

Petition No. 1063  
New Cingular Wireless  
Orange, Connecticut  
Staff Report  
June 24, 2013

On May 7, 2013, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for a proposed installation of a wireless telecommunications facility on an existing transmission line structure located at 298 Ridge Road in Orange, Connecticut. Council member Dr. Bell and Siting Analyst David Martin visited the site on June 19, 2013 to review the proposal. Attorney Lucia Chiochio of Cuddy & Feder, Carlo Centore of Centek Engineering, and John Lawrence of Centerline Communications represented AT&T at the field review. Also present were Gerry and Dora Connolly and Roland Gunther, nearby residents.

AT&T proposes to add a powermount extension onto an existing 96-foot tall monopole-type transmission line structure (Structure #3848) owned by CL&P. The extension would extend approximately 15 feet beyond the top of the transmission line structure. AT&T would place 12 antennas on a low-profile platform at a centerline height of 111 feet above ground level on the powermount extension. AT&T would install a 25-foot by 44-foot compound for its ground equipment. The compound would be enclosed with a nine-foot high wood stockade fence and would include a 12-foot by 20-foot shelter for its radio equipment and a 50 kW propane generator for backup power. The generator would be fueled by a 500-gallon propane tank that would also be located within the compound. The compound's fence would be lined with noise attenuation materials to ensure that the generator complies with noise regulations at the nearest property lines. AT&T would run coax cables underground from its equipment shelter to the transmission line structure on which its antennas would be mounted. The cables, antennas, and platform would be painted to match the look of CL&P's weatherizing steel structure.

In January 2011, the Council approved an AT&T petition (Petition No. 981) to place antennas on a CL&P transmission line structure at 945 North Street in Milford, approximately 1,600 feet southwest of the structure at 298 Ridge Road. AT&T could not proceed with this installation because the owner of the 945 North Street property passed away and his heirs could not agree to lease the ground space AT&T needed. The installation being proposed in this petition would cover the same area as the previously approved petition.

AT&T's compound would be accessed via a 12-foot wide by 50-foot long gravel drive that would be installed off of Ridge Road. Six existing arbor vitae trees would have to be removed to make room for the compound, but they would be replaced by sixteen new trees that would be planted to provide additional screening along the south side of the compound. Minimal grading would be needed for the proposed facility.

Mr. and Mrs. Connolly, who attended the field review, expressed concerns about the impact of AT&T's installation on the property values in the area, about the antennas' visibility, and about RF emissions. Staff calculates that AT&T's antennas would have a power density equivalent to 14.3% of the FCC limit for maximum permissible exposure.

A visibility analysis of AT&T's proposed installation predicts that Structure #3848 can be seen year-round from approximately 52 acres in the surrounding area and seasonally from approximately 57 acres. The addition of AT&T's antennas on a powermount extension should not substantially expand the structure's existing viewshed. The closest residential structure to the proposed facility is owned by CL&P and is on the same property that will host AT&T's facility.

AT&T's proposed project is not expected to cause any substantial adverse environmental impact.

### Google Earth Photograph of Existing Transmission Line Structures

