

Petition No. 1077
Verizon
Simsbury, Connecticut
Staff Report
November 19, 2013

On October 11, 2013, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Verizon) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the extension of an existing telecommunications facility at 345 Bushy Hill Road in Simsbury, Connecticut. Council member Robert Hannon and Siting Analyst David Martin visited the site on November 12, 2013 to review the proposal. Attorney Kenneth Baldwin represented Verizon at the field review.

The existing telecommunications tower is 80 feet tall and is located behind the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) station at 345 Bushy Hill Road. Currently, the SVFD has two six-foot whip antennas at the top of the existing tower; T-Mobile has three flush-mounted antennas at 77 feet; and MetroPCS has three flush-mounted antennas at 70 feet. Verizon proposes to extend the tower by 26 feet to a height of 106 feet in order to install 12 antennas (three LTE antennas, three cellular antennas, three PCS antennas, and three AWS antennas) on T-arms at a centerline height of 100 feet. SVFD would re-locate its antennas to the top of the extended tower. This relocation to a higher centerline is expected to improve the fire department's service in this section of Simsbury. AT&T has also submitted correspondence indicating that it would be interested in placing antennas at a centerline height of 90 feet should the tower be extended.

Verizon would install a 12-foot by 30-foot shelter just beyond the edge of the parking area in the rear of the fire station for its ground equipment. The shelter would include a natural gas-fueled backup generator—natural gas is available on the fire station property. The shelter at this location would require some filling to extend an embankment to accommodate it. A few trees would have to be taken down for this filling. AT&T would install an 11'6" by 20' shelter for its ground equipment. It would be located a short distance from Verizon's shelter along the back of the parking area.

Although the fire house is on a main road in Simsbury (State Route 167) and is surrounded by single family homes, the visibility of the existing tower is actually minimal due to the presence of mature coniferous and deciduous trees that ring the SVFD property. The proposed 26-foot extension is estimated to increase the year-round visibility of the tower by approximately 10% to 25 acres. It should not dramatically alter the tower's presence in the surrounding vicinity.

For this petition, Verizon hired C Squared Systems to take field measurements of RF levels at this facility. C Squared added calculations for Verizon's proposed antennas to its measured readings and estimated the expected power density to be approximately 4.8% of the FCC limit for maximum permissible exposure for the general public.

Verizon provided notice to the Town of Simsbury and abutting property owners on October 11, 2013. No comments or inquiries have been received. Mary Glassman, Simsbury First Selectwoman, has no objections to the Petition.

The proposed tower extension is not expected to have any substantial adverse environmental effects. Staff recommends approval.

View of existing tower from behind fire house



View of existing tower from across Bushy Hill Road



View of tower from north along Bushy Hill Road



View of tower from south along Bushy Hill Road

