

STATE OF CONNECTICUT CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Reporter: Lisa L. Warner, CSR #061

Docket No. 513

Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at Parcel No. 258-10C-001, Mason Hill Road, Litchfield, Connecticut

VIA ZOOM AND TELECONFERENCE

Public Hearing held on Thursday, May 4, 2023, beginning at 2 p.m. via remote access

Held Before:

JOHN MORISSETTE, Presiding Officer

1	Appearances:
2	
3	Council Members:
4	BRIAN GOLEMBIEWSKI Designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes, Department of Energy and Environmental
5	Protection
6	QUAT NGUYEN Designee for Chairman Marissa Paslick
7	Gillett, Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
9	ROBERT SILVESTRI
10	DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.
11	Council Staff:
12 13	MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ., Executive Director and Staff Attorney
14	ROBERT MERCIER, Siting Analyst
15	LISA FONTAINE, Fiscal Administrative Officer
16	
17	For the Applicant, Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless: ROBINSON & COLE LLP
18	280 Trumbull Street
19	Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3597 Phone: 860.275.8200
20	BY: KENNETH C. BALDWIN, ESQ. kbaldwin@rc.com
21	
22	Also present: Aaron Demarest, co-host
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MR. MORISSETTE: This remote public

hearing is called to order this Thursday, May 4,

2023, at 2 p.m. My name is John Morissette,

member and presiding officer of the Connecticut

Siting Council.

Other members of the Council are Brian Golembiewski, designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Quat Nguyen, designee for Chairman Marissa Paslick Gillett of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority; Robert Silvestri; Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.

Members of the staff are Melanie

Bachman, executive director and staff attorney;

Robert Mercier, siting analyst; and Lisa Fontaine,

fiscal administrative officer.

If you haven't done so already, I ask that everyone please mute their computer audio and/or telephone now.

This hearing is held pursuant to the provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General Statutes and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act upon an application from Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for

the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located on Mason Hill Road, Litchfield, Connecticut. The application was received by the Council on March 1, 2023.

The Council's legal notice of the date and time of this remote public hearing was published in the Waterbury Republican-American on March 18, 2023. Upon this Council's request, the applicant erected a sign in the vicinity of the proposed site so as to inform the public of the name of the applicant, the type of facility, the remote public hearing date, and contact information for the Council, including the website and phone number.

As a reminder to all, off-the-record communication with a member of the Council or a member of the Council's staff upon the merits of this application is prohibited by law.

The parties and intervenors to the proceeding are as follows: The Applicant, Cellco Partnership doing business as Verizon Wireless, represented by Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq., of Robinson & Cole, LLP.

We will proceed in accordance with the prepared agenda, a copy of which is available on

with the record of this matter, the public hearing notice, instructions for public access to this remote public hearing, and the Council's Citizens Guide to Siting Council Procedures. Interested persons may join any session of this public hearing to listen, but no public comments will be received during the 2 p.m. evidentiary session. At the end of the evidentiary session we will recess until 6:30 p.m. for the public comment session. Please be advised that any person may be removed from the remote evidentiary session or the public comment session at the discretion of the Council.

The 6:30 p.m. public comment session is reserved for the public to make brief statements into the record. I wish to note that the applicant, parties and intervenors, including their representatives, witnesses and members, are not allowed to participate in the public comment session. I also wish to note for those who are listening and for the benefit of your friends and neighbors who are unable to join us for the remote public comment session that you or they may send written comments to the Council within 30 days of

the date hereof, either by email or by mail, and such written statements will be given the same weight as if spoken during the remote public comment session.

A verbatim transcript of this remote public hearing will be posted on the Council's Docket No. 513 webpage and deposited with the Town Clerk's Offices in the Litchfield and Thomaston offices for the convenience of the public.

Please be advised that the Council's project evaluation criteria under the statute does not include consideration of property ownership or value.

The Council will take a 10 to 15 minute break at a convenient juncture around 3:30 p.m.

We'll now move on to administrative notice taken by the Council. I wish to call your attention to those items shown on the hearing program marked as Roman Numerals I-B, Items 1 through 84, that the Council has administratively noticed.

Does the applicant have an objection to the items that the Council has administratively noticed?

Good afternoon, Attorney Baldwin. Do

you have any objection?

MR. BALDWIN: No objection. Thank you.

MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you.

Accordingly, the Council hereby administratively notices these items.

(Administrative Notice Items I-B-1 through I-B-84: Received in evidence.)

MR. MORISSETTE: Agenda item of the appearance of the applicant. Will the applicant present its witness panel for the purposes of taking the oath. Attorney Bachman will administer the oath.

MR. BALDWIN: Thank you, Mr.

Morissette, members of the Council, good
afternoon. Kenneth Baldwin at Robinson & Cole on
behalf of the applicant, Cellco Partnership doing
business as Verizon Wireless. We have five
witnesses to present to the Council this
afternoon. Starting on my far left is Brian
Gaudet with All-Points Technologies. Next to
Brian is Tim Parks with Verizon Wireless. To my
immediate right is Dean Gustafson with All-Points
Technologies. To Mr. Gustafson's right is Carlo
Centore with Centek Engineers, the project
engineers. And then at the far end of the table

1	is Shiva Gadasu, who's a radio frequency engineer
2	with Verizon Wireless responsible for the
3	Litchfield southeast location. And we offer them
4	to be sworn at this time.
5	MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Attorney
6	Baldwin.
7	Attorney Bachman.
8	MS. BACHMAN: Thank you, Mr.
9	Morissette.
LO	Could the witnesses please raise their
L1	right hand.
L2	SHIVA GADASU,
L3	TIMOTHY PARKS,
L4	CARLO F. CENTORE,
L5	BRIAN GAUDET,
L6	DEAN GUSTAFSON,
L7	having been first duly sworn by Ms. Bachman,
L8	testified on their oaths as follows:
L9	MS. BACHMAN: Thank you.
20	MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. Attorney
21	Baldwin, please begin by verifying all the
22	exhibits by the appropriate sworn witnesses.
23	MR. BALDWIN: Thank you, Mr. Morissette
24	DIRECT EXAMINATION
25	MR. BALDWIN: There are a total of six

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exhibits listed in the hearing program under Roman
II, Section B, and again listed as Items 1 through
6. And for the verification process I'll ask our
witnesses to answer the following questions:
you prepare or assist in the preparation of the
exhibits listed in the hearing program under Roman
II-B, Items 1 through 6? Mr. Gaudet.
           THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Yes.
           MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Parks.
           THE WITNESS (Parks): Yes.
           MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Gustafson?
           THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes.
           MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Centore.
           THE WITNESS (Centore): Yes.
           MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Gadasu.
           THE WITNESS (Gadasu): Yes.
           MR. BALDWIN: Do you have any
modifications, amendments or other corrections
offered to any of those exhibits? Mr. Gaudet.
           THE WITNESS (Gaudet): No.
           MR. BALDWIN:
                        Mr. Parks.
           THE WITNESS (Parks): No.
           MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Gustafson.
           THE WITNESS (Gustafson):
           MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Centore.
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1	THE WITNESS (Centore): I do not.
2	MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Gadasu.
3	THE WITNESS (Gadasu): No.
4	MR. BALDWIN: Is the information
5	contained in those exhibits true and accurate to
6	the best of your knowledge? Mr. Gaudet.
7	THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Yes.
8	MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Parks.
9	THE WITNESS (Parks): Yes.
10	MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Gustafson.
11	THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes.
12	MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Centore.
13	THE WITNESS (Centore): Yes.
14	MR. BALDWIN: And Mr. Gadasu.
15	THE WITNESS (Gadasu): Yes.
16	MR. BALDWIN: And do you adopt the
17	information contained in those exhibits as your
18	testimony in this proceeding? Mr. Gaudet.
19	THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Yes.
20	MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Parks.
21	THE WITNESS (Parks): Yes.
22	MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Gustafson.
23	THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes.
24	MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Centore.
25	THE WITNESS (Centore): Yes.

1 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Gadasu. 2 THE WITNESS (Gadasu): Yes. 3 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Morissette, I offer 4 them as full exhibits. 5 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Attorney 6 Baldwin. The exhibits are hereby admitted. 7 (Applicant's Exhibits II-B-1 through 8 Received in evidence - described in TT-B-6: 9 index.) 10 MR. MORISSETTE: We'll now begin with 11 cross-examination of the applicant by the Council 12 starting with Mr. Mercier, followed by Mr. 13 Silvestri. 14 Mr. Mercier. 15 CROSS-EXAMINATION 16 MR. MERCIER: Thank you. I want to 17 begin by referring to the submission, dated April 18 27, that was for the proposed alternate site in 19 the revised interrogatories. My first question 20 is, has the original site proposed in the 21 application, has that been officially withdrawn 22 and this is just the substitute for it? 23 THE WITNESS (Parks): That is correct. 24 MR. MERCIER: And has the landowner 25 agreed to the new alternate site and site plan?

THE WITNESS (Parks): Yes. I'm sorry, this is Tim Parks talking. My apologies.

MR. MERCIER: Looking at the site plan, it's attachment 1, there's two site plans. One shows just a general layout comparing the two locations, the alternate shown on the right side of the map. And then if you go to the next diagram, there's more information on a topographic map, Mason Hill Road and the driveway, et cetera. Looking at the second map, it's titled ALT-1.1.

Where roughly was the original tower located? I believe it may have been where, if you look on the left side, there's like a zigzag line that represents the erosion control measures, and at one point it intersects a specific tree. I believe that's the location. I just want to know if you could confirm that, please.

THE WITNESS (Centore): Carlo Centore with Centek Engineering. I believe you're correct. The approximate location, it's to the west of the eastern edge of the Eversource right-of-way and approximately between the two trees that are just below the turnaround that's shown on the plan.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. Thank you. Now,

beginning with the access drive, it comes off

Mason Hill Road generally in a southwest

direction, it goes down a little slope there.

What's the grade of that slope, do you have that information?

in about 10, 15 feet off of Mason Hill Road, and the grade there is about 20 percent. And then the average grade extending from that point 40 feet down to where it starts to flatten out is about a 25 to 30 percent grade there. It's got some steepness to it coming in, but we've accommodated that by offering to pave that area to help with any erosion and access issues that could be created by that slope.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. So just so I understand, that's the finished grade you're going to attain is between 20 to 25 percent, depending on the specific location?

THE WITNESS (Centore): That is correct. The average grade would be about 25 to 30 percent through that area, being the upper 40, the first 40 feet of the access drive.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. Now, would there be any kind of issue with emergency vehicles or

propane fuel trucks from entering or using that road with a grade such as 25 percent?

ability to turn around at the bottom will allow the fuel trucks to get in and give them a level area to come in, and they've got enough area at the top to access. So we don't foresee any issues as long as the road is maintained and kept clean in the winter from snow.

MR. MERCIER: So the grade itself is not problematic for emergency vehicles or the propane trucks?

THE WITNESS (Centore): No.

MR. MERCIER: As long as it's salted if it snows or whatever. Okay. Thank you.

THE WITNESS (Centore): Correct.

MR. MERCIER: Just looking generally at the map along Mason Hill Road where the access drive is, you know, it looks like the terrain kind of slopes actually south towards the wetland, but I notice you have the pitch of the road towards the north side of the driveway rather than the south. So all the water will be, it looks like it's going to be collected into the riprap swale that's going off the level spreader. Would it

make sense to put the level spreader and swale on the other side of the road on the wetland side? I'm not sure why the swale was chosen on that side, I guess, if you could elaborate.

I'm trying to think of the appropriate response.

The idea was just to maintain some of the runoff to the other side of the site and still work its way down to the wetlands as it comes around the north side of the site and works its way down.

There's no -- we also didn't want to get into working in that whole wetland buffer and creating that swale. Dean --

THE WITNESS (Gustafson): I can expand upon that response. Dean Gustafson. So having the swale on the northwest side of the access road, the level spreader is actually more protective of that nearby wetland resource.

That's mainly because of the somewhat moderate to steep slopes. So if for some reason that swale or level spreader isn't properly maintained, that could ultimately result in some unreleased discharge and erosion into the wetland. This layout will help protect in the future that wetland system, and the water eventually will

drain through the subbase for the road and the compound so there won't be any adverse hydraulic impact to that nearby wetland system.

MR. MERCIER: So as I understand it, so during heavy rain events water will collect in the swale and get discharged to the level spreader. And then what happens, does the level spreader have a discharge point itself, or could you describe how deep it is or what type of function it would have during heavy rain events? Would it overflow and flood the paved area or gravel area next to the compound gate? I'm not sure if that area is paved or not. I know the upper road was. If you could elaborate on that, please.

THE WITNESS (Centore): Carlo Centore, with Centek Engineering. The lower area of the drive is gravel. The intent is just to pave the sloped area coming down into the site. That level spreader would discharge water to the west and to the north. It's designed to allow the water to flow out in those areas. I don't foresee any issues with any flooding or flooding out of the access drive or washed out of the access drive as a result of that.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. I guess my final

question is, is the road pitched towards the level spreader -- excuse me, the swale, or is it pitched to the other side, or is it just neutral? If it rains, which way is the rain going to run off to, towards the swale, on the road that is not on the --

THE WITNESS (Centore): Slight pitch to the north. At a slight pitch to the north towards the swale.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. Thank you. Now, given the grades there, I know the initial site plan had the access road extending through the Eversource right-of-way to the compound area. Could you still proceed with constructing a road using the portion of the road on the Eversource right-of-way to this new compound area, is that still feasible, or you're no longer considering the right-of-way area?

THE WITNESS (Centore): We can consider the right-of-way area for crossing over and accessing the site. It is a possibility.

MR. MERCIER: I wasn't sure why you decided, Cellco decided to do a new access drive off Mason Hill Road if the other alternative may still be in play. Anybody have any information on

that?

THE WITNESS (Centore): The idea was to pull everything out of the Eversource right-of-way to avoid another party to be involved with this site. From a design standpoint or an engineering standpoint, there's nothing stopping us from accessing the site through the Eversource right-of-way. There would be less disruption due to the shorter amount of road that we'd have to build here in terms of underground utilities, gravel access drive and transporting through. This would have less impact in that respect, but either option is feasible.

MR. MERCIER: Looking at the proposed compound now, the alternate compound location, a portion of the turnaround area I understand is within Eversource's right-of-way, and I think it's stated that you might need permission to construct that as proposed here. Has there been any outreach, or do you foresee any problems where you would not be able to build that turnaround area to serve this compound layout?

THE WITNESS (Centore): Carlo Centore again. We do have an alternate plan that we've considered. We haven't implemented it because

1 this makes more sense, but we can maintain that 2 turnaround within -- or outside of the 3 right-of-way by extending the turnaround north 4 just below the level spreader. We wanted to use 5 that space for drainage, but we can make some 6 accommodations to offer a turnaround and get the 7 drainage to work. 8 Thank you. MR. MERCIER: 9 THE WITNESS (Centore): Yes. 10 MR. MERCIER: Looking at the retaining 11 walls, just so I understand it, this is not an 12 excavation into a hill, this is more like you're 13 going to build some retaining walls and kind of 14 fill that area in to build up the slope to make it 15 flat. Is that right? 16 THE WITNESS (Centore): That's correct. 17 MR. MERCIER: You're not excavating 18 into a hillside, you're more like pushing soil 19 into a retained area? 20 THE WITNESS (Centore): We're building it up approximately 3, 3 and a half feet. 21 22 MR. MERCIER: The previous site plan, I 23 think, had 200 cubic yards of fill. I don't have

the cut number in front of me. But do you know

what the cuts and fill for this particular site

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1 would be? 2 THE WITNESS (Centore): I do. So it's 3 a 25-cubic yard cut, 218-cubic yard fill. So for 4 a net fill of 193 or 193.7, we'll call it 194 5 cubic yards net fill. 6 MR. MERCIER: Okay. To date, has there 7 been any kind of a subsurface evaluation of 8 conditions there to determine, you know, number 9 one, could the swale be built, or, you know, is 10 there any foundation problems, is there any type 11 of subsurface study done yet? 12 THE WITNESS (Centore): We have not 13 done a geotechnical study as of yet. 14 MR. MERCIER: If the site was approved 15 when would you conduct that study, before the 16 development and management plan is submitted? 17 THE WITNESS (Centore): It would be 18 part of the D&M submission. 19 MR. MERCIER: Now, what equipment would 20 you use at the site to do the study? 21 THE WITNESS (Centore): In terms of 22 geotechnical equipment? 23 MR. MERCIER: Yes. 24 THE WITNESS (Centore): I would assume 25 that this site would lend itself to be needing a

track mounted boring rig to get in and do the -to get the appropriate borings.

MR. MERCIER: Would this site, besides some like minor brush or some shrubs or small trees, would it require the geotech to cut down some larger trees or do they just maneuver where they can?

THE WITNESS (Centore): Based on what

I'm seeing on the larger trees that would need to

come down as part of the site, I think we can work

-- I am confident that we can work around what's

there except for having to clear out some low

brush or small trees.

MR. MERCIER: If ledge is found during the geotechnical study, how would that be removed, is it typically chipping or do you anticipate any kind of blasting?

THE WITNESS (Centore): I don't anticipate any type of blasting. We have to evaluate it once we get the geotechnical report. But typically if there is ledge and it's competent ledge, there's some methods that we can use such as core drilling it, rock anchors into the ledge, and having that help us create the foundation for the tower and not requiring it to be blasted.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. Thank you. Now, initially during the first set of interrogatories -- I think they were dated April 10th -- there was a remote field review done for the original site. I don't know if you could do this now or maybe someone could take a look at it. If someone could just flip through some of the pictures and kind of see if any of the photos that were taken for the initial field review might show some of the conditions for the proposed alternate site here.

THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Brian Gaudet with All-Points. I'll point you to photos 12A and 12B are probably two of the better vantage points here. 12A is taken approximately where the new monopole would be installed and geared towards the southwest. 12B kind of gives you a good shot of where the access drive would be coming in off of Mason Hill.

MR. MERCIER: For 12B would you know if the access road is coming in on the left side of the picture, the center or the right? Do you have any sense of where it actually might come -- or is it just coming across the middle of the photo, or is it more this is just the general terrain?

THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Yes, more the general terrain here. I would say it looks like it's probably coming, if you look on the right-hand side of the photo, there's that larger tree there and some stone on the right-hand side, a utility pole in the background there.

MR. MERCIER: Okay.

THE WITNESS (Gaudet): That utility pole is I believe the one, if you're looking at the drawing, it's across Mason Hill on the north side of the road. So that should give you a good vantage point. It's kind of coming from that utility pole cutting across the photo down to the bottom left of the photo.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. Excellent. I see the pole there. That would make sense. Thank you.

THE WITNESS (Gaudet): You're welcome.

MR. MERCIER: Also, for the first set

of interrogatories, Interrogatory 7, you know,

there was some discussion as to why the existing

utility poles over Eversource's right-of-way could

not be used. One of them was site access issues

where you needed access all the time in case

there's an issue at the site. Were there other

challenges that could occur such as structural capacity or anything of that nature based on Verizon's experience with other structure sharing with transmission lines, were there any other issues besides the site access?

THE WITNESS (Centore): Sure. Carlo
Centore again. We've been involved in the
analysis of many transmission towers. Based on
just general information on what we know about
these towers without having the drawings and
needing to get approximately another 17, 18 feet
above those towers to the RAD center for the
proposed antennas, it's going to be difficult
to -- it would be difficult to make that structure
work without reinforcements or modifications which
Eversource frowns upon and does not actually
permit on any other transmission pole. So I would
say that we have a limitation structurally.

We could confirm that through an analysis being provided, the line loads and tower drawings, if that's something that requires further investigation, but based on experience, I would say that it would be difficult to make that tower pass.

MR. MERCIER: Understood. I wasn't

sure, based on Verizon's experience, you know, say you locate it on a transmission structure, were there opportunities for collocation by someone else, or is it usually, you know, one carrier that could probably use a structure such as the one along these lines here?

THE WITNESS (Centore): It would be a one carrier type installation that, if it were to pass, it would be a one carrier type installation, but I think we'd be hard pressed to make that work as well.

MR. MERCIER: Thank you. Moving to response 18, it described the limitations regarding flush-mount antenna installations. In that response there was the term "beamforming." So I guess it's a question for Mr. Gadasu, if you could provide more information as to what is beamforming and why it is important.

THE WITNESS (Gadasu): This is Shiva Gadasu. So beamforming is, you know, it is on low band which is 700 and 800 megahertz frequencies we are using. And, you know, those frequencies are split between two different antennas per sector. So in order for beamforming to work, those two antennas should be placed next to each other. So

by doing flush mounting, that's not possible. So you need, you know, so you can't do a flush mount.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. So they have to be physically next to each other so they could transmit the signals between each other?

THE WITNESS (Gadasu): Right.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. Going down my list here, going down to application attachment 10, this has to do with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife determination regarding the northern long-eared bat that was issued on November 2nd to Verizon for this particular site. And now I understand that the Fish and Wildlife Service has uplisted the bat from threatened to endangered I think at the end of November of 2022. So how would that uplisting threatened to endangered affect this site? Do you have to refile or are you allowed to proceed since you have the determination already?

THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Dean

Gustafson from All-Points. For northern

long-eared bat, yeah, it's been uplisted to

endangered. And the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service released a new determination key. It's an

interim key for northern long-eared bat that was

released the end of March. Running this site

through that new determination key, we received a determination of may affect, not likely to adversely affect. So it is very similar to the previous determination where the proposed project will not result in a likely adverse affect to the northern long-eared bat.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. So essentially there was no change due to the listing?

THE WITNESS (Gustafson): That's correct, for this particular project there was really no change due to the uplisting.

And just by way of background, we've processed probably about 30-plus sites through the new determination key for various projects, whether it be telecommunications, solar, et cetera, and the majority of them there's been no real change from the old process to this new determination key for northern long-eared bat.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. For attachment 10 there was some recommendations for avoiding tree clearing from April 1st to October 31st. Is that something Verizon is willing to adhere to or maybe some other type of restriction to avoid impacting bats that may be using this wooded area? Now, I know there's a recommendation. I didn't see

1 anything if Verizon was willing to adhere to that, 2 if someone could elaborate. 3 THE WITNESS (Parks): Yes, Verizon 4 would be willing to do so. 5 MR. MERCIER: Thank you. Now, for that 6 restriction from April 1st to October 31st, would 7 that also be protective of forest nesting birds? 8 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Dean 9 Gustafson. Yes, that would cover the typical 10 nesting period for most of the neotropical species that may be utilizing this forested habitat. 11 The 12 window is a little bit tighter than that, but it 13 would be equally protective of those species. 14 MR. MERCIER: For the compound area is 15 there any lighting proposed on the cabinets or the 16 base of the tower or the gate, no night lighting 17 that's on constantly? 18 THE WITNESS (Centore): Carlo Centore, 19 Centek. No, no continuously running lights at the 20 equipment. There is a small light mounted to the 21 overhead ice canopy that's on a motion sensor. 22 MR. MERCIER: Is that also operable by 23 a switch or is it just motion only or a timer? 24 THE WITNESS (Centore): Typically we do 25 motion only. I'm sorry, I stand corrected.

is also a switch, and that switch is on a timer so that the light doesn't stay on continuously.

MR. MERCIER: Thank you. For this particular site has any other carrier expressed any interest to Cellco to collocate on the tower?

THE WITNESS (Parks): This is Tim Parks from Cellco. Not at this time.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. How about any emergency entity or maybe the municipality?

THE WITNESS (Parks): Again, Tim Parks.

No one has reached out to us.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. Thank you. Going back to the submission of the alternate site, it's a Late-File, not really a Late-File, but the April 27th, in there was a revised viewshed map. And also in that document there was a response 33, it was a revised response to Interrogatory 33. It dealt with visibility to area homes. In that response it stated that within a half mile I think there was 31 residences would have seasonal views and 10 would have year-round and seasonal views.

Looking at the map, the half mile buffer area there at the top-right corner, is there a particular neighborhood that has the concentration of views or is it just kind of scattered around?

THE WITNESS (Gaudet): This is Brian Gaudet with All-Points. It's scattered. There's residential -- looking again at the half-mile radius, there's residential properties throughout that seasonal area there. I would say that the densest neighborhood would be to the east in the Atwood Heights area and Atwood Road area. That's sort of immediately to the east going down towards the southeast there. But again, there are residential properties along Mason Hill Road that will experience a combination of either seasonal or seasonal and year-round views.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. For that Atwood Heights area I was trying to blow up that area to scan it a little closer. Are there little spot year-round views in there or is that just all seasonal?

THE WITNESS (Gaudet): There's a handful of, I would call it, intermittent year-round views. It is tough to see it, they're very fine. The tree cover here is pretty thick going down towards that neighborhood, so you do benefit from the forested area kind of blocking out a lot of those full year-round views. But

it's expected that it would probably pop into view again at a static location potentially on some of those properties.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. In the initial visibility analysis I believe it stated that for year-round views it would generally be the upper 10 to 30 feet. That was for the original site. Would that still be the same for this particular relocated site?

not much change in the visibility from the original location to this location. It's such a minor shift. The ground elevation is the same. The only area where it might open up some additional views if we went with the alternate access drive would be sort of immediately north-northwest right along Mason Hill Road where you wouldn't benefit from that tree cover right up against the road itself. But primarily any year-round views you're not going to see more than 30 feet above the tree line from most locations.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. So you just stated that there would be some cutting to open up the access road along the hill there. So for year-round views going down that driveway is there

a house across the street at all or is it just people driving by would, you know, see down the driveway for a moment?

THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Residents across the street, which if you look now, again, at the half-mile radius, I'll point you just to the north of where the yellow square, yellow exed-out square which is representing the site location, that yellow patch that you see there is right on that property. You've got some year-round views there. It wouldn't open up substantially more year-round views. I mean, the access drive is not that wide, you're not removing that many trees. So it would be minimal, again, impacting a property that's already going to have some year-round and some seasonal views on it.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. Now, referring to the initial visibility analysis in the application that was attachment, I think, 9, there's a whole series of photographs in there. How would relocation of the tower affect, you know, the balloon location in the photographs, is it minimal?

THE WITNESS (Gaudet): It's minimal depending on your vantage point. Let me pull up,

1 let me kind of flip through some of these photos here so we can talk through it. Photo 4. 2 3 MR. MERCIER: Okay. We'll just start 4 there, photo 4, yeah. 5 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Photo 4, it's 6 essentially going to shift to the left, to the 7 other side of that transmission pole. 8 MR. MERCIER: Okay. 9 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): And it's pretty 10 minimal. Depending on the angle, it's not going 11 to be a big pure 50-foot shift from a specific 12 vantage point just based on it being angled here. So it would be, you know, probably just to the 13 14 left of the bonnets on that transmission line 15 there. 16 MR. MERCIER: Going to Photo 5, looking 17 at that curve area, is the access road entrance 18 along this area would you know? 19 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Give me one 20 second. So the access drive here would actually 21 be cut into the, I think it would be off the right 22 of this photo, the Photo 5. 23 MR. MERCIER: Off to the right? 24 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Yes. So this 25 shift would be where the balloon is. Probably, if you look towards the top of the photo, just trying
to describe it here, you've got sort of a little
cutout in two of the taller trees there, you'd
probably shift more to the right-hand side of that
location.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. I'll just scan over to Figure 7. This is the Atwood Heights. For this particular picture there probably wouldn't be much change, you know, it's still kind of behind some trees?

THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Yeah, I think the general characteristic in this area is not going to change, again, looking at a static location. In this one particular spot it might shift behind that house from this one vantage point on the street, but generally it will be the same height, same seasonal impact through the trees back through that neighborhood.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. Also way down on Photo 27 it's actually a picture taken, I think, from a dam at Northfield Brook Lake.

THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Yes.

MR. MERCIER: Do you know if that's some type of -- is that a recreational area or is that just strictly flood control and people could

walk along the road, I guess.

THE WITNESS (Gaudet): It is, it's the dam at the Northfield Reservoir. I don't know offhand if it's got any recreational value to it. I would have to look into that.

MR. MERCIER: The original
Interrogatory Response 31 had to do with the
historic resources report that would be filed with
the State Historic Preservation Office if the
tower is approved. I'm not really sure why you
don't file during the application process and why
do you wait until, if this tower was approved.

MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Mercier, I'm sorry, you broke up there a little bit. Could you repeat that question for us? I'm sorry.

MR. MERCIER: Sure. This has to do with the State Historic Preservation Office. And I believe Interrogatory Response 31 stated that the historic resource report would be filed with them if the tower is approved by the Council. Any particular reason why you wait until the tower is approved rather than filing during the application review with the Council?

THE WITNESS (Parks): Tim Parks from Cellco. That's just part of our process. There's

1 no real reason why we do that. It's when we 2 choose to. 3 MR. MERCIER: Okay. For the propane 4 generator at the site how often is that tested, is 5 it once a week, twice a week, once a month? 6 THE WITNESS (Parks): It's usually 7 twice a month usually in the midday hours of a 8 weekday. MR. MERCIER: Thank you. 10 THE WITNESS (Parks): Uh-huh. 11 MR. MERCIER: I don't have any other 12 questions at this time. Thank you. 13 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mr. 14 Mercier. Can everyone hear me okay? I seem to be 15 having lots of problems over here with my 16 internet. 17 MR. BALDWIN: We can hear you, Mr. 18 Morissette. 19 MR. MORISSETTE: Great. Thank you. 20 I the only one having problems here or are others 21 also having problems? 22 MR. SILVESTRI: So far so good on my 23 end, Mr. Morissette. 24 MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. It keeps 25 bouncing me out. So if it happens again, I'm

going to leave the meeting and try to come in,
re-log in again. So if I disappear, it's for that
reason. Okay. Thank you.

With that, we will continue with cross-examination by Mr. Silvestri and then we will continue after Mr. Silvestri with Mr. Nguyen.

Mr. Silvestri.

MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you, Mr. Morissette. And good afternoon, everyone.

I will say, I'll start this out with your conversation with Mr. Mercier left me somewhat confused, and I'll tell you why: When I look at the April 27th submittal, the bottom of page 1 going onto page 2, it mentions that the proposed location was going to be within the eastern-most part of the Eversource easement at the time that you filed and that Cellco was under the impression Eversource might agree to allow for that but things had changed. On April 11, Cellco learned that its proposed use of the easement would not be permitted, yet with alternate drawing 1.1 we're still back on the easement part.

So could you explain to me why one didn't work but the other might work?

THE WITNESS (Centore): Carlo Centore

with Centek Engineering. We took the tower out of the easement, and that was the intent was to remove the tower and its base equipment outside of that Eversource easement. The only portion that is extending onto that area is the turnaround at the bottom of the access drive.

MR. SILVESTRI: And is that at this point permitted by Eversource or is that something you need to work out?

MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Silvestri, if I could speak to that from a legal perspective. That's something we have to work out. There is a process, as you may be aware, with Eversource to use portions of their existing easement areas. And that, if we were going to propose to use any portion of the easement area, we would have to go through that process. What we discovered a short time ago was that the use of any structures or the installation of any structures within that easement was a nonstarter, but the installation of a gravel area we think may be something we could work through that process.

MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you, Attorney
Baldwin. And if I understood and heard correctly
before, if that area on the easement right now for

the turnaround does not come to fruition, then you'd be looking at putting a turnaround to the west of the proposed spreader, is that correct, did I hear correctly on that one?

THE WITNESS (Centore): That is correct.

MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Thank you. Now, in your discussion with Mr. Mercier I also heard a comment that something would have a lesser impact. And I don't know if that was directed towards the access from Mason Hill Road or if that was contemplating access through a right-of-way on Eversource. Could you possibly clarify what that meant that whatever you mentioned to Mr. Mercier would have less of an impact?

THE WITNESS (Centore): Carlo Centore. The less impact would be the amount of construction and underground utilities and bringing, getting access to the site across the right-of-way. Lesser impact would be the shorter access drive coming off of Mason Hill Road, as is currently shown.

MR. SILVESTRI: So the proposal for the alternate with Mason Hill Road would have less of an impact than if you came in from the ROW; do I

have that correct?

THE WITNESS (Centore): Correct.

MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you. Okay. I think that will put to rest a couple other questions that I had there. But stay on Alternate 1.1 for a minute or so, that drawing. I noticed the proposal for the proposed wetland buffer enhancement area, and you do have a number of species and potential quantities that would be planted along the side of the proposed compound. A question I have for you: Once these species are planted, what type of maintenance might be associated with them, what might you have to do from month to month or from year to year?

Gustafson from All-Points. So the native species that are proposed in the planting plan essentially require zero maintenance once they get established. And it's something that we would probably want to monitor for the first growing season or two to make sure that the plants that got planted are remaining healthy. But once that period is gone, they require no maintenance at all.

MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you. And I

noticed all but one are along the bush species,
but you do have a dogwood that's there. Anything
special that you have to do with the gray dogwood?

THE WITNESS (Gustafson): No, the gray
dogwood is a shrub species as well. The mature
height is around 15 to 20 feet max.

MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Thank you. And
just for my clarification, I think we put to bed
that on page 7 of the original application it's
not natural gas and that it's propane, correct?

THE WITNESS (Parks): Tim Parks from
Cellco. That is correct.

MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you. Then, if I

MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you. Then, if I understand correctly, the tower height would be 110 feet which at the alternate location is approximately 141 feet from the transmission line and 37 feet from the easement. And again, this is for the tower. What are the thoughts on installing a hinge point for the tower?

THE WITNESS (Centore): Carlo Centore.

The hinge point is a good solution to avoiding the potential for anything going into the high tension lines and keeping it outside of the easement.

MR. SILVESTRI: So you would design with a hinge point or a yield point, if you will?

1 THE WITNESS (Centore): Correct. 2 MR. SILVESTRI: Any idea where that 3 point might be on that tower? 4 THE WITNESS (Centore): Yes. I know I 5 have it in here. Bear with me. So to clarify, 6 the proposed tower is 105 feet tall. The yield 7 point to the Eversource right-of-way is 8 approximately 30 to 35 feet away. So we would put 9 the yield point 30 feet below the top of the tower 10 so that it hinges and falls onto it, it would 11 hinge onto itself within that 30-foot distance. 12 MR. SILVESTRI: So 30 feet below, if I 13 did the math right, about 75 feet? 14 THE WITNESS (Centore): I apologize, it 15 is a 110-foot tower. It's 105-foot centerline. I 16 got the two mixed up. I apologize. So 110-foot 17 tower. The yield point would be approximately 70 18 feet above grade. 19 MR. SILVESTRI: 70 feet, okay. Thank 20 you. Okay. Then with the proposed retaining wall 21 that would be installed, would the new ground 22 elevation for the compound actually be at the top 23 of the wall, or would the wall extend up a little 24 bit higher than the elevation for the compound? 25 THE WITNESS (Centore): Typically we

like the wall to extend up a little bit, and we put our fence behind that. But it's a 6-inch difference, let's say, 6 to 8 inches difference.

MR. SILVESTRI: So the ground elevation for the compound would be about 6 inches below the top of the wall?

THE WITNESS (Centore): Correct.

MR. SILVESTRI: Got you. Thank you. I want to talk about noise for a second or two.

Under Tab 1 on page 7 of the environmental assessment it states that no noise would be emitted with the exception for the backup generator. And there was a response, I believe, under Interrogatory 28 that noise levels emitted from the proposed equipment cabinet are negligible.

The question I have is, are there fans that are going to be within that cabinet, and would the fans have any impact on noise generation? And fans being for cooling purposes.

THE WITNESS (Centore): Yes, I would say, not having the dB ratings for the fans on the equipment, I can say that those sound levels would be less, significantly less than those of the generator running. So I would say there would be,

1 the impact would be negligible. 2 MR. SILVESTRI: And if I understand the 3 systems correctly, fans would run more, say, 4 during the summer daytime than opposed at night or 5 any other time of the year? 6 THE WITNESS (Centore): That is 7 correct. 8 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. All right. If I 9 go back to pages 9 to 10 of the original 10 submittal, a question I have, how do the mobile 11 telephone switching offices that are in Windsor 12 and Wallingford, how do they actually interact 13 with Cellco's cell sites? 14 THE WITNESS (Gadasu): This is Shiva 15 Gadasu. I'm sorry, could you repeat that again? 16 MR. SILVESTRI: Looking at the Windsor 17 and Wallingford offices that you have, how do 18 those interconnect or interact with any of the 19 Cellco cell sites? 20 THE WITNESS (Gadasu): So those are the 21 switch locations, so that is like, it acts as a 22 backhaul. 23 MR. SILVESTRI: But do they interact 24 from an airwave standpoint, from a fiberoptic 25 standpoint, how do they talk to each other?

1 THE WITNESS (Gadasu): I believe it's 2 fiberoptics. 3 MR. SILVESTRI: Fiber, okay. 4 should a problem occur, say, at one of those 5 either at Windsor or at Wallingford, is there a 6 backup that's provided, does one switching center 7 take over for the other, how does that work 8 between the two in Windsor and Wallingford? 9 THE WITNESS (Gadasu): I'm sorry, I do 10 not have an answer to that question. 11 12 13 14 could find something on that. 15 16 17 18 Thank you, Attorney Baldwin. 19 20 21

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MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Maybe during the break you could look at that, just a curiosity question I have. I mean, I'd appreciate it if you MR. BALDWIN: We can take that as a homework assignment, Mr. Silvestri. MR. SILVESTRI: I appreciate that. What I'd like to do now is turn to Tab 6, which are the drawings, if you will, existing and proposed coverage that you have. And one of the things I'm curious about -- this is existing and proposed coverage for the 700 megahertz. There's not a number on the page, but I hope you could find that based on the title. The question

I have is why is there a gap in coverage south of the proposed location? And this would be near the wording for the Northfield Reservoir and State Highway 254.

THE WITNESS (Gadasu): This is Shiva Gadasu again. I believe the terrain is dropping quite dramatically in that area, hence the RF is not able to, should, you know, pass it.

MR. SILVESTRI: So if I understand, it could be a terrain issue at a much lower elevation that the signals would not be able to reach, they pass over the top, so to speak?

THE WITNESS (Gadasu): From the tower location to the reservoir, which is to the south, I believe, you know, the terrain is dropping, you know, as you go south, hence, you know, it can't, you know, the signal can't pass through the terrain.

MR. SILVESTRI: Now, would that also be true, looking at the same coverage map, right where it has Litchfield SE Connecticut, right above that, just above the letters L-I-T in Litchfield there is also a gap. Is that also an elevation issue?

THE WITNESS (Gadasu): That is true.

1 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Thank you. 2 another curiosity question. You show the 700 3 megahertz, the 850, the 1,900, the 2,100 and the 4 5G. Why does the coverage go down as you go 5 higher in megahertz?

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THE WITNESS (Gadasu): So this is Shiva Gadasu again. So as we go up frequencies, the signal, you know, cannot travel further. But the shorter the frequency, the longer it travels.

MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. So that's a physics type of limitation. All right. Now, the big curiosity question I have is 5G is being touted as the save all, if you will, yet 5G, according to these maps, has such limited coverage. How does 5G benefit the receiver, the people that use 5G if it can't really penetrate that far away?

THE WITNESS (Gadasu): Yeah, I mean, 5G we need, you know, more towers, you know, to provide continuous coverage, you know, with respect to, you know, like as we do for 700 hundred megahertz. So, you know, we propose mostly, you know, so we try to propose 5G more in dense urban areas, but, you know, it will also help, you know, once it gets into a rural area, it

Then

1 will help users who can connect to it. 2 MR. SILVESTRI: So if I heard and 3 understood correctly, the denser, say, urban areas 4 would benefit more from a 5G; would that be 5 correct? 6 THE WITNESS (Gadasu): Right, because 7 there would be a more number of users consolidated 8 close to the site as opposed to rural areas. 9 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you for that 10 information. Then on Tab 8 of the site search 11 summary it notes that RF engineers determined that 12 certain parcels could not satisfy Cellco's service 13 objections -- objectives, excuse me. And the 14 question I have is, is that true for all 15 frequencies or you're really looking more at the 16 700 megahertz? 17 THE WITNESS (Gadasu): So in this 18 perspective, I mean, this is a coverage fill-in, 19 so we just look at -- in this case we just look 20 at, you know, 700 coverage. 21 MR. SILVESTRI: Being the one that will 22 cover the most area? 23 THE WITNESS (Gadasu): Right. 24 All MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Thank you. 25 right. I have a couple more. If you could turn

to the April 10th submittal for the interrogatory responses. And I'm looking at Question Number 9 which is on page 7. This talks about the climbing pegs on the lower portion of the tower that would be removed to deter climbing of the tower. question I have for you on those, do they need to be reinstalled at some point in the future for maintenance purposes? THE WITNESS (Centore): Again, Carlo

THE WITNESS (Centore): Again, Carlo
Centore. Typically when they maintain the towers,
the crews going out on site would bring pegs that
they can install to be able to access. They would
install those with a ladder and then remove them
when they leave the site.

MR. SILVESTRI: So they would not leave them on site, they would bring them with them, correct?

THE WITNESS (Centore): Correct.

MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you. And just checking through my notes.

Mr. Morissette, that's all I have at this time. Thank you. And thank you for your responses also.

MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mr.

Silvestri. We'll now continue with

1 cross-examination of the applicant by Mr. Nguyen, followed by Mr. Golembiewski. 2 3 Mr. Nguyen. 4 MR. NGUYEN: Thank you, Mr. Morissette. 5 Good afternoon. Let me start with a 6 few follow-ups from Mr. Mercier and Mr. 7 Silvestri's questions. First of all, the alternate site location, where is that exactly 8 before the Council? 9 10 THE WITNESS (Centore): I'm sorry, I 11 didn't --12 MR. BALDWIN: The alternate site, where 13 is that in relation to it. 14 THE WITNESS (Centore): It's due east 15 of the existing site or the originally proposed 16 site. 17 MR. NGUYEN: So the southeast portion 18 of the property, is that right? 19 THE WITNESS (Centore): Correct. 20 MR. NGUYEN: And east of the existing 21 Eversource transmission line? 22 THE WITNESS (Centore): Correct. 23 MR. NGUYEN: Now, you responded earlier 24 from Mr. Silvestri that the alternate site 25 addressed some of the concerns from Eversource,

but there's some missing information that you are waiting for Eversource, a green light, if you will. Could you clarify what that is?

MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Nguyen, if I could respond as I responded as to the legal status of the easement. Eversource requires anyone using a portion of their right-of-way to enter into essentially a license agreement for that use. And that, again, is a process that we would have to undertake if any portion of our improvements were going to utilize that portion of the existing legal easement that Eversource has on the property.

MR. NGUYEN: Okay. So it is about easement. Now, assuming that you don't get that from Eversource, then what would be plan B?

THE WITNESS (Centore): So plan B, the only portion of the alternate site that would impact the Eversource easement is the turnaround at the very end of the access drive. And we would need to reconfigure that portion of the turnaround back off of the Eversource easement.

MR. NGUYEN: And as of today, have there been any update regarding the agreement with Eversource?

MR. BALDWIN: There is nothing new
beyond what has been reported in the record, Mr.

Nguyen.

MR. NGUYEN: With respect to the backup power, the response to Interrogatory Number 24 indicated that the battery backup would provide uninterrupted power and prevent a reboot condition. Could you explain what that is?

Response to number 24.

(Inaudible.)

MR. NGUYEN: I beg your pardon?

THE WITNESS (Parks): Tim Parks from

Cellco. When power is lost at a site, the backup

battery will be first to kick on to keep the site

powered as the generator is powering up which

typically takes 10 to 15 minutes. Once the

generator is up to speed, then the generator will

take over.

MR. NGUYEN: Okay. Regarding Wetland
Number 1 and considering the alternate location,
the Council on Environmental Quality questioning
whether or not the proposed site can move to
further north and northwest within the proposed
lease area. I'm not sure if this alternate site
has addressed that, but have you took a look into

that?

Gustafson from All-Points. I can talk about the potential for wetland impact and then maybe others from the team can address moving the alternate location. But from a wetland impact perspective we're providing -- the alternate facility is providing a nondisturbed buffer of 50 feet that's existing forested habitat. And we are providing additional best practices during construction, including installation of appropriate erosion control measures as well as a wetland protection plan.

And then in addition to that, we are providing a buffer enhancement planting plan that will improve the understory habitat, buffering the alternate facility from Wetland 1, to include a variety of native wetland buffer shrubs that will enhance various functions and values of the buffer zone, particularly wildlife habitat, as well as water quality renovation. So we feel that this plan adequately protects, you know, the function and value of Wetland 1, and the project would not result in an adverse effect to that wetland system.

1 MR. NGUYEN: Okay. My apologies, let 2 me go back to the backup power. Would there be a 3 shared use of a backup generator should there be 4 future carriers? 5 THE WITNESS (Parks): Tim Parks from 6 Typically Verizon likes to install their 7 generator for our own use, so we would prefer not 8 to share the generator. 9 MR. NGUYEN: And you indicated earlier 10 that there was no inquiry from any other carriers 11 or even the towns. 12 THE WITNESS (Parks): Correct. To this 13 point, there has been no interest shown from any 14 other carrier or, I'm sorry, emergency services. 15 MR. NGUYEN: Okay. Mr. Morissette, 16 that's all I have. 17 Thank you, gentlemen. 18 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mr. Nguyen. 19 We will now continue with 20 cross-examination of the applicant by Mr. 21 Golembiewski. 22 Mr. Golembiewski. 23 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Morissette. I have maybe eight questions. 24 25 hopefully it will be quick.

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First question I guess it would be for the RF engineer, Shiva Gadasu. I noticed in the site search summary there was a town, I guess, police department communications tower sort of in the southeast part of the search area. I was just wondering, I know it said that it was not a viable alternative, but I was wondering if that included considering increasing the height of that existing tower or putting a larger tower in that location.

THE WITNESS (Gadasu): So this is Shiva Gadasu. So going further southeast than the existing, you know, plots we have submitted, you know, the coverage will overlap with our existing sites which we don't want to in this case.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. So you're saying there would have been too much, even if you raise the tower, there would have been too much overlapping and not enough to fill the intended gap in coverage?

THE WITNESS (Gadasu): Correct.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: All right. I think I had one more question. Let's see. No, I think that's the only one for you.

So visibility, if that was Mr. Gaudet,
I had a question in regards to visibility. To the

northwest there are a series of state properties, including Mattatuck State Forest, Humaston Brook State Park and Northfield Pond. How would you characterize the views from those state properties of the proposed tower?

THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Very minimal.

This is Brian Gaudet with All-Points. So yes, to the northwest there you can see, if we're looking at the viewshed map, you've got Northfield Pond called out, and that's the only predicted area of any visibility. We are predicting year-round visibility from the pond itself, so on that western shoreline, if you will, you would likely have some year-round views. Throughout the rest of the forest, again, with the thick tree cover, relatively low height of this facility, there would be no views anticipated from the rest of the state forest area.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. Thank you.

And then also I guess, you know, the visibility
from the nearby neighborhoods, including Atwood
Heights and Mason Hill Road, with the alternative
I believe you said to Mr. Silvestri that -- or no,
Mr. Mercier, that there really would be no
substantial change to the views from these nearby

neighborhoods.

THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Yeah, it's a very minor change. Let me just look at my notes here. The total visibility of the proposed location, it does increase slightly from the original as far as seasonal views go, and that's primarily just moving it up to the north so you get some additional visibility to the north. And again, it extends a little bit further down Mason Hill, but the characteristics of those views, certainly throughout the residential neighborhoods to the east, residential properties to the west as well, north and west, will remain essentially the same as what was predicted with the original location.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: And I guess I was wondering if the site was selected also because there was these transmission lines there and monopoles already there that sort of, you know, I guess, maybe, and I don't want to say camouflaged, but because there was infrastructure there or not, was that part of maybe this site being a preferred site?

THE WITNESS (Gaudet): I didn't participate in the site search itself, but I can

1 speak certainly to the visibility and then I can 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

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pass it off to another team member. But, I mean, you've got pretty substantially tall transmission lines running through that right-of-way north and south throughout the study area. And they're visible from the majority of the areas where we could see the balloon during the field test. So there is a bit of context putting a monopole in that location with, you know, considering that you've got these structures that are within about 15 feet of the height above ground level as to what the proposed tower is.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. Thank you. This question would be for Mr. Centore. I know as I looked through the application that Litchfield zoning regs require that a tower be set back a distance equal to one-half the times the height of the tower from a lot line or road. And I know Mason Hill Road is, you know, right northerly along this. I don't believe there's a way to meet that requirement. But I guess does the hinge point assure that the tower would not in a catastrophic failure fall onto the road?

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: So would that sort

THE WITNESS (Centore): It would, yes.

of meet the spirit, I guess, of that zoning requirement?

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THE WITNESS (Centore): It would. And it has in the past when we've had that limitation set.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. Great. Μy last few questions, I guess, would be for Mr. Gustafson. And I had a question in regards to the Wetlands Protection Program that's in the impact analysis. Is that, I guess, would there be an objection to that being a condition of the Siting Council approval? I know you guys mentioned it and I know it's in the plan. I guess I'm sort of a DEEP enforcement guy, so I always try to make sure that whatever, you know, approval there is, is that we can enforce. If you say you're going to do that, you know, is that, I guess, are you voluntarily doing it, or would you object to that being specifically identified in any type of license?

THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Dean
Gustafson for All-Points. We have no objection,
speaking on behalf of the applicant, of providing
that as an enforceable item. And our intent would
be to incorporate those notes into the D&M plan so

they would be part and parcel of the D&M plan and eventually the construction drawings so the contractor is fully aware of those obligations.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: I like that, Mr. Gustafson. Thank you. So I had one more question -- I have two more, maybe for you, or one maybe for Mr. Centore. I know we were talking about the buffer wetland enhancement plantings. Isn't it standard that after a year that you would check survivorship and then replace those plants that did not survive the initial year?

THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes, that would be standard. And again, for the D&M plan we'd provide full sequencing and construction notes for the wetland buffer planting plan as well as post-construction monitoring requirements. So we would have at a minimum at least an inspection a year after planting to ensure survivorship.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: And then I'm assuming that the plants would be installed by hand and not with equipment in that area.

THE WITNESS (Gustafson): That would be our intent is that there isn't a lot of plantings and it is a sensitive area. So we would just be looking for hand labor to install those plants.

1 And we can include that as part of the construction sequence notes to limit and restrict 2 3 it to that. 4 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. That would be 5 appreciated. I think finally, I don't know if 6 this is you, Dean, or Mr. Centore, but I did see 7 that there's a proposed level spreader at the 8 terminus of the riprap swale on the north side. 9 An actual specification for that would be included 10 in the D&M plan, yes? 11 THE WITNESS (Centore): That is 12 correct. 13 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: With appropriate 14 design for size and energy dissipation? 15 THE WITNESS (Centore): Correct. 16 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. That would be 17 all my questions, Mr. Morissette. Thank you. 18 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mr. 19 Golembiewski. 20 With that, we're going to take a break 21 and we'll reconvene at 3:35. And we have one 22 outstanding question from Mr. Silvestri that we 23 can address when we return, and then we'll 24 continue with cross-examination from myself. 25

Thank you, everyone. We'll see you at 3:35.

1 Thank you. 2 3 (Whereupon, a recess was taken from 4 3:22 p.m. until 3:35 p.m.) 5 6 MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. We're back. 7 Thank you, everyone. Is the court reporter with 8 us? 9 THE COURT REPORTER: I sure am. Thank 10 you. 11 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. 12 Okay. Do we have a response to Mr. 13 Silvestri's open question? 14 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Morissette, we 15 actually have, we double backed on our notes, and 16 we wanted to respond to two homework assignments, 17 if we could. The first was with respect to Mr. 18 Mercier's question about the Northfield Reservoir 19 and the visibility from there, whether there were 20 any recreational uses in that area. And Mr. 21 Gaudet can address that now. 22 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Attorney 23 Baldwin. 24 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Brian Gaudet 25 with All-Points. So the Northfield Reservoir does

1 have some recreational uses, sounds like some 2 hiking trails, walking trails, picnic tables. I 3 believe it's stocked with some fish as well by the 4 state. Regardless of the recreational value of 5 that location, the only views that are 6 anticipated, and I'll point to photo 27 from 7 attachment 9 in the application, would be from the dam itself. There's significant drop-off in 8 9 elevation down below the dam sort of at the lake 10 level where the intervening vegetation would block 11 out any potential views of the facility from that 12 location. 13 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mr. Gaudet. 14 Mr. Mercier, any follow-up? MR. MERCIER: No, thank you. That was 15 16 good. 17 MR. MORISSETTE: Very good. Thank you. 18 MR. BALDWIN: And then, Mr. Morissette, 19 we had a question about the switching station in 20 Windsor, and Mr. Gadasu can address that now. 21 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Attorney 22 Baldwin. Please continue. 23 THE WITNESS (Gadasu): This is Shiva 24 Gadasu. So the switch itself has, you know, a 25 redundancy, but if it has to fail, the backup in

1 this case, this site goes to Windsor switch, and the Westborough switch location acts as a backup. 2 3 MR. MORISSETTE: Very good. Mr. 4 Silvestri, any follow-up? 5 MR. SILVESTRI: No. Appreciate the 6 homework assignment. Thank you. 7 MR. MORISSETTE: Very good. Thank you, 8 Mr. Silvestri, and thank you, Mr. Gadasu. 9 Mr. Gadasu, while I've got you, I will 10 commence with my questions. I would would like to 11 go to, kind of follow on Mr. Silvestri's questions 12 relating to the proposed and existing coverage map 13 and section, I think it's 6, of the application. 14 And similar to Mr. Silvestri's question, there is an area to the southwest and it's Humaston Park, 15 16 and it seems to be in a valley, Thomaston Game 17 Club, that whole area. Could you explain why the 18 coverage doesn't extend to that area? 19 THE WITNESS (Gadasu): Yes. So this is 20 Shiva Gadasu again. So as it is in a valley, the 21 RF signals cannot pass through the terrain. 22 MR. MORISSETTE: Can you please confirm 23 that it is in a valley? I was just assuming that 24 it was because it didn't have any coverage. 25 THE WITNESS (Gadasu): I believe you

1 are referring to the east of Northfield Road, 2 State Highway 254? 3 MR. MORISSETTE: Yes, to the west, to 4 the southwest. It's that whole white area. 5 THE WITNESS (Gadasu): Okay. I see 6 that now. Yeah, that is true. Anything which is 7 not colored it is not covered due to terrain. 8 MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. So it's a 9

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valley and therefore it's not getting that far to the west. Okay. Thank you for that response.

I would like to move on to wetlands, Mr. Gustafson. My understanding now that the access road is being relocated in the alternative arrangement that Wetland 2 is basically out of the picture now and there's no concern at all. Could you confirm that for me?

THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Dean Gustafson from All-Points. That's correct. With the elimination of the access through the Eversource right-of-way, which the entrance of that existing gravel access for the maintenance, the Eversource maintenance off of Mason Hill Road, Wetland 2 is proximate to that location, we are well removed from that location now.

MR. MORISSETTE: Great. Thank you.

Moving on to Wetland 1, in the filing of April 27th on page 4 it says minor grading, tree clearing and installation of soil erosion control measures will result in temporary work occurring within 25 feet of Wetland 1. Could someone describe in a little bit more detail as to what type of work that will be?

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THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Dean Gustafson, All-Points. That work would consist of providing some vegetation clearing around the proposed compound, particularly the eastern and southern portion of the compound that face Wetland 1, and then providing an area -- and it's generally about within 10 feet of the proposed retaining wall will be the installation of erosion sedimentation control measures. What we would likely recommend in this instance is using compost filter sock. That will help minimize some of the ground disturbance and provide better protection than just installation of a silt fence by itself. So that would be kind of the characteristic of that type of activity within that area.

MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. If I look at the drawing, ALT-1.1, if I understood you correctly, basically the extent of the work

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zone.

or --

brush?

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25 amount of actual tree removal for this project.

activity would be along where the proposed wetland

approximately what you're referring to as 10 feet?

figure, the ALT-1.1 drawing, essentially the limit

of disturbance associated with construction of the

facility is earmarked by a jagged zigzag line that

kind of passes through the buffer enhancement

the extent you're going to be performing tree

interrupt. Again, Dean Gustafson. The tree

DBH or greater, that there is a fairly minor

clearing is clearly noted on ALT-1.1, and that's

consistent with our inspection of this property

during our original wetland investigation is that

the mature trees, and these represent trees 6 inch

clearing though, it doesn't appear that there's a

whole lot of trees to clear. Am I misreading that

THE WITNESS (Gustafson): No.

MR. MORISSETTE: -- is there mostly

THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Sorry to

THE WITNESS (Gustafson): So on that

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. Great. So to

buffer enhancement area is, that line. Is that

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And as you'll note within kind of the wetland buffer enhancement zone where that LOD line is, the zigzag line, there are a couple of trees on the eastern and southeastern side of the proposed retaining wall. Those should be able to, we should be able to protect those and retain those post-development. So yeah, there isn't a lot of tree clearing for this particular facility.

MR. MORISSETTE: Very good. Great.

Thank you. Just one other clarification. You mentioned that it was on that same drawing there's a 25-foot buffer from Wetland 1, but you mentioned a 50-foot wetland buffer to the tree wetlands. So it's not shown here on this map or this drawing, but it would be almost in the center of Wetland 1 if I go in another 25 feet, am I looking at that properly?

THE WITNESS (Gustafson): I'm not 100 percent clear on your question. For the original facility we did provide a 50-foot nondisturbed buffer essentially for that. And there's really, that reference is just for kind of perspective on the application. There isn't any regulatory significance behind that. The town does regulate a 100-foot upland review area, so we do have that

1 on the mapping. The 50-foot that we referenced in 2 the original application was just kind of a 3 reference point to show that for the original 4 location that we were able to maintain essentially 5 a 50-foot non-disturb zone for that project. And 6 this one is being reduced to 25 feet. 7 MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. I must have 8 misunderstood because I thought earlier you said 9 that there would be a 50-foot buffer to the 10 wetland tree area, but that's not the case, I 11 misunderstood? 12 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): That's not 13 the case. 14 MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. So it's 25 feet, period? 15 16 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): That's 17 correct. 18 All right. Very good. MR. MORISSETTE: 19 Thank you. I'm glad I clarified that. 20 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): You're 21 welcome. 22 MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. My question on 23 the yield point has been asked and answered. 24 Mr. Gaudet, in the visual analysis, 25 again, I had extreme difficulty finding those

1 little red arrows. It was like where's Waldo. 2 Could you kindly in the future make them, you 3 know, big and bold so I don't have to hunt and 4 peck all over the -- I did finally find them after 5 three tries. 6 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Some of these 7 are tucked pretty good behind the trees, so we'll 8 take a closer look at that next time. 9 MR. MORISSETTE: Very good. Ι 10 appreciate that. That pretty much concludes the 11 questions that I had for this afternoon. So with 12 that, we are done for the hearing for this afternoon, and the Council will recess until 6:30 13 14 p.m. Well, actually, before we do this, let's 15 just go back and see if anybody else has any 16 follow-up questions before we recess for the 17 afternoon. 18 Mr. Mercier, do you have any follow-up 19 questions? 20 MR. MERCIER: I have no additional 21 questions. Thank you. 22 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mr. 23 Mercier. 24 Mr. Silvestri, do you have any 25 follow-up questions?

1 MR. SILVESTRI: I'm all set, Mr. 2 Morissette. And I appreciate the panel clearing 3 up my confusion. Thank you. 4 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. Mr. 5 Nguyen, any follow-up questions? 6 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: You're muted, I 7 think. MR. NGUYEN: Thank you. I was talking 8 9 to myself. Thank you. About the technology, is 10 Cellco proposing 5G for this particular site? 11 THE WITNESS (Gadasu): This is Shiva 12 Gadasu. Yes, we are. 13 MR. NGUYEN: Okay. Thank you. That's 14 all I have. Thank you. MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Mr. Nguyen. 15 16 Mr. Golembiewski, any follow-up 17 questions? 18 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: No follow-up. Thank 19 you, Mr. Morissette. 20 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. And I have 21 no follow-up questions. 22 So with that, the Council will recess 23 until 6:30 p.m., at which time we will commence 24 with the public comment session of this remote 25 public hearing. So thank you, everyone. We'll

see you at 6:30. (Whereupon, the witnesses were excused, and the above proceedings were adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

CERTIFICATE FOR REMOTE HEARING

I hereby certify that the foregoing 72 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original stenotype notes taken of the PUBLIC HEARING before the CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL IN RE: DOCKET NO. 513, CELLCO PARTNERSHIP d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY LOCATED AT PARCEL NO. 258-10C-001, MASON HILL ROAD, LITCHFIELD, CONNECTICUT, which was held before JOHN MORISSETTE, PRESIDING OFFICER, on May 4, 2023.

Lisa L. Warner, CSR 061 Court Reporter

Lisa Warelle

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