Petition No. 1039

MetroPCS

West Hartford, Connecticut

Staff Report

November 15, 2012

On September 28, 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 extension of an existing telecommunications facility at 14-20 Isham Road in West Hartford, Connecticut. Council member Michael Caron and Siting Analyst David Martin visited the site on November 8, 2012 to review the proposal. Alex Ignachuk of TRM, Inc. represented MetroPCS at the field review.

The existing telecommunications tower at 14-20 Isham Road is a 100-foot tall rooftop guyed lattice tower that reaches an overall height of 125 feet above ground level. It is owned by M+R Gassner Family II LLC. The existing tower has two wireless carrier placements. Nextel/Clearwire is at a centerline height of 123 feet above ground level and Verizon is at a centerline height of 108 feet above ground level. In addition, there are two unidentified whip antennas at the top of the tower. MetroPCS proposes to extend the height of the tower ten feet in order to install six antennas and associated equipment at a centerline height of 132 feet above ground level. MetroPCS could not install antennas lower than Verizon because the surrounding buildings would block its signal. MetroPCS would place its ground equipment on a steel frame to be installed on the roof of the building.

Isham Road is in downtown West Hartford. The development in this area is predominantly commercial; the Blue Back Square development is directly to the south of the building on which the tower is located.

Council staff calculates that the addition of MetroPCS’s antennas would bring the facility’s cumulative power density to 42.5% of the FCC limit for maximum permissible exposure.

The proposed tower extension is not expected to have any substantial adverse environmental effects. Staff recommends approval with the condition that MetroPCS implement the modifications identified in Appendix D of the Structural Analysis Report with Modification Design prepared by GPD Group dated October 19 and stamped by David Granger.

**View of Existing Tower**

