

Petition No. 1074
New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T)
208 Valley Road, New Canaan
Staff Report
August 22, 2013

On April 6, 2010, T-Mobile Northeast LLC (T-Mobile) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) for the construction, maintenance and operation of a 120-foot wireless telecommunications facility on property owned by Silver Hill Hospital at 208 Valley Road, New Canaan. On November 2, 2010, T-Mobile submitted a Motion to Reopen the Evidentiary Hearing in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 4-181a for the limited purpose of: submitting a reconfiguration of the monopole to accommodate three wireless carriers while also providing a more narrow tower structure; and allowing New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T) to intervene in this proceeding.

On November 18, 2010, the Council voted to reopen the evidentiary hearing for this docket (No. 401) and to make AT&T an intervenor in this proceeding. On August 25, 2011, AT&T withdrew its intervenor status in this proceeding. On February 2, 2012, the Council approved a 120-foot brown monopole with antennas concealed within the structure. This approval includes T-Mobile's antennas at the 117-foot level of the tower and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless' (Cellco) antennas at the 106-foot and 96-foot levels of the tower.

On January 30, 2013, T-Mobile submitted a Development and Management Plan (D&M Plan) for this project. The D&M Plan was approved by the Council on February 21, 2013. (The original deadline for construction was August 3, 2013.) On April 9, 2013, T-Mobile requested a one-year extension of time to complete construction. On April 18, 2013, the Council granted a one-year extension of time until August 3, 2014 to complete construction.

On July 22, 2013, the Council received a petition (Petition) from AT&T for a declaratory ruling that no amended Certificate is required to co-locate on the approved tower facility at 208 Valley Road, New Canaan. Specifically, AT&T seeks to install three panel antennas at the 86-foot level of the approved 120-foot monopole. To accommodate AT&T's equipment, the Petition includes modifications to the compound design and equipment layout. These modifications would result in the (currently approved 1,250 square feet) lease area increasing in area by approximately 675 square feet.

The currently approved equipment area is approximately 53 feet by 22-feet. It would be located within a 53-foot by 45-foot area surrounded by a retaining wall (ranging from two to six feet high) and an 8-foot high brown cedar board fence. In this Petition, the proposed equipment area would be 53 feet by 38 feet and located within a 53-foot by 55-foot area surrounded by a retaining wall and stockade fencing. Thus, the area surrounded by the retaining wall and fence would extend approximately ten additional feet to the west. (See attached drawings on page 3.)

The equipment orientations would change to accommodate AT&T equipment. Cellco's equipment shelter would be rotated 90 degrees counterclockwise. T-Mobile's equipment pad would be rotated 90 degrees counterclockwise and re-located from the southwest corner of the compound to the southeast corner. AT&T would install its equipment on a proposed 12-foot by 20-foot equipment pad in the

southwest corner of the compound. AT&T would utilize battery backup and a mobile temporary generator for backup power, but would explore the possibility of sharing the diesel generator located within Cellco's shelter. (See attached drawings on page 3.)

No changes to the approved access (located to the south/southeast) or landscaping (located to the east) are proposed in the petition.

The existing site is wooded with a clearing in the vicinity of the tower and compound location. Approximately one tree with a diameter of six inches or greater would be removed. The site has significant surrounding vegetation which serves to reduce visibility. Overall, the incremental visual impact associated with the larger compound area would be small.

The tower would be the same height and all antennas, including AT&T's, would be internal, so the tower would look very similar from a visual standpoint. A Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut has certified that the tower would be structurally adequate to support the proposed loading. The maximum worst-case power density would be 41.6 percent of the applicable limit.

This petition was field reviewed by Council Chairman Robin Stein and Michael Perrone of the Council staff on August 6, 2013. Attorney Christopher Fisher and David Vivian attended the field review on behalf of AT&T. Frank Morabito, Facilities Department, Silver Hill Hospital and Geoffrey Pickard, Utilities Commission, Town of New Canaan also attended the field review.

AT&T provided notice to the Town of New Canaan and abutting property owners on July 12, 2013. To date, no comments have been received. Mr. Pickard from the Town of New Canaan had no objections to the Petition.

To date, no construction at the site has been performed. If this Petition is approved, it is anticipated that construction would begin post-approval of the AT&T co-location.

AT&T contends –and respectively requests the Council to determine– the proposed co-location project will not have a substantial adverse environmental effect.

Picture of Existing Site (looking to the west)

