

Petition No. 1089

Cellco

50 Devine Street, North Haven

Staff Report

January 16, 2014

On December 3, 2013, Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Cellco) submitted a petition (Petition) to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed extension of an existing telecommunications facility at 50 Devine Street, North Haven. Specifically, Cellco seeks to extend an existing 120-foot monopole owned by Florida Tower Partners by ten feet in order to meet its wireless coverage objectives in North Haven.

The tower was approved by the Council on February 25, 2010 in Docket No. 384. MetroPCS currently maintains three flush-mounted antennas at the 117-foot level of the tower. AT&T recently received approval via a tower share to co-locate at the 107-foot level of the tower. Cellco would install 12 panel antennas at the 130-foot level of the (extended) tower. Council staff has confirmed that the February 25, 2010 Decision and Order (D&O) for the tower does not place any restrictions on the type of antenna mounts. Thus, a low-profile platform is permissible.

Cellco would also install its radio equipment and a propane-fueled backup generator inside a 12-foot by 30-foot equipment shelter to be installed inside the fenced compound. A 1,000-gallon propane tank would also be installed inside the fenced compound.

The site is located within the 100-year flood plain. Per Order No. 3 of the D&O, "All ground equipment associated with antennas installed on the tower shall be installed at a level above the 100-year flood elevation." If approved, staff suggests that this condition also be applied to Cellco's equipment shelter. Existing radio equipment at the site appears to comply with the elevation requirement. However, Council staff cautions that the existing pad-mounted transformer that supplies power to the tower is installed at grade. However, this is not radio equipment and thus not subject to Order No. 3.

The visual impact is not expected to be significant because the surrounding area is primarily commercial and industrial. In addition, while the year-round visibility area would increase approximately eight percent, there would be no substantial change in the seasonal visibility area.

