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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 515

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 East of the Student Transportation
Parking Lot at 180 School Road, Wilton, Connecticut.

Zoom Remote Council Meeting (Teleconference),
on Thursday, June 29, 2023, beginning at 2 p.m.

H e l d B e f o r e:

JOHN MORISSETTE, Member and Presiding Officer

1 **A p p e a r a n c e s :**

2 **Council Members:**

3 **JOHN MORISSETTE, (Hearing Officer)**

5 **BRIAN GOLEMBIEWSKI,**

6 **DEEP Designee**

8 **Quat Nguyen,**

9 **PURA Designee**

11 **ROBERT SILVESTRI**

12 **ROBERT HANNON**

14 **Council Staff:**

15 **MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.,**

16 **Executive Director and Staff Attorney**

18 **IFEANYI NWANKWO,**

19 **Siting Analyst**

21 **LISA FONTAINE,**

22 **Fiscal Administrative Officer**

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

2 **For CELLCO PARTNERSHIP d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS:**

3 **ROBINSON & COLE**

4 **280 Trumbull Street**

5 **Hartford, Connecticut 06103**

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

7 **KBaldwin@rc.com**

8 **860.275.8345**

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1 (Begin: 2 p.m.)
2
3

4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Good afternoon, ladies and
5 gentlemen. Can everyone hear me okay?

6 Very good, thank you.

7 This remote public hearing is called to order
8 this Thursday, June 29, 2023, at 2 p.m. My name
9 is John Morissette, member and presiding officer
10 of the Connecticut Siding Council. Other members
11 of the Council are Brian Golembiewski, designee
12 for Commissioner Katie Dykes of the Department of
13 Energy and Environmental Protection; Quat Nguyen,
14 designee for Chairman Marissa Paslick Gillett of
15 the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority; Robert
Hannon; and Robert Silvestri.

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

20 If you haven't done so already, I ask that
21 everyone please mute their computer audio and
22 their telephones now.

23 This hearing is held pursuant to the
24 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
25 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative

1 Procedure Act upon an application from Cellco
2 Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for a
3 certificate of environmental compatibility and
4 public need for the construction, maintenance, and
5 operation of a telecommunications facility located
6 east of the student transportation parking lot at
7 180 School Road in Wilton, Connecticut.

8 This application was received by the Council
9 on March 17, 2023. The Council's legal notice of
10 the date and time of this remote public hearing
11 was published in the Wilton Bulletin on April 20,
12 2023.

13 Upon this Council's request, the Applicant
14 erected a sign in the vicinity of the proposed
15 site so as to inform the public of the name of the
16 Applicant, the type of the facility, the remote
17 public hearing date, and contact information for
18 the Council, including website and phone number.

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

23 The parties and intervenors to this
24 proceeding are as follows. The Applicant, Cellco
25 Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless; its

1 representative, Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esquire, of
2 Robinson & Cole, LLP.

3 We will proceed in accordance with the
4 prepared agenda, a copy of which is available on
5 the Council's Docket Number 515 webpage, along
6 with the record of this matter, the public hearing
7 notice, instructions for public access to this
8 remote public hearing, and the Council's Citizen's
9 Guide to Siting Council's Procedures.

10 Interested persons may join any session of
11 this public hearing to listen, but no public
12 comments will be received during the 2 p.m.
13 Evidentiary session. At the end of the
14 evidentiary session, we will recess until
15 6:30 p.m. for the public comment session. Please
16 be advised that any person may be removed from the
17 remote evidentiary session or public comment
18 session at the discretion of the Council.

19 The 6:30 p.m. public comment session is
20 reserved for members of the public who sign up in
21 advance to make brief statements into the record.

22 I wish to note that the Applicant, parties,
23 and intervenors, including their representatives,
24 witnesses, and members, are not allowed to
25 participate in the public comment session. I also

1 wish to note for those who are listening, and for
2 the benefit of your friends and neighbors who are
3 unable to join us for the remote public comment
4 session, that you or they may send written
5 statements to the Council within 30 days of the
6 date hereof, either by mail or by e-mail, and such
7 written statements will be given the same weight
8 as if spoken during the remote public comment
9 session.

10 A verbatim transcript of this remote public
11 hearing will be posted on the Council's Docket
12 Number 515 webpage, and deposited in Town Clerk's
13 office in Wilton for the convenience of the
14 public.

15 Please be advised that the Council's project
16 evaluation criteria under the statute does not
17 include the consideration of property values.

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

20 We now move to the administrative notice
21 taken by the Council. I wish to call your
22 attention to those items shown on the hearing
23 program marked as Roman numeral 1B, items 1
24 through 81. Does the Applicant have an objection
25 to these items that the Council has

1 administratively noticed?

2 Good afternoon, Attorney Baldwin.

3 Do you have any objection?

4 MR. BALDWIN: Good afternoon, Mr. Morissette.

5 No objection from the Applicant.

6 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Attorney Baldwin.

7 Accordingly, the Council hereby
8 administratively notices these existing documents.

9 Will the Applicant present its witness panel
10 for purposes of taking the oath, and we'll have
11 Attorney Bachman administer the oath?

12 Attorney Baldwin?

13 MR. BALDWIN: Thank you, Mr. Morissette. Again, for
14 the record, Kenneth Baldwin with Robinson & Cole
15 on behalf of the Applicant, Cellco Partnership
16 doing businesses for Verizon Wireless.

17 Our witness panel is partially here and
18 partially remote. To my left, your right, is
19 David Weinpahl. Dave is a professional engineer
20 with On Air Engineering, and they are the project
21 engineer for this docket.

22 To my right is Tim Parks, a real estate and
23 regulatory specialist with Verizon Wireless.

24 To Tim's right is Brian Gaudet with
25 All-Points Technologies Corporation. On the Zoom,

1 we also have Dean Gustafson, a senior wetland
2 scientist and professional soil scientist with
3 All-Points Technology.

4 And last but not least, Shiva Godasu, who is
5 a radio frequency engineer with Verizon Wireless,
6 and I offer them to be sworn at this time.

7 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Attorney Baldwin, and
8 good afternoon, everyone.

9 Attorney Bachman, will you please administer
10 the oath?

11 MS. BACHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Morissette.

12 D A V I D W E I N P A H L,

13 T I M O T H Y P A R K S,

14 B R I A N G A U D E T,

15 D E A N G U S T A F S O N,

16 S H I V A G O D A S U,

17 called as witnesses, being sworn by

18 THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, were examined and
19 testified under oath as follows:

20

21 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Morissette, we have five exhibits
22 listed in the hearing program under section Roman
23 2B, items 1 through 5. And I'll ask my witnesses
24 if they could verify those exhibits by answering
25 the following questions.

1 Did you prepare or assist in the preparation
2 of the exhibits offered in this docket by the
3 Applicant? Mr. Weinpahl?

4 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes.

5 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Parks?

6 THE WITNESS (Parks): Yes.

7 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Gaudet?

8 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Yes.

9 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Gustafson?

10 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes.

11 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Godasu?

12 THE WITNESS (Godasu): Yes.

13 MR. BALDWIN: And do you have any corrections or
14 modifications to offer to any of the information
15 contained in those exhibits? Mr. Weinpahl?

16 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): No.

17 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Parks?

18 THE WITNESS (Parks): No.

19 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Gaudet?

20 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Yes, it's more of a point of
21 clarification. Attachment eleven, the preliminary
22 historic resources determination.

23 You'll notice that the letter itself is dated
24 January 20th, and the attachment to that document
25 is the cultural resources screen dated March 10th.

1 We had updated the mapping after a conversation
2 with SHPO.

3 At the time of the -- the letter, there was a
4 state-registered property on the northern border
5 of the radius map. That property was determined
6 to no longer be in place, and has since been
7 removed from the state register list. So we
8 supplemented the map there for that reason.

9 MR. BALDWIN: And just so it's clear, that's attachment
10 eleven of the application, which is Applicant's
11 Exhibit 1.

12 Any other modifications?

13 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Nothing else.

14 MR. BALDWIN: Any modifications, Mr. Gustafson?

15 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): No.

16 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Godasu?

17 THE WITNESS (Godasu): No.

18 MR. BALDWIN: And with those corrections,
19 clarifications, and modifications, is the
20 information contained in those exhibits true and
21 accurate to the best of your knowledge?

22 Mr. Weinpahl?

23 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes.

24 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Parks?

25 THE WITNESS (Parks): Yes.

1 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Gaudet?

2 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Yes.

3 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Gustafson?

4 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes.

5 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Godasu?

6 THE WITNESS (Godasu): Yes.

7 MR. BALDWIN: And do you adopt the information
8 contained in those exhibits as your testimony in
9 this proceeding? Mr. Weinpahl?

10 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes.

11 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Parks?

12 THE WITNESS (Parks): Yes.

13 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Gaudet?

14 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Yes.

15 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Gustafson?

16 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes.

17 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Godasu?

18 THE WITNESS (Godasu): Yes.

19 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Morissette, I offer them as full
20 exhibits.

21 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Attorney Baldwin. The
22 exhibits are hereby admitted.

23 We'll now begin with cross-examination of the
24 Applicant by the Council, starting with Mr.
25 Nwankwo, followed by Mr. Silvestri. Mr. Nwankwo?

1 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you, Mr. Morissette. Good
2 afternoon, everyone.

3 I'll start by referring to the Applicant's
4 response to Council Interrogatories Number 24.

5 Has there been any new information from the Town
6 regarding its communications upgrade and
7 co-locating its emergency service antennas on the
8 tower?

9 THE WITNESS (Parks): Tim Parks from Verizon Wireless.

10 I have not heard of any.

11 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. Also, referencing the
12 Applicant's response to Council Interrogatories
13 Number 12, could you please elaborate on how the
14 geotechnical survey is conducted and what kind of
15 equipment will be used?

16 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes, David Weinpahl, On Air
17 Engineering. The geotechnical services will be
18 performed after approvals, should they be obtained
19 here. This would be a soil boring test conducted
20 with a track -- a truck rig would be accessible
21 from the parking lot right to the state power
22 facility.

23 Borings will be taken, logs will be produced
24 and a report prepared, which will be used at a
25 later date for a foundation design.

1 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. Does the total limits of
2 disturbance area as listed in the Applicant's
3 response to Council Interrogatories Number 13,
4 does that include the two existing parking spaces
5 and the replacement parking spaces?

6 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. Again, David Weinpahl.

7 That does include the parking spaces. It also
8 includes the longer electrical telephone routing
9 to the north out to School Road, which is
10 approximately, I think, 800 feet.

11 So we -- we used limited disturbance for that
12 path as well, in addition to the area around the
13 compound, the 60 by 60 compound, and the parking
14 spots.

15 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. Would any large shrubs or
16 trees be affected by the construction of the two
17 replacement parking spaces?

18 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Again, David Weinpahl. No,
19 there that area is fairly well open. It's
20 relatively flat, slight sub-grading. I don't
21 believe there's any significant trees that would
22 have to come out as part of that relocation.

23 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. Will the Applicant install
24 any signs or demarcations to indicate that the two
25 parking spaces in front of the site are strictly

1 used for the facility access?

2 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes, we will, but they will be
3 striped off as no parking or for bus purposes,
4 which the Town had agreed upon.

5 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. How would construction
6 activities impact the operation of the bus parking
7 lot?

8 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. Again, David Weinpahl.

9 I don't expect any major operations to this. The
10 buses -- the buses are there most of the day,
11 other than taking morning and afternoon trips --
12 that they're there overnight. This is why we
13 reserve two spaces.

14 During construction of the facility, we may
15 work with them to maybe have one or two buses
16 temporarily relocated, perhaps for a crane and
17 stacking of the tower, but regular maintenance for
18 this facility would only require a regular field
19 technician pulling up to the facility, maybe
20 unloading some equipment to a cabinet.

21 We didn't take up a lot of room here, but we
22 also left enough that just general operations
23 could be conducted.

24 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. What frequency band would
25 Cellco allocate for its 5G service?

1 THE WITNESS (Godasu): This is Shiva Godasu. The 5G
2 technology we are deploying at this site is
3 C-band, which is about 3.7 gigahertz.

4 MR. NWANKWO: Sorry. Did you say 3700?

5 THE WITNESS (Godasu): Yeah, 3700. Yeah.

6 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. What is the estimated
7 distance of the alternate electric telco service
8 connection south of the compound as referenced on
9 sheet C1 of attachment 1?

10 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. Again, David Weinpahl.
11 The south path would be approximately 500 feet.
12 That could be just a telephone path, or it could
13 be both a combination electric and telephone path.

14 There is already an existing transformer on
15 the northern end of the facility beyond -- behind
16 the maintenance garage. So there may be a
17 preference by the utility company to let the power
18 be tapped from that location.

19 So it's -- it's going to be either direction,
20 both directions, one or the other, but the
21 500-foot distance is to the south, and the total
22 distance to the north would be 800 feet. That
23 would be for telephone going out to the street in
24 that direction, to the nearest existing utility
25 pole.

1 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. I'm going to refer to the
2 Applicant's response to Council Interrogatory 39.

3 How often would the paint need to be
4 refreshed or recoated?

5 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): What number is that?

6 Thirty-nine?

7 MR. BALDWIN: I'm sorry. Could you repeat the
8 question?

9 MR. NWANKWO: Yes, referring to the Applicant's
10 response to Council Interrogatory 39, how often
11 would the paint need to be refreshed or recoated?

12 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes, David Weinpahl. The pole
13 will be manufactured, and half of them will bake
14 it on. There's different methods. There's no
15 anticipation on when we would have to repaint the
16 structure. It would come fully painted to the
17 color specified.

18 There's extra paint provided when it's
19 shipped because there's always little blotches in
20 the shipping process, but those are touched up on
21 site as the tower is erected. Once that's up, I
22 can't anticipate a repainting schedule that would
23 be needed.

24 MR. NWANKWO: Okay, the paint would not degrade over
25 time -- I mean, over some years?

1 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): I -- I think we'd be a number
2 of years out. I -- I don't -- I don't have a
3 number to go with that in terms of historical
4 data. I don't -- I don't have that, but as a
5 freshly painted structure -- structure I wouldn't
6 anticipate any repainting in, I don't know, ten
7 years, perhaps beyond.

8 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. So how would the topography
9 of the surrounding area impact the coverage from
10 the site?

11 THE WITNESS (Godasu): This is Shiva Godasu. I believe
12 the topography in the area is, you know, it's
13 fairly flat, you know, looking -- looking around
14 the site. Yeah, the site does cover a good
15 portion of the area we want to, and -- yeah.

16 I would say the cover is -- I mean, the
17 topography is, you know, fairly flat.

18 MR. NWANKWO: Okay, so you're not anticipating any
19 hilly terrains that might interfere with your line
20 of sight at any time?

21 THE WITNESS (Godasu): Yeah, not too much, looking --
22 looking at the -- looking at the coverage spots we
23 provided, there are not, you know, there are not
24 too much topography there.

25 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. Do you anticipate that any

1 additional facilities will be needed in this area
2 to provide service in the future?

3 THE WITNESS (Godasu): Not for coverage. I mean, this
4 site will, you know, will help offload, you know,
5 capacity concerns in the area.

6 I mean, it's -- it's more, you know, a
7 capacity site than a coverage site because we --
8 the library, the library sites which are, you
9 know, serving, you know, this, this part of --
10 this part of the town are, you know, fairly
11 exhausted for a long time.

12 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. Considering the proximity of
13 the monopine from the school bus parking area, has
14 the Applicant considered installing a yield point
15 on the proposed monopine tower?

16 And if so, at what height?

17 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes, David Weinpahl once
18 again. The -- the distance to the nearest
19 property line is 165 feet approximately. That's
20 to the eastern property line.

21 And this for, you know, a 123-foot structure,
22 at this point, we -- we didn't see the need to
23 include a yield point. Those could always be
24 added into the design in the future.

25 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. Referencing section 2F of the

1 resource protection plan, this was provided with
2 the response to interrogatories. Has the
3 Applicant determined the location for its
4 equipment staging or storage during construction?

5 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes, again David Weinpahl.

6 Staging would be conducted at the parking lot in
7 the spaces that will be deemed for Verizon's
8 future access. Some storage is available within
9 the limits of disturbance for stockpile of soils
10 and items of that nature.

11 So everything would be within those limits of
12 disturbance right around the facility. There
13 would be no need to store anything on the parking
14 lot itself, and there's plenty of vehicle access
15 to that for all of our equipment to originally
16 construct the tower.

17 MR. NWANKWO: Okay. Thank you. What would be the
18 direction of stormwater runoff within the project
19 area?

20 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): This area is relatively flat
21 around the compound. It grades slightly to the
22 east, and there's -- there's no plans to -- to
23 redirect that in any direction.

24 There will be a slight cross pitch across the
25 compound of 2 percent, and the water will drain in

1 the same direction it is presently.

2 MR. NWANKWO: But what direction would that be?

3 Would that be east?

4 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): To the -- to the east, yes.

5 MR. NWANKWO: Oh, okay. How would this impact the
6 vernal pool?

7 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Good afternoon. This is Dean
8 Gustafson. So the proposed facility and any
9 stormwater runoff is more than a hundred feet away
10 from the nearest vernal pool associated with the
11 nearby wetland area.

12 There's -- the facility is -- doesn't have a
13 lot of impervious surface. It's on land by gravel
14 surface, which will promote infiltration. So we
15 don't anticipate any adverse effect from the
16 minimal amount of stormwater runoff expected from
17 this facility.

18 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. I'll refer to Exhibit 3 of
19 the response to council interrogatories. The text
20 on page 2 of the wetland and vernal pool
21 assessment says that wetland one is 105 feet south
22 and wetland two, which has the vernal pool, is 370
23 feet northwest.

24 But the inspections, the wetland inspections
25 map shows wetland one to the northwest and wetland

1 two to the south.

2 Can the Applicant please clarify?

3 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yeah. Again, this is Dean
4 Gustafson. Yeah, so the text is a little
5 misleading in directions. The wetland one is to
6 the north, northwest. And wetland two, which has
7 the vernal pool one associated with it, is to the
8 south, southeast.

9 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you, just wanted to get that.

10 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yeah, thanks for that
11 clarification.

12 MR. NWANKWO: Referencing the application attachment
13 nine and the updated U.S. Fish and Wildlife
14 Service correspondence that's dated June 20, 2023,
15 the monarch butterfly may also occur within the
16 project area.

17 The Fish and Wildlife Service stated the
18 requirement to determine if the proposed project
19 would have any impact to that species. Has the
20 Applicant coordinated with the Fish and Wildlife
21 Service regarding the monarch butterfly?

22 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Dean Gustafson. So the
23 monarch butterfly is considered a candidate
24 species. It's not a listed species at this time.
25 And as such, there's no requirement for assessing

1 the project impacts for a candidate species, or a
2 consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife for
3 assessing potential impacts to the candidate
4 species.

5 If at such time monarch butterfly is actually
6 listed as either threatened or endangered, we'll
7 update our assessment at that point in time.
8 However, considering the habitat that's
9 surround -- that's located within this facility
10 and surrounding this facility, it's -- it's a
11 relatively forested area. There are not a lot of
12 pollinator species, particularly milkweed located
13 within the project area, which monarch butterfly
14 would use as habitat.

15 So we wouldn't anticipate any adverse effect
16 to monarch butterfly with the development of this
17 facility, should it be listed in the future.

18 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

19 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): You're welcome.

20 MR. NWANKWO: How often would Cellco power cycle the
21 proposed generator?

22 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes, Dave Weinpaul.

23 Exercising the generator, that's typically done
24 every two weeks.

25 MR. NWANKWO: At what intervals would the generator

1 maintenance be done?

2 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): In terms of time during the
3 day, that could be set up to be during daytime
4 hours.

5 MR. NWANKWO: Okay.

6 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): It takes 15 minutes typically.

7 MR. NWANKWO: Excellent. For generator maintenance,
8 like oil changes and just checking on the
9 generator at the site, at what intervals do you
10 anticipate that this will be done?

11 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): I have to think that Verizon
12 is -- is performing those annually.

13 Tim, do you have any?

14 THE WITNESS (Parks): I would have -- Tim Parks from
15 Verizon. I would have to look into that.

16 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. What is usually involved for
17 these generator maintenance, if I could ask?

18 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): It would be just an oil filter
19 check, things along those lines. There are alarms
20 with it. So if there are problems with the
21 generator, the tech, field tech for Verizon would
22 be notified to go out and see what could be wrong
23 with it and why it may not be operating.

24 But outside of those items, it -- it
25 shouldn't need much maintenance. Again, annually,

1 I think is most likely for the review that they
2 would perform.

3 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. Also referring to the
4 resource protection plan, section 3D, could you
5 please elaborate more on the impervious pad with
6 secondary containment for vehicle refueling, and
7 what will be the capacity of that containment pad?

8 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): So Dean Gustafson. There are
9 various methods that can be used for secondary
10 containment. Most typically, what we -- we see
11 across this industry, as well as others, is -- is
12 typically the contractor uses something that's
13 readily available and commercially available, such
14 as like a kiddie pool.

15 So a lot of times, those have a capacity of
16 upwards of 30, 40 gallons. So there they're
17 sufficient for refueling purposes.

18 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. Referencing the viewshed map
19 shown on attachment eight of the application,
20 exhibit 1, could you please characterize the views
21 from residences with potential year-round or
22 seasonal views?

23 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Yes, Brian Gaudet with
24 All-Points. So the residential properties that,
25 one, are evaluated through the viewshed mapping,

1 we also did a pretty extensive field verification.
2 We had the opportunity in this situation to meet
3 on site with a number of residences, primarily to
4 the north, northeast, and northwest of the site.

5 I -- I want to say we walked probably ten
6 residences. In total, there's going to be roughly
7 26 properties with some form of seasonal and/or
8 seasonal and year-round views. There are no
9 properties, no residential properties with
10 year-round only views.

11 The properties to the north that we evaluated
12 in person really are characterized mostly by
13 seasonal views, particularly at the second
14 location. The -- the crane was pretty difficult
15 to spot in the field. This was in the middle
16 of -- middle of January. So full leaf-off
17 situation, clear day, and it was -- it was pretty
18 difficult to pick out, especially at distance.

19 It was mostly masked behind the intervening
20 vegetation. There's plenty of intervening
21 vegetation, especially those properties to the
22 north, but also the properties to the south.

23 I would say it's -- the characterization
24 would be mostly seasonal in these situations.

25 MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank

you, Mr. Morissette. That's all my questions.

THE WITNESS (Godasu): This is Shiva Godasu. If I may?

I just want to clarify my statement on the --

about terrain around the area. I just

double-checked, and I see it's -- it's mostly

flat, but you know, going, you know, east of the

site onto Route 7, you know, which -- which is

in -- in a valley. The terrain drops, like, 150

feet from -- from the proposed tower.

And you know we don't have any

And you know, we don't have any terrain

blocking between, between the tower and Route 7.

So the signal gets pretty good without any, you

know, interference in between.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Godasu.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for the clarification.

Mr. Nwankwo, are you good with the response?

MR. NWANKWO: Yes, absolutely. Thank you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. We'll now continue

with cross-examination by Mr. Silvestri, followed

by Mr. Nguyen. Mr. Silvestri?

MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you, Mr. Morissette, and good

afternoon, everyone.

Just a quick followup to Mr. Nwankwo's

question about exercising the generator. Would

that be done remotely?

1 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): I believe that's set up in the
2 control panel that would -- it would automatically
3 exercise by itself at a set time during the day.

4 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you for your response. Then if I
5 could have you refer to the June 21, 2023,
6 submittal that has the site layout in L-2?

7 The question I have is, what is the distance
8 from the proposed cell tower to that existing
9 above-ground diesel tank?

10 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): We do not have a dimension on
11 the plan. If I can just perform a quick scale, I
12 can look at -- it's in the -- from the tower
13 itself?

14 MR. SILVESTRI: From where the tower is proposed to the
15 existing above-ground diesel tank?

16 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): We're going to need the
17 two-hundred (inaudible) --

18 MR. SILVESTRI: Your response got cut off. Could you
19 repeat that, please?

20 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): I'm just going to confirm an
21 approximate dimension for you.

22 Approximately 240 feet.

23 MR. SILVESTRI: Thank you. The reason I ask the
24 question goes back to the hinge point or yield
25 point, however you want to refer to it. I just

1 wanted to make sure that it's more than 123 feet
2 away from where the proposed tower would be
3 placed. So thank you for your response.

4 Staying on that drawing, the two new bus
5 parking spaces, it's noted that there will be
6 asphalt. For the one that's leftmost on that
7 drawing, is there actually sufficient space to
8 move a bus in and out without interfering with the
9 cars that might be parked in that corner area?

10 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes, there would be. We -- we
11 did walk this on-site with members of the
12 transportation department, with the school.

13 They looked at these locations with us and
14 deemed these would be appropriate for them to park
15 the buses in those spots.

16 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Thank you for that response.

17 But staying with that drawing for one more
18 question where you have the arrow that has the
19 hundred-foot wetland buffer limit. There is a
20 whitish rectangular box, if you will, just to the
21 right of the proposed two new bus parking spaces.

22 What is that rectangle?

23 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): I believe that's a bus in the
24 photograph. Is it yellowish looking?

25 MR. SILVESTRI: Oh, on mine it's white.

1 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Oh, okay.

2 MR. SILVESTRI: Yeah, it didn't show up on attachment
3 one, which is the colorized drawing, which is why
4 I was asking what it was on the site layout for
5 L-2.

6 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yeah, it's -- it's part of the
7 parking lot. It looks like from the aerial
8 imagery that was used here, it's actually a parked
9 bus in that spot at that given moment.

10 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Thank you.

11 Then if we could go back to the responses for
12 interrogatories number 25 and 26. It stated that
13 under normal loading conditions, the proposed
14 generator could operate for about 168 hours before
15 refueling.

16 The question that I have was, was that run
17 time based on a thousand gallons of propane?

18 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes, that was.

19 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay.

20 So here's the question. How many gallons of
21 propane are in a thousand-gallon tank?

22 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): About 800.

23 MR. SILVESTRI: Right. So the question I have is, was
24 the run time based on a thousand gallons? Or was
25 it based on 800 gallons?

1 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Oh, I'm sorry. It was based
2 on the -- the tank capacity, which is for the
3 thousand-gallon capacity.

4 We have 800 gallons of propane available.

5 MR. SILVESTRI: Just want to make sure that that's
6 clarified. Okay. Thank you.

7 Then if you can look at the photo logs that
8 we have, specifically photo number 17. And if you
9 could pull that up, I'll pose the question to you?

10 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Silvestri, are we talking about the
11 photo log included in the attachment to the
12 interrogatories? Or the ones -- the photo log in
13 the application itself?

14 MR. SILVESTRI: I pulled out the sheet, Attorney
15 Baldwin -- so let me see where I pulled it out
16 from. Bear with me a second.

17 MR. BALDWIN: We have more photographs in this docket
18 than we know what to do with.

19 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay.

20 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): If you're looking at the photo
21 with the -- of the bus yard, that would be from
22 the field review.

23 MR. SILVESTRI: Yeah, this -- this is the bus yard.
24 And thanks for the quick response, because my
25 computer is a dinosaur and it takes a long time to

1 load things. So if you do have photo 17 that has
2 the bus yard, could you tell me what those yellow
3 and red dots are on the pavement?

4 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): This is Brian Gaudet with
5 All-Points. I've been to this site numerous
6 times. As far as I can tell there, they're not
7 markouts for, you know, Call Before You Dig or
8 anything like that. There's no labeling on them.

9 So it's a question that I don't have a full
10 answer to, but they don't appear to be anything,
11 anything sort of outright specific that would be
12 impacting any facility design.

13 MR. SILVESTRI: All right. Let me pose the question
14 another way. The yellow and red dots have nothing
15 to do with this proposed project?

16 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Correct.

17 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. Thank you. All right. Now
18 within Exhibit 3 to the interrogatory responses
19 that are dated May 18, 2023, there is the resource
20 protection measures section.

21 And if you pull that up there's section
22 three, petroleum material storage and spill
23 prevention. And the question I have, will that
24 whole section be amended should the project be
25 approved to include emergency response contact

1 information, agency contact, reporting templates,
2 et cetera?

3 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Dean Gustafson, yes. Yeah,
4 we'll -- we'll amend that, those items, should the
5 Council approve this application during the D and
6 M plan.

7 MR. SILVESTRI: Very good. Thank you.

8 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): You're welcome.

9 MR. SILVESTRI: And my last question or questions deal
10 with the expected coverage. And again, we're
11 going to look at the coverage maps that are there.

12 And first off, if I heard correctly earlier,
13 that the 5G would be at 3700 megahertz.

14 Is that correct?

15 THE WITNESS (Godasu): This is Shiva Godasu.

16 That is correct.

17 MR. SILVESTRI: That is correct? Okay. So in my mind,
18 as you go higher in the megahertz designation,
19 there's less distance covered.

20 THE WITNESS (Godasu): That is true.

21 MR. SILVESTRI: Okay. So here's where I'm puzzled. If
22 I look at the proposed coverage for the 3550
23 megahertz and the 5G, which is at 3700 megahertz,
24 I can understand the limited coverage for the
25 3550, but I'm actually surprised at the distance

1 that's shown for the 5G. And typically I've seen
2 smaller footprints.

3 So the question I have, is there any reason
4 why 5G appears so broad, at least in my opinion?
5 Or is there some type of interaction that might be
6 going on with other sources?

7 THE WITNESS (Godasu): Oh, that -- that is a very good
8 question. So the difference between, you know,
9 the 3550 megahertz and 3700 megahertz is, you
10 know, the antennas we are using. For 3700
11 megahertz -- have higher gain, so they can travel
12 further even at, you know, at higher frequencies.

13 MR. SILVESTRI: Oh, okay. I thank you very much for
14 that response.

15 Mr. Morissette, that's all the questions that
16 I have. And I thank the panel for their
17 responses. Thank you.

18 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Silvestri. We'll
19 now continue with cross-examination of the
20 Applicant by Mr. Nguyen, followed by
21 Mr. Golembiewski. Mr. Nguyen?

22 MR. NGUYEN: Thank you, Mr. Morissette. And good
23 afternoon, everyone. Let me just start with a few
24 follow-ups. There was a discussion earlier
25 regarding the communication with the Town. And

1 the answer is, to date, the company has not
2 received any communication.

3 So the question is, do you need the town
4 confirmation in order to reserve a space on the
5 tower? Or is it already included in the design
6 for future use?

7 THE WITNESS (Parks): Tim Parks from Verizon. When and
8 if the Town reaches out to Verizon, to install any
9 kind of equipment on our tower we would -- we
10 would sign a lease, negotiate and sign a lease
11 with them. And they would install whenever
12 they're ready.

13 We're certainly not going to rush them to do
14 that. They could do that whenever they'd like to
15 do. They could even do it now if they had to.

16 MR. NGUYEN: And has there been any requests from other
17 carriers?

18 THE WITNESS (Parks): Not to my knowledge. Tim Parks
19 from Verizon. Not to my knowledge.

20 MR. NGUYEN: Now regarding the decision to deploy a
21 monopole in this docket, what dictates that
22 proposal? And has that been in agreement with the
23 Town?

24 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): I missed the first part. If you
25 could just repeat that first part of the question?

1 MR. NGUYEN: Yes, the company chose monopine for this
2 particular project. And the question is, what
3 dictates that proposal in the monopole, and
4 whether or not the Town has provided any input?

5 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Yeah, in this -- again, Brian
6 Gaudet with All-Points. This case, the monopine
7 was really dictated by the visibility. When we
8 did our evaluation, we looked at two locations.
9 We looked at an original location.

10 We had a crane up for four hours there. We
11 then brought the crane down and moved it to what
12 is now the proposed location and put it up for
13 another four hours.

14 During that time, I -- I mentioned before, I
15 walked numerous residential properties with the
16 homeowners, you know, from front to back of
17 parcels, looking to see what was visible, what
18 wasn't. Where could you see it? Where couldn't
19 you?

20 In this case, the tree coverage here that
21 exists today is pretty thick. There's enough of
22 intervening vegetation. And with the relatively
23 low height of this tower design, a monopine would
24 really blend in, really help to kind of soften
25 those views for a lot of these residential

1 properties that would be impacted.

2 I took it a step further when I was on site
3 with these, with these folks and asked directly,
4 you know, should -- should a tower get approved at
5 this location, what would be your preference as
6 far as design? Would you want a monopole? Would
7 you want a monopine, or something else?

8 And the consensus there was that the monopine
9 would be more acceptable. So that, that really
10 kind of drove the design option here to move
11 towards a monopine -- a monopole.

12 MR. NGUYEN: And I'm just curious, how would the
13 monopine blend in during the off-leaf condition?

14 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): It will -- it will blend pretty
15 well. There are -- there's not a tremendous
16 amount of conifers in that area, particularly to
17 the north, again the neighborhood to the north,
18 probably stretching back about nine properties
19 from the -- the proposed location. There happen
20 to be stands of conifers in between a number of
21 these residential properties and in between their
22 yards. So from there, it will really blend in
23 well.

24 Again, the topography here, one, we've got a
25 couple factors. The tree height in this area is

1 pretty substantial, 70- to 80-foot tall trees.
2 Again, the tower height is relatively low. The
3 branching will extend 128 feet, but the angles
4 that -- you'll be able to see this facility from
5 streets, from properties. A lot of them are
6 looking up towards the tower, which would make
7 it -- the perspective essentially will make it
8 blend in with those trees.

9 It won't appear to stick, you know, 40 feet
10 above the treeline. If you were just to look at,
11 you know, an 80-foot tree height versus 128-foot
12 tower. So there's a benefit with -- with the
13 slight topography in this area, again combined
14 with the tree height that exists today, that it's
15 going to blend in very well.

16 MR. NGUYEN: Switching gear to backup power. In case
17 of a commercial power failure, what's the delay
18 time before the backup generator is activated?

19 Does it automatically power itself?

20 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): It's a setting in the control
21 panel, but it could be as little as two or three
22 seconds to sense there's no utility power and
23 confirming there's no utility power. And then the
24 transfer switch will -- will kick into gear and
25 transfer the load over.

1 MR. NGUYEN: Should that prevent a reboot condition
2 with the battery backup?

3 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Nothing would need -- need to
4 be rebooted -- rebooted.

5 MR. NGUYEN: And then for the record, could you explain
6 what the route condition is that was explained in
7 question number 24?

8 Or answer to question number 24?

9 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Nguyen, did you say interrogatory 24?

10 MR. NGUYEN: I'm sorry. Question number 24?

11 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Question number 24.

12 MR. BALDWIN: I'm just now looking and not finding that
13 language in 24. So you're asking -- again, you're
14 asking about the equipment's need to reboot if
15 commercial power is interrupted to the facility?

16 MR. NGUYEN: Yes, I am going to 24 -- oh, my apology.

17 It is not 24. There was an answer to the
18 interrogatory regarding the backup, the battery
19 backup. And it mentioned that the purpose of the
20 battery backup, to prevent the reboot condition.

21 My apology. I am guessing number 24 was
22 wrong -- but did you recall if there's an answer
23 regarding the battery backup?

24 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Maybe 27.

25 THE WITNESS (Parks): Tim Parks with Verizon. Should

1 we lose power to the site, the battery would
2 immediately kick in while the backup generator
3 took about 15 minutes to power up.

4 At which point, once the generator was at
5 full power it would take over from the -- for the
6 battery.

7 MR. NGUYEN: So is it fair to say that reboot --
8 preventing reboot condition means that they're
9 preventing the reset of the entire system?

10 THE WITNESS (Parks): That is correct, yes.

11 MR. NGUYEN: Okay. My apologies for not referencing
12 that number correctly. Is there natural gas
13 available in the area, for the record?

14 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): We did not see any at site
15 close by.

16 MR. NGUYEN: And you mentioned that the company would
17 remotely monitor the site. Is it located -- is
18 the remote center located in Connecticut? Or is
19 it out of state?

20 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): These are remotely monitored
21 from Verizon's, one of their switch facilities.
22 And --

23 THE WITNESS (Parks): I believe -- Tim Parks from
24 Verizon. I believe the switch that monitors the
25 site would be in Wallingford, Connecticut.

1 MR. NGUYEN: Okay. Thank you. Now regarding the
2 technologies, and I know there was some discussion
3 regarding the 5G, and I just want to clarify that
4 Verizon provides 5G and 5G ultra wideband.

5 Is that correct?

6 THE WITNESS (Godasu): This is Shiva Godasu.

7 That is correct.

8 MR. NGUYEN: And the 5G that we are talking about,
9 that's what the company is proposing? Is the
10 company proposing to deploy 5G ultra wideband at
11 this time?

12 THE WITNESS (Godasu): So -- so we are not proposing 5G
13 ultra wideband at this location.

14 MR. NGUYEN: Okay. And should the company deploy it in
15 the future, can this tower accommodate that?

16 THE WITNESS (Godasu): Yes, it -- it will.

17 MR. NGUYEN: How so? Is it simply changing out
18 equipment? Or do you --

19 THE WITNESS (Godasu): Yes, just simply -- simply
20 adding, you know, an extra set of antennas on
21 each, each face.

22 MR. NGUYEN: And what will be, you know, regarding the
23 future, what would drive that decision to deploy
24 5G ultra wideband?

25 THE WITNESS (Godasu): So -- so the current, you know,

1 set of antennas we use for, you know, the 5G ultra
2 wideband, you know, they are -- they are not used
3 for, you know, high -- high tower locations. We
4 are only using those currently, you know, on, you
5 know like, small-scale facilities in dense urban
6 areas.

7 I -- we have some in Hartford, some in Rhode
8 Island, but they are -- there they are just on
9 utility poles and some on, you know, low rooftops.
10 We are not anticipating any on, you know, high --
11 high tower structures, because the coverage from
12 those antennas, you know, is -- is fairly small.
13 You know, in comparison, there they are more like
14 small cells, but not -- they're not, you know,
15 coming up for macros at any -- any foreseeable
16 future.

17 MR. NGUYEN: Okay. Well, thank you, gentlemen. And
18 that's all I have, Mr. Morissette. We'll now
19 continue with cross-examination of the Applicant
20 by Mr. Golembiewski, followed by Mr. Hannon.

21 Mr. Golembiewski?

22 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Morissette. I only
23 have a few questions.

24 I guess I'll start with Mr. Gustafson. My
25 question to you is, as I look at the vernal pool

1 one, the migration to the pool, it looks like it
2 would be from, I guess, east of the parking area
3 coming down from the south.

4 And then, it looks like there's a large area
5 of forested -- uninterrupted forest to the south
6 and southeast. So would those be the main
7 migration areas to the vernal pool?

8 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Dean Gustafson. Yes, I agree
9 that the primary vectors of -- of migration from,
10 you know, all -- all we found in this pool are
11 wood frogs. So it would be wood frogs migrating
12 in and out of this pool; would be from the
13 adjacent mature forested habitat.

14 Primarily, you know, there's also forested
15 wetland habitat that extends to the east, kind of
16 northeast, from the delineated portion of wetland
17 two. And then beyond that is the fairly large
18 uninterrupted upland forested habitat. So those
19 are -- provide optimal habitat for wood frog for
20 usage outside of the breeding season. So those
21 would be the principal migratory vectors.

22 Now in our -- in our wetland and vernal pool
23 protection plan where -- we do anticipate
24 potential migration intercepting the proposed
25 construction area. So we've included a protection

1 plan for vernal pool species to isolate out the
2 limited disturbance from the construction site to
3 avoid any incidental effects for possible
4 migrating -- migratory species from the vernal
5 pools.

6 But you know, the habitat surrounding the
7 existing bus storage facility, and particularly a
8 narrow forested band that exists between that and
9 the adjacent residential commercial developments
10 to the north, you know, could potentially provide
11 some suboptimal habitat, but we don't expect that
12 to be a principal migratory vector.

13 But we are -- we are providing protection
14 measures just in case.

15 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. What about permanently? So
16 if the new compound is, sort of, in a narrow --
17 it's sort of a narrow area between this Knapp
18 Tree -- I'm looking at Google Earth. There's like
19 Knapp Tree Service or Knapp Tree property, and
20 then you have the entirety of the -- the bus
21 parking area.

22 If a wood frog was migrating through, would
23 they avoid the compound naturally? Or if they
24 went across it, would there be any harm to them
25 for crossing it, to them crossing it? I mean, I

1 know there's no vehicles in and out generally.

2 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Right. Yeah, Dean Gustafson.

3 Yeah, I mean, you're alluding to a potential
4 effect that, you know, we would assess for a
5 project where there's, you know, an inhabitation
6 where there would be vehicle traffic associated
7 with it.

8 Obviously, these type of facilities are not
9 inhabited. They're only maintained approximately,
10 you know, once a month by a service technician.
11 That would occur within an existing parking lot,
12 that it sees regular traffic. So from that
13 perspective, the facility would have no effect on
14 those, on wood frogs population.

15 With respect to the actual compound itself,
16 you know, a wood frog would -- would naturally
17 have some aversion to getting into the compound
18 because there isn't a lot of cover for them. So I
19 think you wouldn't necessarily not -- never see
20 any wood frog in there, but there their natural
21 instincts would kind of drive them around that
22 compound.

23 Certainly, the fencing and the facilities
24 within the compound wouldn't prevent them from
25 migrating through the compound, or injure them if

1 they did perhaps go through the compound.

2 It's a relatively small area, so as far as
3 concerns like desiccation, you know, if they had
4 to travel through hundreds and hundreds of feet of
5 impervious surface, you know, that may be
6 something else to consider, but there wouldn't be
7 any adverse effect for a migratory vernal pool
8 species with a compound position.

9 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. So no permanent barriers like
10 around a storm basin, you know, detention basin
11 are necessary here?

12 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): That's right. Yeah, we -- we
13 don't have any stormwater features that could act
14 as a decoy pool. So there, there are no concerns
15 in that respect.

16 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. Do you know if the southeast
17 corner of the parking area, does that drain
18 towards the pool? Or does the parking area drain
19 towards School Road?

20 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): So the southeast corner of
21 the parking lot, it's -- there's no hard drainage
22 structures. It's all soft drainage sheet flow off
23 of it. So there is a little bit of concentration
24 and discharge off that corner of the existing bus
25 parking area, and there's a little bit of an

1 eroded swale that drains into wetland two and, you
2 know, and actually feeds some hydrology to the
3 interior of the vernal pool.

4 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. But it's not a water quality
5 issue at this point?

6 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Well, it's certainly off of
7 that, you know, that paved surface. You know,
8 there there is some water quality -- at least
9 potential for water quality impact to that wetland
10 and that vernal Pool.

11 I don't think it's significant.

12 I mean, we didn't find it was a terribly
13 productive vernal pool. We only found, you know,
14 a relatively small amount of wood frogs in there.
15 Now that may be a result of the development of
16 that bus parking lot, taking up some forested
17 habitat and creating potentially some water
18 quality issues. There could be some association
19 with that, but the -- the proposed facility is
20 going to be gravel based.

21 It will infiltrate quite a bit of any
22 precipitation, and there isn't a lot of impervious
23 surface associated with the proposed compound,
24 fenced compound. So with respect to Verizon's
25 proposal, we don't see it contributing

1 significantly to any water quality issues.

2 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. So if I had to make a
3 recommendation, it would be to the Town, not you?

4 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes, yeah. I mean, there's
5 certainly potential for improving some of the
6 runoff, stormwater runoff and some, you know, some
7 treatment. You know -- but yeah, that would be up
8 to the Town to take up, yeah.

9 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: You're not making it any worse,
10 essentially?

11 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): That's correct.

12 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Thanks. My next question, I'm not
13 sure who to pose it to, but I had a question on
14 the design of the monopine.

15 To me, esthetically, it has a bottle-brush
16 look to it. And I was wondering if whoever would
17 respond to this, if you could go to photo 34 in
18 the visibility study. I was trying to find -- I
19 guess, I want to ask questions as to, are there
20 options when you order one of these to make it
21 look more natural?

22 Because in photo 34, you have the simulated
23 monopine, and then right next to it, to the right
24 of it are some taller pine trees -- and I don't
25 know. Maybe it's just me, but the difference

1 between the natural and the proposed monopine
2 seems very stark to me.

3 And I don't know if there was a way to make
4 the branches as you go up and down a little more
5 irregular or difference in length. I'm not sure
6 if that has a problem, you know, if that causes
7 problems with, sort of, the stability of it
8 against the wind, but I don't know.

9 To me, it just seems very artificial.

10 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): This is Brian Gaudet,
11 All-Points. I'll speak to it from a visibility
12 standpoint, and then perhaps Mr. Weinpahl can
13 speak to it from a structural standpoint.

14 Yeah, looking at photo 34, I see those two --
15 two pines that are in the foreground of the tower.
16 You know, one of -- one of the considerations in a
17 monopine design is obviously trying to mask the
18 appurtenances on the tower as best as possible.
19 So you do -- you do tend to need a thicker
20 branching style in order to provide that cover,
21 but they -- they can be designed, I mean, pretty
22 custom-made.

23 You can have alternating lengths in branches.
24 You can make it look a little bit less -- less
25 "formed," is the word I'll use.

1 In the interrogatory responses, I want to say
2 it was exhibit -- what exhibit was this again?
3 Exhibit 4. We actually provided two photos of
4 towers that were recently built; one approved
5 under Docket 498 that's in Cheshire, and one under
6 487 in New Canaan.

7 Both of these designs were pretty intricate,
8 pretty custom, especially in Docket 487. I
9 have -- I have driven by that New Canaan structure
10 a number of times, and you can't really see it.

11 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Yeah, they seem to have a little
12 more taper to them.

13 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Yes, yeah. Yeah, it's, you
14 know, when we're -- when we're doing photo
15 simulations at the, you know, a very preliminary
16 stage before design is truly accepted or approved,
17 we tend to lean a little bit more generic on the
18 design.

19 But again, you know, in Docket 487, I think
20 it was, you know, three branches per foot. It's a
21 very thick, very full, you know, conical-looking
22 pine tree.

23 I think what's difficult in the photo
24 simulations, again, with that tree coverage we
25 don't get to see the full, full extent of the

1 tower down through the photos. It does -- it does
2 extend. It does, you know, kind of fan out at the
3 bottom a little bit -- but yes, I mean, these can
4 be designed pretty much however we want them to
5 be.

6 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. Well, I appreciate that.

7 Thank you. And that's all I have, Mr. Morissette.

8 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Golembiewski.

9 We'll now continue with cross-examination by
10 Mr. Hannon, followed by myself. Mr. Hannon?

11 MR. HANNON: Thank you, Mr. Morissette. I do have a
12 few questions. A couple of them are just sort of
13 clarification to get something on the record.

14 In the application, on page 15 and 16, it
15 talks about preparing a vernal pool survey and
16 submitting under separate cover. I just want to
17 confirm for the record that this was Exhibit 3 in
18 the May 18, 2023, filing?

19 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Dean Gustafson.

20 Yes, that's correct.

21 MR. HANNON: Okay. And then on page 20, the first full
22 paragraph at the end it talks about following an
23 analysis and a consultation with neighbors and the
24 Town, Cellco determined that it would be willing
25 to relocate the tower site to the proposed

location and the proposed development of a monopine tree.

So the location of this particular application right now is consistent with what the Town and the neighbors had requested?

THE WITNESS (Parks): Tim Parks from Verizon.

That is correct.

MR. HANNON: Thank you. Moving onto in section one, map C3 shows a profile for a buried cable trench. Map C6 deals with the typical electrical trench detail.

The Cellco trench that's being discussed right now, I guess it hasn't been finalized -- but running to the north and the west towards School Road around the bus parking lot. Can you tell me which one of those trenches would most likely be applicable?

And the reason I'm asking is just because of, sort of, the width to get a better understanding of what is going to be constructed in that area for the trenching?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes, Dave Weinpahl. One

trench detail is for -- it's for grounding around the tower and the compound. That would be detail three, C6. Detail four is your combined electric

telephone trench. That would be more applicable to what would be installed and proposed here.

MR. HANNON: Okay. Thank you. But sort of staying in that general area, in looking at the May 18, 2023, submission -- I think it might have been back in the application itself. Bear with me for a second.

No, I take it back. My apologies.

In section ten of the application, under the wetlands delineation field form, we're dealing with wetland number one. It talks about under the class section, primarily located in a forested setting with areas of historic alteration as evident by the dominance of invasive species present and cleared scrub-shrub habitat.

So the area that is being proposed for the telco line, can you please give me a little better understanding of what that territory is currently like? I mean, is it mostly forested?

Are there invasive species in that area?

THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Dean Gustafson. That that area is -- there are some younger trees or saplings in that area, but it's mainly shrub growth. And there is a dominance of invasive shrubs within that area, predominantly along the

1 proposed underground utility.

2 MR. HANNON: Okay. And the reason I want to sort of
3 bring that up is because of how the trench would
4 be constructed. I'm assuming there would be some
5 type of backhoe in there, or something along those
6 lines.

7 So would you need to be taking down some of
8 the existing tree coverage and thereby opening up
9 a wider area that may be more subjective to
10 invasive species moving in once that's covered
11 back up?

12 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): I'm going to jump in here too,
13 Dean, for a second, though.

14 Because I recall this area being a little bit
15 of a lawn area that actually abuts up to the
16 wooded area. So the trenching isn't going
17 directly through the wooded portion as shown in
18 the map. It -- it opens up a little bit and
19 there's a lawn area that we were following towards
20 the back end of the maintenance shed. That would
21 be the location for the conduits, not -- not a
22 trench through the -- thorough the wooded area.

23 MR. HANNON: Okay. So then you're saying that the
24 trench is mostly through a grassed area?

25 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes, it is. I recall it being

1 that way. I would have designed it that way as
2 well, or if not had stated otherwise.

3 Apologize for that, Mr. Hannon.

4 MR. HANNON: I'm just trying to get it clear in my
5 head --

6 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Oh, yeah. Sure.

7 MR. HANNON: -- exactly what we're working with,
8 because what I was concerned about is anytime you
9 go into a forested area, you start taking out
10 trees and things of that nature, you open up the
11 possibilities of invasive species moving in.

12 And being that close to a wetland area and a
13 vernal pool, you just want to make sure that
14 you're not creating some problems there. So
15 that's why I'm asking, but thank you. That helps.

16 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yeah, I'll just add in. Dean
17 Gustafson. So within -- certainly within the
18 upland areas buffering all, really all the
19 wetlands on this property, the understory is
20 dominated by invasives already.

21 So while I agree that's -- that is a concern
22 anytime you're creating soil disturbance,
23 particularly either within or adjacent to a
24 forested edge, it does provide a vector for
25 invasives to -- to get into those unaltered

1 habitats.

2 But I think for this particular site, because
3 of the existing development, the existing
4 invasives, particularly in the woody understory,
5 the shrub layer, that isn't a particular concern
6 with this property.

7 MR. HANNON: Okay. Thanks. I'm just trying to, you
8 know, get a better feel for the lay of the land.
9 So I appreciate the answer.

10 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Yeah. Mr. Hannon, if I may?
11 It's Brian Gaudet with All-Points. I don't know
12 if you have the -- the remote field review, which
13 was the final exhibit in the response to
14 interrogatories, but I can point you to a couple
15 of photos that show you what that edge habitat
16 looks like, along where the -- the proposed
17 trenching would be.

18 There's photos 4B, which is kind of a shot
19 down close towards the School Road entrance, the
20 access drive.

21 MR. HANNON: I think we have that.

22 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): Photo twelve is pretty
23 indicative of what the -- what the area looks like
24 running along the curve from the parking lot to
25 the northwest there. There is -- the shrubs start

probably a few feet off of that curve area. So there's, you know, kind of mixed gravelly, rocky, semi-grassed with running that whole length of that curve up towards the school bus building.

And then the last one I'll point you to is photo 21, which gives you a little bit more where you can see that there is -- there's a little bit more width of grassed area in and around the school bus building there on the northern part of the property.

MR. HANNON: No, I thank you for that. I do have the photo, so I do have a better understanding.

So thank you.

THE WITNESS (Gaudet): You're welcome.

MR. HANNON: My next question, this is related to question number twelve in the interrogatories.

The question being that it's unclear at this point in time, if there would be any blasting associated with any of the work on the site.

Is that correct?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes, David Weinpahl. That that's correct. I've -- I've walked the area several times. There's not large boulders that are visible, or ledge outcroppings that would indicate that we would be hitting significant

1 ledge at a shallow depth.

2 Again, that would be determined in the
3 geotechnical engineering at a later stage, but at
4 this point based on what we've seen in that wooded
5 area, we're not anticipating blasting.

6 MR. HANNON: I mean, and the reason I'm asking is
7 having dealt with blasting in projects in the
8 past. Do you know if any housing or even the
9 schools in this area are based on well and septic?

10 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): I believe they're well, they're
11 all well and septic -- I believe.

12 MR. HANNON: I mean, that's how I would probably
13 understand this area to be. So again, the only
14 reason I'm asking is because one of the things
15 I've seen is if blasting did have to be done, I'm
16 just wondering if you would be planning on doing
17 any sort of neighborhood outreach to protect both
18 them and the company in any blasting.

19 So that there are pre-inspections on
20 basements, walls, things of that nature so that
21 everybody is on the same page and knows that there
22 is or is no damage associated with the blasting.
23 So it's not something I need an answer on now, but
24 it's something you may want to take into
25 consideration should blasting be required.

1 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): I was involved in a similar
2 docket recently where the -- the blasting was
3 suggested by the contractor and it was really for
4 his ease and to speed up the construction
5 timeline, which is understandable.

6 We ended up hammering out the rock, which was
7 in his original plan anyway, and we proceeded in
8 that matter with -- with hammering on -- on his
9 backhoe to remove the rock that was apparently on
10 that other project. That that was something to be
11 deployed here if -- if necessary.

12 We also have other options to actually
13 install different foundations should we hit
14 shallow rock. And that, that's something that
15 could be looked at further on when the -- when the
16 investigation work is done, but I just don't
17 foresee a blasting requirement here.

18 MR. HANNON: Okay. I mean, and that's fine. And I'm
19 just trying to provide some hopefully useful
20 guidance in terms of if there is, there are
21 measures taken to protect everybody including the
22 developer.

23 In Exhibit 3, under the environmental
24 notes -- I think that's where I'm at. In Section
25 2G, it looks as though most of the work that's

1 being proposed on site would incorporate the use
2 of silt fencing. This is just sort of a personal
3 observation I've seen over the years, is that
4 going towards wetland areas silt fencing in and of
5 itself is not really the best type of mechanism to
6 use for trying to control erosion issues.

7 So looking at silt fencing and either adding
8 the straw bales or the fiber rolls or waddles,
9 that would be highly appreciated from my side of
10 things just based on what I've seen over the
11 years.

12 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Dean Gustafson. I -- I
13 agree, Mr. Hannon, with your assessment. With
14 respect to that particular note, we include that
15 in there for -- to include silt fence because we
16 need a physical isolation barrier for possible
17 migratory vernal pool species.

18 But the intent -- and I think it's reflected
19 in the site plans, is the intent is to use both
20 silt fence and compost filter sock. So
21 using/relying more on the compost filter sock for
22 erosion control and filtering of any stormwater,
23 and the silt fence as an isolation barrier for
24 wildlife migration.

25 MR. HANNON: Okay. Thank you. Much appreciated.

1 Then on section three, dealing with petroleum
2 material storage and spill prevention. Has
3 anything been decided as to whether or not there
4 will be any petroleum or hazardous materials
5 storage and refueling on the site?

6 And if so, has there been an area designated
7 on the site where that would occur?

8 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): So I don't think the details
9 have been worked out. I -- I don't believe that
10 there's any intent for fuel storage on site. It
11 would just be within the actual equipment that's
12 being used.

13 And I would anticipate that refueling, we
14 would designate the two dedicated parking spots
15 that we're using for access and then have
16 secondary containment within that area for any --
17 any refueling operations as part of construction
18 of the facility.

19 MR. HANNON: Okay. Thank you. And my final question
20 deals with section five. I'd just like to get
21 sort of a clarification on the language associated
22 with herbicides, pesticides.

23 It talks about utilizing them in accordance
24 with current and integrated pest management
25 principles with particular attention to avoid or

1 minimize applications within 100 feet of the
2 wetlands.

3 So I'm just trying to figure out if the plan
4 is to avoid them completely within the hundred
5 feet of the wetlands, or if it would be used maybe
6 on a very restricted and controlled basis.

7 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Dean Gustafson. So in my
8 25-year experience working with Verizon on
9 their -- their development program and also
10 maintenance of their facilities, I don't believe
11 that as far as vegetation maintenance that they
12 really rely on herbicides or pesticides usage.

13 Any things that I've seen for vegetation
14 maintenance, you know, as far as the fence
15 compounds, stuff climbing on it is just mechanical
16 means they just hand cut. We provide that
17 notation in there for -- to provide for some
18 flexibility in case there is a particularly
19 aggressive invasive species that's affecting the
20 compound.

21 So that they could use a pest -- an
22 appropriate pesticide if needed, but I would
23 anticipate that minimal if to no herbicide or
24 pesticide usage would be associated with these
25 facilities.

1 MR. HANNON: Okay. Thank you. I appreciate
2 everybody's responses. And Mr. Morissette, that
3 completes my questions.

4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you Mr. Hannon. At this
5 point we will now take a break. If everyone could
6 be back by 3:35?

7 And we have one open assignment, I believe,
8 relating to the emergency generator and when
9 maintenance is to be performed. I don't believe
10 that was an affirmative response, but I'll leave
11 that to the break to reconcile what the answer to
12 that is.

13 So we'll see everybody at 3:35. Thank you.

14
15 (Pause: 3:21 p.m. to 3:35 p.m.)

16
17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you everyone.

18 Is the Court Reporter back?

19 THE REPORTER: I am back, and on the record.

20 THE HEARING OFFICER: Very good. Thank you.

21 Okay. Attorney Baldwin, we have one open
22 item to address?

23 MR. BALDWIN: We do, Mr. Morissette. We have an
24 outstanding question regarding maintenance of the
25 generator, and Mr. Parks has the floor.

1 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

2 THE WITNESS (Parks): Tim Parks for Verizon. The
3 answer is that we have a professional vendor who
4 visits every generator every 18 months to make an
5 inspection, verify that it's running properly,
6 change and check fluids, et cetera.

7 As well as every twelve months, or even less,
8 our field techs will do a visual inspection of the
9 generator if there's any kind of breakdown,
10 rusting, whatever it may be -- even, say, a limb
11 or a tree laying on it that has fallen into the
12 compound. That's basically it.

13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Parks.

14 Mr. Nwankwo, does that answer your question?

15 MR. NWANKWO: Yes, thank you.

16 THE HEARING OFFICER: Very good, thank you.

17 Okay. With that, I will ask some questions
18 that I have. I'm going to follow up on
19 Mr. Hannon's questions relating to the Town and
20 the neighbors.

21 Now my understanding is that this is a result
22 of an RFP issued by the Town. As part of that
23 RFP, the site was selected and the Town for some
24 reason chose this site.

25 What I don't know is, did the RFP indicate a

1 monopine? Or did it not specify?

2 THE WITNESS (Parks): Tim Parks from Verizon. I
3 believe this was originally released as a
4 monopole, so I don't believe the RFP specified a
5 monopine.

6 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. So the monopine is
7 really -- based on what I've heard this afternoon,
8 is a result of engaging the neighbors and to
9 address their concerns about views.

10 Is that correct?

11 THE WITNESS (Gaudet): This is Brian Gaudet with
12 All-Points. Yes, it mostly stemmed from the
13 public information meeting we had in town. A
14 number of neighbors came out, a number of
15 residents, and some that I don't believe were, you
16 know, immediate neighbors to the north there, or
17 south.

18 And the -- the main concerns were visibility.
19 How is this going to impact our -- our views when
20 we're sitting out in our back yard on our deck.
21 When my kids are swimming in the pool, are they
22 going to be able to see it?

23 Will I see it from my window?

24 So that prompted at that point -- we had --
25 we had already completed a visibility review of

1 the area, and what we decided to do to -- to get
2 additional feedback and extend the conversation
3 with these neighbors was to perform this, you
4 know, publicly noticed screen test where we looked
5 at two alternatives.

6 One of, you know -- the second alternative,
7 which is what we're looking at today, which is
8 what is in front of you, also came out of that
9 discussion looking to shift that, that tower
10 from -- from the residences which were nearest to
11 the tower to the north, pushing it down a little
12 bit further away from them, from their back yards.

13 So when we did that field work, as I
14 mentioned before, I think we visited probably nine
15 or ten residents; evaluated, like I said,
16 basically every aspect of their -- their property,
17 aside from going inside the residences, sought
18 their feedback and input as to what, you know,
19 what would -- if there was a tower that was going
20 to be put here, what location now that you've seen
21 both -- what would you prefer?

22 And what type of tower design would be
23 your -- I won't say acceptable, but which would be
24 more acceptable to you if you had the choice? If
25 you knew there was something going in, what would

1 you want?

2 And so that's where we came to, just from the
3 majority of them, agreeing that alternate two,
4 which is now what is currently proposed in front
5 of you, designed as a monopole -- as a monopine,
6 sorry, would be the -- the best option.

7 THE HEARING OFFICER: Very good. Thank you.

8 Now has the Town provided any feedback on the
9 monopine? Or is that acceptable to them? I would
10 imagine it wouldn't be, but have they opined on
11 it?

12 THE WITNESS (Parks): Tim Parks from Verizon. Yes,
13 they are acceptable to them.

14 THE HEARING OFFICER: Great. Good.

15 All right. And that's good news. I'm glad.
16 Your outreach efforts with the Town and the
17 neighborhood should be commended to come up with a
18 solution that meets everybody's needs.

19 I'd like to go to the coverage maps in
20 section six, starting with the existing Verizon
21 wireless 700 megahertz. Now the main objective of
22 this project was to cover Route 33, Route 106, and
23 Route 7. So based on this coverage map of the 700
24 existing megahertz, you have a gap on 106 that's
25 clear, and you have a gap going north on 33.

1 Route 7 seems pretty well covered by the existing
2 facilities.

3 Now there's a large coverage gap to the
4 southwest. Now if I turn to the existing and
5 proposed, the coverage gaps on 33 have been met,
6 the coverage gaps on 106 have been met, and you
7 have a stronger coverage on Route 7. So the
8 objectives of the site have been met, but you
9 still have a large gap to the southwest.

10 And I'm curious why that gap is there, and
11 what's going to be done about that gap? Or if
12 anything, does anything need to be done with that
13 gap?

14 THE WITNESS (Godasu): This is Shiva Godasu. So yeah,
15 that is true. The gap you see in the proposed --
16 to the southwest of the site is not there anymore
17 because we just had a new -- new site come on
18 here. It's called New Canaan Northeast 2 -- I'm
19 looking up the docket.

20 It just went on there a few weeks ago, and it
21 does cover that part of the, you know, town.

22 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Morissette, that's the same school
23 tower site that Verizon just --

24 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Yeah, that makes sense.
25 So there's seven existing sites that are covering

1 the town, four of which are in the town. And then
2 we've got the New Canaan site, the St. Luke's
3 site -- that would be eight, and four still in the
4 town. Okay. Well, that addresses that concern
5 very nicely.

6 I'm wondering whether we should have that
7 filed as part of the testimony so that that
8 coverage gap is covered -- but I'm going to take
9 your word for it. I don't want to keep the docket
10 open to address that situation. So very good.

11 Okay. So when the Town chose the site, did
12 Verizon agree with the site? Or was there any
13 discussion about possibly other sites? Or is this
14 pretty much a done deal because it's a pretty good
15 site for a cell tower being where it is?

16 THE WITNESS (Parks): Tim Parks from Verizon. We did
17 consider the -- the wood pole that was owned by
18 Sprint in Ridgefield drive.

19 Unfortunately, it was not tall enough or
20 structurally feasible to install an existing
21 tower. When we inquired with Sprint about
22 extending that and possibly, you know, beefing it
23 up or replacing, they were not willing to do it,
24 so.

25 THE REPORTER: This is the Reporter. I'm getting a lot

1 of background noise. Sorry for the interruption.

2 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Thank you for that
3 clarification. Could you repeat yourself please,
4 the witness panel.

5 THE WITNESS (Parks): Okay. Tim Parks from Verizon.

6 When the project was open, we -- we had
7 investigated the existing 70 foot wood pole owned
8 by Sprint at -- is it 24 and a half Ridgefield
9 Drive?

10 We inquired with Sprint -- because the tower
11 was only 70 feet tall it was not going to work for
12 our RF team. The tower was also not structurally
13 feasible to add our equipment to it.

14 When we inquired with Sprint about beefing
15 the tower up or completely doing a drop-and-swap
16 so that it would be structurally feasible, they
17 were not interested in allowing Verizon to do
18 that. So we walked away from that candidate.

19 That was when we contacted the Town, and they
20 had offered up the parcel that -- the School
21 Street parcel that we had been in lease -- we had
22 leased from them.

23 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Very good.

24 Thank you for that response.

25 Well, I'd like to thank Mr. Nwankwo and the

1 other Councilmembers for asking detailed questions
2 here this afternoon. I think we've covered quite
3 a bit of ground. I'm going to go back and see if
4 anybody has any follow-up questions before we
5 close this afternoon.

6 Mr. Nwankwo, any follow-up questions?

7 MR. NWANKWO: No, thank you, Mr. Morissette.

8 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

9 Mr. Silvestri, any follow-up questions?

10 MR. SILVESTRI: No follow-up questions.

11 Thank you, Mr. Morissette.

12 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

13 Mr. Nguyen, any follow-up questions?

14 MR. NGUYEN: No follow-up. Thank you.

15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

16 Mr. Golembiewski, any followup?

17 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: No. No, follow-up questions.

18 Thank you, Mr. Morissette.

19 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

20 Mr. Hannon, any followup?

21 MR. HANNON: I have no follow-up questions. Thank you.

22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. And I have no
23 followup.

24 So that concludes our session for this
25 afternoon. So the Council will recess until 6:30

1 p.m., at which time we will continue the public
2 comment session of this remote public hearing.

3 So thank you, everyone, and we will see you
4 at 6:30. Thank you.

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6 (End: 3:47 p.m.)
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1 CERTIFICATE

2

3 I hereby certify that the foregoing 72 pages

4 are a complete and accurate computer-aided

5 transcription of my original verbatim notes taken

6 of the remote teleconference meeting of THE

7 CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL in Re: DOCKET NO. 515,

8 CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS

9 APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL

10 COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE

11 CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF A

12 TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY LOCATED EAST OF THE

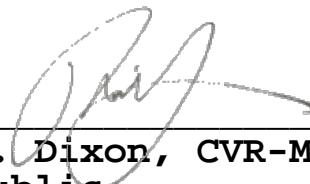
13 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION PARKING LOT AT 180 SCHOOL

14 ROAD, WILTON, CONNECTICUT, which was held before

15 JOHN MORISSETTE, Member and Presiding Officer, on

16 June 29, 2023.

17

18 

19 Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M 857

20 Notary Public

21 My Commission Expires: 6/30/2025

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