



COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Executive Director

May 1, 2020

Melanie Bachman, Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

RE: DOCKET NO. 489 – The First Taxing District Water Department of Norwalk application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 173 ½ West Rocks Road, Norwalk, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Bachman:

The Council on Environmental Quality (“the Council”) has reviewed the application submitted in Docket 489 for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need. The Council offers the following comments for consideration by the Applicant and Siting Council.

1. Northern Long-Eared Bat

The Applicant states that the potential exists for the presence of northern long-eared bat (NLEB) and that the applicant “would consider the following additional recommended measures for NLEB conservation, as encouraged in the April 29, 2016 FCC Public Notice”. The Council commends the applicant for consideration of NLEB conservation measures.

2. Visibility

The zoning requirements call for the proposed facility to be “effectively screened” from adjacent properties; however, the only landscape screening proposed and depicted on Attachment 1, Sheet C-1 would be around the proposed 500,000 gallon water tank and along West Rocks Road in the vicinity of the former access drive. The Council suggests that the Applicant assess the need for screening of the equipment compound from observers to the south and southeast of the equipment buildings.

Furthermore, the Visual Assessment and Photo-Simulations included in Attachment 7 may understate the projected visibility. The location of Photo 10 is depicted as “not visible” on the viewshed analysis map; however, Photo 10 clearly shows that the red balloon, which is a proxy for the proposed tower height, is visible.

In addition, it appears that a few locations (2, 7, 8 and 11) identified as “year round” in the photo-simulations may not be included in the yellow shading for Predicted Year-Round Visibility (19 Acres). The Council recommends that the Applicant confirm the locations and total area of the projected year round and seasonal visibility.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please do not hesitate to contact the Council if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Hearn". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Hearn

Executive Director