

Petition No. 1124
T-Mobile
191 Middle Haddam Road, Portland
December 29, 2014

On July 11, 2002, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) granted a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (Certificate) and Public Need in Docket No. 206 to Crown Atlantic Company LLC and Celco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for a 130-foot monopole at 191 Middle Haddam Road, Portland. On May 1, 2007, the Council approved a Petition from T-Mobile Northeast LLC (T-Mobile) to extend the tower 10 feet to 140 feet above ground level (agl) to co-locate up to nine panel antennas. The site is a 14-acre residential lot and is set back approximately 1,000 feet from Middle Haddam Road.

T-Mobile currently has three panel antennas located at the 139-foot level of the tower. On December 3, 2014, T-Mobile Northeast LLC (T-Mobile) submitted a Petition (Petition) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate is required for the proposed modifications to this existing telecommunications facility. Specifically, T-Mobile seeks to add three additional antennas at the 139-foot level of the tower to accommodate its 700 MHz wireless spectrum. 700 MHz would be used primarily to improve in-building coverage for voice and E-911 services.

However, these new antennas are taller than the existing antennas. The existing antennas are approximately 53 inches tall. Thus, the tops of the existing antennas are approximately 141-foot 2.5 inches. The proposed antennas are approximately 96.4 inches tall. Thus, the tops of the proposed antennas would reach a height of 143.2 feet. To accommodate this increase in total height with appurtenances, a petition filing was necessary.

T-Mobile would also replace one existing equipment cabinet on an existing concrete pad within the fenced compound, add one cabinet and three remote radio heads to an H-frame on that concrete pad, and add six antenna cables.

A Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut has certified that the tower is structurally adequate to support the proposed loading. The maximum worst-case power density would be 53.9 percent of the applicable limit.

The incremental visual impact associated with this proposal is expected to be negligible given that the tower height would not increase, roughly two feet of additional antenna height on three of the antennas would not be easily discerned from ground level, and any new equipment would remain within the existing compound.

On November 25, 2014, notice was provided to the property owners, the Town, abutters, and others as required. No comments have been received to date.

T-Mobile contends that this proposal would not have a significant adverse environmental effect.