



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov

Web Site: portal.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 10, 2022

TO: Service List, dated May 26, 2022

FROM: Melanie Bachman, Executive Director *MB*

RE: **DOCKET NO. 509** - 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 1837 Ponus Ridge Road, New Canaan, Connecticut.

Additional comments have been received from the Council on Environmental Quality on August 9, 2022. A copy of the comments is attached for your review.

MB/RDM/laf

c: Council Members



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Executive Director

August 9, 2022

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

DOCKET NO. 509 - 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 1837 Ponus Ridge Road, New Canaan, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Bachman:

The Council on Environmental Quality ("Council") offers the following supplemental comments regarding Docket 509.

The Council has reviewed the application materials, the responses to interrogatories, and the hearing transcripts and notes that a decision on the need to use blasting to remove/alter rock material on the proposed site has not yet been determined, but is a possibility. Consequently, if blasting is required, the Council recommends the following:

- 1) the Applicant should undertake a pre- and post-blasting survey and water testing to ensure that nearby wells are not affected; and
- 2) the bedrock should be tested to determine if it has the potential to cause acid drainage if left uncovered, which could impact water resources in the area. If so, the Council recommends that the blasted rock be covered to keep it from reacting with the air.

The Council also wishes to highlight the letter from the Aquarion Water Company dated May 19, 2022 and the letter from the Connecticut Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section dated June 1, 2022 regarding protection measures for the Laurel Reservoir. The Council recommends that the Applicant ensure that there would be no adverse impacts to water quality of the nearby wetlands and reservoir resulting from erosion and sedimentation, acid drainage, or other pollutants associated with the proposed project. Lastly, the Council again recommends that the Applicant evaluate alternative configurations for the proposed access road and tower compound.

The Council's comments above address only certain elements of the materials provided by the Applicant and Parties and Intervenors at this time. Additional information can become evident during the Siting Council's administrative hearing process.

Thank you for your consideration of the Council's supplemental comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta
Executive Director