

Petition No. 826
Hamden, Connecticut
Staff Report
July 23, 2007

Sprint Nextel Corporation has petitioned the Council to issue a declaratory ruling stating that placement of the Applicant's temporary mobile radio communications facility (otherwise known as a cell on wheels or "COW") adjacent to a parking lot at the Quinnipiac University ("Quinnipiac") Polling Facility at 60 West Woods Road in Hamden, Connecticut (the "Site") will not have a "substantial adverse environmental effect in the state" and therefore, does not require a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need. Council member Phil Ashton and Executive Director Derek Phelps met with Sprint Construction Consultant John Tierney at the proposed site on Monday, July 23, to review the proposal.

Sprint has entered into an agreement with Quinnipiac to provide telecommunication services, including emergency services, throughout the campus. To facilitate service Sprint intends to build a Distributed Antenna System (DAS) throughout the Quinnipiac University campus. Sprint anticipates it will be approximately six months before the system will be operational, however the school has requested Sprint begin providing coverage by August 15, 2007 in order to meet the communication requirements of the incoming fall students.

In order to accommodate Quinnipiac's request to have telecommunication resources available by August 15th, Sprint proposes to install a temporary COW to provide the requisite coverage. Specifically, Sprint proposes to temporarily locate a 126-foot guyed lattice COW at the far end of the Quinnipiac University Polling Facility parking lot located at 60 West Woods Road. Sprint will locate its CDMA network antennas at the top of the COW with its iDEN network antennas directly below. Three small global positioning system antennas will be located at the top of the COW, bringing the overall height to 126'.

The COW will be located within an approximate 38' x 46' compound area which will be enclosed by a fence. Within the compound will be a temporary 8' x 20' equipment shelter to house the equipment for both networks. The electrical and telephone lines will be brought in from an existing spot in the corner of the parking lot. Tension anchorage points will be located at three points around the radius of the COW and will also be surrounded by fencing. Access to the site will be via the existing parking lot. The visual impact of the COW will be substantially diminished by the 60' tree line that completely surrounds the site. Furthermore, given its general location in a fairly commercial area, Sprint expects the COW to have a limited visual impact on the surrounding community for a relatively short period of time.

The Town of Hamden was consulted via a telephone conversation between Mr. Phelps and Leslie A. Creane, the Town Planner, on July 20, 2007. Ms. Creane indicated the town had no objection to the proposal provided the COW would be in place for no more than six months, and would not be extended without the consent of the town.