

Petition No. 1122
New Cingular Wireless
Meriden, Connecticut
Staff Report
December 30, 2014

On November 26, 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 modification of an existing transmission line tower located near 200 Edgemark Acres in Meriden, Connecticut. Council member Michael Caron and staff member David Martin visited the site on December 29, 2014 to review the proposal. Attorney Daniel Laub of Cuddy and Feder and Harry Rocheville of Centek Engineering represented AT&T at the field review. Tom Skoglund of the City of Meriden's Planning Department was also present at the field review.

AT&T is proposing to add an antenna support structure to an existing 80-foot tall steel lattice transmission line structure owned by Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P). AT&T's antenna support structure would extend 12 feet above the height of the existing transmission structure and its antennas would be installed at a centerline height of 88 feet above ground level. AT&T is planning to initially install nine antennas on T-arm mounts. Ground equipment would be installed in a shelter that would have clapboard siding and a pitched roof. AT&T is giving its shelter this architectural treatment at the request of the underlying property owner. The shelter would be located adjacent to the base of the transmission line tower. Topography at this location would require some grading and a retaining wall in order to put the equipment shelter in place. Both tower and equipment shelter would be enclosed within one fence line per CL&P requirements. For fencing, AT&T would use a six-foot tall stockade fence at the request of the property owner. Utilities would be brought to the shelter underground from the nearest street. AT&T would include a 50 kW backup diesel generator inside the equipment shelter. Access to AT&T's proposed facility would follow an existing gravel drive.

Although there are single family residential developments in the surrounding vicinity, the areas from which CL&P's transmission tower is visible are limited due to topography and existing, mature vegetation. The addition of AT&T's antennas would not create any new residential views of the top of the transmission tower. The tower is located at an elevation that will provide a good coverage footprint. Antennas at this location would interact with antennas at the tower that is the subject of the Council's recent Docket 451 in Cheshire, if approved.

In order to accommodate AT&T's antennas, the CL&P tower would have to be structurally reinforced. AT&T would implement these reinforcements as part of the antenna installation.

Council staff calculates that AT&T's proposed antennas would result in a power density equal to approximately 19.5% of the FCC's applicable limit.

AT&T notified the city and adjacent property owners of its proposal. The Council has not received any comments or inquiries from nearby residents. Staff had a follow-up conversation with Tom Skoglund of the city planning department who did not report any substantive concerns.

The proposed antenna installation on the transmission line tower is not expected to have any substantial adverse environmental effects.

View of existing lattice transmission line tower

