Petition No. 1043

New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC

525 Overland Road, Orange

Staff Report

December 27, 2012

On November 8, 2012, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition (Petition) from New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (CL&P) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required to install a wireless telecommunications facility on an existing CL&P transmission line structure located at 525 Overland Road, Orange. This Petition was field reviewed by Council member Dr. Barbara Bell and Michael Perrone of the Council staff on December 5, 2012. The following representatives also attended the field review: Attorney Lucia Chiocchio from Cuddy and Feder LLP; Michael Libertine and Dean Gustafson from All Points Technology Corp.; and Peter Fales from Centerline Communications Inc.

In order to fill a coverage gap, AT&T investigated existing structures in the area. With no buildings in the area, AT&T contacted The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) to investigate co-locating on existing transmission structures. After analyzing 10 possible structures offered by CL&P, AT&T chose the existing 120-foot 345-kV monopole transmission structure #24063.

AT&T seeks to install a ten-foot antenna support structure on top of this structure. AT&T would attach nine panel antennas and three tower mounted amplifiers to the antenna support structure at a centerline height of 130 feet above ground level. Cables would be mounted to the exterior of the pole. The existing structure is made of corten steel, which weathers to a dark brown color. The antenna support structure is only available in galvanized steel; however, AT&T would paint the structure to match the corten steel. AT&T would also paint the antennas and cables to match.

A 12-foot by 20-foot equipment shelter would be placed near the base of the structure. The shelter would have a pitched roof and siding for aesthetic purposes. A 50-kW diesel backup generator would be located on a concrete pad. The compound area would be surrounded by a 9-foot tall wood stockade fence.

No lighting or marking of the tower is required per the TOWAIR report. The nearest wetland is approximately 550 feet to the southeast. There would not be an adverse impact to wetland or watercourse resources. No trees greater than 6 inches diameter at breast height would be removed. The site is not located with the shaded area of the Natural Diversity Database of threatened, endangered, or special concern species. Noise absorbing barriers in the vicinity of the backup generator would ensure compliance with State noise regulations at the property lines. The maximum worst-case power density would be 8.04 percent of the applicable limit. A Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut has certified that the transmission tower is structurally adequate to support the proposed loading.

The visibility areas would remain approximately the same. Only areas with existing visibility of the transmission structure would be able to see AT&T’s installation. In addition, the color of AT&T’s antenna co-location would match the structure. Thus, the visual impact is not expected to be significant.

Notice was provided to the property owner and abutters on or about the date of filing (November 7, 2012). One abutter attended the field review and expressed concerns about whether alternative sites were considered. After the field review, AT&T filed the site search and alternatives details showing that only one of the ten sites offered by CL&P would meet coverage needs, have useable access, ease of utility connections, no wetlands on the site, and a landowner willing to lease ground space.

