



*STATE OF CONNECTICUT*

**COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

September 28, 2022

Keith Ainsworth  
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*Executive Director*

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

PETITION NO. 1539 – New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T) (Petitioner) petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed installation of three small wireless facilities on new wood poles that are less than 50 feet in height and associated equipment at Durham Fairgrounds, 24 Townhouse Road, Durham, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Bachman:

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) offers the following comment regarding Petition 1539.

**1.) Wildlife**

The Council reviewed the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) maps for the Town of Durham and discovered that the proposed location of one or more of the proposed wireless facilities appears to be within an NDDB buffer area. The Petition does not include information on state-listed species, evidence of consultation with NDDB, or scientific data that would ensure that state-listed species in the area are conserved. Consequently, the Council recommends that the Petitioner confirm that the proposed sites are not within an NDDB buffer area or consult with the NDDB to confirm that the proposed project would not adversely impact state-listed species.

The Council's comment above addresses only certain elements of the materials provided by the Petitioner at the time of the filing. Additional information can become evident through comments offered by other parties and during the Siting Council's administrative hearing process. The absence of comment(s) by this Council about any Petition or Application, or any aspects thereof, may not be interpreted as an endorsement of a proposed project, or its components or that this Council might not have comments or concerns on more specific issues raised during the hearing process.

Thank you for your consideration of the Council's comment.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta  
Executive Director