

1                                   STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
2                                   CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

3  
4                                   Docket No. 510

5                   Application from New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC  
6                   d/b/a AT&T and Tarpon Towers II, LLC, for a Certificate  
7                   of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the  
8                   Construction, Maintenance, and Operation of a  
9                   Telecommunications Facility Located at 92 Greens Farms  
10                   Road, Westport, Connecticut

11  
12                   Remote Council Public Hearing  
13                   (Teleconference), on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, beginning  
14                   at 6:30 p.m.

15  
16                   H e l d   B e f o r e :

17                   JOHN MORISSETTE, Member and Presiding Officer  
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1   **A p p e a r a n c e s :**

2           **Council Members:**

3           **JOHN MORISSETTE,**  
4           **The Hearing Officer**

5  
6           **BRIAN GOLEMBIEWSKI,**  
7           **DEEP Designee**

8  
9           **QUAT NGUYEN,**  
10           **PURA Designee**

11  
12           **ROBERT SILVESTRI**  
13           **MARK QUINLAN**  
14           **DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.**  
15           **LOUANNE COOLEY**

16  
17   **Council Staff:**

18           **MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.,**  
19           **Executive Director and Staff Attorney**

20  
21           **IFEANYI NWANKWO,**  
22           **Siting Analyst**

23  
24           **LISA FONTAINE,**  
25           **Fiscal Administrative Officer**

1    **A p p e a r a n c e s:(cont'd)**

2    **Tarpon Towers II, LLC (TT) (Applicant):**

3            **COHEN AND WOLF, PC**

4            **1115 Broad Street**

5            **Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604**

6            **By: DAVID A. BALL, Esq.**

7                    **DBall@cohenandwolf.com**

8                    **203.337.4134**

9  
10    **New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (ATT) (Applicant):**

11            **CUDDY & FEDER, LLP**

12            **733 Summer Street**

13            **Stamford, Connecticut 06901**

14            **By: LUCIA CHIOCCHIO, ESQ.**

15                    **LChiocchio@cuddyfeder.com**

16                    **914.761.1300**

17  
18    **For CELLCO PARTNERSHIP d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS:**

19            **ROBINSON & COLE, LLP**

20            **280 Trumbull Street**

21            **Hartford, Connecticut 06103**

22            **By: KENNETH C. BALDWIN, ESQ.**

23                    **KBaldwin@rc.com**

24                    **860.275.8345**

25

1    **A p p e a r a n c e s:(cont'd)**

2    **For The Town of Westport (TOWN):**

3           **BERCHEM MOSES, PC**

4           **75 Broad Street**

5           **Milford, Connecticut 06460**

6                   **By: NICHOLAS R. BAMONTE, ESQ.**

7                           **NBamonte@berchemmoses.com**

8                           **203.227.9545**

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1  
2 (Begin: 6:30 p.m.)  
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4 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Good evening, ladies and  
5 gentlemen. This remote public hearing is called  
6 to order this Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at 6:30  
7 p.m. My name is John Morissette, member and  
8 presiding officer of the Connecticut Siting  
9 Council.

10 Other members of the Council are Brian  
11 Golembiewski, designee for Commissioner Katie  
12 Dykes of the Department of Energy and  
13 Environmental Protection; Robert Silvestri; Mark  
14 Quinlan; and Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.

15 Members of the staff are Melanie Bachman,  
16 Executive Director and Staff Attorney; Ifeanyi  
17 Nwankwo, siting analyst; and Lisa Fontaine, fiscal  
18 administrative officer.

19 If you have not done so already, I ask that  
20 everyone please mute their computer audio and/or  
21 telephones now.

22 This is a continuation of the remote public  
23 hearing that began at 2 p.m. this afternoon. A  
24 copy of the prepared agenda is available on the  
25 Council's Docket Number 510 webpage along with the

1 record of this matter, the public hearing notice,  
2 instructions for public access to this remote  
3 public hearing, and the citizen's guide to Siting  
4 Council's procedures.

5 This hearing is held pursuant to the  
6 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General  
7 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative  
8 Procedure Act upon an application from Tarpon  
9 Towers II, LLC, and New Cingular Wireless, PCS,  
10 LLC, also doing business as AT&T, for a  
11 certificate of environmental compatibility and  
12 public need for the construction, maintenance and  
13 operation of a telecommunications facility located  
14 at 92 Greens Farms Road in Westport, Connecticut.  
15 This application was received by the Council on  
16 May 26, 2022.

17 This application is also governed by the  
18 Telecommunications Act of 1996, which is  
19 administered by the Federal Communications  
20 Commission. This act prohibits this Council from  
21 considering the health effects of radiofrequency  
22 emissions on human health and wildlife to the  
23 extent the emissions from the towers are within  
24 federal acceptable safe limits standards, which  
25 standards are also followed by the State

1 Department of Public Health.

2 The federal act also prohibits the Council  
3 from discriminating between and amongst providers  
4 of functionally equivalent services. This means  
5 that if one carrier already provides a service in  
6 an area, other carriers have the right to compete  
7 and provide services in the same area.

8 The Council's legal notice of the date and  
9 time of this remote public hearing was published  
10 in the Westport News on June 24, 2022. Upon this  
11 Council's request the Applicant erected a sign  
12 along Greens Farms Road in the vicinity of the  
13 access road for the proposed site so as to inform  
14 the public of the name of the Applicant, the type  
15 of the facility, the remote public hearing date  
16 and contact information for the Council, including  
17 the website and phone number.

18 This remote public comment session is  
19 reserved for the public to make brief statements  
20 into the record. These public statements are not  
21 subject to questions from the parties or by the  
22 Council.

23 Please be advised that written comments may  
24 be submitted by any person within 30 days of this  
25 public hearing.

1           As a reminder to all off-the-record  
2           communications with a member of the Council or a  
3           member of the Council's staff upon the merits of  
4           this application is prohibited by law.

5           I wish to note that parties and interveners  
6           including their representatives, witnesses and  
7           members are not allowed to participate in the  
8           public comment session.

9           I also wish to note for those who are  
10          listening and for the benefit of your friends and  
11          families who are unable to join us for this remote  
12          public comment session, that you or they may send  
13          written statements to the Council within 30 days  
14          of the date hereof by mail or by e-mail, and such  
15          written statements will be given the same weight  
16          as if spoken at the remote public comment session.

17          Please be advised that any person may be  
18          removed from the Zoom remote comment session at  
19          the discretion of the Council. We ask that each  
20          person making public statements in this proceeding  
21          to confine his or her statements to the subject  
22          matter before the Council, and to avoid any  
23          unreasonable repetition so that we may hear all of  
24          the concerns you and your neighbors may have.

25          Please be advised that the Council cannot



1 answer questions from the public about the  
2 proposal.

3 A verbatim transcript of this remote public  
4 hearing will be posted on the Council's Docket  
5 Number 510 webpage and deposited at the Westport  
6 Town Clerk's Office for the convenience of the  
7 public.

8 Please be advised that the Council's project  
9 evaluation criteria under the statute does not  
10 include consideration for property ownership or  
11 property values.

12 Before I call on members of the public to  
13 make statements, I request the Applicant to make a  
14 very brief presentation to the public describing  
15 the proposed facility.

16 I believe Mr. Coppins and Mr. Burns will be  
17 providing that brief presentation.

18 Mr. Coppins and Mr. Burns, please?

19 MR. BALL: Mr. Morissette, David Ball for the  
20 Applicant.

21 So Doug Roberts is going to do a brief  
22 presentation of our site plans.

23 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Attorney Ball.

24 MR. BALL: Thank you.

25 THE HEARING OFFICER: Please continue, Mr. Roberts.

1 THE WITNESS (Roberts): Thank you. I thank you.

2 I guess if we could probably go to -- sheet  
3 C-101 would probably be the most beneficial.

4 Thank you.

5 Tarpon Towers is proposing building a  
6 124-foot tall monopole tower at 92 Greens Farms  
7 Road in Westport, within a 35-foot by 64-foot  
8 fenced gravel compound.

9 The host parcel is just under two acres in  
10 size. The compound is approximately 9 feet above  
11 mean sea level, and the tower will be designed to  
12 meet Connecticut State Building Code and  
13 accommodate four carriers on platforms; AT&T at  
14 120, Verizon at 110, and two future carriers at  
15 190 feet above ground level.

16 The compound will be accessed by a 12-foot  
17 wide gravel access road of approximately 125 feet  
18 long. The gravel compound is approximately seven  
19 feet below the elevation of Green Farms Road along  
20 that portion of the street.

21 Power will run underground from Green Farms  
22 Road to a ground-mounted transformer and meter  
23 center located on an H frame adjacent to the  
24 compound. Telco will be run underground from  
25 Greens Farms Road to a telco box located on that

1 same H frame.

2 We anticipate the tower foundation would be  
3 approximately 28 feet by 28 feet, and have a depth  
4 of approximately 6 feet below grade, and would be  
5 approximately 120 cubic yards of concrete.

6 The final size and depth will be determined  
7 once the geotechnical investigation has been  
8 complete. We anticipate that if this is approved,  
9 that our construction activities would be  
10 approximately 60 to 90 days to build the tower,  
11 tower foundation, compound and access road with  
12 utilities.

13 Thank you very much.

14 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Thank you, Mr. Roberts.

15 Just a quick note on remote public hearings.  
16 Remote public hearings are quite different from  
17 in-person public hearings. For in-person public  
18 hearings members of the public can sign up, sign  
19 in and go to the podium and offer their comments.

20 For remote public hearings the public is  
21 required to sign up in advance to speak in order  
22 to provide the Council's staff with the time  
23 necessary to facilitate connection precautions to  
24 prevent interruption, or in common terms, bombing  
25 of the proceedings.

1           There are protocols, procedures and  
2 consistency measures that are followed as part of  
3 the remote public hearing process. Written  
4 comments may be submitted within 30 days of the  
5 public hearing.

6           We will now call upon Scott Mikuszewski,  
7 followed by Stephen Goldstein. And I apologize  
8 for the pronunciation of the last name but Scott  
9 Mikuszewski. Scott, are you with us?

10 SCOTT MIKUSZEWSKI: Yes, I'm here.

11 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Scott.

12           Please continue.

13 SCOTT MIKUSZEWSKI: Okay. I've prepared a brief  
14 statement that I'd like to share with the Council  
15 and everyone.

16           And I pose several questions, but I  
17 understand they will not be answered at this time.  
18 I hope if they are deemed relevant, the  
19 Councilmembers will seek responses to these in  
20 their 30 days.

21           So hello. My name is Scott Mikuszewski. My  
22 wife and I along with our four-month-old daughter  
23 live at 106 Greens Farms Road on the adjoining  
24 property to 92 Greens Farms. We are strongly  
25 opposed to the cell tower being installed at this

1 proposed location.

2 I have the following comments. Page 31 of  
3 the executive summary states, the proposed  
4 facility is the only suitable location to provide  
5 coverage and capacity in this area of Westport.  
6 The Applicant repeatedly uses this statement as  
7 justification for siting a tower on residential  
8 property. This statement is contradicted later in  
9 the report on page 41 where multiple nearby  
10 locations were reviewed and confirmed to work from  
11 an RF perspective.

12 With respect to alternate locations, there  
13 was no justification presented as to why the CDOT  
14 railroad location has been deemed unsuitable other  
15 than a lack of urgency by the CDOT staff to assist  
16 with coordinating a project.

17 I would ask this be explained along with  
18 locations proposed by Councilmember Rob Silvestri.  
19 Page 37 of the executive summary, section 32-16.8  
20 requires the Applicant to hire an independent  
21 consultant approved by the P and Z staff to  
22 conduct an independent review of any application  
23 for a new tower.

24 The Applicant will not be hiring an  
25 independent consultant approved by the P and Z

1 staff. I ask the CSC to confirm why the Applicant  
2 is not required to abide by this?

3 Exhibit I claims that APT consulted with the  
4 USFWS, but only half of the endangered species  
5 listed at this location per their website were  
6 mentioned in the report. I'd ask that this be  
7 reevaluated.

8 Exhibit K, subsection -- USFWS Communication  
9 Towers compliance documents a questionnaire that  
10 includes misleading responses submitted by the  
11 Applicant. Item C is a question stating that  
12 towers should not be sited in or near wetlands.  
13 The APT response was, the Tower is not within  
14 wetlands.

15 In fact, it is unquestionably near wetlands  
16 within 40 feet.

17 Item D, towers should avoid ridgelines,  
18 coastal areas, wetlands or known bird  
19 concentrations. The APT response was the tower is  
20 not located near bird concentrations, but it is in  
21 fact near a coastal area and wetlands.

22 I find these responses to the USFWS  
23 compliance questionnaire to be intentionally  
24 misleading in order to avoid proper investigative  
25 scrutiny by the USFWS for a site with

1 environmental conditions that will --

2 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Mr. Mikuszewski.

3 Unfortunately, your time has run out and I do  
4 encourage you to submit written comments within 30  
5 days of this public hearing.

6 Thank you.

7 And now I will call upon Stephan Goldstein.

8 SCOTT MIKUSZEWSKI: I'm sorry. John?

9 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

10 SCOTT MIKUSZEWSKI: I spent some of my time thanking  
11 you for the opportunity to speak. I did not know  
12 that would go against my three minutes.

13 May I continue?

14 THE HEARING OFFICER: No, you may not. I apologize,  
15 but you're limited to three minutes.

16 And thank you, but please do consider  
17 providing written comments. Thank you.

18 STEPHEN GOLDSTEIN: Mr. Chairman, this is Steve  
19 Goldstein. I do think that our honorable First  
20 Selectwoman was going to kick the meeting off. So  
21 I'd like to just give her the opportunity, if  
22 that's okay with you, without using any of my  
23 three minutes to make that point?

24 But if Jen Tooker -- it seems like she's on.  
25 I think she was going to go first. Is that okay?

1 THE HEARING OFFICER: Unfortunately, the Town of  
2 Westport is a party in this proceeding and we  
3 cannot allow for a party to provide comments at a  
4 public comment session primarily because it is  
5 reserved for the public.

6 And as I stated in my opening statement, the  
7 applicant, parties and/or interveners are not  
8 allowed to participate, and the Town of Westport  
9 specifically is a party.

10 The parties -- the Town of Westport will have  
11 the opportunity through the hearing process to  
12 provide comments and statements and to be  
13 cross-examined by -- more importantly, to be  
14 cross-examined by the parties. To do otherwise  
15 without being sworn into the record under oath  
16 would prejudice the other parties in this  
17 proceeding. So unfortunately, therefore I cannot  
18 allow First Selectman Tooker to provide a  
19 statement during a public comment session.

20 She is very much welcome to join us during  
21 the hearing process as a party in which she is in  
22 this case, as the Town of Westbrook.

23 So thank you.

24 STEPHEN GOLDSTEIN: Okay. Fair enough. I thought I  
25 saw some e-mails saying that there was no



1 objection to her speaking. I just wanted to make  
2 sure that I wasn't going out of order. So with  
3 that --

4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes, unfortunately -- excuse me  
5 just for one second, Mr. Goldstein.

6 Unfortunately, there was objection and so we are  
7 proceeding in this matter.

8 STEPHEN GOLDSTEIN: Understood. Okay, I must have  
9 missed that.

10 THE HEARING OFFICER: So please continue. Your three  
11 minutes will --

12 STEPHEN GOLDSTEIN: All right. Three minutes starting  
13 now. Thank you very much. So I'm here with my  
14 wife Lynn Goldstein. We live in 97 Hillspoint  
15 Road. Hopefully I'll be able to complete this  
16 statement either within three minutes -- or if  
17 not, she'll finish it up within six minutes.

18 But what we'd like to say, as we've learned  
19 under Connecticut state law, the CSC has exclusive  
20 jurisdiction over siting of cell towers,  
21 essentially preempting all local zoning laws. And  
22 you guys have the difficult task of balancing, per  
23 your website, the need for adequate and reliable  
24 service against the need to protect the  
25 environment and to minimize damages to scenic,

1 historic, and recreational values.

2 So we are essentially in your hands to  
3 determine, quote, need and how to balance this,  
4 quote, need. And we'd like to offer some thoughts  
5 on how you should conduct this balancing exercise  
6 from the perspective of a neighbor.

7 So look. Let's start with the neighborhood,  
8 then we'll get into the tower. And so the tower  
9 in the neighborhood, a 124-foot structure situated  
10 right in the middle of a relatively densely  
11 populated -- for Westport, an historic  
12 neighborhood.

13 It will loom approximately 75 feet over the  
14 treeline. We've got a letter in the record from  
15 the historic district commission which details the  
16 reason the area is historically significant -- I'm  
17 not going to get into that, but suffice it to say  
18 it's a very lovely neighborhood.

19 The tower sits smack in the middle of this  
20 historic neighborhood. According to the  
21 Applicant, 67 houses sit within a thousand feet of  
22 this tower. And as you just heard from one of  
23 them, a young family with a newborn lives  
24 nextdoor.

25 By the Applicant's count, 50 houses will be

1 looking at this either seasonally or year round.  
2 They've run this off a computer simulation from a  
3 vantage point of five feet off the ground. So  
4 anyone who has a second story window -- we're not  
5 sure how many families will be -- I've asked them  
6 this. They couldn't answer it -- how many  
7 families will wake up looking out their window and  
8 see this -- but suffice it to say, I'm betting  
9 it's a lot more than 50.

10 Two preschools share a building 1200 feet  
11 from the tower, slightly less than that if you  
12 count the playground and the dropoff area where  
13 the kids come in every morning.

14 And 1200 feet in the other direction is the  
15 Sherwood Millpond, which we talked about quite a  
16 bit this morning -- or this afternoon where, you  
17 know, there's lots of questions about the  
18 environmental impact per the Westport Conservation  
19 Department.

20 Wetlands on the property; this whole property  
21 drains right into Long Island Sound, which is  
22 about 1200 feet away. There's a culvert on the  
23 property with existing drainage from the  
24 Hillspoint area. So this is a very important  
25 crossroads for the ecology and for the drainage of

1 the entire area.

2 So just from the neighborhood, as we think  
3 about the balance and the neighborhood  
4 perspective, there's a major, major effect on the  
5 quality of life here. I don't think anyone can  
6 debate that. So then the question is, what do we  
7 need, that is there a need for this tower? Let's  
8 talk about the other side of the ledger, like, the  
9 need.

10 So look at Verizon's responses to start this.  
11 So Verizon -- I have Verizon, amazing company.  
12 Today without any tower here they handle about a  
13 half a million calls in this area, right in this  
14 small little area of Westport. And there's only a  
15 1.5 percent dropped call rate. It's --

16 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Goldstein.

17 Unfortunately, your time has expired.

18 We will now continue with Lynn Goldstein  
19 followed by Joe and Caroline Wilkinson.

20 Lynn Goldstein, please?

21 STEPHEN GOLDSTEIN: 20,000 phonecalls per hour.

22 LYNN GOLDSTEIN: That's almost 20,000 phonecalls per  
23 hour. Verizon's performance target for dropped  
24 calls is under 1 percent. They are incredibly  
25 close to that.

1           Now where do we think those half a million  
2 calls per day are coming from in a town of about  
3 25,000 people? Those calls have to be almost all  
4 from I-95.

5           I think during the hearing today one of the  
6 reps mentioned over a hundred thousand cars per  
7 day on I-95. So that's Verizon's half a million  
8 calls a day with 1.5 percent dropped. Do we  
9 really need a tower for that? And you the Council  
10 gets to decide that.

11           Unfortunately, AT&T didn't answer the  
12 question that was asked of them and wouldn't  
13 provide either -- even dropped call rates, saying  
14 it's not relevant, though I have in my research  
15 seen AT&T point out voice deficiencies in other  
16 situations such as New Canaan Docket Number 487  
17 where they admitted their data indicated elevated  
18 voice and data drops. Interesting, they don't say  
19 that here.

20           I would ask the Council to ask them how many  
21 calls they handle per day and how many are  
22 dropped? AT&T based on public sources has a very  
23 similar or larger market share to Verizon. So I'm  
24 estimating about another half a million calls a  
25 day with de minimus drops.

1           So we've got a million calls a day. Almost  
2 no dropped calls or lost connections and this,  
3 quote, need for data for the 110,000 cars speeding  
4 through Westport on I-95. So we would ask the  
5 Council, do we really need a tower? And as you  
6 balance the effects on the neighborhood, the  
7 answer is an obvious no.

8           So what do we ask the Council? Our ask for  
9 you is simple. We put our trust in public  
10 officials to please not be a rubber stamp to this  
11 tower without really thinking about the question  
12 of the need.

13           If it's needed to fill a hole in the  
14 community's cell coverage, a small-cell technology  
15 could easily do that. There are already  
16 small-cell towers in Westport doing exactly that  
17 and other local areas, but that is not what the  
18 Applicant is seeking.

19           They want this massive tower in the heart of  
20 a residential community for data services for cars  
21 racing through the interstate. It's all about the  
22 need for data on I-95, and truthfully, the self  
23 interest of the Applicant. And that, if that's  
24 the need there are other ways to address it.

25           First, as has been mentioned, the Town has

1 allocated an alternate site that is under  
2 consideration by the Connecticut DOT. We  
3 respectfully request that this process is given a  
4 chance to run its course. At a minimum the  
5 Council should demand that.

6 The Applicants have admitted that the  
7 alternate site is technically feasible. This  
8 should be the next immediate step. Shelve the  
9 application at 92 Greens Farms Road while the  
10 other site is given full investigation.

11 Finally, if the honest need again is to  
12 service I-95, a solution should be tailored that  
13 minimizes the impact on our neighborhood. The  
14 tower is 118 feet from the highway. It can be  
15 moved much closer to the interstate.

16 The height of the tower can be dropped  
17 significantly as I-95 is way below the grade to  
18 that point. Besides moving it and shrinking it,  
19 every effort should be made to minimize the  
20 aesthetic impact of the tower from painting the  
21 pole to incorporating a stealth tree design that  
22 camouflages the ugly antennas that would be  
23 lording over our really beautiful --

24 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Thank you, Mrs. Goldstein.

25 Unfortunately, your time is expired, but thank you

1 for coming out this evening.

2 I will now call on Joe and Caroline  
3 Wilkinson. Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson?

4 Joe and Caroline Wilkinson.

5  
6 (No response.)

7  
8 THE HEARING OFFICER: I don't see them on the screen.

9 I'll come back once everybody has completed their  
10 statements and poll to see if they have joined us.

11 Moving on to Anna Rycenga. I understand Anna  
12 that you will be providing comments as an  
13 individual?

14 ANNA RYCENGA: Yes.

15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Not representing the Town?

16 ANNA RYCENGA: Yes. Good evening, members of the  
17 Connecticut Siting Council. My first comment is  
18 on the technical report under bulk on the  
19 Connecticut Siting Council's website. In all the  
20 supporting documentation on page 12, section 3, it  
21 states 11 trees are to be removed and not 8 as  
22 presented at the previous hearing at 2 p.m. So it  
23 would be great if the Applicant can confirm the  
24 number of trees to be removed.

25 My second comment is if the Applicant is



1 going to propose a detailed landscaping plan for  
2 this project? If it is approved, that will allow  
3 for privacy and some noise reduction. And I would  
4 request that it is a native species.

5 Also at the previous hearing, there was talk  
6 regarding the limit of disturbance. It would be  
7 great if the plans could be revised, and obviously  
8 the limit of disturbance be on site, installed  
9 prior to construction that will protect the  
10 wetlands and watercourses down below. So it's  
11 delineated.

12 And earlier at the hearing members asked the  
13 Applicant to explore alternate locations, 4 Elaine  
14 Road and the other on New Creek Road as alternate  
15 sites. And as I understand, this hearing will be  
16 continued -- because I would like an opportunity  
17 to review that.

18 But otherwise I thank you for your time, and  
19 that's all I have right now.

20 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Thank you, and thank you for  
21 coming out this evening.

22 We'll now continue with Brittany Duda.

23 Brittany Duda?

24 **BRITTANY DUDA:** Hi.

25 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Hello.

1 BRITTANY DUDA: So I live at 9 Greens Farms Road, and  
2 my mother in law lives at 122. So we're pretty  
3 close to each other. I chose this location over  
4 another location in Westport that had a cell tower  
5 next to it. So it just isn't something that I  
6 really want to see come into the neighborhood. So  
7 it's not something I really want.

8 I just got engaged here. I bought my first  
9 house here. I plan to start my family here. And  
10 having a cell tower so close is something I really  
11 strongly oppose.

12 I know that it's been argued about the health  
13 aspects, that it's within standard safety  
14 standards and all of that, but I just don't feel  
15 that the research is fully there yet. The fact  
16 that people even still question this is something  
17 that really alarms me.

18 Also, it just doesn't feel grateful to our  
19 environment. We have such a beautiful town. I  
20 love getting off the highway and seeing the beach  
21 and the water, and this beautiful historical road  
22 that I live on. And seeing a pole or cellphone  
23 tower there just doesn't feel like it's adding to,  
24 like, the charm of our town.

25 There's going to be so many Children at the

1 preschool within two tenths of a mile of the site.  
2 I have Verizon. My fiance has AT&T. We have no  
3 problems. I've never had any issues at all, so I  
4 don't see the need for it.

5 From my end -- and just, like, aesthetically  
6 I just think it's not going to look so good. So  
7 I'm just not happy about it and just wanted to  
8 share that. So thank you for letting me speak.

9 Thank you.

10 THE HEARING OFFICER: Very good. Thank you.

11 I now call upon Julianne Bochinski followed  
12 by Marisa Manley. Thank you -- and I apologize  
13 for mispronouncing your name. I'm sure I didn't  
14 do it justice.

15 JULIANNE BOCHINSKI: I'll forgive you.

16 I'll forgive you.

17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

18 JULIANNE BOCHINSKI: My name is Julianne Bochinski and  
19 I have prepared a statement. I am strongly  
20 opposed to the tower. I live directly in back of  
21 the proposed tower as a property owner at  
22 Edgewater Commons.

23 I listened to the majority of the evidentiary  
24 hearing that was held between 2 and 4:30 p.m.  
25 Today. For those who listened to this session, we

1 heard questions and answers with respect to the  
2 impact of the tower on the wetlands, endangered  
3 species, et cetera, and we heard repeated  
4 statements that the tower is not expected to  
5 affect the biological system of the animals, not  
6 because of the level of RF from the tower, but  
7 mainly because of the high level of human  
8 influence in the immediate area -- meaning there  
9 wasn't a lot of wildlife in the area impacted  
10 because there were a lot of humans.

11 It is astounding to me that at no point  
12 during the hearing were any questions raised or  
13 answered with respect to the impact of the tower  
14 on human life in the neighborhood surrounding the  
15 tower, since admittedly everyone has acknowledged  
16 that this is a highly populated residential  
17 neighborhood.

18 Are there no concerns at all about the impact  
19 of the tower's RF radiation on humans in the  
20 immediate surrounding neighborhoods? Are we  
21 expected to just accept at face value that the  
22 towers meet a safe RF standard, case closed?

23 As someone who lost two immediate family  
24 members to cancer within the last seven years, I  
25 take this very seriously. Since I saw the sign on

1 Greens Farms Road, I have spent a lot of time in  
2 the past couple of weeks to read up on the  
3 environmental impact of cell tower radiation on  
4 human life in close proximity to cell towers,  
5 particularly 5G, which apparently has a wider  
6 variation of radiation frequencies. What do the  
7 safe standards mean exactly?

8 In 2019 a cell tower sited next to an  
9 elementary school in Ripon, California, was  
10 scheduled to be removed after four young students  
11 and three teachers were diagnosed with cancer. It  
12 would be irresponsible to ignore the possible  
13 biologic impact this tower can have on the men,  
14 women and children who live in the immediate  
15 vicinity of it. Keep in mind that this is a huge  
16 5G cellphone tower that is expected to rise up  
17 high above the treeline.

18 Even the American Cancer Society doesn't  
19 exactly give cellphone towers a free pass. To  
20 paraphrase what the American Cancer Society states  
21 on their website about the connection between  
22 cellphone towers and cancer, essentially they  
23 state that we cannot assume that RF waves from  
24 cell towers have been proven to be absolutely  
25 safe.

1           Quote, most expert organizations agree that  
2 more research is needed to help clarify this,  
3 especially for any long-term effects.

4           An article appeared last year on  
5 WestportCT.gov about this tower and quoted former  
6 First Selectman Jim Marpe, who stated, I am  
7 dismayed that this proposal for a cell tower  
8 installation at the same location reviewed seven  
9 years ago has returned.

10           At that time many raised numerous rational  
11 and thoughtful reasons why this location was  
12 inappropriate and the proposal was dropped. So  
13 why are we at this again?

14           Admittedly, the cell phone coverage in our  
15 area is not great, but if one had to make a  
16 risk/benefit analysis between the potential health  
17 impact of the tower and great cellphone reception,  
18 I would gladly take a choppy cellphone call any  
19 day.

20           On a related note and also important, the  
21 existence of this tower will directly result in  
22 the wholesale devaluation of all homeowner  
23 properties in the area. Whether you care about  
24 the health impact of a tower or not, there are  
25 many people who do and will not choose to buy

1 homes in our area given the --

2 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Julianne, for your  
3 comments this evening. Unfortunately, your time  
4 ran out.

5 We'll now move on to Marisa Manley, followed  
6 by Matthew Waznitzer.

7 MARISA MANLEY: All right. May I speak?

8 THE HEARING OFFICER: Marissa, yes.

9 MARISA MANLEY: This is Marisa Manley. Thank you very  
10 much. I live at 81 Greens Farms Road and I've  
11 lived at 81 Greens Farms Road since 1992. So  
12 that's 30 years. I can say we've always had  
13 adequate cell coverage here.

14 I'd like to make four points very, very  
15 briefly in connection with the proposed cell  
16 tower. First of all, it will create a visual  
17 blight on a unique neighborhood. The proposal  
18 ignores serious environmental challenges. It is  
19 simply inappropriate, third, to locate a  
20 124-monopole in a residential backyard. And  
21 forth, there are very serious health risks. I'd  
22 like to just address two of those points in a  
23 little greater detail.

24 I would note that this area in Westport is  
25 unique in the diversity of housing. Depending on

1 what data you want to look at, the median house  
2 value or price in Westport is currently between  
3 1.5 and 2.1 million, whereas many of the houses in  
4 this area, houses located on Hale Street, on  
5 Hale's road, Hale's Court, High Street -- are in  
6 the 500,000 to 600,000-dollar range.

7 So the location of this cell tower at this  
8 location would be a slap in the face to those more  
9 modestly priced homes and would again unduly  
10 burden those modest neighborhoods and modest  
11 homes.

12 I also want to speak again to the health  
13 risks. Joel Markowitz, who is an experienced and  
14 well known researcher at the Berkeley School of  
15 Public Health in California has demonstrated that  
16 5G poses a significant health risk to humans.

17 His research also -- now including DNA  
18 damage. His research also notes that except for a  
19 rodent study in 2018, the US Government has ceased  
20 research in this area. In the 1990s they relied  
21 very, very heavily on industry funding.

22 And the discussion of industry capture by the  
23 cell tower operators is certainly well known.  
24 Berkowitz is -- or excuse me, Moskowitz's  
25 meta-analysis showed that certain cellphone



1 exposure, very limited cellphone exposure can  
2 increase the risk of brain cancer by up to 60  
3 percent.

4 So while the cell tower operators and Tarpon  
5 speak in their proposal of necessity and  
6 requirements, in fact, there is no requirement.  
7 There is no need for a cell tower at this  
8 location.

9 This is a mere convenience, and I would ask  
10 the Connecticut Siting Council to deny AT&T and  
11 Verizon the ability to blight this unique  
12 neighborhood, and to seek a more safe location for  
13 a tower like this.

14 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Ms. Manley.

15 MARISA MANLEY: Thank you.

16 THE HEARING OFFICER: We'll now call on Matthew  
17 Waznitzer followed by Daniel Landon. Matthew?  
18 Matthew Waznitzer?

19  
20 (No response.)

21  
22 THE HEARING OFFICER: We'll now proceed with Daniel  
23 Landon, Jr. Mr. Landon, Jr?

24  
25 (No response.)

1 THE HEARING OFFICER: I'll go back to Joe and Caroline  
2 Wilkinson. Joe and Caroline Wilkinson?

3  
4 (No response.)

5  
6 THE HEARING OFFICER: Matthew Waznitzer?

7 Matthew Waznitzer?

8  
9 (No response.)

10  
11 THE HEARING OFFICER: And Daniel Landon, Jr.?

12  
13 (No response.)

14  
15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Well, I thank you everyone for  
16 coming out. That concludes our public comment  
17 session for this evening.

18 The Council announces that it will continue  
19 the evidentiary session of this public hearing on  
20 Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 2 p.m., via Zoom  
21 remote conferencing.

22 A copy of the agenda for the continued remote  
23 evidentiary hearing session will be available on  
24 the Council's Docket Number 510 webpage along with  
25 the record of this matter, the public hearing

1 notice, instructions for public access to the  
2 remote evidentiary hearing session, and the  
3 Council's citizen's guide to Siting Council  
4 procedures.

5 Please note that anyone who has not become a  
6 party or intervener but who desires to make his or  
7 her views known the Council, they may file written  
8 statements with the Council until the public  
9 comment record closes.

10 Copies of the transcript of this hearing will  
11 be filed at the Westport Town Clerk's office for  
12 the convenience of the public.

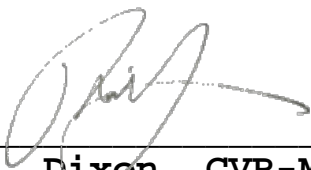
13 I hereby declare this hearing adjourned. And  
14 thank you, everyone, for coming out this evening  
15 and participating.

16 Have a good evening. Thank you.

17  
18 (End: 7:04 p.m.)  
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 35 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the remote teleconference public hearing in Re: APPLICATION FROM NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS, LLC D/B/A AT&T AND TARPON TOWERS II, LLC, FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY LOCATED AT 92 GREENS FARMS ROAD, WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT, which was held before JOHN MORISSETTE, Member and Presiding Officer, on August 9, 2022.



Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M 857  
Notary Public  
My Commission Expires: 6/30/2025

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