

Petition No. 1097
AT&T
Suffield, Connecticut
Staff Report
April 24, 2014

On March 20, 2014, 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 the extension of and collocation on an existing telecommunications tower located at 174 South Grand Street in Suffield, Connecticut. Council member Dan Lynch and staff members David Martin and Fred Cunliffe visited the site on April 23, 2014 to review the proposal. Lucia Chiochio of Cuddy & Feder and Adam Brillard of SmartLink, represented AT&T at the field review.

The existing 120-foot tower was approved under Docket 403. The applicant was Verizon, which currently has antennas installed at the top of the existing tower. AT&T proposes to extend the tower by 10 feet to an overall height of 130 feet and to install 12 antennas on a low profile platform at a centerline height of 130 feet. A professional engineer has certified that the tower is structurally capable of supporting the proposed extension. For its ground equipment, AT&T would install a 11.5-foot by 16-foot pre-fabricated shelter. It would also install a 50 kW diesel generator capable of running 48 hours before needing to be refueled. AT&T representatives indicated that a noise study concluded that AT&T's installation would not create noise levels exceeding regulatory limits.

The area surrounding the existing facility is characterized by low density residential properties and agricultural uses. The existing facility is closely surrounded by well established, dense vegetation that forms an effective visual screen for the nearest residential neighbors. At a height of 120 feet, the existing tower is barely visible over the mature, deciduous trees that surround it. Its visibility is limited to a short stretch along South Grand Street, and its height relative to the surrounding trees makes the tower an easily overlooked landscape feature. Extending the height of the tower by ten feet should not increase its visual presence by any significant degree.

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

AT&T's proposed tower extension and antenna installation should not create any significantly adverse environmental impacts.

View of existing tower from South Grand Street, near the facility entrance



View of the existing tower from South Grand Street, 2000 feet south of the facility.

