



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov

Web Site: portal.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 28, 2023

Ann Taylor
Executive Director
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
West Redding, CT 06896
ann@newpondfarm.org

RE: **DOCKET NO. 517** – MCM Holdings, LLC application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at the Boy Scouts of America Camp Hoyt, 288 Simpaug Turnpike (Parcel No. 12-29), Redding, Connecticut. **Request for Intervenor Status.**

Dear Ann Taylor:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your letter of August 25, 2023, requesting Intervenor status for New Pond Farm Education Center in Docket No. 517.

Your request will be placed on the next available meeting agenda, a copy of which will be sent to you. Your attendance is welcome, but is not required. You will be notified of the Council's determination immediately thereafter.

While your request is pending, information regarding Party/Intervenor Status may be accessed on the Council's website at the following link: <https://portal.ct.gov/CSC/Public-Participation/Public-Participation/Public-Participation-Information-Links>

Copies of the application are available at the Redding Town Hall. All documents filed to date are available at the Council's office or on our website under pending matters.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MB/RDM/laf

c: Service List, dated August 15, 2023

From: Ann Taylor <ann@newpondfarm.org>
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 1:10 PM
To: CSC-DL Siting Council <Siting.Council@ct.gov>
Subject: Filing as an intervener Docket #516

Dear Members of the Siting Council,

Please accept the attached letter from New Pond Farm Education Center with regards to Docket #516. We would like to be included as interveners relating to the proposed cell tower on the Hoyt Preserve in Redding, CT.

As you will read, we are not trying to stop the tower, however we would like the Council's assurance that the "compound" around the tower will be as camouflaged with fencing and plantings as possible, and that as few trees as possible be removed between our property line (and trail system) and the compound.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann Taylor, Executive Director
New Pond Farm Education Center



New Pond Farm Education Center

August 2023

To Members of the Siting Council:

New Pond Farm Education Center is an abutting neighbor of the Hoyt Preserve (Camp Hoyt) in Redding. We have an active environmental education center and working farm located on our 102-acre property. Although the Center owns the land, the Redding Land Trust has a conservation easement over 80 interior acres, ensuring that our woodlands and open pastures are preserved.

Our extraordinary property provides us with an array of rich outdoor classrooms--woodlands, wetlands, wildflower meadows, pollinator gardens, and 25 acres of open pastures. Our staff members and volunteers work diligently to maintain these wildlife habitats. *We are not just "open space", as described on the project map.* Our property is enjoyed by the 700 families that are members of the Education Center, students in our general classes and summer camps, and the 5,000 students and teachers that participate in our hands-on field trip programs each year.

We are writing to the Siting Council to express our concern over the positioning of the cell tower that is being proposed for the Hoyt Preserve and its potential impact on our programs and the beauty of our wildlife sanctuary. The site that has been selected by MCM Holdings, All Points Technology, and the Connecticut Yankee Council BSA is close to our property line and within sight of one of our most popular hiking trails.

We are requesting that the Siting Council help mitigate the negative visual effects of the proposed installation. We would like written assurance that the "compound" be surrounded by a fence that obscures the equipment and that this fence be planted-out with evergreens that are at least 8' in height. The plantings should be resistant to deer browsing, and they should be replaced if any of them are compromised to the point of not providing effective screening. We have been told fewer than 20 small trees will be removed near the "compound" for the installation and that other trees and shrubs in the area will be left intact, providing a modicum of additional screening. We have also been told the 150' tower will not have any lighting, *now or in the future*, something else we would like confirmed by the Council.

(Docket # 516)

Sincerely,

Ann Taylor, Executive Director
on behalf of the Board of Directors

101 Marchant Road; West Redding, CT 06896 203.938.2117

Intervenor Status Request Form

Docket No. 517 (ON THE PHONE I WAS TOLD IT WAS DOCKET NO. 516 and I sent an email on 8/25 using the number 516—please accept both of my letters—thank you)

Town: Redding, CT

Date: 8/25/23

Name: Ann Taylor, New Pond Farm Education Center

Address: 101 Marchant Road

City, State, Zip: Redding, CT 06896

Contact Number: 203.938.2117

Email: ann@newpondfarm.org

Manner in which intervenor's participation is in the interests of justice and will not impair the orderly conduct of the proceedings: As the Executive Director of New Pond Farm Education Center, an abutting neighbor, I would like to be sure that the visual effects of the cell tower and surrounding compound will be as minimal as possible. Our environmental education center's trail system runs adjacent to the proposed location of the tower. We are asking the Siting Council to require vegetative screening around the compound's fencing, and to have that screening replaced if and when it is impacted by wildlife or environmental forces. We are also requesting that as little vegetation (trees and shrubs) as possible be removed between our property line and the cell tower compound.

Manner and extent to which intervenor proposes to participate: We are hoping that our letters to the Siting Council, and our face-to-face discussions with the parties involved, will result in the screening that we have requested. If members of the Siting Council feel that we should participate in any meetings, we would be happy to do so.

Statutory authority for intervenor request: None