

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE:

APPLICATION OF HOMELAND TOWERS, LLC
AND NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS, LLC d/b/a
AT&T FOR A CERTIFICATE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND
PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION,
MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF A
TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT
1837 PONUS RIDGE ROAD, TOWN OF
NEW CANAAN, CONNECTICUT

DOCKET NO. 509

August 8, 2022

**HOMELAND TOWERS, LLC and NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS, LLC (AT&T)
SUPPLEMENTAL SUBMISSION**

Applicants Homeland Towers, LLC and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a/ AT&T respectfully submit the following supplemental information to the Connecticut Siting Council in the above-referenced proceeding:

Visibility from Centennial Watershed State Forest

As set forth in the Applicants' Response 29 of the Siting Council interrogatories (Applicants' Exhibit 4) and shown in the viewshed map included in Applicants' Ex. 4 Attachment 5, no views of the Proposed Facility are anticipated from the Centennial Watershed State Forest. The boundaries of the Centennial Watershed State Forest shown on the viewshed map were obtained from the State GIS data layer called "DEEP_Property". The Centennial Watershed State Forest boundaries do not include the Laurel Reservoir property owned by Aquarion. Indeed, the reservoir and surrounding property owned by Aquarion are not accessible to the public. Thus, any visibility of the Proposed Facility from the reservoir is limited to those who are authorized to access the Aquarion property.

Given that the Proposed Facility is not expected to be visible from the Centennial Watershed State Forest and visibility from the reservoir is limited, the Applicants respectfully submit that visibility of the Proposed Facility will not result in a significant adverse impact.

Stormwater Measures

As stated throughout the Applicants' exhibits and testified by the Applicants' witnesses, the sedimentation and erosion control measures for the Proposed Facility will be designed, installed and maintained in accordance with the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. Further, recognizing the potential for sensitive species, the wetlands in the vicinity and the location of the Laurel Reservoir, additional protection measures are incorporated into the project, which are detailed on Sheet N-1, Environmental Notes of the project drawings last revised 6/23/22 (Applicants' Ex. 10) and summarized in Applicants' Ex. 6 in response to the Department of Public Health comments. Two of the many protection measures that will be implemented includes daily monitoring for species mitigation and daily inspections of the erosion and sedimentation control measures to further ensure no impacts to the sensitive species that may occur at the site, the wetlands in the vicinity, and the reservoir.

Indeed, experience has demonstrated that these protection measures are effective in mitigating potential impacts to sensitive species, wetlands and watershed properties. APT has designed and been involved in monitoring and inspecting over 25 wireless telecommunication facilities that were issued Certificates by the Siting Council over the last approximately 10 years, including Dockets 449 (Redding), 455 (Southington) and 473 (Easton), all of which are located within a watershed protection area. The erosion and sediment controls and stormwater measures for all of these facilities were properly installed and maintained and as such, protective of any nearby resources, including the watershed. Moreover, for Dockets 449, 455, and 473, additional protection measures, such as the protection measures included in this proceeding, were incorporated for protection of the nearby watershed.

APT has designed fully engineered stormwater and erosion control measures submitted as part of the Development & Management Plan (“D&M Plan”) review by the Siting Council in accordance with R.C.S.A §16-50j-75(b)¹, which provides that D&M Plans are to be submitted for “facilities for which the Council issues a certificate.” This process/procedure is reasonable and consistent with construction practices where erosion and sediment control and stormwater measures are fully engineered after the proposed facility is approved given the expense and resources associated with preparing these detailed plans, including geotechnical investigations.

With respect to Docket 445 and Petition 1178 raised by party’s counsel at the July 14th evidentiary hearing, the release of sediment during construction were isolated and rare occurrences. And neither resulted in long-term or significantly adverse impacts. For Docket 445, the release occurred after an intense rainfall event, which was greater than a 100 year design storm. This storm caused flooding of streets throughout the Ridgefield/Danbury area. In this case, the erosion control measures in place at the time of storm helped control the release of sediment. Due to the monitoring and inspection that is routinely done as part of the construction of these facilities, corrective measures were taken immediately, effectively controlling sediment from reaching the wetland. Wetland restoration measures, which were minor in nature, were also undertaken to fully mitigate the sediment release.

The release of sediment for the Petition 1178 solar project was a similar situation where a strong storm caused the release. No significant release of sediment occurred in the wetland. Once again, because of the monitoring and inspection protocols in place, corrective actions were immediately taken to stop the release and remedial actions were implemented.

Given the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Proposed Facility will not have a significant environmental impact with implementation of the species protection measures, the sediment and erosion control measures and phasing plan, stormwater measures and the watershed protection measures.

¹ R.C.S.A. §16-50j-75(b) **Development and Management Plan; When required.** A partial or full D&M plan shall be prepared in accordance with this Section and shall include the information described in Sections 16-50j-76 to 16-50j-77, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies for any proposed facility for which the Council issues a certificate or for a modification to an existing site, except where the Council provides otherwise at the time it issues the certificate. Relevant information in the Council’s record may be referenced.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this day the foregoing was sent electronically and one (1) original and fifteen (15) hard copies were sent overnight mail to the Connecticut Siting Council and sent electronically to the parties on the service list as noted below.

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