

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 520

Homeland Towers, LLC and 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 124 Ague
Spring Road, Haddam, Connecticut.

Zoom Remote Public Hearing (Teleconference),
on Tuesday, March 21, 2024, beginning at 6:30 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)**

4
5 **BRIAN GOLEMBIEWSKI,**

6 **DEEP Designee**

7
8 **QUAT NGUYEN,**

9 **PURA Designee**

10
11 **ROBERT SILVESTRI**

12 **CHANCE CARTER**

13
14 **Council Staff:**

15 **MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.,**

16 **Executive Director and Staff Attorney**

17
18 **ROBERT MERCIER,**

19 **Siting Analyst**

20
21 **LISA FONTAINE,**

22 **Fiscal Administrative Officer**

23
24 **DAKOTA LAFOUNTAIN,**

25 **Administrative Support**

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, LLP**

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: 6:30 p.m.)

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3 THE HEARING OFFICER: Good evening, ladies and
4 gentlemen. This hearing is called to order this
5 Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

6 My name is John Morissette, member and
7 Presiding Officer of the Connecticut Siting
8 Council. Other members of the Council are Brian
9 Golembiewski, designee for Commissioner Katie
10 Dykes of the Department of Energy and
11 Environmental Protection; Quat Nguyen, designee
12 for Chairman Marissa Paslick Gillette of the
13 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority; Robert
14 Silvestri; Chase Carter; and Dr. Thomas Near.

15 Members of the staff are Executive Director
16 Melanie Bachman, Siting Analyst Robert Mercier,
17 and Administrative Support Lisa Fontaine and
18 Dakota LaFountain.

19 If you haven't done so already, I'd ask that
20 everyone please mute their phones and computer
21 audios now.

22 This is a continuation of the public hearing
23 that began at 2 p.m. this afternoon. A copy of
24 the prepared agenda is available on the Council's
25 Docket Number 520 webpage, along with a record of

1 this matter, the public hearing notice,
2 instructions for public access to this public
3 hearing, and the Council's citizen's guide to
4 siting council procedures.

5 This hearing is held pursuant to provisions
6 of Title 16 of the Connecticut General Statutes
7 and of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act
8 upon an application from Homeland Towers, LLC, and
9 Cellco Partnership, doing business as Verizon
10 Wireless, for a certificate of environmental
11 compatibility and public need for the
12 construction, maintenance, and operation of a
13 telecommunications facility located at 124 Ague
14 Springs Road in Haddam, Connecticut.

15 A complete application was received by the
16 Council on December 28, 2023. This application is
17 also governed by the Telecommunications Act of
18 1996, which is administered by the Federal
19 Communications Commission. This act prohibits
20 this Council from considering the health effects
21 of radiofrequency emissions on human health and
22 wildlife to the extent the emissions from the
23 towers are within the federal acceptable safe
24 limits standards, which standards are also
25 followed by the State Department of Public Health.

1 The federal act also prohibits this Council
2 from discriminating between and amongst providers
3 of functionally equivalent services. This means
4 that if one carrier already provides service for
5 an area, other carriers have the right to compete
6 and provide service in the same area.

7 The Council's legal notice of the date and
8 time of this public hearing was published in the
9 Haddam Killingworth News on January 18, 2024.

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

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

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 This public comment session is reserved for
24 members of the public who signed up in advance to
25 make brief statements. These limited appearance

1 statements are not subject to questions from the
2 parties or the Council, and members of the public
3 making statements may not ask questions of the
4 parties or the Council.

5 In accordance to the public hearing notice,
6 and in fairness to everyone who has signed up to
7 speak, these public statements will be limited to
8 three minutes. Please be advised that written
9 comments may be submitted by any person within 30
10 days of this public hearing.

11 I wish to note that parties and interveners,
12 including their representatives, witnesses, and
13 members are not allowed to participate in the
14 public comment session. I also wish to note for
15 those who are listening, and for the benefit of
16 your friends and neighbors who are unable to join
17 us for the public comment session, that you or
18 they may send written statements to the Council
19 within 30 days of the date hereof by mail or by
20 e-mail.

21 Please be advised that any person may be
22 removed from the public comment session at the
23 discretion of the Council. We ask each person
24 making a limited appearance statement in this
25 proceeding to confine his or her statements to the

1 subject matter before the Council, and to avoid
2 unreasonable repetition so that we may hear all
3 the concerns you or your neighbors may have.
4 Please be advised that the Council cannot answer
5 questions from the public about the proposal.

6 A verbatim transcript will be made available
7 of this hearing and will be deposited in the
8 Haddam Town Clerk's office for the convenience of
9 the public.

10 At this time I request the Applicants to make
11 a brief presentation to the public describing the
12 proposed facility.

13 Attorney Baldwin, good evening.

14 MR. BALDWIN: Good evening, Mr. Morissette. And thank
15 you.

16 Again, for the record my name is Ken Baldwin.
17 I'm a lawyer with Robinson & Cole, and I represent
18 Homeland Towers and Cellco partnership, doing
19 business as Verizon Wireless in this application
20 for a proposed telecommunications facility on a 13
21 acre parcel at 124 Ague Spring Road in Haddam
22 Neck.

23 The primary purpose of this facility is to
24 provide Cellco customers and emergency service
25 providers with improved wireless services in the

1 area, particularly along a four-mile section of
2 Route 154 in Haddam.

3 As depicted here on plan sheet SP1, which is
4 a part of the record, the facility is proposed to
5 be located in the northwesterly corner of the
6 13.14 acre parcel. The facility will consist of
7 an access driveway off Ague Spring Road, extending
8 up the hill to the proposed facility compound.

9 Could we go to the next slide please?

10 This is sheet SP2 from the plan set in the
11 record. It shows a detailed grading plan. The
12 plan would be to utilize an existing portion of
13 the driveway on the property owner's parcel, then
14 extending to the north, or left as shown on this
15 plan, up the hill to an area where a flat facility
16 compound would be developed.

17 In the center of that compound -- and we can
18 go to the next slide as well?

19 In the center of that compound area will be a
20 150-foot monopole tower with Verizon Wireless
21 antennas installed on an antenna platform at the
22 top of that structure.

23 The tower elevation on the right side of this
24 page shows an opportunity for additional carriers
25 to share the tower if there is interest to do so.

1 Within the compound itself, it's shown
2 Verizon Wireless's equipment in the northeast
3 corner of the compound, and again space within the
4 compound for additional carriers, emergency
5 service providers and municipal antennas, if a
6 need exists.

7 Thank you Mr. Morissette.

8 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Attorney Baldwin.

9 We will now Sarah Colonghi to make a public
10 statement, followed by Donald and Marianne Smith.

11 Sarah, are you with us this evening?

12 Sarah Colonghi?

13
14 (No response.)

15
16 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. We'll move on to Donald
17 and Marianne Smith, followed by Francis Dallas.

18 Donald and Marianne Smith, please?

19 DONALD SMITH: Hello. This is Don Smith speaking for
20 myself and my wife.

21 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

22 DONALD SMITH: We just wanted to speak in support of
23 the cell tower application. This has been sorely
24 needed in Haddam for our emergency personnel as
25 well as the residents of the town.

1 The lack of cell tower availability on a good
2 portion of Route 154, Saybrook Road has been a
3 problem for years. We've owned our home in that
4 area for 50 years, and since cell phones became
5 popular it's been a serious problem for everyone,
6 guests and so forth that visit us. People who are
7 trying to find various locations in town lose
8 service almost immediately upon getting into this
9 corridor.

10 So again, we just want to speak in support of
11 this and hope it goes forward.

12 And that's what we have to say.

13 **THE HEARING OFFICER:** Thank you, Mr. Smith.

14 We'll now call upon Frances Dallas, please?

15 **FRANCES DALLAS:** Hello, everybody. I am against a cell
16 phone -- or cell tower in Haddam Neck. I live
17 right next door to the place where you want to
18 build the cell tower, and it's very close to my
19 property. And I think if I want to sell a lot, I
20 won't -- nobody will want a tower there.

21 We don't want a tower in Haddam Neck because
22 we live in a country, a little tiny place where
23 there's lots of trees and stuff, and a tower will
24 kind of ruin the whole thing.

25 We also get good reception on our phones

1 where we are. And there's no reason why they
2 can't put the tower in Haddam -- or they can put
3 the tower a little further from my property line,
4 and put it over by Brennan Danaher's house.

5 It also is not the tallest place in Haddam
6 Neck. The tallest place is behind Margaret
7 Hinder's house, where there's a plaque on a rock
8 that says it's the highest point in Haddam Neck.
9 There's no reason why they need to put it right
10 there where they're planning to do it.

11 And I was also wondering if someone would
12 tell me if there's going to be a light on the
13 tower that will shine right on my house.

14 That's all I have to say.

15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Francis, for coming
16 out this evening.

17 The Applicant is listening intently and I
18 hope one of them will get in touch with you about
19 the lighting. Thank you.

20 Unfortunately, we can't answer questions this
21 evening. I'll now go back to Sarah Colonghi.
22 Sarah, are you with us?

23 Sarah Colonghi?

24
25 (No response.)

1 THE HEARING OFFICER: Very good. That concludes the
2 public comment session for this evening.

3 Before closing this hearing, the Connecticut
4 Citing Council announces that briefs and proposed
5 findings of fact may be filed with the Council by
6 any party or intervener no later than April 20th,
7 2024.

8 The submission of briefs or proposed findings
9 of facts are not required by this Council.

10 Rather, we leave it to the choice of the parties
11 and interveners. Anyone who has not become a
12 party or intervener, but who desires to make his
13 or her views known to the Council may file written
14 statements to the Council within 30 days of the
15 date hereof.

16 The Council will issue draft findings of fact
17 and thereafter parties and interveners may
18 identify errors or inconsistencies between the
19 Council's draft findings of fact and the record,
20 however no new information, no new evidence, no
21 arguments, and no reply briefs without permission
22 will be considered by the Council.

23 Copies of the transcript of this hearing will
24 be filed at the Haddam Town Clerk's Office.

25 I hereby declare this hearing adjourned. And

1 thank you, everyone, for your participation and
2 have a pleasant evening.

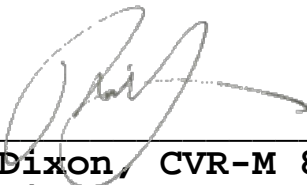
3 Thank you.

5 (End: 6:44 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 14 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the remote teleconference public hearing of THE CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL in Re: DOCKET NO. 520, HOMELAND TOWERS, LLC AND 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 124 AGUE SPRING ROAD, HADDAM, CONNECTICUT, which was held before JOHN MORISSETTE, Member and Presiding Officer, on March 21, 2024.



Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M 857
Notary Public
My Commission Expires: 6/30/2025