

Petition No. 832
Sprint/Nextel
North Main Street, Marlborough
Staff Report
February 28, 2008

On October 12, 2007, Nextel Communications, Inc. (Nextel) submitted a petition (Petition) to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed modifications to an existing 159-foot tall monopole located on North Main Street, Marlborough. Specifically, Nextel seeks to remove its existing whip antennas at the top of the tower, extend the tower by 10 feet, and install 12 panel antennas with a centerline elevation at 172 feet above ground level.. The total height of the tower with appurtenances would increase from approximately 172 feet with the whip antennas to 175 feet with the extension and panel antennas. Nextel's equipment would be located inside an existing equipment shelter. This proposal would increase coverage on Route 2, Route 66, and the surrounding area.

On Monday, October 29, 2007, Council member Ed Wilensky and Mike Perrone of the Council staff met with Marie Burbank, consultant for Nextel; Paul Saenz, Project Engineer for Nextel; and Peter Hughes, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Town of Marlborough at the site to review this petition.

The tower is located in a wooded lot adjacent to the Marlborough Country Barn. Approximately the top 30 feet of the monopole is currently visible above the tree-line from North Main Street. The nearest residence is on the opposite side of North Main Street, approximately one-quarter mile from the tower. There are some existing trees on the resident's property that obscure the view of the tower.

The compound would not be expanded, nor would any new equipment shelters need to be constructed. No impact on wetlands, tree clearing, or disturbance of any land is required for this proposal.

Notice to abutting residences was sent to abutting property owners shortly after filing the Petition with a deadline for reply before the November 5, 2007 Council meeting. No responses have been received.

New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (Cingular) is located at approximately the 146-foot level of the tower and the former AT&T equipment occupied the 137-foot level of the tower. Since the AT&T platform has been decommissioned, there was discussion about the possibility of Nextel using AT&T's former location on the tower, which would avoid the need to extend the tower. Nextel has provided a coverage plot showing its proposed coverage (with the extension) and the coverage if Nextel were to locate at the 137-foot level of the tower. Staff has requested that Nextel determine how feasible it is to utilize the former Cingular location.

After extensive research and a tower mapping, Nextel has determined that it cannot utilize the 137-foot level of the tower to meet its coverage objectives. Nextel's coverage objectives can only be met by extending the tower.