

Petition No. 820
Omnipoint Communications (T-Mobile)
Newtown, Connecticut
Staff Report
July 20, 2007

On June 27, 2007, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from Omnipoint Communications (T-Mobile) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the installation a telecommunications tower inside an existing 59-foot tall silo located at 90 Hattertown Road in Newtown. The petition was field reviewed by Council member Ed Wilensky and Council staff member David Martin on July 19, 2007. T-Mobile representatives Karina Fournier, Russ Moffet, Dan Koon, and Alex Murillo attended the field review. Town officials, the property owners and abutting landowners were notified of the proposal.

T-Mobile would flush mount three antennas near the top of the tower at a centerline height of 54 feet above ground level. The silo is located in the northwest corner of a five acre residential lot owned by Linda Cavaliere. It is no longer being used for any agriculture or other purposes. The nearest house is located approximately 100 feet to the west of the silo on an adjacent lot. There are other residences on surrounding lots, but the location of the silo and the abundance of mature deciduous trees in the area restrict the visibility of the silo.

T-Mobile would locate its tower and antennas completely within the silo. Its ground equipment would consist of cabinets on concrete pads and would also be located within the silo. Utilities would be brought to the silo from an existing utility pole on Hattertown Road along the northern edge of the Cavaliere property. The top of the silo would be removed and replaced with a replica composed of RF transparent materials.

A nearby neighbor attended the field review and expressed her concerns over the change this proposal would bring to her neighborhood. She came to the field review in response to a notice T-Mobile sent to the nearest residents.

The proposed facility would enable T-Mobile to cover a portion of Route 302 and adjacent areas in the southwestern section of Newtown. This facility would hand off signals to a site in Bethel to the west.

The power density of the antennas would represent 25.3% of the FCC maximum exposure limit.

T-Mobile's facility would have minimal impact on the surrounding residential neighborhood and would enable T-Mobile fill a significant existing coverage gap. Staff recommends approval.

View of Silo

