

Petition No. 1128
Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless
Willimantic, Connecticut
Staff Report
January 14, 2015

On December 18, 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 on a commercial/residential building located at 790 Main Street in downtown Willimantic, Connecticut. Staff member David Martin visited the site on January 14, 2015 to review the proposal.

Verizon currently has two cell sites that provide service to downtown Willimantic. However, the beta sector of one of these sites and the alpha sector of the other site are currently operating at their capacity limits. In order to provide extra capacity in its network in downtown Willimantic and on the nearby Eastern Connecticut State University campus, Verizon is proposing to install a “small cell” facility that would operate on its 2100 MHz frequency band. The proposed facility would consist of two small antenna masts attached to the northeast and northwest corners of the building at 790 Main Street. Each mast would support a panel-type antenna and a remote radio head. The antennas would be mounted with a centerline height of 46 feet above ground level, which is four feet higher than the edge of the roof against which they would be installed. The overall height of the antennas would extend approximately one foot above the top of the building’s peaked roof.

Verizon’s ground equipment would consist of a small cabinet that would be located in the rear of the building, tucked under an exterior stair platform. Utility service to the equipment cabinet would extend from inside the existing building. To the rear of this building, the land drops away to a paved area with parking and a travel way, beyond which are railroad tracks.

Downtown Willimantic is predominantly commercial, although many of the commercial buildings have residential units on upper floors. The addition of the two antenna masts to the existing building should create only a de minimus visual impact along Willimantic’s Main Street. Its proposed location would make Verizon’s equipment cabinet barely noticeable.

Council staff calculates that Verizon’s proposed “small cell” facility would result in a worst case power density equal to approximately 19.26% of the FCC’s applicable limit.

Verizon notified the town and adjacent property owners of its proposal. The Council has not received any comments or inquiries from town officials or nearby residents.

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

790 Main Street, viewed from the northwest



790 Main Street, viewed from the east



Rear of 790 Main Street

