



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
*CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL*

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**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

March 20, 2023

Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq.  
Robinson & Cole LLP  
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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.

Dear Attorney Baldwin:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than April 10, 2023.

Please submit an original and 15 copies to the Council's office and an electronic copy to [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov). In accordance with the State Solid Waste Management Plan and in accordance with Section 16-50j-12 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Council requests all filings be submitted on recyclable paper, primarily regular weight white office paper. Please avoid using heavy stock paper, colored paper, and metal or plastic binders and separators. Fewer copies of bulk material may be provided as appropriate.

**Please be advised that the original and 15 copies are required to be submitted to the Council's office on or before the April 10, 2023 deadline.**

Copies of your responses are required to be provided to all parties and intervenors listed in the service list, which can be found on the Council's website under the "Pending Matters" link.

Any request for an extension of time to submit responses to interrogatories shall be submitted to the Council in writing pursuant to §16-50j-22a of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Sincerely,

Melanie Bachman  
Executive Director

Service List dated March 2, 2023

**Docket No. 513**  
**Pre-Hearing Interrogatories**  
**Set One**

**General**

1. Is the project, or any portion of the project, proposed to be undertaken by state departments, institutions or agencies, or to be funded in whole or in part by the state through any contract or grant?
2. Referencing Application Attachment 4, of the letters sent to abutting property owners, how many certified mail receipts were received? If any receipts were not returned, which owners did not receive their notice? Were any additional attempts made to contact those property owners?
3. Referencing Application p. 22, how is the construction cost of the facility recovered?
4. Referencing Application p. 20, how many Town officials/area residents attended the December 6, 2022 public information meeting? What concerns were raised by residents and town officials and how were these concerns addressed? What was the date and time of the subsequent balloon float?

**Site Search**

5. Did Cellco issue a Site Acquisition Request Form (SARF) for the facility? If yes, provide a copy of the SARF.
6. Were the properties at 282 and/or 352 Mason Hill Road, Litchfield considered for telecommunications use?
7. Were the transmission line structures in the site area considered for telecommunications use?
8. Are small cells a feasible alternative to a new tower? Estimate the number of pole-mounted small cells that would be required for reliable service within the proposed service area. Would certain frequencies be limited through the use of small cells? What would be the cost of each small cell for both the use of existing utility poles and new poles specific for small cells. What type of equipment would be attached to each pole?

**Site/tower**

9. What measures are proposed for the site to ensure security and deter vandalism? (Including alarms, gates, locks, anti-climb fence design, etc.)
10. Pursuant to CGS §16-50p(a)(3)(G), identify the safety standards and/or codes by which equipment, machinery or technology that would be used or operated at the proposed facility. What structural design codes apply to the tower and antenna mounts?
11. What is the maximum wind speed tolerance for the antennas on the proposed monopole?

12. Referring to Application p. 14, what is the distance and direction to the nearest residence not owned by the lessor?
13. Referring to Application p. 8 and Attachment 14, would Cellco require an agreement from Eversource to cross or utilize the Eversource right-of-way for access to the site? If yes, has an agreement been reached? Is the right-of-way gated?
14. Referring to Application Attachment 14, how many acres of the total 0.59 acres of the Prime Farmland Soils would be disturbed by the proposed project?

### **Coverage/Capacity**

15. Application Attachment 6 indicates other frequencies will be installed in addition to the 700 MHz frequency, Does the 700 MHz frequency act as the “base frequency” of the network where most of the wireless traffic occurs? How do the other frequencies interact in Cellco’s wireless system?
16. What is the signal strength for which Cellco designs its system? For in-vehicle coverage? For in-building coverage?
17. Can coverage objectives be met by installing antennas at a lower tower height? Identify the lowest possible antenna height and describe how this height would affect coverage needs and/or capacity relief within the service area.
18. Can flush-mounted antennas be installed at the site to provide the required coverage? Describe any antenna/tower modifications that would be required to achieve coverage objectives.
19. What type of statistics/indicators does Cellco use to determine there is substandard service in this area?
20. Application p. 8 provides the overall coverage footprint for different frequencies that would operate at the site. Does this data include areas that are covered by other adjacent Cellco sites and would overlap with coverage from the proposed site? If yes, what is the coverage footprint of new, reliable service from the proposed site?
21. In addition to coverage, would the proposed site also provide capacity relief to adjacent Cellco sites that are at or near exhaustion? If yes, provide information regarding these sites (location, sector, and frequency).

### **Backup Power**

22. Page 7 of Attachment 2 to the application references a natural gas-fueled generator. Is natural gas available in the site vicinity?
23. What would be the run time for Cellco’s proposed generator before it would need to be refueled, assuming it is running at full load under normal conditions?
24. Is a backup battery system also proposed? If yes, how long can it provide power to Cellco’s equipment if the backup generator failed to start?

## **Public Safety**

25. Would the proposed facility support text-to-911 service? Is additional equipment required for this purpose?
26. Would Cellco's installation comply with the intent of the Warning, Alert and Response Network Act of 2006?
27. Is the proposed facility located within a Department of Energy and Environmental Protection designated Aquifer Protection Area or within a public water supply watershed area?
28. Besides the backup power source, what other facility equipment generates noise? Would the noise from this equipment (non-backup power sources) comply with Department of Energy and Environmental Protection noise control standards at the property boundaries?
29. What is the distance between the proposed tower and the nearest edge of the Eversource right-of-way? Any there any restrictions/NESC clearance requirements on how close the tower can be to the to the right-of-way and/or transmission lines?

## **Environment**

30. Referencing Site Plan C-5, Erosion and Sediment Control Sequence, provide the following;
  - a. Note 4 states in part, "latest date of the Council on Soil and Water Conservation". Clarify.
  - b. Note 5 states in part "Stabilized to the Satisfaction of the Town Staff". Clarify.
  - c. Note 7 refers to siltation fence to be placed where indicated but the Site Plans do not show locations of erosion control measures. Clarify.
31. Referencing Application Attachment 13, when would Cellco submit the cultural resource study to the State Historic Preservation Office?
32. Estimate the amount of cut and fill required to develop the proposed facility.
33. Referencing Application Attachment 9, Visual Resource Assessment, estimate the number of residences that would have seasonal and/or year-round views within 0.5 miles of the proposed facility.
34. Submit photographic site documentation with notations linked to the site plans or a detailed aerial image that identifies locations of site-specific and representative site features. The submission should include photographs of the site from public road(s) or publicly accessible area(s) as well as Site-specific locations depicting site features including, but not necessarily limited to, the following locations as applicable:

For each photo, please indicate the photo viewpoint direction and stake or flag the locations of site-specific and representative site features. Site-specific and representative site features include, but are not limited to, as applicable:

- a. wetlands, watercourses and vernal pools;
- b. forest/forest edge areas;
- c. agricultural soil areas;
- d. sloping terrain;
- e. proposed stormwater control features;
- f. nearest residences;

- g. Site access and interior access road(s);
- h. tower location/compound;
- i. clearing limits/property lines;
- j. mitigation areas; and
- k. any other noteworthy features relative to the Project.

A photolog graphic must accompany the submission, using a site plan or a detailed aerial image, depicting each numbered photograph for reference. For each photo, indicate the photo location number and viewpoint direction, and clearly identify the locations of site specific and representative site features shown (e.g., physical staking/flagging or other means of marking the subject area).

The submission shall be delivered electronically in a legible portable document format (PDF) with a maximum file size of <20MB. If necessary, multiple files may be submitted and clearly marked in terms of sequence.