

Petition No. 1114  
Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless  
Guilford, Connecticut  
Staff Report  
September 23, 2014

On August 5, 2014, Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Cellco) 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 extension of an existing telecommunications facility located at 201 Granite Road, Guilford, Connecticut. A field review of the proposed project was conducted on September 23, 2014. Council member Phil Ashton, Michael Perrone of the Council staff, and Attorney Kenneth Baldwin (representing Cellco) attended the field review.

The existing 100-foot monopole (owned by Crown Castle) was originally approved by the Council on October 14, 2003 in Docket No. 252. AT&T is currently located on the tower at the 97-foot level and MetroPCS is located at the 90-foot level. Cellco requires a minimum antenna centerline height of 107 feet to meet its coverage objectives. Thus, in its Petition, Cellco seeks to extend the existing monopole by ten feet. Cellco would install 12 panel antennas and six remote radio heads on a low-profile platform at the 107-foot level of the tower. The tops of Cellco's antennas would be flush with the top of the tower and would not exceed a height of 110 feet above ground level.

The Decision and Order (D&O) in Docket No. 252 did not place any restrictions on the type of antenna mounts such as requiring T-arm mounts; thus, a low-profile platform is permissible. The D&O did address the possibility of a future extension in height. Order No. 1 of the D&O states, "The tower and foundation shall be designed and constructed capable of being extended from 100 feet above ground level to 140 feet above ground level, subject to Council approval by a Petition for Declaratory Ruling..."

As originally proposed in the Petition, Cellco would have expanded the fenced compound five feet to the southeast to accommodate its equipment shelter. However, the site plan was redesigned. According to the revised site plans dated September 10, 2014, all work would remain within the existing fenced compound. Cellco's proposed 12-foot by 30-foot equipment shelter would remain within the fenced compound. Cellco would also install a diesel-fueled backup generator within the equipment shelter. The backup generator would have roughly 48 hours of full-load run time based on its fuel capacity.

Cellco's antenna co-location would provide improved wireless service in southwest Guilford. Specifically, this would improve service along portions of Interstate 95 and Route 1, as well as local roads in the area and would increase network capacity in the area by off-loading traffic from Cellco's existing site in Guilford.

A Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut has certified that the tower is structurally adequate to support the proposed loading. The maximum worst-case power density would be 84.3 percent of the applicable limit.

The site is located in FEMA Zone X, an area outside of the 100-year and 500-year flood zones. No aviation hazard marking or lighting is required. No wetlands are located in the vicinity of the site. Existing gravel access would be utilized. No trees would be removed.

The existing facility is located within a heavily-wooded area east of Granite Road and south of I-95. Land use within the vicinity of the host property is a mix of undeveloped woodlands, residential development, and the transportation corridor. The nearest home is about 773 feet to the east-northeast. The nearest structure at The Gables at Guilford senior living community is roughly 460 feet to the northwest. However, heavy tree cover exists on all sides of the tower site.

The 10-foot extension would rise just above the tree line in certain near views. However, the overall incremental visual impact is expected to be minimal due to the relatively low height of the facility, dense surrounding tree cover, sparse development, and distance from the tower to potential visual receptors.

Notice was provided to the property owner, abutting property owners, and the Town of Guilford. Notice was also provided to the Town of Branford because the tower is located less than 2,500 feet from the Branford/Guilford Town Line. While Council staff received one inquiry from the Guilford Town Attorney and Cellco received one inquiry from an abutting property owner, no objections to the project were received. No other comments were received.

Cellco contends that this proposal will not have a substantial adverse environmental effect; thus, staff recommends approval.

### Existing Site



Proposed Cellco Equipment Shelter Location

Top of Existing Tower Facility

