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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 529

Application from Homeland Towers, LLC, and Cellco
Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for a Certificate
of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for
the Construction, Maintenance, and Operation of a
Telecommunications Facility and Associated Equipment
Located at Parcel No. 65-002-1, Old Chester Road
North, Haddam, Connecticut.

Zoom Remote Public Hearing (Teleconference),
on Thursday, March 13, 2025, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

H e l d B e f o r e :

JOHN MORISSETTE, Member and Presiding Officer

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

Councilmembers:

JOHN MORISSETTE (Hearing Officer)

BRIAN GOLEMBIEWSKI,

DEEP Designees

QUAT NGUYEN,

PURA Designee

CHANCE CARTER

KHRISTINE HALL

BILL SYME

Council Staff:

MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.,

Executive Director and Staff Attorney

ROBERT MERCIER,

Siting Analyst

DAKOTA LaFOUNTAIN

Administrative Support

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

2 **For HOMELAND TOWERS, LLC:**

3 **ROBINSON & COLE, LLP**

4 **280 Trumbull Street, TE 19**

5 **Hartford, Connecticut 06103**

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

7 **KBaldwin@rc.com**

8 **860.275.8345**

9
10 **ROBERT BURNS,**

11 **All-Points Technology Corp.**

(Begin: 6:30 p.m.)

THE HEARING OFFICER: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Can everybody hear me okay?

Thank you.

This hearing is called to order this Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. My name is John Morissette, Member and Presiding Officer of the Connecticut Siting Council.

Other members of the Council are Brian Golembiewski, designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Quat Nguyen, designee for Chairman Marissa Paslick Gillett of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority; Chance Carter; Christine Hall; and Bill Syme.

Members of the staff are Executive Director Melanie Bachman, Siting Analyst Robert Mercier, and Administrative Support Lisa Fontaine.

If you haven't done so already, I ask that everyone please mute their computer audio and/or telephones now. Thank you.

This is a continuation of the public hearing that began at 2 p.m. this afternoon. A copy of the prepared agenda is available on the Council's

1 website, along with a record of this matter, the
2 public hearing notice, instructions for public
3 access to this public hearing, and the Council's
4 Citizens Guide to Siting Council Procedures.

5 This hearing is held pursuant to the
6 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
7 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative
8 Procedure Act upon an application from Homeland
9 Tower, LLC, and Cellco Partnership, d/b/a, 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 and associated
14 equipment located at Parcel Number 65-002-1, Old
15 Chester Road North in Haddam, Connecticut. This
16 application was received by the Council on January
17 10, 2025.

18 This application is also governed by the
19 Telecommunications Act of 1996, which is
20 administered by the Federal Communications
21 Commission. This act prohibits this Council from
22 considering the health effects of radiofrequency
23 emissions on human health and wildlife to the
24 extent the emissions from the towers are within
25 the federal acceptable safe limit standards, which

standards are also followed by the State Department of Public Health.

The Federal Act also prohibits this Council from discriminating between and amongst providers of functionally equivalent services. This means that if one carrier already provides service for an area, other carriers have the right to compete and provide service to the same area.

The Council's legal notice of the date and time of this public hearing was published in the Hartford Courant on February 12, 2025.

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

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

This public comment session is reserved for members of the public who signed up to make brief statements. These limited appearance statements are not subject to questions from the parties or

1 the Council, and members of the public making
2 statements may not ask questions of the parties or
3 the Council.

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

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

20 Please be advised that any person may be
21 removed from the public comment session at the
22 discretion of the Council.

23 We ask each person making a limited
24 appearance statement in this proceeding to confine
25 his or her statements to the subject matter before

1 the Council, and to avoid unreasonable repetition
2 so that we may hear all the current concerns you
3 and your neighbors may have.

4 Please be advised that the Council cannot
5 answer questions from the public about the
6 proposal.

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

10 At this time, I request the Applicants to
11 make a brief presentation to the public describing
12 the proposed facility. I understand Robert Burns
13 will be making that presentation.

14 Mr. Burns, good evening.

15 ROBERT BURNS: Good evening, Mr. Morissette.

16 For the record, my name is Robert Burns. I'm
17 a licensed civil engineer in the state of
18 Connecticut, and I work for All-Points Technology
19 Corporation out of Waterford, Connecticut.

20 I'm here tonight to make a presentation for
21 Homeland Towers, Haddam South Telecommunication
22 Facility. This proposed facility is to be located
23 on a vacant parcel on the west side of Old Chester
24 Road North in Haddam.

25 If we go to SP-2 for the rest of this, it

1 might be a little easier.

2 There you go. Perfect.

3 Vehicle access to the site will be from Route
4 154 onto 1583 Saybrook Road and will proceed
5 through the existing parking lot for the closed
6 commercial space on the adjacent parcel, which is
7 owned by the same property owner as the parcel we
8 are proposing to go on.

9 At the southwest corner of the existing
10 parking lot, a proposed 12-foot-wide gravel
11 driveway will proceed southeast towards the
12 compound for approximately 420 feet. The proposed
13 facility is to be located in the northeast corner
14 of that vacant parcel. The address is Old Chester
15 Road North.

16 The proposed facility will be 43 feet by 80
17 feet, a gravel surface compound surrounded by an
18 8-foot high chain-link fence and a 12-foot-wide
19 access gate, which will be on the northwestern
20 side.

21 The proposed compound has been sized for four
22 carriers; Verizon, which will be the initial
23 anchor, and three future carriers, and there's an
24 area reserved for municipal ground equipment if
25 they so decide to go on the pole.

1 Outside of the fence on the northern side of
2 the compound is a proposed utility area. This
3 area will include a utility backboard, which will
4 house the proposed electric meters, and a
5 step-down transformer. This area will be
6 surrounded by steel bollards for protection.

7 The proposed electric and telco service that
8 will feed the site will be installed underground,
9 beginning at a proposed pole on the west side of
10 Old Chester Road North, and run underground to the
11 proposed facility.

12 If we go to the compound plan for the rest of
13 this, it might show a little better.

14 Perfect.

15 Inside the fence in the southeastern corner
16 of the compound is Verizon's ground equipment.
17 That ground equipment will include a 10-foot by
18 20-foot concrete pad with equipment cabinets and a
19 50kW diesel fired generator.

20 In the center of the compound, approximately
21 the center, is a 140-foot-high monopole.
22 Verizon's plan is to install nine panel antennas,
23 six remote radios, and one surge suppressor, which
24 will be mounted on a square platform. The
25 centerline of those antennas will be 135 feet, or

1 five feet down from the top of the pole.

2 The tower will be designed for three
3 additional future carriers at 10-foot intervals
4 below Verizon's installation; so 125, 115, and
5 105.

6 And that concludes my presentation.

7 Thank you.

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

9 We will now call upon First Selectman Robert
10 McGarry to make a public statement.

11 First Selectman McGarry, good evening.

12 FIRST SELECTMAN MCGARRY: Good evening, Councilmembers,
13 and thank you very much for this opportunity to
14 speak.

15 As was said, I'm the First Selectman in the
16 Town of Haddam. It's a position I've held now for
17 five years. I'll also speak from my experience as
18 a Haddam Neck Volunteer Fire member. I've been a
19 firefighter for 30 years. I was chief of that
20 department for 18 of those 30 years.

21 The Town of Haddam strongly supports the
22 application of the cell tower on Chester Road
23 North. This cell tower, operating in conjunction
24 with one you approved just about a year ago at 124
25 Goose Spring Road in Haddam Neck, will help fill

1 in a critical public safety issue we have in the
2 Town of Haddam.

3 Currently, Route 154, which you've seen in
4 the previous diagrams, is Saybrook Road in Haddam.
5 That road runs from our northern border with
6 Middletown to our southern border with Chester
7 along the Connecticut River. The southern seven
8 and a half miles of that zone are an absolute cell
9 phone dead zone area. These two towers working in
10 conjunction will fill in that dead zone, with this
11 particular tower that you're addressing tonight
12 filling in about the last two and a half miles of
13 that dead zone.

14 We have had numerous serious accidents along
15 Saybrook Road, where reporting the accident was
16 delayed because people didn't have a cell phone to
17 make the reports.

18 We had, about three years ago, a structure
19 fire, a house fire right adjacent to the road. It
20 totaled the house. Fortunately, it was vacant at
21 the time, but that fire was seen by a passing-by
22 motorist at 2:30 in the morning, which delayed
23 reporting until they could get to a cell phone
24 zone.

25 This is a critical need for us. And of

1 course, it's not just the road traffic along 154
2 that's affected, but all the residences in the
3 area as you move away from 154 continuing up the
4 hill, which as the western side of that tower are
5 also in the dead zone. And in times of major
6 storms where landlines are out or unreliable, cell
7 phone is an important backup for them.

8 And as a first responder, I can tell you cell
9 phones are also a very important backup for those
10 of us operating on scene. They're critical in
11 times of major storms when we have multiple calls,
12 multiple departments operating on the radio to
13 free up airspace. They're also critical for us if
14 you have sensitive information to be passed that
15 really should not be passed on the open airways.

16 So again, I will keep my remarks short in
17 view of your time. But again, I can't say how
18 strongly the Town supports this cell tower, and it
19 fills for us a critical public safety need.

20 Thank you for your time and this opportunity
21 to speak.

22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you First Selectman

23 McGarry. Thank you for coming out this evening.

24 That concludes the public statements for this
25 evening.

1 Before closing this hearing, the Connecticut
2 Siting Council announces that briefs and proposed
3 findings of fact may be filed with the Council by
4 any party or intervener no later than April 12,
5 2025.

6 The submission of briefs or proposed findings
7 of fact are not required by this Council. Rather,
8 we leave it to the choice of the parties and
9 interveners.

10 Anyone who has not become a party or an
11 intervener, but who desires to make his or her
12 views known to the Council may file written
13 statements with the Council within 30 days of the
14 date hereof.

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

22 Copies of the transcript of this hearing will
23 be filed in the Haddam Town Clerk's office.

24 I hereby declare this hearing adjourned and
25 thank you everyone for participating.

1 **Have a good evening. Good night.**

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3 **(End: 6:42 p.m.)**

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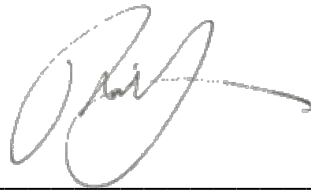
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 15 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the teleconference PUBLIC HEARING of THE CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL in Re: DOCKET NO. 529, APPLICATION FROM HOMELAND TOWERS, LLC AND CELLCO PARTNERSHIP d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT LOCATED AT PARCEL NO. 65-002-1, OLD CHESTER ROAD NORTH, HADDAM, CONNECTICUT, which was held before JOHN MORISSETTE, Member and Presiding Officer, on March 13, 2025.



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