Petition No. 1038

MetroPCS - Simsbury, Connecticut

Staff Report

December 10, 2012

On September 25, 2012, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from MetroPCS for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the establishment of a ground equipment compound at an existing facility at 22 Wintonbury Road in Simsbury Connecticut. Council member Daniel Lynch Jr., and Siting Analyst Robert Mercier conducted a field review of the site on November 2, 2012 to review the proposal. Andrew Candillo of TRM, Inc. represented MetroPCS at the field review.

The existing telecommunications tower consists of a 100-foot lattice tower owned by The Connecticut Light and Power Company. The existing tower supports two large microwave dishes at the top of the tower, operated by CL&P, and two antenna arrays operated by Sprint at the 80-foot and 73-foot levels of the tower. Ground equipment supporting each installation is located at the base of the tower. The tower is located adjacent to CL&P’s # 1726 transmission line.

MetroPCS proposes to install six panel antennas at the 87-foot level of the tower. MetroPCS proposes to install a separate lease and equipment area at the base of the tower, adjacent to Sprint's installation. Installation of MetroPCS’s antennas and coax would require reinforcement of the tower foundation.

The site is in a remote part of Simsbury along the top of a trap rock ridge. Access would be from an existing dirt road that follows a power line for approximately one mile. The existing road then enters the Buck Property and Simsbury Land Trust property for a short distance as it climbs a wooded portion of the ridge to the tower site. MetroPCS is negotiating easement rights through these properties.

Council staff calculates that the addition of MetroPCS’s antennas would bring the facility’s cumulative power density to 28% of the FCC limit for maximum permissible exposure.

The proposed establishment of a new lease and ground equipment area is not expected to have any substantial adverse environmental effect. The proposed equipment area is located in an open area adjacent to a power line, and dirt access road. Staff recommends approval of the petition as proposed.