

Petition No. 1095  
Verizon  
Hebron, Connecticut  
Staff Report  
April 17, 2014

On March 13, 2014, 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 installation of a small cell telecommunications facility at the Hebron Fairgrounds, 347 Gilead Street in Hebron, Connecticut. Council member Robert Hannon and Siting Analyst David Martin visited the site on April 16, 2014 to review the proposal. Rachel Mayo, John Tierney, and Mark Brauer represented Verizon at the field review.

Verizon currently has three cell sites in Hebron that are providing reliable coverage in the areas surrounding the Hebron Fairgrounds. Coverage on the fairgrounds, however, is problematic, especially during events that attract large crowds. In order to improve coverage here, Verizon is proposing to install a “small cell” or “mini cell” facility.

Presently there are several concrete poles spaced around the fairgrounds to support lights and loud speakers. The typical heights of these poles are 30 feet. The existing concrete pole is not capable of supporting the load of Verizon’s equipment. Verizon will replace one concrete pole supporting loud speakers with a new 30-foot tall steel monopole. Verizon will install three small antennas with a built-in amplifier at a 30-foot centerline elevation above ground level. Verizon will re-install the loud speakers on the replacement pole, five feet below the antennas. Each antenna measures approximately 18 inches high, by seven inches wide by eight inches deep. It is an antenna that is specifically intended for localized applications such as the fairgrounds or stadiums and shopping malls.

The antennas will operate on Verizon’s 700 MHz frequencies and will utilize the LTE technology. Verizon’s ground equipment would be contained within a small cabinet to be installed inside an adjacent “power shack.” Verizon’s equipment will include a four-hour battery backup power system. All of the electric, telephone, and fiber optic lines for the new facility will be brought to the pole underground.

This is a new type of facility for Verizon, one with a small, specifically targeted coverage footprint. Verizon does have plans, however, for similar facilities at comparable locations around the state such as the Durham Fairgrounds and poorly covered rest areas on interstate highways.

Verizon’s proposed “small cell” facility will not require any notable alterations to the fairgrounds, other than some temporary trenching. The 30-foot replacement pole will not be any more visible than the other existing light poles and should not be visible beyond the fairgrounds, which is surrounded by a buffer of mature, deciduous trees. Staff calculates that the power density of the proposed facility would equal 0.16% of the FCC’s Maximum Permissible Emissions limit.

For this petition, Verizon notified the Town and abutting property owners. No comments have been received.

The proposed installation of a “small cell” telecommunications facility is not expected to have any substantial adverse environmental effects. Staff recommends approval.

**View of pole to be replaced and adjacent “power shack”**



**Wider view of fairgrounds showing similar poles**

