



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

April 29, 2021

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

DOCKET NO. 499 – Homeland Towers, LLC and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 16 Coote Hill Road, Sherman, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Bachman:

The Council on Environmental Quality (“the Council”) offers the following comments with regard to Docket 499.

**1. Visibility**

The Council notes that the proposed tower might be visible, both year-round and seasonally during leaf-off conditions, from locally designated scenic roads in the area. The Council recommends that, if approved, best management practices be employed to minimize the visual impact of the proposed facility and that it be constructed no taller than necessary to provide coverage.

**2. Wildlife – Northern Long-eared Bat (NLEB)**

The Applicant states in Attachment 10 that “Protection measures for eastern box turtle and eastern hognose snake include various protection measures to be employed during construction activities while a time of year (“TOY”) restriction for tree clearing (limit tree clearing between November 1st and March 30th) is required to protect the two bat species. The TOY tree clearing restrictions for these two bats will also comply with the associated NLEB voluntary conservation measures.” This suggests that tree clearing should not happen between November and March. However, the Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) letters dated October 6, 2020 and January 9, 2021 state that “Tree clearing should be limited to between November 1st and March 30<sup>th</sup>”. Therefore, the Council recommends that the Applicant adhere to the time of year restrictions indicated by the NDDDB, as well as the other protection strategies, in the letters noted above.

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

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta  
Environmental Analyst II

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*Acting Chair*

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