

Petition No. 1066
CTI Towers Assets I, LLC
Staff Report
July 11, 2013

On May 28, 2013, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition (Petition) from CTI Tower Assets I, LLC (CTI) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required to replace and extend an existing telecommunications facility at 10 Tanner Marsh Road, Guilford. This Petition was field reviewed by Council member Phil Ashton and Michael Perrone of the Council staff on June 17, 2013. Attorney Tom Regan, Attorney Carrie Larson, and Scott Chasse also attended the field review.

Specifically, CTI seeks to replace an existing self-supporting 88-foot lattice tower with a new approximately 150-foot monopole to accommodate Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Cellco) and Sprint Nextel Corporation (Sprint). The subject property is owned by the Town of Guilford (Town). This site contains a water tank owned by Connecticut Water Company and a 190-foot lattice tower owned by American Tower Corporation (ATC).

The 88-foot lattice is not tall enough to meet Sprint's coverage objectives. Sprint seeks to locate its antennas at 140 feet, but this location is not available for use on the ATC tower due to existing antennas. Sprint would install nine panel antennas on a low-profile platform at 140 feet AGL on the proposed monopole. The top location of the proposed tower would be 150 feet above ground level (AGL) for Cellco. Cellco would install 12 panel antennas on a low-profile platform at that height. The tallest appurtenance would be lighting rod that would reach 154 feet AGL.

To accommodate the carriers' equipment, the existing fenced compound would be expanded to the north by approximately 12 feet. Cellco would install a 12-foot 8-inch by 24-foot equipment shelter within the fenced compound. Sprint's equipment would be installed on an 8-foot by 11-foot concrete pad.

Lighting or marking of the tower would not be required per the Federal Aviation Administration. The new tower would be structurally adequate to support the proposed loading. The maximum worst-case power density would be 35.3 percent of the applicable limit for the proposed monopole as calculated at the tower base.

The site is located in unshaded Flood Zone X, an area located outside of the 500-year flood zone. There are no wetlands at the site. No trees greater than six inches diameter at breast height would be removed. The project would have no adverse effect on historic resources.

The existing 190-foot lattice tower (approximately 70 feet away and at the same site) is the dominant visual object at the tower site. The 150-foot monopole would be considerably shorter and have a more narrow visual profile. Coax cables would be located inside the tower.

The site is located in a largely commercial area and is located next door to a diner. However, there are residences across the street (Route 1). The nearest is approximately 270 feet to the southwest and located on Route 1. CTI provided notice to abutting property owners on or about May 24, 2013. Council staff received one inquiry about the project, but no objections.

In its July 9, 2013 filing, CTI notes that the structural design standard of the proposed tower has been changed from TIA/EIA-222 Rev. F to Rev. G in response to concerns raised by the Town. This would result in a stronger tower with a basic wind speed design of 125 miles per hour versus the originally proposed 85 miles per hour. Any difference in tower diameter would very small from a visual perspective. By letter dated July 10, 2013, the Town of Guilford Fire Department expressed support for the new tower design.

Given two towers at the same site, staff suggests that a power density report containing the results of post-construction field measurements be submitted within 30 days after completion of construction to certify compliance.



Existing 88-foot lattice tower proposed to be removed and replaced with a 150-foot monopole.



The corners of the proposed expanded compound are marked with orange cones.