical Society of the Town of
24 Greenwich, this site in North Mianus was the first

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1 business center in Greenwich with activities centering
2 around John Hayes Saw and Gristmill of 1688, some 324
3 years ago. It remained a sawmill for 125 years and
4 throughout the remainder of the 1600's all the way
5 through the 1700's until in 1815 when it became a paper
6 mill. From then on the mill changed ownership and
7 purpose throughout the 1800's. There was once again a
8 sawmill, but then an iron works, a woolen mill, a metal
9 works, rolling mill, and a wire mill. This site
10 witnessed history in the manufacture of ax handles,
11 hickory spikes for carriage wheels, metal railroad
12 spikes, wire hoops for hoop skirts, and shoddy, an
13 inexpensive woolen yard which later came into high demand
14 for use in horse blankets during the Civil War.

15 In the last year of the 1800's, Frederick
16 Springer, Chairman of the Board of Ed, a board member of
17 the Bruce Museum, the Director of Greenwich Trust Company
18 and so much more, founded the Mianus Manufacturing
19 Company, producing carriage robes, imitation furs, and
20 the ever popular teddy bear. Then almost 40 years later
21 in 1938 the mill burned to the ground.

22 The water filtration plant stands on the
23 old mill site and it remains surrounded by what was at
24 one time inexpensive housing built for the workers.

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1 Susan Nova in her research with Cleveland Dublin Arnolds
2 notes that where possible original details have been
3 preserved. The old stairways and doors, the doorframes,
4 the nine-foot first floor ceilings and the wide board
5 floors, effort has been made by the homeowners to
6 acknowledge and preserve historic value. This area has
7 played quite a role in the Greenwich community for
8 hundreds of years. Prior to the water filtration plant,
9 which is supposed to be used for water purposes only,
10 there once was a mill.

11 My husband and -- my husband and I bought
12 our home almost 20 years ago because we fell in love with
13 the charm and respectful nature of the area. The water
14 tank is of course an anomalous structure in the
15 neighborhood. Adding on to such a structure lacks
16 respect for the heritage and nature of this community.
17 Thank you.

18 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Thank you.

19 (applause)

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Christopher Von
21 Keyserling, followed by Sam Romeo.

22 MR. CHRISTOPHER VON KEYSERLING: Thank you
23 ladies and gentlemen of the commission.

24 I didn't realize I was that fast up on the

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1 batter list --

2 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Could you -- could
3 you spell --

4 MR. VON KEYSERLING: I am --

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Spell your name,
6 sir --

7 MR. VON KEYSERLING: Yes --

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: -- and your
9 address.

10 MR. VON KEYSERLING: It's Christopher Von
11 Keyserling, V-o-n, space, K-e-y-s-e-r-l-i-n-g. I am
12 officially at 400 East Putnam Avenue. I'm on the RTM
13 from District 8. I've been there for some 25 years
14 representing this district.

15 I did want to say before I start that Mr.
16 Sam Romeo is on his way. I didn't mean to put him up
17 right away. I just wanted to -- usually we have a long a
18 speaker list, and it's good to get, you know, into the
19 pipeline, so he should be here shortly. He represents
20 both as president of the Mianus Valley Association, which
21 is the neighborhood association for that whole upper
22 valley that we're talking about on both sides, but also
23 many years on the RTM, and has been a commissioner of
24 many offices in the Town of Greenwich. I, on the other

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1 hand, have been busy in planning and zoning all my life.
2 That's been my -- my forte with the communities and the
3 neighborhoods.

4 What particularly bothers me is that --
5 when I first looked at the deed that was presented to me
6 by some of our neighbors here in District 8, I'm
7 concerned about the process of how the water company got
8 this property and for what uses. It looked to me like it
9 was not exclusively for water use. What they're more
10 concerned is that the water use would continue. It
11 didn't necessarily specify or exclude other kind of uses
12 or ancillary uses. So I thought, boy, that looks pretty
13 dark, you know, given what's at stake and the parsing
14 that's going to go on. I have since found out that there
15 has been a letter from the Planning and Zoning back where
16 the town claimed exclusive use for the water company use,
17 and if it was not maintained exclusively, it should
18 revert to the town's property.

19 It's something which we even today are
20 concerned about in Greenwich. When you have a municipal
21 use or a quasi-municipal use -- and certainly your
22 commission is more sensitive to this than others would be
23 -- this is a use that oftentimes intrudes into
24 residential areas and causes a conflict in peoples'

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1 comfort purpose. To put in a firehouse, a school, a
2 recycling center, or any large municipal thing, which the
3 community has to have, there's always a problem of where
4 it goes. And this is what you're dealing with. The town
5 was very careful about this. We have to have a water
6 company, we have to have this, you know, primary, you
7 know, important supply, but we don't want it to be
8 exceeded, and we certainly don't want it to be the
9 grounds of profit. There have been lately in some of the
10 issues of water companies where they've sold off their
11 reservoir lands or watershed lands for housing
12 development and other things and made profit on it, not
13 from their water company business, but from their real
14 estate business if you like.

15 This is somewhat the same idea. We have a
16 situation where the water company is dealing with a
17 vantage to them that has nothing to do with their water
18 processing or supplying of public water. The town did
19 not want that. We don't want to do something that we did
20 for the public good and then have it converted into
21 something for the private good of the beneficiary. So we
22 put a clause in saying that it shall not be used -- to be
23 used for the specific public purpose which is essential.
24 But there shouldn't be any ancillary benefit or

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1 profiteering, if you want, for any other purpose from
2 this. And if it's converted from water company use to
3 any other uses, you're breaching the purpose for which we
4 sold you this land.

5 I'm sure you'll get more legal papers on
6 this and the black and white on it. But if you take that
7 and if that condition holds, as I think it should because
8 it was a statement by the Planning and Zoning back in the
9 '50s, an agent for the Town of Greenwich, then I would
10 say that this water company does not -- is not a valid
11 landlord or does not have the valid ability to supply the
12 residency for this tower in the first place and it
13 contravenes the good faith between the town and the water
14 company, and it certainly does not give access to this
15 property site by AT&T, whatever their meritorious reasons
16 are.

17 So I hope you will consider that. And I
18 and certainly other representatives of the town are
19 going to urge the town to join the neighbors in
20 opposition to this on the basis of that deed restriction.
21 Thank you.

22 (applause)

23 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Wanda Read -- is
24 Wanda Read here? Good to see you again.

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1 MS. WANDA READ: Hello. My name is Wanda
2 Read, R-e-a-d. My husband and I own property right
3 across from the tank at 460 Valley Road. Our home is, as
4 I said, immediately opposite to the water tank of
5 Aquarion at 450 -- 455 Valley Road.

6 When we purchase our house in 1998, our
7 understanding was that 455 Valley Road was used for water
8 supply only. And at that time the tank was screened by
9 shrubs and trees, which since then fell or been cut.
10 Also we -- our understanding was that when the sale of
11 the land to -- to the water company was approved, it was
12 based exclusively for water use, as well as the tank
13 should have been screened. And I guess the first owner
14 really screen the tank because the trees that are old,
15 you can see they are above the tank, but anything below
16 it's been cut.

17 Since acquiring the place, Aquarion has
18 been very poor neighbors -- neighbor to those of us
19 living or using Valley Road. Traffic in and out of the
20 plant has increased. Heavy and noisy trucks come and go
21 in ungodly hours, later in the evening and early in the
22 morning, as well as the landscaping company tends to mow
23 the grass or cut the grass in hours that we usually do on
24 weekends and things like that, which is not good for our

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1 neighborhood.

2 Aquarion also has removed and cut many
3 trees and -- which of course is a greater view of the
4 water tank. We made personal appeal actually to the
5 staff of the water company to do something about planting
6 new trees which might shield the water tank view. In
7 return, they planted two small evergreens, which after
8 several years of growth they're not more than five feet
9 tall. And which nothing -- they do nothing to block the
10 view from the water tank -- of the water tank.

11 In addition, Aquarion has -- and cemented
12 roadway in -- in -- within the plant. This has led to
13 environmental concern regarding the runoff from those
14 roadways into Mianus. And as other neighbor mentioned,
15 we all very concern about the environment. We don't use
16 any chemicals on our plants and things like that. So
17 this is very difficult issue for us to see that Aquarion
18 is doing nothing but actually worsening the environmental
19 impact.

20 Total disregard by Aquarion to its
21 neighbors strongly suggests that we cannot expect
22 anything better if on the top of the water tank -- if the
23 top of this water tank is leased out to AT&T. In fact,
24 we strongly believe that it will get worse. If the owner

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1 display disregard for the neighbors, we can expect -- we
2 can expect to hold their tenants to the highest standard?
3 I don't think so.

4 We fear that adding another company to the
5 water plant site will at least increase traffic flow,
6 noise, and in likelihood will result in farther
7 uglification of the area in the coming years as changes
8 are made. If this cell tower is put in place, there
9 appear to be no restricting hand to prevent changes which
10 future scar the landscape.

11 As Council Members are aware, the top of
12 the water tank is proposed -- is the proposed site for
13 the new cell tower. The water tank has a height above --
14 around 47 feet. Additional 17 feet of structure
15 resulting from the cell tower proposed -- by quick
16 reference of what 17 feet may look like because the
17 balloon didn't picture that very well today, if you could
18 look at this yellow school bus, which is around 11 feet,
19 and then you put another SUV on the top of it, then can
20 you imagine how high that tank is going to be, what kind
21 of eyesore it's going to be for our neighborhood. If
22 this tower is installed, the combined height of the water
23 tank and the cell tower structure would extend to 64
24 feet. So that would be around 36 percent increase from

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1 the existing height.

2 My husband and I fully support, echo and
3 endorse our friends and neighbors' concerns about the
4 arguments against the proposed cell tower. However, we
5 feel that the Federal Communication Act and Connecticut
6 General Statutes work in favor of the telecommunication
7 industry and against residents' interests. Therefore, I
8 speak to you today to request that should this cell tower
9 be given the all clear, modifications to the plant be
10 required. And furthermore, requirements be placed upon
11 AT&T and Aquarion to the visual screening of the new
12 combined water tank and cell tower structure and
13 installation of the equipment shelter.

14 The 47-foot tank has always been an
15 eyesore to the surrounding homes and general public's
16 view. Back in 2001 when SNET proposed a cell tower on
17 top of the water tank, the water company employee
18 described the water tank to us as a flushing tank. She
19 told us that it was used to flush sediment out of the
20 filter of other tanks. She also said that the water tank
21 or flushing tank was old, defunct technology and would
22 likely be replaced within a few years. She further said
23 that the new flushing technology would be smaller, lower,
24 and less obtrusive. This gives us hope that the green

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1 monster's days are numbered. Regrettably, this has not
2 yet come to pass. But since SNET's cell tower was never
3 constructed and up to now the proposed AT&T cell tower
4 become known to us, we remained hopeful. It nows -- it
5 now appears to us that should new flushing technology be
6 in place by Aquarion and the current water tank no longer
7 needed, the water tank would remain on site as nothing
8 more than supporting structure for the new cell tower.
9 And as we heard today, it could be problem with
10 supporting the tower because the tank is old. Therefore,
11 AT&T positioning of the cell tower on existing tank would
12 mean that the water tank, the green monster, would never
13 go away.

14 Studies in AT&T's petition will have,
15 among others, year-round view of the tank, which is
16 accurate. The study also claimed that existing evergreen
17 will shield the new combined water tank and cell tower
18 structure. As Council Members have witnessed today at
19 their site visit this statement is inaccurate. There are
20 very few evergreens which currently block the view of the
21 water tank or in turn will block the view of the proposed
22 cell tower. The few evergreens that do exist have very
23 little, if any, foliage upon the top of the tank. The
24 foliage above the height of the tank is sparse.

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1 There used to be a very large evergreen
2 that stood in the front of the water tank which partially
3 blocked the view from our home, our Valley Road
4 neighbors, and from folks walking, jogging, and traveling
5 on Valley Road. The evergreen would have partially, if
6 inadequately, blocked the view of the proposed cell
7 tower. Unfortunately, this evergreen fell in a storm
8 years back. It was never replaced. Aquarion has made no
9 effort to screen the public's view of the water tank ever
10 since. Our neighbors on the -- on the other side of
11 Mianus River have an unobstructed view of the water tank
12 and therefore will have an unobstructed view of combined
13 water tank plus cell tower structure.

14 Photographs of the plant contained in AT&T
15 petition were taken during the summer when trees in full
16 foliage. They were also taken from limited number of
17 angles. I respectfully submit that the limited number of
18 angles from which the photographs were taken, combined
19 with limited time of when the photographs were taken,
20 over-emphasize the partial coverage these deciduous trees
21 provides in the summer.

22 The petition also used these photographs
23 to create simulation of how the new cell tower would look
24 once in place. Once again, I respectfully submit that

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1 the limited number of angles from which photographs were
2 taken, combined with the timing, have been used to create
3 simulation of how this cell tower will look, over-
4 emphasize the coverage and -- the cell tower will have.
5 It goes without saying that once the deciduous trees
6 drops their leaves, the limited screening they provide of
7 the water tank is farther greatly reduced. The Council
8 site visit today would have confirmed this.

9 Furthermore, anyone taking a look at the
10 current water tank from lower story, front or backyard of
11 those homes close to the water tank and proposed cell
12 site will readily acknowledge photographs contained in
13 AT&T's petition fell short of providing the full picture
14 of how water tower looks, and more importantly how the
15 proposed new cell tower will look to local residents and
16 Valley Road users.

17 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Okay --

18 MS. READ: There's also concern about
19 noise. The Aquarion plant contains generator which
20 creates considerable noise in use -- when it's in use.
21 We are concerned that noise emission from the proposed
22 equipment shelter and the backup generator would impact
23 the well-being of the local residents. As we experienced
24 over the last few years, eight hour battery generator,

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1 which AT&T proposes, will not last too long, it will be
2 not sufficient when we get the blackouts for sometimes a
3 week or so.

4 With the above points in mind, we
5 respectfully request that the Council make the following
6 measures if AT&T petition is approved: Review the use of
7 the land. It is to be used exclusively for the water
8 purposes; AT&T proposal of how they would make sure that
9 the water tank is truly screened by shrubbery and trees
10 and will not impair the natural beauty of this area, as
11 well as shield the proposed cell tower from view from all
12 angles; also the proposed height, in 2001 SNET proposes
13 cell tower not exceeding five feet, which is only 10
14 percent above the water tank structure. Technology made
15 a huge jump over the last 10 years. We using smaller
16 phones, we using smaller laptops. How come we have to
17 use higher and bigger cell towers? Also a proposal how
18 AT&T to be able to fully insulate the proposed equipment
19 shelter to eliminate any noise emission.

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Can you conclude,
21 ma'am?

22 MS. READ: Yes. And that's my last point
23 now. And also AT&T -- we have to make sure that AT&T
24 will not increase the size of the water tank or cell

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1 tower in the future if they get permission because today
2 we were talking about putting extra structure to support
3 those antennas on the top.

4 Those are the concerns that we have and
5 thank you for listening.

6 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Thank you, ma'am.
7 (applause)

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Fred Camillo,
9 followed by Bill Cameron.

10 REPRESENTATIVE FRED CAMILLO: Thank you,
11 Mr. Chairman and members of the Council and guests. My
12 name is Fred Camillo, lifelong resident of Greenwich,
13 also the State Representative.

14 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Could I ask you to
15 spell your name, sir --

16 REPRESENTATIVE CAMILLO: Sure --

17 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: -- and your
18 address?

19 REPRESENTATIVE CAMILLO: Sure. It's C-a-
20 m-i-l-l-o, 35 Macarthur Drive, Old Greenwich, 06870.

21 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Thank you, sir.

22 REPRESENTATIVE CAMILLO: You're welcome.
23 In the last three years since I've been in the
24 legislature, I've gotten to know a lot about cell tower

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1 applications. Not that I wanted to, but I've had to.
2 And I did serve on the cell tower task force three years
3 ago. I was a member of a group of legislators who had a
4 bill passed a few years ago out of the House, it died in
5 the Senate. And then again last year we had a bill
6 passed to limit these structures within fifteen hundred
7 feet of a school, day care center, a house of worship.
8 That passed both the House and Senate, but of course was
9 vetoed on a technical measure I guess, but it's going to
10 be back again.

11 Having worked on these issues before,
12 particularly the T-Mobile application a few years ago for
13 North -- near North Mianus School -- what struck me about
14 this one is the speed at which it's come at everybody. I
15 received an e-mail a day before the first event down
16 there at the -- at the site. And it wasn't that well
17 attended. And the speed of it is -- you know, we had
18 time to prepare in North Mianus. The neighborhood here
19 has had very very little time to prepare.

20 And I can't for the life of me understand
21 why it has to go here because forgetting the fact that
22 it's right across the street from houses, it's in a
23 valley. There are not that many houses there. There's
24 about think 200. It's not a major thoroughfare the road.

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1 It's a cut-through. It is right on the road, which again
2 I know the fall zone issue, I know these things don't
3 come down every day, but they can. You know, we had snow
4 last year before -- before Halloween. So it certainly
5 should be a consideration. But you know, I had AT&T for
6 a while and I don't remember ever having a problem over
7 there. I'm not saying it's the best reception, but I
8 don't know why this would be a target for an area where
9 really, you know, not that many people served.

10 Also, we debate every year bills. We had
11 one last year, and it's going to come back I'm sure again
12 this year, to prohibit and exclude activities and
13 structures being sited within a hundred feet of
14 watercourses. This one here is in -- within about 50
15 feet. It's also a backup source for drinking water.
16 That should really raise some alarms. Again, god forbid
17 -- you know, is it likely to happen? No. But it could.
18 And I'd rather error on the side of caution. It's better
19 to be safe than sorry.

20 The -- you know, the environmental aspect
21 alone I think should be enough to -- to deny it. Again,
22 everybody likes their cell phones. They don't obviously
23 want the towers. But this area here, as, you know, we
24 saw a few years ago, really the reception wasn't that

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1 bad. And I just think there are better places it could
2 go. T-Mobile did bring this up as a possible site at the
3 one meeting I was at a few years ago. And the first
4 thing I thought was right across the street there were
5 houses. And you know, they dropped it. They didn't --
6 they didn't go forward with it.

7 So again, I would just ask you all to
8 please consider, you know, the neighbors, the fact of
9 where it's going, is it really needed, and the fact that
10 it's -- you know, the fall zone right on the road, and
11 also within 50 feet of a river that is a backup source of
12 drinking water. Those are all very legitimate issues.

13 And again, I -- you know, I thank you all
14 for coming down here tonight. I appreciate the chance to
15 speak before you and I hope you consider these arguments
16 very seriously. Thank you so much.

17 (applause)

18 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Thank you, sir.

19 (pause - tape change)

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Mr. Cameron. If
21 anybody would like to speak, could you come up here and
22 talk to Linda Roberts and get your name on the list.

23 MR. BILL CAMERON: Good evening everyone.
24 My name is Bill Cameron. I live in Cos Cob. I have

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1 moved five times in my life, all within a mile in Cos
2 Cob. My people go back to the founders of the town, the
3 Ferrises. We've been here a long time.

4 Unlike my speaking predecessors tonight,
5 I'm going to propose a totally ridiculous proposal. This
6 proposal is -- just imagine for a moment that this tower
7 was scheduled or proposed to go up in the front lawn of
8 the Holly House. What would be the outcry in the town?
9 There would be torchlight marches going up and down
10 Greenwich Avenue if such a thing was ever proposed --
11 (applause). Now many people don't realize in the late
12 50's when the plans for the Mianus throughway I-95 bridge
13 was originally proposed, it was supposed to go through or
14 over top of the Holly House. The State changed it to
15 save one small historic location. My point to you is
16 that the Mianus River is just as important as an
17 historical site, as the Holly House or any other area in
18 this town -- (applause).

19 You people know that 2,000 years ago
20 native American tribes, different tribes, met at the
21 mouth of the river to harvest the herring runs and they
22 met in peace, and their tribes coincided without warfare
23 on this river over 2,000 years ago. This river was
24 fished by Teddy Roosevelt and named a particular trout

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1 fly after it called the Mickey Fenn. It has vast
2 historical important not only for the industries that
3 were on it, but for the river itself.

4 The next thing you know they're going to
5 put barricades up alongside so that nobody can even see
6 the river any more. There has been three changes in that
7 river. Just above the filter plant and that pond there
8 used to be what was called an oxbow. It was a beautiful
9 trout stretch that woved back on itself. Long before the
10 days of the EPA, that was bulldozed over and now you have
11 a canal going through there. Years later when they
12 built the lower dam beside the water plant dam, they
13 flooded the water that day, I was there, with cement and
14 lime. They killed every fish in the river. They paid
15 for that.

16 Also, when the power plant was in
17 business, the law was that they had to -- the water
18 company had to supply one million gallons of water coming
19 down that river every day to supply the power plant. The
20 power plant is no longer there, they don't have to supply
21 that kind of volume any more. In the dead of summertime,
22 the trout stream is as dry as a bone.

23 Please don't put anything more that will
24 destroy the view or the beauty or the historical

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1 significance of the Mianus River. Thank you.

2 (applause)

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Mr. Roman Gotfred.

4 MR. ROMAN GOTFRED: Good afternoon. My
5 name is Roman Gotfred. I used to live in Cos Cob on
6 North Street. Now I'm working mainly with dogs. It's
7 not much of importance, but I think they have also voice
8 a little bit. And being exposed in this kind of
9 radiation, especially dogs and cats are home animals and
10 they are very sensitive to this kind of energy, I would
11 suggest not to have them near this kind of exposure.
12 Even we have a lot of electric -- electrical appliances
13 in our house or WiFi, everything emits to the dogs and
14 they are very sensitive. They can sense you coming in
15 the house and you being not there yet. So imagine what
16 kind of energy these dogs will get hit from this kind of
17 exposure.

18 I don't want to get too far into my
19 previous work as installer for industry, manufacturing
20 industry. I was involved in installations of these kind
21 of cell towers in Greece. There was a lot of protection
22 if this -- if electrical appliances were on duty. So you
23 couldn't go near them because you got burned. So it may
24 be low wattage as a system, but the emission is very

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1 strong. And for those who had once upon a time the first
2 cell phone like the box -- the big box cell phone and you
3 ever touch the container while the phone was ringing, you
4 got burn on your hand because the emission of this WiFi -
5 - or excuse me, of this frequency, it's actually
6 microwave.

7 And the same thing that we cooking our
8 water -- going a little bit deeper from the dogs, this
9 kind of radiation affects water. It's proven. There are
10 -- there are -- sorry, my English is not very well --
11 there studies on water and effect of energies into the
12 water, and we have this kind of energy affecting exactly
13 a water plant. So microwave is vibrating water and it
14 changes its energy structure, not just the structure as
15 the atoms, but the energy structure, so you actually
16 killing the water you're drinking. So there's enough
17 chemicals in there the water comes already dead to our
18 faucet. We don't want to kill it more than necessary.

19 So (a) my opinion as experience with dogs,
20 I would keep them away from this kind of energy, and
21 because I search a little bit deeper with water, this is
22 something I do not want to drink. Thank you.

23 (applause)

24 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Ann Palitz,

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1 followed by Genevieve Krob.

2 MS. ANN PALITZ: I live on the corner of
3 Shelter and Benninon Drive --

4 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Could you spell
5 your name, ma'am, please?

6 MS. PALITZ: Sure. P-a-l-i-t-z. We use
7 AT&T cellular. My phone service is more than adequate
8 and I do not need any better coverage.

9 I will also tell you that I just drove
10 down from New Britain General Hospital where my mother-
11 in-law went to the emergency room today. There are a lot
12 of cell phone towers all along the major arteries, Route
13 9, etcetera, but I don't see them where there is a large
14 density of homes. And where you are considering
15 approving the petition for a cell phone tower to be
16 erected there's a very dense population there. It's
17 dense enough that we were sewerred several years ago to
18 protect the very water supply that now potentially could
19 be threatened by the erection of the cell tower. There
20 is a shed that is proposed to be constructed on the
21 property. I would ask you what is in that shed to
22 maintain the cell tower? I would also ask you about the
23 backup generator that is required by the FCC? And if you
24 were told it is not required for this specific cell

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1 tower, I would ask you about the directive of co-location
2 and if you are not opening up for additional towers to be
3 located and then a generator to be put on that land that
4 supplies drinking water to over a hundred thousand people
5 in this area -- (applause).

6 I will also tell you that my son fly
7 fishes there and he -- and he has been fly fishing there
8 since he was seven years old, along with many other
9 residents and non-residents of this town. And I will
10 admit to having been ticketed by the park ranger for not
11 having a fishing license. But so there is also a
12 consideration that while it is water company property, it
13 is located in what is considered to be the Mianus
14 Greenway. And there has been a lot done to try and
15 preserve this environment, the natural environment, the
16 trout, etcetera. And it is a very special and unique
17 place. I see absolutely no need that is greater than
18 other considerations when you are considering balance in
19 assessing a spot to locate a cell phone tower.

20 And I guess that's about it -- (laughter)
21 -- oh, one other -- one other thing, and I don't know if
22 anyone has ever brought this up -- I will say that my
23 family is an academic family with a scientific background
24 and so we have been most involved in stream quality. My

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1 daughter did a study for her high school when she was a
2 junior taking samplings. And as part of her submission
3 to the Connecticut State Science Fair, which she attended
4 up in Storrs, she collected -- you know, did a study on
5 the Mianus River. And Christmas Day, I think it was 2003
6 or -- 2004 -- after collecting samples from the Mianus
7 River, we stopped off to take a photograph of her in
8 front of the water processing plant -- and we live less
9 than a third of a mile direct route from the plant, it's
10 maybe a five-minute at the most car drive -- three-minute
11 car drive -- my house was surrounded by police before my
12 daughter and my husband was back home because of Homeland
13 Security.

14 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Thank you, ma'am.

15 MS. PALITZ: You're welcome.

16 (applause)

17 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Genevieve Krob,
18 followed by Yasuko Luzzi.

19 MS. GENEVIEVE KROB: My name is Genevieve
20 Krob, K-r-o-b, 44 Valleywood Road in Cos Cob.

21 To echo some of the comments made
22 previously, this proposal seems to be moving along
23 quickly and quietly. Many people are surprised to find
24 out the stage that it is at. I am the district leader

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1 for RTM, District 8, and we have not even had an
2 opportunity to discuss this proposal. And I ask that you
3 continue the hearing to give us an opportunity to provide
4 you our input in writing prior to making a decision. I
5 certainly would also like to hear from our conservation
6 commission about the impact on the environment. Thank
7 you.

8 (applause)

9 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Yasuko Luzzi.

10 MS. YASUKO LUZZI: Hello ladies and
11 gentlemen. My name is Yasuko Luzzi, Y-a-s-u-k-o. The
12 last name is L-u-z-z-y -- L-u-z-z-i, excuse me. I'm from
13 Japan, so excuse me, I make mistake.

14 Thank you for this opportunity I really
15 wanted to speak about. My biggest concern is radiation,
16 nothing else. And when I purchase this house eight
17 months ago, I came to town hall and then get the deed and
18 make sure that, you know, this building, Aquarion, was
19 built for water use only. And then I also spoke to
20 Aquarion, the company's manager, that any plan for the
21 future to build something else, he said no, nothing else,
22 just five years later maybe under the ground course of
23 action is planned. And then this, I was shocked.

24 And we are living just within 200 feet

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1 away, and we are not even informed. Thank god our nice
2 neighbors inform us and we found that -- this proposed
3 cell. And so -- anyway, you know what happened to Japan,
4 the radiation is a big issue. Of course it's not -- and
5 there not enough study, but some company -- or country
6 already found a study that how dangerous that the
7 radiation, especially, you know, that those small
8 children or needs, you know, medical attention, those are
9 most affect people. And also in Japan we have a big
10 argument about how -- cell tower, you know, radiation
11 issue. And so I was -- I -- at least have to e 400 feet
12 away or some study says fifteen hundred feet away.

13 And even this is not the right place.
14 This is a valley, it's not a flat land. And even you
15 build higher, still the same height, and then we -- we
16 are receiving radiation, unnecessary radiation any
17 moment, any second. And just for business use only.
18 It's not necessary. And please consider the other
19 location. This is not the right place. It's so
20 dangerous. Water versus electrical things, it's
21 completely opposite. You know what happens. And you
22 know, if it's not built, it's not happen. But if it's
23 built, the dangers always happen. That's all I wanted to
24 say. Thank you so much.

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1 (applause)

2 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: That's the end of
3 the sign-up list. Is there anybody else that would like
4 to speak?

5 MR. FRANK INTRIERI: Yes. My name is
6 Frank, the last name is Intrieri, I-n-t-r-i-e-r-i. I
7 currently reside at 29 Daffodil Lane in Cos Cob. I was
8 born and raised at 66 Valley Road and lived there for 26
9 years.

10 I think this is just not the right site
11 for the cell tower. It's a residential area, there's
12 families with young children in the neighborhood. If you
13 just were to take a ride through that area of Valley Road
14 any Saturday morning, any Sunday morning, people are
15 running, jogging, just enjoying nature and the area,
16 fishing on the river. This cell tower would not only be
17 a safety hazard for the area, but it would be an
18 additional eyesore on top of the water tower that's
19 existing. I just think it's the wrong place for it.
20 Thank you.

21 (applause)

22 MR. SAM ROMEO: Good evening. My name is
23 Sam Romeo --

24 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: You're on the list?

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1 MR. ROMEO: Yeah. Well, I was at another
2 event.

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Yes, I understand,
4 sir.

5 MR. ROMEO: So I'm -- I'm -- I'm thankful
6 that the residents had the opportunity to speak before
7 the Siting Council. However, as you can see, it's an
8 emotional issue.

9 And I'm a long lifetime resident of the
10 Town of Greenwich, former Chairman of the District 12 RTM
11 for 20 years, and former Land Use Chairman in the RTM,
12 and most recently I was -- had the pleasure of
13 representing 535 families in a class action lawsuit
14 concerning sewers in the area, District 8 and District
15 12, because of pollution. The families were just as
16 passionate about saving the river and having clean
17 drinking water and the environment as they are now
18 fighting another environmental fight on a different
19 level.

20 I don't think that the -- that AT&T has
21 shown the need to have another tower put in that area.
22 At best they could probably pick up another 60 customers
23 based on our own website. They had an advertisement on
24 AOL saying how great their service was and how they were

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1 getting new customers because the service was so great.
2 And I think it's wrong to really impact our town with
3 application after application for cell towers.

4 And I also think it's -- I take personal
5 offense that it's really taken out of the hands of our
6 town. Our planning and zoning commission -- and I worked
7 on zoning regulations for a good number of years -- it
8 really has no say on where these towers can and can't go,
9 and it's given upon to you. And I'm sure each and every
10 one of you if you had a cell tower proposal proposed in
11 your neighborhood, you probably would feel just as
12 passionate as we do about what's going on. So take that
13 into consideration when you come to your decision about
14 this application.

15 I remember the Mianus River long before
16 the water company even was built there. I grew up on
17 that river as a boy. I fished there. I almost drowned
18 there twice because of the rapids. And when the water
19 company did come in, it was the Connecticut American
20 Water Company, and they opened those floodgates up, they
21 destroyed all of the wildlife in that river. I saw
22 hundreds and hundreds of carp that were dead at the
23 bottom of the upper dam, and just silt and mud that
24 floated down the Mianus River that was once great

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1 swimming holes no longer existed because of the silt and
2 what they did to the river. So I really didn't have too
3 much love for the water company, but that was then and
4 this is now.

5 I think what I would like to see, and all
6 my friends and neighbors, the only way I think we can
7 really get the attention of Aquarion and AT&T is to hit
8 them in the pocketbook. If -- I have two AT&T lines in
9 my house, I plan on canceling those lines -- (applause).
10 Anybody who has AT&T service mobile phones, cancel them,
11 because the only way we're going to get their attention
12 is through their pocketbooks. And the Aquarion Water
13 Company, well they have to do business in this town.
14 Aquarion needs to go before Planning and Zoning for
15 application for whatever, expansions, anything they want
16 to do on their property, and then maybe we should get
17 more aggressive against Aquarion. We can't stop buying
18 their water because we're locked into them, but we
19 certainly can make their life miserable. And I think
20 that I would rather go after them that way because I
21 think our voices aren't really going to be heard because
22 -- I know you've -- you've attended many, many hearings,
23 you've listened to a lot of people come out to the Siting
24 Council -- and I don't know how many -- how many

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1 applications you've denied, but I'm certain there's more
2 you've approved than denied over the years that you've
3 been sitting on this council, but I -- for one, I think
4 that we have to take a stand as residents. We were
5 successful on the sewer lawsuit against the Town of
6 Greenwich. And I think each and every one of you
7 participated in that. And I guess we'll have to do the
8 same thing moving forward.

9 But I -- I don't think again AT&T has
10 shown the need to have this tower put in. I don't know
11 how many customers they think they're going to be picking
12 up or improving their service for, but we certainly can
13 eliminate some of their business by canceling our service
14 with them. Thank you.

15 (applause)

16 MS. ELAINE EGENCARELLI: Hi --

17 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Yes, ma'am --

18 MS. EGENCARELLI: -- my name is Elaine
19 Egencarelli. It's -- the last name is Egencarelli. And
20 I've lived in Cos Cob my whole life for 42 years -- 43
21 years.

22 And I just want to say that I know that
23 AT&T has put in their little brochure or their pamphlet
24 that they're following government regulations about the

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1 health -- being health conscious and about the radiation.
2 But I just want to point out that there's actually no --
3 you can spin that any way that you want, but there's no
4 healthy amount of radiation. There just isn't. So
5 whatever radiation comes off that cell tower, it doesn't
6 matter what kind of regulation you're in, it's -- there's
7 no healthy amount.

8 We have North Mianus School, which I went
9 to as a kid, we have back then the Civic Center and now
10 there's a really nice preschool there. We -- it's a
11 community that's always been filled with kids. We should
12 be thinking about -- and I'm a teacher -- so we should be
13 thinking about our students. I teach at Hamilton Avenue,
14 so I'm a teacher in the area. We should be thinking
15 about our kids, we should be thinking about the animal
16 life, we should be thinking about the plant life, and
17 there's no amount of radiation that's good for fish,
18 rabbits, children, the elderly, or whoever lives in that
19 area.

20 So you can spin it any way that you want,
21 you say that you're using governmental guidelines, and
22 those are always in flux and changing because one day one
23 set of rules is good and then another day another set of
24 rules is good, but what you really just need to say is

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1 there's no amount of radiation that's good. So the
2 little that I might have to be under -- and I only use my
3 cell phone in an emergency, so I keep it turned off, and
4 I've actually never had a call dropped from AT&T. And
5 like Sam said, I would be not opposed to canceling my
6 phone and never getting a cell phone again if that's what
7 it takes to keep a cell tower outside of my area.

8 (applause)

9 MR. BENJAMIN SALEEBY: Good evening. My
10 name is Benjamin Saleeby, S-a-l-e-e-b-y. I'm at 14
11 Serenity Lane.

12 I just want to say that everyone that has
13 stood up here tonight has talked about, you know,
14 environmental and residential and community issues, and
15 we won't go through that again. I just want to say that
16 this cell phone issue in our town has been kicked around
17 from over at Pine Needam, down at North Mianus School,
18 and here tonight, and who knows where it might end up in
19 the future. I think the Siting Committee should listen
20 to the residents of the town and understand that we just
21 don't want it period. And no matter what neighborhood
22 it's going to go in, if it every does, that there's a lot
23 of people in this town that are objections to it. Thank
24 you.

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1 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Thank you.

2 (applause)

3 MR. JESSE SHULTIS: My name is Jesse
4 Shultis, S-h-u-l-t-i-s. I live on 6 Chestnut Street,
5 just above the filtering plant.

6 I know that some of you and some of you
7 with your back towards me today have seen me demonstrate
8 that I was able to get several cell phone calls and
9 called out several times from the front door of the
10 filtering plant. There's no need for this. There was no
11 problem with any of my cell phone conversations. Thank
12 you.

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: Thank you.

14 (applause)

15 MR. NICK EDWARDS: My name is Nick
16 Edwards, E-d-w-a-r-d-s. I'm a resident of 111 Bible
17 Street in Cos Cob. I'm a District 8 for the RTM, the
18 town of Greenwich. I also work for the Town of
19 Greenwich.

20 I am confused. I understand what's before
21 you is a mission that you're given as a siting council,
22 but where have we seen where the customers stand up and
23 say we don't want this, that somehow we as customers have
24 no choice. How many people have gotten up and said I

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1 have cell contact, I'm able to get a signal. I don't
2 hear the evidence to say, oh, there's major problems here
3 that we have to solve. We have a biased interest on the
4 part of AT&T saying, oh, we need -- oh, no, you need
5 this. Well we are them and we're saying we don't need
6 this. So that's the one issue.

7 I really think this thing will not fly if
8 indeed the legalities of the deed covenants are honored.
9 Also, the structure of the water tower itself perhaps --
10 there's no engineering studies that are presented to
11 show that it's going to actually hold the weight or the
12 sway in the wind, which we're getting more and more,
13 especially coming down that valley area over there on
14 Valley Road.

15 So, I -- I do encourage you, even though
16 you have a mission to try and say what's best for the
17 community, but we as the customers are saying no thank
18 you.

19 (applause)

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN TAIT: The Council will
21 now close the public comment session of this hearing. We
22 thank you very much for your comments and thoughts. You
23 have 30 days from the filing of the -- from the end of
24 this thing to send us written comments and thoughts that

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1 you have if you haven't expressed them tonight or if your
2 friends couldn't get here tonight.

3 And so -- so the Council announces that it
4 will continue the evidentiary portion of this hearing,
5 which was started at 3:00 to 5:00, in New Britain on
6 Wednesday, February 22nd, starting at 1:00 p.m. The
7 Council requests that all testimony and exhibits be
8 prefiled with the Council and all parties and intervenors
9 by February 15, 2012.

10 Please note that anyone who has not become
11 a party or an intervenor, but who desires to make his or
12 her views known to the Council, may file written
13 statements with the Council until the record closes.

14 Copies of the transcript of this hearing
15 will be filed in the Greenwich Town Clerk's Office.

16 I hereby declare this hearing adjourned.
17 Thank you for your participation and drive safely.

18
19 (Whereupon, the hearing adjourned at 8:31
20 p.m.)

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