

Petition No. 1062
Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless
Norwalk, Connecticut
May 30, 2013

On April 24, 2013, Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Cellco) submitted a petition to the Connecticut Siting Council, (Council) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the installation of a temporary wireless telecommunications facility located off Fairview Place in Norwalk, Connecticut. On May 13, 2013, Council Chairman Robert Stein and Council staff member Robert Mercier met with Kenneth Baldwin Esq. (Cellco), Carlo Centore (Centek) and Tom Villa (South Norwalk Electric and Water Co.) at the site to discuss the petition.

Cellco currently operates an existing wireless facility on an approximately 55-foot tall water tank located at the corner of Fairview Place and Price Avenue that is owned by the South Norwalk Electric and Water Company (SNEWC). Cellco currently has 12 panel antennas mounted at the top of the water tank. SNEWC is re-painting the tank, requiring Cellco to remove all of its equipment.

Cellco proposes to install a temporary ballast tower on SNEWC property to maintain wireless service to the surrounding area for a period of 90 days. The 85-foot tall temporary tower would be located in the northeast corner of the property, within an existing fenced area surrounding the tank. The temporary tower would be connected to existing utilities and an existing equipment shelter.

Cellco would install six panel antennas on five-foot t-arms at the 70-foot level of the temporary tower. Although Cellco does not need the additional 15 feet of tower height, the design of the temporary tower does not allow it to be shorter than 85 feet. Coaxial cables would be contained within the tower. The tower would be anchored by ballast in accordance with an engineering report submitted to the Council on May 20, 2013.

The water tank site is located in a mixed residential and commercial area with a few residences located north of the site. The remaining area is commercial in nature. Abutters were notified of the project by Cellco and no comment was received. The tower would not be obtrusive given the presence of the large water tank and the mostly commercial nature of the area.

The installation would not be an aviation hazard. Radio frequency emissions from operation of the temporary tower would be less than 10 percent of the limit established by the Federal Communication Commission for maximum permissible exposure.