

11/16/2023

Melanie A. Bachman, Esq.
Executive Director/Staff Attorney
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: MCM Holdings, LLC Proposed Wireless Telecommunications Tower Facility
288 Simpaug Turnpike (Parcel 12-29), Redding, Connecticut
Docket 517
Intervenor Testimony: DeLuca

Dear Ms, Bachman and the CT Siting Council,

It is the Siting Councils sole responsibility to evaluate the factual need for a cellular communications center tower over its impact on our town's community and its environmental integrity. This proposed tower is to be placed smack in the middle of a pristine 174 acre educational and recreational training camp facility for the Boy Scouts of America. It is also proposed to be erected next to two historical educational farms as well as educational nature schools. It is quite clear that cell towers should not be placed near any child care facility with developing children and that our request is the tower be placed away from any childcare facility.

MCM and Verizon claim there is no viable alternative location. That claim is false. There are plenty of other viable alternatives, the reality is that this location is just "convenient" as they already have a signed lease and a road that is in place. Does it mean it is the safest and best location? Absolutely not. Section 2 of the application site search summary states: "both MCM and Verizon seek to avoid the unnecessary proliferation of towers and to reduce the potential adverse environmental effects of a needed facility," however they are not following their own word and recommendation.

It is the Siting Councils sole responsibility to evaluate the facts.

MCM holdings "claims" that coverage is lacking desperately in the area however their "claims" are not valid as their data is based on coverage maps from 2014. Their decision is based on 10-year-old data. If the coverage was as bad as they claim then why was nothing done about it 10 years ago? This information is reason enough to

deny this application. If there is truly a "lack of coverage" as claimed then why would my Broadband RF Meter clearly show connecting service to 8 antennas? Four of which are Verizon Wireless? Verizon.com's own website shows the current coverage map for our area which shows no issues with coverage at all.

Fast forward to 2023. It is a fact, according to antennasearch.com that within a 3-mile radius of 288 Simpaug Turnpike, the proposed site, there are 44 towers and 79 antennas. In fact, site number 6 is listed as 288 Simpaug Turnpike!

<https://www.antennasearch.com/HTML/search/search.php?address=288+simpaug+turnpike+redding+ct>

Why is that when it has not even been approved yet? This is an overwhelming number of towers and antennas which quite obviously proves that there is no lack of coverage for the area. If MCM and Verizon so desperately need to improve Verizon wireless coverage then they need to add Verizon to all the existing antennas on existing towers. That would be the first thing that should be done before a tower is to be built.

There is also no proof of a lack of service in this area for those of us who have lived and worked in the area. For me personally I have had no problem with my service for the past 12 years. And I have a retail store as well as a residence here so I am present 24/7 every single day. There are no records with the Redding Police Department or the West Redding Fire department indicating any dropped 911 calls hence there is technically no lack of significant service coverage.

It is quite clear that MCM holdings has failed to prove that the need is greater than the adverse effects on our community and environment. There are plenty of other more appropriate and technically viable sites that will have less impact on the community and on the environment. We can specifically recommend Francis J Clarke industrial park and the West Redding Firehouse over a Boy Scout Camp.

If there is a such a need for coverage on Rte. 53 and in the surrounding towns of Bethel and Danbury then put the tower in these locations. Redding has worked tirelessly to keep its Town pristine from development. Our slogan "Small Town, Big Outdoors" will be a disgrace if this tower goes through.

It is imperative that this agency use all practicable means to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony.

This cell tower site does the complete opposite! Is nothing sacred anymore? It is imperative that we as adults protect our children and our environment over money and greed. The lack of safety standards guidelines that the FCC has failed to uphold since 1996 is also a major reason why no cell towers should be erected near young children. There are no current or reputable studies to prove it is safe and that is a fact.

Shame on MCM and Verizon for choosing this location. The Siting council needs to do the right thing and deny this application.

Sincerely,
Dottie DeLuca 4 Long Ridge Rd Redding CT 06896