

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



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Executive Director

October 28, 2020

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

RE: PETITION NO. 1435 - The Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) petition for the proposed replacement and extension of an existing telecommunications facility located at property owned by the Connecticut Department of Transportation off Leetes Island Road, Branford, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Bachman:

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) has reviewed the Petition materials submitted in Petition 1435 and offers the following comments for consideration by the Petitioner and the Siting Council.

1. Visual Impact

The Petitioner states that the proposed increase in height from the proposed replacement tower “will not have a significant impact on existing viewsheds”. However, there is no visual impact analysis in the Petition materials to document that determination. Exhibit 4 includes images of the existing tower, but no photo simulations of the proposed tower and antennas. The Council recommends that the Petitioner 1) identify possible sensitive receptors, including possible historic structures and viewpoints within a two-mile radius of the proposed tower, and 2) assess whether the proposed increase in height and the addition of antennas would be visible under both leaf-off and leaf-on conditions.

The Council notes that there is limited information in the Petition materials regarding any analysis of potential impacts on wildlife. The Council recommends that the Petitioner assess if there are any Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) buffer areas proximate to the existing site and/or any Federally-listed species or migratory birds that could be impacted by the proposed tower extension.

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

Sincerely,

Peter Hearn,
Executive Director