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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 530

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 and Associated Equipment Located at 196 East Haddam-Colchester Turnpike, East Haddam, Connecticut.

Zoom Remote Council Meeting (Teleconference), on Thursday, April 24, 2025, beginning at 2 p.m.

H e l d B e f o r e:

ELIN S. KATZ, ESQ., THE CHAIR

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

Councilmembers:

ELIN S. KATZ, ESQ. (Chair)

JOHN MORISSETTE (Vice Chair)

BRIAN GOLEMBIEWSKI,
DEEP Designee

QUAT NGUYEN,
PURA Designee

CHANCE CARTER

KHRISTINE HALL

DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.

Council Staff:

IFEANYI NWANKWO,
Siting Analyst

MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.,
Executive Director and Staff Attorney

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For CindyAnn & STEPHEN LONGOBARDI (Intervenors):

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI

(Begin: 2:00 p.m.)

THE CHAIR: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. This hearing is called to order this Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 2 p.m. My name is Elin Katz, Chair of the Siting Council.

Other members of the Siting Council are John Morissette, Vice Chair; Brian Golembiewski, designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Quat Nguyen, designee for Chairman Marissa Gillett, Public Utilities Regulatory Authority; Chance Carter; Khristine Hall; and Daniel Lynch.

Members of the staff are Executive Director Melanie Bachman, Siting Council Analyst Ifeanyi Nwankwo, Administrative Support Lisa Fontaine.

If you have not done so already, I ask that everyone mute their audio and/or phone now.

This is a continuation -- oops, I'm sorry. I'm on the wrong page. Bear with me one second.

(Pause.)

THE CHAIR: Okay. I wish to note that the Applicants, parties, and interveners, including their

representatives, witnesses, and members are not allowed to participate in the public comment session.

I also wish to note that for those who are listening and for the benefit of your friends and neighbors who are unable to join us for the public comment session, that they or you may send written comments to the Council within 30 days of the date hereof, either by mail or by e-mail, and that such written statements will be given the same weight as if spoken at the public session.

A verbatim transcript of this public hearing will be posted on the Council's website and deposited in the East Haddam Town Clerk's office for the convenience of the public.

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

Motions; Homeland Towers, LLC, motion for protective order, lease agreement financial terms dated January 30, 2025. Attorney Bachman may wish to comment.

ATTORNEY BACHMAN: Thank you, Chair Katz, and good afternoon.

Pursuant to General Statute Section 16-50o, the lease agreement terms are exempt from public

disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, and staff recommends approval. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Okay. Administrative notice will be taken by the Council.

I wish to call your attention to those items shown on the hearing program marked in Roman numerals 1C, items 1 through 92. Does any party or intervener have an objection to the items that the Council has administratively noticed?

And I apologize I did not go over the appearances for the various parties. Bear with me one second.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Chair Katz?

THE CHAIR: Yes?

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: I think we still need to vote on the request for a protective order.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. I'm traveling and my documents got all messed up.

So, the motion. Do I hear a motion on the protective order?

MR. LYNCH: I'll move the protective order.

THE CHAIR: Do we have a second?

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: I'll second.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. All right. Any discussion?

Vice Chairman Morissette?

MR. MORISSETTE: Good afternoon. No discussion.
Thank you.
THE CHAIR: Mr. Golembiewski, any discussion?
MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: No. Good afternoon, also.
THE CHAIR: Thank you.
Mr. Nguyen, any discussion?
MR. NGUYEN: Good afternoon. No discussion.
THE CHAIR: Thank you.
Mr. Carter, any discussion?
MR. CARTER: Good afternoon, Madam Chair.
And no discussion.
THE CHAIR: Ms. Hall, any discussion?
MS. HALL: Good afternoon, all. No discussion.
Thank you.
THE CHAIR: And Mr. Lynch, any discussion?
MR. LYNCH: I have no discussion.
THE CHAIR: All right. And I have no discussion.
Let's move to the vote.
Mr. Vice Chair, how do you vote?
MR. MORISSETTE: Vote to approve. Thank you.
THE CHAIR: Mr. Golembiewski, how do you vote?
MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Vote to approve. Thank you.
THE CHAIR: Mr. Nguyen, how do you vote?
MR. NGUYEN: Vote to approve. Thank you.
THE CHAIR: Mr. Carter, how do you vote?

MR. CARTER: Vote to approve. Thank you.
THE CHAIR: Thank you.
Ms. Hall, how do you vote?
MS. HALL: Vote to approve. Thank you.
THE CHAIR: And Mr. Lynch?
MR. LYNCH: Vote approval.
THE CHAIR: Thank you.
Okay. Let's move to administrative notice. As I said -- let me just repeat. I wish to call your attention to those items shown on the hearing program marked as Roman numeral 1C, items 1 through 92.
Does any party or intervener have an objection to the items that the Council has administratively noticed?
Actually, let me just go to appearances for the party.
ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Good afternoon, Chair Katz. This is Kenneth Baldwin with Robinson & Cole --
THE CHAIR: Thank you.
ATTORNEY BALDWIN: -- on behalf of the Applicant Homeland Towers and Cellco Partnership doing business as Verizon Wireless.
And we have no objection to the request for administrative notice.

THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you.

Are Stephen or CindyAnn Longobardi on the call? Mr. Longobardi?

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: Yes, I am, and I have no objection.

THE CHAIR: Okay. Could you just note for the record that you are appearing as an intervener on your own behalf? Is that correct?

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: That is correct.

THE CHAIR: Okay. And Attorney McCann?

ATTORNEY McCANN: No objection.

Brian McCann, Town of East Haddam.

THE CHAIR: Thank you very much.

Okay. Accordingly, the Council hereby administratively notices these documents.

Will the Applicants present its witness panel for the purposes of taking the oath?

Ms. Bachman, will you please administer the oath?

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Again, good afternoon, Chair Katz. Ken Baldwin for the Applicant. We have a robust witness panel this afternoon, but we wanted to make sure all our bases were covered. Let me introduce them to you quickly.

Ray Vergati is the Regional Manager with

Homeland Towers. Kip Divito, sitting to my right, is a radiofrequency design engineer with Verizon Wireless responsible for this site.

To my far left is Elizabeth Glidden, our real estate regulatory specialist with Verizon Wireless. Seated next to Ms. Glidden is Dave Weinpahl, our project engineer with On Air Engineering.

To my left is Matt Allen with Saratoga Associates, and his colleague Peter Giraudeau with Saratoga Associates. Martin Brogie is a principal environmental scientist with Martin Brogie, Incorporated.

And then, last but not least, we have Brooks Thacker and John Hosak with Trileaf Environmental Services.

And I offer them to be sworn at this time.

THE CHAIR: Attorney Bachman, would you administer the oath, please?

ATTORNEY BACHMAN: Thank you, Chair Katz.

Could the witnesses please raise their right hand?

R A Y M O N D V E R G A T I,

K I P D I V I T O,

E L I Z A B E T H G L I D D E N,

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

M A T T H E W W. A L L E N,

P E T E R G I R A U D E A U,

M A R T I N B R O G I E,

J O H N H O S A K,

B R O O K S T H A C K E R,

called as witnesses, being sworn by THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, were examined and testified under oath as follows:

ATTORNEY BACHMAN: Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Thank you very much.

Does any party or intervener object to the admission of the Applicant's exhibits?

Mr. Longobardi? Am I saying your name correctly?

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: Yes, you are. Lohn-go-bar-dee [phonetic]. No objection.

THE CHAIR: Thank you.

Attorney McCann?

ATTORNEY McCANN: No objection. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. We will now begin with

cross-examination of the Applicants by the Council.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Chair Katz, excuse me. Pardon the interruption. I just thought perhaps I could get my witness panel to verify our exhibits before proceeding to cross-examination, if that's okay with you?

THE CHAIR: Absolutely. Absolutely.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Thank you.

Again, we have seven items listed in the hearing program under Roman two, subsection B, items one through seven. I won't read them, read through them, but they are listed in the hearing program.

And I'll ask my witnesses through verification, did you prepare or assist in the preparation of the information contained in those exhibits listed in the hearing program?

Mr. Vergati?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): Yes, I did.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Divito?

THE WITNESS (Divito): Yes.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Ms. Glidden?

THE WITNESS (Glidden): Yes.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Weinpahl?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Allen?

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yes.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Brogie?

THE WITNESS (Brogie): Yes.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: And Mr. Thacker?

THE WITNESS (Thacker): Yes.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: And do you have any corrections, modifications, or clarifications you would like to offer to any of those exhibits at this time?

Mr. Vergati?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): Yes, I have a few modifications/corrections. The first one would be to Exhibit 3 in the interrogatory responses, number 9, 41, and 47 -- I'm sorry, 45. There's a reference made to the Haddam South facility, which is incorrect. That should be listed as the East Haddam facility, again, in response numbers 9, 41, and 45.

Also on attachment eight, the candidate's site has a ground elevation listed as 499. It's a misprint. It should be 450.

Also on attachment eight there was a site that was left off, which was 155 Bashan Road. A letter was sent and not responded by, by the

landlord.

Also on attachment eight, the Town had asked us to look at 440 Town Road, which is the Town's firehouse, and that should be added to the site search. That was reviewed by Verizon, and they can speak to that further in the application.

Those are the only corrections I have on the record.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Thank you.

Mr. Divito, any corrections or modifications?

THE WITNESS (Divito): No. No, I do not have any.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Ms. Glidden?

THE WITNESS (Glidden): No, not at this time.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Weinpahl?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes, just one, on the interrogatory responses, question number 19 regarding the designed wind speed. This would be 125 miles per hour, and in lieu of 115 that was listed. That's all.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Thank you.

Mr. Allen?

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yes, I have three typographical errors on the visual resource assessment. I don't have the exhibit number available.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: It's Exhibit 1, attachment nine.

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Exhibit 1, attachment nine, the visual resource assessment. On page 3, the word "individual" should be deleted. On page 3, fifth paragraph, delete the word "individual."

On page 5, the sixth paragraph, the date should be changed from December 20th to December 10th.

And on page 8, in the last sentence, the word "glimpses" should be deleted.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Thank you.

Mr. Brogie, any corrections or modifications?

THE WITNESS (Brogie): No, I do not.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Thacker, any corrections or modifications?

THE WITNESS (Thacker): No, I do not.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: And with those corrections and modifications and clarifications, is the information contained in these exhibits true and accurate to the best of your knowledge?

Mr. Vergati?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): Yes, it is.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Divito?

THE WITNESS (Divito): Yes.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Ms. Glidden?

THE WITNESS (Glidden): Yes.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Weinpahl?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Allen?

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yes.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Brogie?

THE WITNESS (Brogie): Yes.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Thacker?

THE WITNESS (Thacker): Yes.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: And do you adopt the information contained in those exhibits as your testimony in this proceeding?

Mr. Vergati?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): Yes, I do.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Divito?

THE WITNESS (Divito): Yes.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Ms. Glidden?

THE WITNESS (Glidden): Yes.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Weinpahl?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Allen?

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yes.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Brogie?

THE WITNESS (Brogie): Yes.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: And Mr. Thacker?

THE WITNESS (Thacker): Yes.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Chair Katz, I offer them as full exhibits.

THE CHAIR: Thank you.

I just want to double check with those amendments if Mr. Longobardi or Attorney McCann might have any objections? Or do you continue to have no objection?

ATTORNEY McCANN: No objection.

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: No objection.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Okay. The exhibits are admitted. So, let's begin with cross-examination of the Applicants by the Council.

Mr. Nwankwo, please proceed.

MR. NWANKWO: Good afternoon and thank you, Madam Chair. My question is for the Applicant. Did the applicant conduct a balloon float test as part of the visual resource assessment?

THE WITNESS (Allen): No, the Applicant did not.

THE REPORTER: A request from the Reporter? If witnesses could just identify themselves right before they give testimony, it would be appreciated. Thank you.

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yes, thank you. This is Matthew Allen with Saratoga Associates.

Yes, we did not conduct a balloon visibility

test for this site. We did all of our work using desktop methodology and highly accurate LiDAR data to depict the degree of visibility above existing vegetation. That was the technology that we used to prepare the photo simulations to illustrate the visual character and degree of visibility of the tower.

We also provided a viewshed analysis to identify the geographic area where the tower, some portion of the tower would be visible, also using highly detailed LiDAR-based analysis.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

Has the Applicant determined the location for its equipment staging area or storage area during construction?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes, David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

There would be adequate room around the compound facility as the fence is located to the west side to stage equipment for cranes, other -- other items needed for construction.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

Approximately how many construction vehicles and what type of vehicles will be expected to enter the site during construction?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. Again, David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

This would be backhoe equipment, excavators for foundation preparation, concrete trucks, delivery of steel rebar would be forthcoming after that; a crane at some point for stacking of the tower.

The tower may be delivered right to the site and largely backed up to the road almost to the tower location. The regular maintenance trucks for, you know, contractors would be occasionally in and out of the facility during construction.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

Just looking at sheet C-1 of the project plans, would it be possible to identify where these vehicles would be parked?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

There is room on the north side of the fence near -- bordering the ledge area located on the property, also to the west towards the property line which would later be where plantings are later proposed.

Also, a lot of the construction would take place within the compound area itself before the

final fence is constructed at a later date.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

Will the Applicant be installing a temporary concrete washout on site?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes, David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

Correct, that would be used typically at the time of the concrete pour for the foundation. And let's see if I have a detail in the set for those. If not, it will be added to the D and M set for typical washout details for protection.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

Do you have any idea looking at the map where that could possibly be located?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. Again, David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

That would -- that would be along the access road portion on the northern end away from the wetland -- the central wetland two, I think it's identified as.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

What is the current width of the existing access route?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

The lot has a 25-foot-wide width coming in off of the main street. There is currently a gravel landing area there now, so to speak, about 50 to 75 feet in length. The proposed access is a 12-foot-wide gravel road which would be more positioned towards the east.

This way the trees along the west of that area would be better protected and preserved.

MR. NWANKWO: What is the existing slope of the gradient, of gradient of the existing access route?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

This is less than 5 percent. Four and a half was the slope we calculated from the street up to the tower facility.

MR. NWANKWO: And after improvement, what would be the finished slope or gradient for the access route?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Again, David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

The slope would not be changing. It would be a very minor change in slope. As it currently exists, this is -- would be otherwise passable short of putting in a better gravel road base.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

I would like to refer to the response to Council Interrogatory Number 13. Could the Applicant describe the visibility of the tower from 197 East Haddam-Colchester Turnpike? That should be the closest residential structure to the site.

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

We have a distance of 535 feet from the compound corner approximately to the 197 East Colchester Turnpike residence.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

Could you describe the visibility of the tower from that parcel?

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Visibility from 197.

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yeah, we find no visibility of 197.

MR. NWANKWO: Sorry. Just to be clear, did you say no vis --

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yeah, I'm sorry. This is Matt Allen with Saratoga Associates.

From 197, there is no direct visibility. Any visibility would be highly filtered during leaf-off season through the trees, through stems and branches, and almost if not completely

screened during leaf-on season.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

Next, I'd also like to refer to the response to Council Interrogatory Number 14 and the two existing tower sites which are referenced there as being investigated after the public information meeting.

My question is where would the coverage be lacking if the facility were installed on those sites, or any one of those sites?

THE WITNESS (Divito): Hello. This is Kip Divito from Verizon Wireless.

I would refer to the coverage maps, which is attachment number six. So, on page 1, it shows the East Haddam number three, which is the tight -- the site on Parnassus Hill Road. And then also the -- there is the -- the location on Nichols Road, which shows us the coverage on page 27, which is your town transfer station there.

And then you also have the third site, which is another guided tower down on Parker Road, and that is located -- the coverage map is located on tab 16. It was the public meeting information on page 25. So, you would see what -- even those three sites will still leave a lack in reliable

indoor and in-vehicle coverage on the eastern -- yes, the eastern side of Bashan Lake and the Moodus Reservoir.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Nwankwo, if I could just direct you that the plots that Mr. Divito is referring to are in the application, are Exhibit 1, behind attachment 16. And those were plots that were submitted to the Town following the public information meeting that you referenced.

There are three plots; one for the Parker Road tower site, and then two for the Nichols Road tower site, which is the town transfer station.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

I have an additional question to that. Would installing taller towers at those sites, would they be able to provide the necessary coverage?

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Skip Divito again from Verizon, Verizon Wireless.

We submitted coverage plots that were higher than what we actually could build those towers to. And secondly, adding taller towers more or less just adds interference with the existing network.

So, even though you may be adding coverage in areas, that coverage that you're adding is not adding quality coverage. So, it's -- it's -- I

don't want to say it's a moot point, but it's -- it's not a sound RF practice to build taller towers to cover more area.

Essentially, it's like building a one-lane highway instead of a multi-lane highway. You -- you still need to be able to gain capacity for all the customers. You can't just have it all on one tower gaining more coverage.

But again, that, the transfer station we submitted coverage plots at, I believe, 195 or 196, which was taller than we'd be able to build there. So, to -- to that specific site? No. Again, at East Haddam three, even if we -- we got permission -- I'm sorry, I referred to East Haddam III. That's what we call it. The site on Mount Parnassus Road, we did get approval to extend that tower and build on that tower.

So, even with that extension, we are not able to cover the -- the gap that we find to the east side of Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. Thank you for that.

I would like to refer to the Applicant's response to Council Interrogatory Number 20, and referencing the installation of the yield point. At what heights will the Applicant install the

yield point on the tower?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): This is David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

This yield point can be designed approximately 85 feet above grade.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

Could the Applicant provide the distance or length of the underground utility interconnection?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

That would be equivalent approximately to the length of the access road, approximately 400 feet for the underground electric telephone services.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

Also, referencing the Applicant's response to Council Interrogatory Number 22, which refers to an additional tower extension. What will be the length of the additional tower extension? If so -- sorry.

THE WITNESS (Vergati): This is Ray Vergati, Homeland Towers.

We're allowed typically to increase the tower height either the greater of 10 percent or 20 feet. In this case, the tower is proposed at 155. We would design it both from a foundation and a

steel point to accept a 20-foot extension, making 175 overall height, just for future planning should the carrier or future tenant justify a tower.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

And how many future wireless carriers would that extension support?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): Typically, with a 20-foot extension to carriers -- oh, sorry. Ray Vergati, Homeland Towers -- they have 10-foot separation.

So if a 20-foot extension were to be added, it would effectively accommodate two wireless carriers and their equipment antennas.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

Next, I'd like to refer to the response to Council Interrogatory Number 31. Also referencing where it says that the data is also showing an elevated percentage of dropped calls in the area.

My question is, do you have a figure for the percentage of dropped calls within the surrounding area?

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito again with Verizon Wireless.

We typically portray our weak coverage with RSRP plots. So it's safe to assume that any

coverage area that is below neg 95 will have unreliable service in vehicles. Below neg 85 will have unreliable service indoors. Around neg 105 is reliable outdoor service. Below that, it's unreliable.

There may be. There probably is through our systems performance engineers dropped-call information. I'm not privy to that information. It's sort of, I guess, against our --

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you. Next, I'll --

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Perhaps --

MR. NWANKWO: Yeah?

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Perhaps we could take that as a homework assignment and get you that information.

MR. NWANKWO: That's fine. Thank you, Attorney Baldwin.

Next, I'll refer to the response to Council Interrogatory Number 50. What would be the operational noise levels at the nearest boundary of the host parcel?

THE WITNESS (Glidden): For the record, this is Liz Glidden with Verizon Wireless.

The generator would be exercised remotely about once every two weeks to ensure that it's in working order. The noise itself would be minor.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Nwankwo, could I just get some clarification? Are you asking for a reiteration of the information contained in response number 50? I'm just confused.

MR. NWANKWO: No, I was wondering if the Applicant had a value for noise levels at the property boundary.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: I think that the response, Mr. Nwankwo, talks about it being at 50 decibels at three feet, and then the property boundary was at 63 feet. We could do that calculation, if you like, to get that more specific response.

I think that the way the response was drafted, though, is that it would be less than 50 dB at that greater distance, which is below the standard. But we can do that additional calculation for you, if you would like.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you, Attorney Baldwin. That would be good.

Next, I'd like to refer to the response to Council Interrogatory Number 51. My question is, would the timers for the lighting, would they be manual or automatically controlled?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes, David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

Those are manually. Timers, typically manual

timer switches are used for Verizon staff, if needed, during evening night hours for any emergency access.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

Would that timer have a duration?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. Again, David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

That could be set for up to four hours or down to two hours. They're typically not there for that long of a period of time. They could always turn it back on if need be, if they go past, say, two hours.

Those switches are available in different lengths when specified. So, two hours would be reasonable, I think.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

Next, I'd like to refer to the response to Council Interrogatory Number 58. And my question is, could the Applicant explain why a monopole would be less prominent?

THE WITNESS (Allen): Matthew Allen, Saratoga Associates.

Less prominent -- if I can clarify the question? Less prominent as compared to a different tower type?

MR. NWANKWO: As compared to a monopine. I believe the response was that a monopine would be more prominent than the monopole, which is proposed.

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yes. Again, Matthew Allen, Saratoga Associates.

Typically a monopine works well in an area where a small amount of that structure is visible above the treeline when the -- when the tower itself is some degree larger than the surrounding vegetation and there are areas where it is visible above the skyline. The monopine itself with its broader mass tends to draw attention more than a slender, galvanized pole.

In addition, the galvanized pole, as is visible against the sky, is more compatible in color with the background sky. So, that -- that's the basis for our answer is that from where it is seen from it would create a more -- a larger visible mass than a simple monopole.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

Would the Applicant please briefly describe the topography of the facility compound in contrast to wetland one or the central wetland?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

The compound facility is approximately 450 feet grade level; the Wetland, approximately 5 feet, 6 feet, 7 feet lower than that. Located to the -- to the east approximately 40 feet is the distance provided from our proposed fence corner to the wetland.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

With that, would you say that runoff from the equipment compound could flow towards the central Wetland?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

That would be the case with the exception of at the D and M stage we would propose some mitigation factors if needed in there to clean the water before it goes into that direction of the Wetland, typically is what we would do.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

Is it possible that the compound could be moved to increase the distance to that wetland?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, again, On Air Engineering.

The compound as located currently was to balance the distance from the property line to the west, the wetland, and the front yard near the

ledge area indicated on the plans. So, we work to balance the -- the compound location with those three factors in mind.

If it would be more important to shift the compound away from the Wetland further north, perhaps that could be accommodated.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

I'd like to refer to attachment one, project plans, sheets, VZ-1, figures one and two. My question is will the generator or generator concrete pad include some form of containment for leaking generator fluids such as engine oil, engine coolant?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

At -- at this point in time we do not have any features in that design. This is a proposed propane gas generator. Tanks will be located on a separate pad also in the compound for fuel as noted.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

Are there any measures that the Applicant could take to deter birds from nesting at the top of the tower?

THE WITNESS (Thacker): This is Brooks from Tri-Leaf.

As -- as planned, there are no special inhibitors for birds. In the past those have been applied and not necessarily been effective.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

I'd like to refer to the wetland protection plan as provided as part of the response to the interrogatories. On page 3 there's reference of an impervious pad with secondary containment. My question is, what material would that containment pad be made of?

THE WITNESS (Brogie): I can respond.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Yeah, you should.

THE WITNESS (Brogie): This is Martin Brogie with Martin Brogie, Incorporated.

The impervious pad would typically consist of -- of a plastic liner with -- with a berm on the outside. And then the -- the berm could be lowered to get a vehicle onto the pad and then the berm would be -- would be raised again. It can be made of a variety of different types of -- of materials that would be impervious to -- to leakage or tearing. And then if there a spill did occur, it can be cleaned up with inside that containment.

It's a portable type of flexible containment

with -- with berm walls that -- that are erected after the vehicle gets onto the pad.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

What would be the capacity of that containment pad?

THE WITNESS (Brogie): We do -- Martin Brogie here.

We don't have a specific dimension of that pad. It will be dependent on the size of the vehicles that are -- that are on -- on the site, but it would be certainly sufficient to exceed the capacity of any -- any fuel container that are associated with vehicles.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you.

Will the Applicant be able to provide the distance and direction of the nearest state-designated scenic road to the proposed facility?

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Nwankwo, if we could add that to our list of homework assignments? We have the information, but we'll get that for you and respond accordingly. Thank you.

MR. NWANKWO: Thank you, Attorney Baldwin.

Thank you, Madam Chair. That will be all my questions for the Applicant.

THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Nwankwo.

So we will move to cross-examination by the members of the Council, and we will start with Vice Chairman Morissette. Mr. Morissette?

MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Chair Katz. And good afternoon, everyone.

Can everybody hear me okay?

Thank you. I'd like to tag along on Mr. Nwankwo's questioning relating to the wetlands, specifically question 16, which indicates there's a large ledge to the north.

Utilizing map sheet two of two, there's a callout for ledge that is to the northwest. Is everything to the east of that ledge? It seems like a flat area, but is that also ledge underneath, and that only represents a ledge outcropping?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

There is visible ledge as you drive in, and it's -- it would be to the north of the compound where proposed. There's exposed rock throughout that area going to the east. It's a little bit upland.

We tend to, as engineers, try not to design into ledge when we can avoid it. So we, again, we

try to balance the location of the tower with respect to that. The ledge is not as visible as you go further to the east, but I'm sure if we were to do probes up there and geotechnical studies, we would find rock within a foot or so of the surface.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. So, when you say that you can move it -- so, I'm taking it that you can move it slightly to the north and also to the west.

Is that accurate?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. Again, David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

Not -- I don't know so much to the west where the property line is to the west, but it's going -- basically going due north. We could have a shift due north and then going a little bit to the east.

MR. MORISSETTE: Oh, I'm sorry. That's what I meant, east.

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Oh, okay.

MR. MORISSETTE: I was backwards here. Sorry. Yeah. So, it would be north and then northeast.

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): A little northeast, correct.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. A little bit -- so, a little bit more towards the center, the center of the

property.

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): That would --

MR. MORISSETTE: (Unintelligible) --

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes.

MR. MORISSETTE: I'm sorry. Go ahead.

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

That would be feasible.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. Moving to sheet one of two, the property that is adjacent to the East Haddam-Colchester Turnpike in front of your leased property, what is on that property? Is that a residential property? Is it just wooded?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): This is Ray Vergati, Homeland Towers.

That particular address is 198 East Haddam-Colchester Turnpike. It's a 1.34 vacant parcel, partially cleared; happens to be owned by the same landlord that owns our subject property as well.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. Thank you.

Okay. The property to the west, that is also a vacant lot?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): This is --

MR. MORISSETTE: One --

THE WITNESS (Vergati): Yeah?

MR. MORISSETTE: 194.

THE WITNESS (Vergati): Yeah. This is Ray Vergati again, Homeland Towers.

That particular lot contains the access drive, the existing access drive to reach some of the cottages, I believe, three or four on the lake. I believe that 194 contains a cottage for Wilson Brownell, who is the owner of that particular property.

MR. MORISSETTE: And that cottage is closer to the lake, further south?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): The -- the cottage, or home, I've never been to it -- is right on Lake Bashan.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. And then that access road also goes to 200 East Haddam-Colchester Turnpike, which is Mr. Longobardi's property?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): Yes, it looks like it's a shared -- again, Ray Vergati, Homeland Towers.

That existing dirt access drive crosses back over onto the 200 East Haddam-Colchester Turnpike owned by Mr. Longobardi, Stephen and Cindy. And it's more or less a landlocked parcel, but there's access through the abutting parcel of -- of 194.

MR. MORISSETTE: Great. Thank you.

Then moving on to question 19, which was

amended, the response was amended during the opening statements. It had to do with wind speed. The wind speed design, the response was 115 miles per hour, and it was amended to 125.

Now, I understand CAT 3 design standards are to 130 miles per hour. Is there any reason why we're different here? Or is 125 considered to be in the CAT 3 hurricane parameters?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

99 percent of our tower designs use a risk category two for wind speed. So, the 115 that was referenced in the original response was a category one wind speed. So, I just corrected that to a category two wind speed of 125.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. Is there any reason -- do you know the reason why you're designing to a CAT 2 and not a CAT 3?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Again, David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

The codes and reference standards for these types of structures have it categorized accordingly as two.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. I know the transmission towers are designed to CAT 3. It seems odd that we would

design these to CAT 2. And those standards are what? Building code standards that you're referencing to?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

That's from the state building code in appendix P, I believe. And there are other references, standard references for -- the TIA standard as well has wind speeds. Usually the more stringent of the standards and the code is what's used by the engineers in the tower design when we reach that stage.

We believe this will be a 125 mile-per-hour design.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. Well, thank you for clarifying that for me. Moving on to question 21, the response says, the Council orders that the tower be painted as referenced in page 12. I didn't see any reference to painting the tower on page 12.

But my question is, are you planning on keeping it as a galvanized tower, or you're planning on painting it?

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yeah, this is Matthew Allen of Saratoga Associates.

The tower is proposed as a galvanized tower.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. Very good. Thank you.

Okay. Question 43 refers to the generators. And on page 7 of the application, you refer to two 500-gallon propane tanks. We typically don't see two 500-gallon propane tanks. We'd see either, you know, one 500 or a thousand.

Is there any reason why you're proposing two in this case?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

I think in the design it started off with just trying to leave a smaller compound in the design, and the smaller tanks to -- two 500-gallon tanks would provide the same capacity to Verizon for propane, but they're a bit easier to manipulate and to configure on the property. And it also leaves the space on the pad for a potential future 500 for another carrier down the road. I think it was viewed in that position from the beginning.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. Thank you.

Okay. I'd like to turn to the visual simulations. I don't know what tab that is offhand, but specifically to the visual simulations photo number 14.

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yes. This is Matthew Allen, Saratoga Associates.

I have that in front of me.

MR. MORISSETTE: Great. Thank you.

Okay. Going to the simulated condition, you show a tower position and you quote it, screened by intervening vegetation. So, I interpret that to mean that the, you know, vegetation would be in front of it so you wouldn't see the tower.

But I question the height of the tower. I understand the height is going to be 155 feet, and I also read somewhere that the treeline is about 85 -- 80 to 85 feet. So therefore, I would expect that you would see the tower in this photo out of the treeline.

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yes. Matthew Allen, Saratoga Associates.

Yeah, what you're referring to and the reason that the tower does not peek over the intervening foreground vegetation is perspective. Because that foreground vegetation is much closer to the viewer and the tower is behind that at some distance, the foreground vegetation on that line of sight appears taller. It's simply a matter of optical perspective from that particular vantage

point.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. But the tower would pierce through the treeline at probably a 65-feet height.

THE WITNESS (Allen): Matthew Allen, Saratoga Associates.

No, if the viewer were at the same elevation as the treeline, if the trees were 60 to 70 feet tall, or then the viewer were 60 to 70 feet in the air, so that the line of sight were horizontal, that would be the case.

But because the viewer is at a lower elevation, and those 60 to 70-foot tree -- tall trees are much closer to the viewer, the line of sight from the viewer's eye rises and hits the trees at a tangent point, and then continues to rise and rises above the elevation of the tower more distant behind it.

That's something that would be easier to -- to describe graphically, but that's the phenomenon of line-of-sight perspective that's causing that tower to appear lower than the treeline.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. I'm not quite sure I understood that, but -- all right. Let's move on to 17.

And the simulated condition obviously is the simulated monopole is behind the barn. It's just

showing a representation of the line where it would be behind the barn. Because again, you would have a height difference there, it would seem to me that 155 feet would be well above the garage peak.

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yes. Matthew Allen, Saratoga Associates.

I'll try to describe it. Again, it's the -- it's the optical phenomenon of perspective. The foreground barn appears to be maybe 200 feet and the tower is almost 2,000 feet further in the distance. So, you know, optical perspective would make that tower appear smaller.

If that tower were located in the exact spot as the barn, you would be absolutely correct. It would appear much, much taller than the barn, but because it's at a greater distance, it appears smaller.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. So, it's 2,000 feet away from the barn. So that, that makes sense to me. Okay.

THE WITNESS (Allen): Matthew Allen.

It's 2,000 feet from the observer's vantage point and I don't have the distance to the barn, but I would estimate that barn is maybe 150 to 200 feet from that same vantage point.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. Great. I understand that. Thank you.

All right. Now I'd like to go to my favorite subject relating to the coverage plots. So, turning to section six, 700 megahertz. Now, first of all, the coverage plot is -- let's see. It was at the corner of -- the center of the coverage plot was southwest from the facility. It was on East Haddam-Colchester Turnpike, and a side street, a short distance from the parcel that is being proposed.

My first question is, why? Why is the coverage plot southwest of the site when it appears that the coverage that's needed is north?

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Morissette, could we just get some clarification on your question? You said the coverage plot was southwest of the proposed site?

MR. MORISSETTE: Yeah. The coverage ring, I should call it.

A VOICE: The search ring.

MR. MORISSETTE: The search ring. The search ring. Sorry about that. No wonder you were confused. And that's question five. Question five says the proximate center is East Haddam-Colchester Turnpike, and Southwinds Road, which is southwest

of the site.

THE WITNESS (Divito): Yes, sir. This is Kip Divito from Verizon Wireless.

That's just the center of the search ring, but it's a radius of .75 miles, I believe. So, anything within that, you know, I guess the diameter of a mile and a half --

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay.

THE WITNESS (Divito): -- we were looking at candidates and we just used that center point as our -- as our reference point, I guess you could say, or anchor.

So, we -- we were able to find a location for a site that was within that search ring. It just wasn't right on the center of the search ring.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. Well, my first question is, why is it not further north? Because if you look at the plot of 700 megahertz existing condition, and considering Route 149 is to the north, I would have thought you would have chose the center that was more north.

THE WITNESS (Divito): Yes, sir. Kip Divito with Verizon Wireless again.

I would refer to page 27, which also shows a coverage plot from the transfer station.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Just for clarification, Mr. Divito is referring to the transfer station plots that are in the application behind tab 16. It's the 27th page of that attachment. I just wanted to make sure the record was clear.

But it is the coverage plot that we submitted to the Town showing coverage from the transfer station. Thank you.

MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you.

THE WITNESS (Divito): I would just like to say that, so in our search we -- we did look at that transfer station. We did find that that area needed coverage as well. However, it wasn't sufficient -- or enough to cover what the proposed site that we're talking about this afternoon would cover.

So, on that page 27, we show what the coverage would be like at the transfer station, what the coverage would be like on due south on -- is it Mount Parnassus Road?

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Uh-huh.

THE WITNESS (Divito): And then we also show the existing coverage from what -- we call it East Haddam two, which is to the west. I don't know the name of that road off the top of my head.

It's the -- at the -- that baseball field there.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Neptune.

THE WITNESS (Divito): Neptune Road, on the lights there. So, we are trying to cover in that, that whole there of coverage, that lack, that lack in service.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. If I look at the -- so, you're saying you're trying to fill in the spot to the east of 151?

THE WITNESS (Divito): Yes, sir. I believe that one -- 151 goes north to west -- or north to south, sort of perpendicular to the East Haddam-Colchester Road. And so, you'll see an area that is not -- not colored by the blue and green coverage plots.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. Because that's not what your introduction says. Your introduction says you're trying to fill in the spot at East Haddam-Colchester Turnpike, Bashan and Falls Bashan, and Route 149, which is further -- all that is further north.

THE WITNESS (Divito): I guess that the coverage on -- sir, this is Kip Divito again from Verizon Wireless.

The page, page 2 on the same exhibit shows what the proposed coverage will be like for East

Haddam Bashan Lake site that we're discussing this afternoon. So, that is the coverage that we're covering.

You can still see to the north of that, that there is a gap in service. That is what the transfer station would fill in. To the south you see the site at Mount Parnassus, that that would go -- what would that cover. So it's -- I guess, visually it's easier to see perhaps.

MR. MORISSETTE: Well, so if I go back to the first page, the existing, I noticed that you've got coverage on Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir. Can you explain to me why? I don't know where the coverage is coming from for those two areas.

THE WITNESS (Divito): It sounds like he's asking about this. Where is this coming from?

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Yeah. I'm sorry. Mr. Morissette, could you repeat the question?

MR. MORISSETTE: Sure. So, I'm on the existing Verizon Wireless 700 megahertz coverage. And I'm asking where the existing coverage is coming from for Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir.

THE WITNESS (Divito): Yes, sir. This is Kip Divito from Verizon Wireless.

That coverage from this plot, it is, I guess

it could either be coming from Colchester South, which is that site at the very top.

MR. MORISSETTE: Uh-huh?

THE WITNESS (Divito): Or it could be coming from the not yet built, but we're showing it as existing because we do -- we have approval to build it, what we call East Haddam three, the Mount Parnassus site.

So, it -- from this it's difficult to tell which one, but I -- if I were to say, I'd say from East Haddam three. And that's just --

MR. MORISSETTE: Is that a lower elevation?

Is that why it's getting picked up?

THE WITNESS (Divito): Yes, sir. So, the lake itself, they're usually -- since they're so low in elevation compared to, you know, surrounding sites and surrounding hills, RF tends to hit that.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. Right. So, now if I go to the existing and proposed -- and this is what I'm asking now is, one of your outlines was you're going to cover 149. Now you do have coverage on a piece of 149, but it doesn't appear to be as prominent as I would think a major route would want to cover.

So, my fundamental questions are, why aren't

you moving it further to the north so you get more coverage on 149?

THE WITNESS (Divito): Because then we would lose the handoff -- sorry. This is Kip Divito from Verizon Wireless.

We would, number one, lose the handoff to our Haddam three site that will be built, so customers would end up on coverage, drive south, lose coverage and then pick coverage up again. As you know, if you're on an emergency phone call, that's a bad situation.

Further north you might also lose the handoff to East Haddam two, and that would only allow you -- moving it north without filling in the coverage gap that would be left behind, it would only allow for the possible handoff to the north site. And then secondly, aside from handoff, it's -- this site isn't just about covering the roads, although that is an important part. It's about adding indoor, reliable indoor coverage to the houses around Bashan Lake.

I believe in the interrogatory -- I forget at this moment what response it is, but our East Haddam two alpha sector is in exhaust, which means we are -- the experience there on that sector is

poor because there are too many users. It is covering too many users around the lake and on the roads.

So that, the network here is being designed with the site in its current location. We're showing the East Haddam three to the south at what it will be built at, and then we have a plot showing the transfer station, what we call Haddam four and what it will do.

So, handoffs are important. Capacity is important. Yes.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. So, you're relieving the capacity issue on East Haddam two. That's a driver as well. Are you concerned at all with the gap in coverage on 149?

THE WITNESS (Divito): So, this is Kip Divito with Verizon Wireless.

I guess I would refer to, again, this tab -- are we on tab 16?

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: (Unintelligible.)

THE WITNESS (Divito): Okay. Page 27, it shows that the transfer station coverage would fill that gap on Route 149 connecting to East Haddam two. We will of course connect to our current site that we're discussing as well.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Morissette, apologies. We're jumping around from plots to plots. What Mr. Divito is referring to are the additional plots for the alternate sites that the Town had asked us to produce, and those are the ones that are behind attachment 16 in the application itself where we provided the Town with those additional plots for the transfer station site.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. Well, I'm referring to the existing and proposed plots behind tab six which is what is being proposed. And my question is, are you concerned at all with the gap on 149?

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito from Verizon Wireless.

No, because we will fill that coverage with the transfer station service.

MR. MORISSETTE: I don't understand why the transfer station service isn't shown on this map.

This is what you're proposing.

THE WITNESS (Divito): All right. Um --

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: But the transfer station was not a proposal in this application, Mr. Morissette. This is the East Haddam Bashan Lake proposal. That transfer station site is an existing tower to the north along Route 149 that Mr. Divito has

testified is also something that Verizon Wireless is considering using in the near future.

MR. MORISSETTE: So, that's something that's planned in the future?

THE WITNESS (Divito): Correct.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. Well, I guess I'll have to figure this out, because I'm not seeing it right now.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: That's why we were directing you to that, that other plot behind tab 16 because what that plot shows, Mr. Morissette, is the coverage from the existing sites in the area with the transfer station.

It shows the location of the proposed Bashan Lake facility, but it doesn't show any coverage from that site because that's what the Town had asked us to provide.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. Can you tell me which plot it is? There are several plots here and I don't see it.

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito with Verizon Wireless.

At the top it's labeled, plot number three, but I can tell you on tab 16 it is page 27.

MR. MORISSETTE: Well, I don't see any page numbers.

So, that's not helpful.

THE WITNESS (Divito): Okay.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: There are three plots, Mr. Morissette, that are appended to an e-mail attachment in tab 16 and they are labeled plots one, plot two, and plot three. Plots two and three are plots at two different heights for the Town's transfer station tower site.

MR. MORISSETTE: Okay. I'm not going to take any more of anybody's time up here now, but I don't see it. I'll have to find it later.

Okay. Thank you, and that concludes my questioning for this afternoon. Thank you, Chairman Katz, and thank you, panel.

THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair, for that.

We'll now move to Mr. Golembiewski.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Thank you, Chairman Katz.

I want to start with the site search which would be the summary, which is attachment eight. And I wanted to ask some questions about site 23, which is 300 East Haddam-Colchester Turnpike.

And my questions are that it appears to be a farm with two silos. And I guess my question -- so, I have two -- a two-part question is, was there any RF, I guess, you know, survey done to

see if how it would match up with your coverage need? And then two, what were the heights of the silos on that property or adjacent to that property?

THE WITNESS (Divito): Yes, sir. This is Kip Divito from Verizon Wireless.

I can't speak to the heights of the silos, but as far as an RF consideration my notes have been that, for starters, it is far outside our search ring. And because of that it will not bring the service to where we need it to.

Secondly, for an RF standpoint so far outside of the search ring would put all of the traffic basically on one sector, which is not sound RF network practices. You're just going to over -- over encumber that one sector, much like our existing site to the west already is over encumbered.

And then secondly, due to geography, I mean, it's -- it -- there's some hill topping that would prevent on the other side of, I guess you could say is it -- sorry. Moodus Reservoir. There is some geography there that rises in elevation which is where our proposed site is located, which is, you know, part of the reason why we chose that

location, but that location there where the hilltops there would prevent RF from going further west.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. Thank you.

If I refer to the coverage plots -- I guess it's the first plot with existing; I guess I had some initial concerns like Mr. Morissette. But after you explain -- I guess, it's sort of like a puzzle. Right? You're trying to cover many gaps, and this is -- this East Haddam Bashan Lake site is really positioned because you're assuming that you're going to go on at some height on the tower at the town transfer station. Is that correct?

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito from Verizon Wireless.

Yes, that is correct.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. So, I think some of the confusion was that if you had to talk about need why wouldn't you move forward with the other tower first in, since it covers more of the state highway or state route in lieu of local town roads? Do you understand my question?

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito with Verizon Wireless.

Yes, sir. As far as what gets moved first

that's not something that RF can speak to, but as far as priority-wise from RF I could say that the -- the coverage need for capacity and covering more reliable service to residents in and around Bashan Lake, there's -- there's just more, more residents there. There's more traffic being taken from where our current site is being located.

So, if I had to pick from an RF perspective I would personally pick the site we're discussing this afternoon versus the transfer station, which would be an already built tower. It's a co-location; it would be easy to build, whereas sites like this take a very long time to plan, to build, and to, you know, get on the air.

So, it's -- it's an extreme challenge that we have to start planning years in advance, whereas a co-location on an existing structure is something that could be done in far less time.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. All right. That makes sense. Thank you. That that sort of -- that fills in. And then there may be other search rings based on these two that we're talking about that ultimately are part of your picture. Yes?

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito with Verizon Wireless.

Yes, sir.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. All right. So, that's all I need from the site search. I'd like to ask a question --

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Golembiewski?

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Yes?

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Sorry to interrupt, but we -- there was a another part of your initial question that we have an answer to that we didn't get to yet. I just thought we'd get that on the record.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. Great.

THE WITNESS (Vergati): This is Ray Vergati, Homeland Towers.

You had previously asked about the two existing silos at 300 East Haddam. Just from a street view, not measuring them, obviously, but one appears to be approximately 45 feet in height, and the other one appears to be roughly 60 feet in height. And the ground elevation for those silos is roughly 400, 400 feet.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: So using them without a significant increase in height would not be feasible.

Is that what you're telling me?

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito with Verizon Wireless.

Yes. I would again, I guess, refer back to my first point about putting all the traffic onto one sector which would just over encumber that one sector. And although people may be experiencing service, that service would be unreliable at best.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. Thank you. So, a combination of it being too far to the east and the structures are fairly, fairly short. So, that answers both parts of my question. Thank you.

I'm going to go to the visual survey or the study. So, this is the first one that I've seen without a red balloon. So, I understand that some type of LiDAR is used to estimate the tower, the tower height for that for a specific location.

And then so my question is, so there must be some reference points that are part of your model, and those are all taken from the LiDAR? Or is there a ground truth-ing? Is there something in the area that we know the actual elevation of comparatively?

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yes. This is Matthew Allen, Saratoga Associates.

That that's -- that's a good question. There are a number of things we do to accurately produce photo simulations without having a marker balloon

in the photograph. The first thing we do is when we take photographs in the field we use a known -- a camera with known specifications, meaning we know the focal length of the lens we use. We know the resolution of the photograph, the horizontal and vertical pixels that comprise that photograph.

We also know the precise location that we took the photograph from. We document that location using a handheld global positioning system, and we also have a redundant system built into the camera. So, we know within a few feet of where we were standing when we took the photograph.

All of those elements can be matched in our 3D model, and what I mean by that is we build a 3D model of the tower and the surrounding landscape to scale. The surrounding landscape, I mean everything within two miles and we build that using LiDAR data, which if you're unfamiliar with LiDAR data, that's a point-source survey tool, aerial imagery that takes light pulses that are flown and based on the return gives you the height of, not only the ground surface, but anything above the ground surface. So, it produces a very accurate model of the treeline, existing

buildings. It's accurate enough that -- that you can even recognize cars in parking lots.

So, using that data source and built into our 3D model, which is -- our 3D model is geographically correct, built to scale and geographically correct in real-world coordinates. We plug into that model the exact coordinates of the camera that we used in the field, latitude and longitude. So, we know within a couple of feet we can match our camera to the -- the field camera.

We know the focal length of the lens that we use. In most cases it's a 50 millimeter lens, which gives you a certain field of view, 38.6 degrees to be exact. And we also know from our camera what the resolution of the photograph was, and -- and with our camera it's about 24 megapixels, which is approximately 4,000 pixels high by 6,000 pixels wide.

We match those exact parameters in our 3D model camera and that will give us an image of the landscape within view that very closely approximates or represents the view that you see through the actual, within the actual photograph.

So, we then merge that same model view with the photograph. We simply display the photograph

using software. The software we use is 3D Studio Max which allows us to drag that photograph into our viewport. And if we have set the model camera to the exact specifications of the field camera, the modeled view will appear almost exactly as the -- the physical camera view.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay.

THE WITNESS (Allen): The only thing we need to do is move the camera target so the things visible in our model match and align perfectly with the same things that we see in the photograph such as tree lines, buildings, telephone poles, and things of that sort.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. Great. Thank you very much. It's an interesting, interesting advancement.

MR. LYNCH: Brian, can I just ask a question?

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Yes. Yes, absolutely, Mr. Lynch.

MR. LYNCH: All this LiDAR technology that you're using is understandable when you explain it, but how does a layman get to view these sites, these visuals, you know, and understand what you're talking about?

THE WITNESS (Allen): Matthew Allen here.

Mr. Lynch, I'm sorry. Could you repeat the question? I'm not -- I'm not sure I understand.

MR. LYNCH: All right. Your LiDAR technology is all well and good, and you had explained it very well. But in explaining it to us, myself being a layman, how would you tell a layperson, you know, what you've done without -- I take that back.

How would a lay person know what you've done with these visuals?

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: And if I -- I guess, if I understand what Mr. Lynch is asking for is, if you live in the neighborhood and you know on a certain day there's going to be a crane there with a big red balloon, and you drive by or you stand in your backyard, you either see the red balloon or not.

So, I guess there -- I think the answer is that there is no way for someone other than looking at your report.

MR. LYNCH: Thank you, Brian. That's what I was getting at.

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yeah. Matthew Allen, Saratoga Associates.

That is correct. The photo simulations that are provided are meant to be representative of views from different locations, different distances, different viewing conditions, and in general places that the public would be more apt

to have a view of the facility.

So, you are -- you are correct. A neighbor, unless a photo simulation was done from the property, is going to have to rely on representative views, which is why we -- we took a location directly from the East Haddam-Colchester Road directly in front of the access point. Because that is most representative of views that neighbors may experience coming and going to their homes, representative of views in close proximity. That is about the closest view that any neighbor could have through the trees.

So, you get a sense of the density of the trees and how that may provide screening or not of the tower, but the photo simulations are meant to be representative of a variety of views.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Well, you just led me into my next question. So, if I am on photo 01, page 29 of 43 in the PDF -- so this, this would be -- it appears this is the most visible of all the photo simulations then. Is that correct?

THE WITNESS (Allen): Matthew Allen.

Yes, that is correct.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: And I would --

THE WITNESS (Allen): The distance is approximately 460

feet from the tower.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. And I would say that this is a good representation of leaf-off. This would be a worst-case scenario. Is that correct?

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yeah. Matthew Allen.

Yes, that's correct.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: So with leaf-on, it is likely you would not see it at all. Correct?

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yeah. Matthew Allen.

Yes, that is absolutely true.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: So, for this worst-case scenario if I look at this, is there -- I guess, is there a way to provide some evergreen plantings that would further screen it from the road?

THE WITNESS (Allen): Matthew Allen.

Yes, I'm -- I'm a landscape architect by profession, so I can answer this question. If that -- I'm not completely familiar with this, with the exact site conditions, but evergreen trees could be planted in this location provided there was enough space within outside of the -- the road right-of-way to allow for that planting, and that sufficient light would get through.

This looks like, if I've got my directions correct, this looks on the northerly side of East

Haddam-Colchester or -- yeah, that this is on the northerly side of the vegetation that's on the -- along the frontage of East Haddam-Colchester Turnpike.

So, that existing mature vegetation may provide extensive shade to the -- the southerly sun that may inhibit growth of new vegetation. And obviously, you don't want to remove trees to allow vegetation or --

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Sure.

THE WITNESS (Allen): -- screening vegetation.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Yeah.

THE WITNESS (Allen): We'd rather keep the existing vegetation as is.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. Thank you.

If we go to page 38 of 43, photo 16? I am looking at the existing condition and I'm looking at the -- there's a gray house, I think, or tan house on the -- in the background on the left.

Do you see that?

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yeah. Matthew Allen.

Yes, I see it.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: All right. So, if I go down then to the next photo which is the simulated condition, is that the tower behind -- above the treeline

behind that house?

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yes, Matthew Allen responding. Yes, that's correct.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. I just didn't know, because in the other photo there was some indication of the tower. So that, that is -- I assume that, but I just wanted to make sure. So, that is the tower and that would be one of the locations where the tower actually pokes up above the treeline along, either being on the shoreline of these lakes or on the water, you would see the tower from on the water there also?

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yes, Matthew Allen responding. Yes, that's correct. This particular view is from almost 4300 feet away.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay.

THE WITNESS (Allen): So, in this particular location there's a slight dip in the topography treeline on the opposite side which allows the top of the tower to become visible in -- from this particular vantage point.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. I mean, I'm surprised I even saw it, actually, but I did have my new glasses on. So, that's good.

All right. So, now I am going to shift gears

and I'm going to go to the site plan. And I'm going to -- it would be sheet C-1, and I have a question about wetland -- I guess, that's wetland one or the northernmost wetland.

As I look at these plans it is unclear where the eastern side, I guess, northeastern side of the road, proposed road ends. Does it correspond with the utility line?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

Site plan one -- C-1 at the road does have a utility pole called out where there's exist -- existing gravel in place already to access the parcel.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Yeah?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Our access is over that same gravel and then that's extended along the eastern portion of that neck, which is the 25-foot-wide area of our parcel that will lead us to the tower.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Yeah. Okay. And then the E, slash, T line, that's the utility corridor?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: The utility trench it's going to go through?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): David Weinpahl, On Air

Engineering.

Electric telephone underground utility conduits.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Yeah. Okay. So, in that area where is the eastern end of the proposed -- I see proposed twelve-foot-wide gravel access road total length, approximately 400 feet. Where is the eastern edge of that, of the roadbed?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

I believe we've drawn it about two feet in from that eastern line, the eastern property line. There are some existing deciduous trees along the west side that we would rather have maintained and we've let -- we've left most of those in place, actually.

The electric telephone utilities may actually be routed beneath our road in some sections on our property, and the road would be towards that -- and I don't have an exact distance. I think it's about two feet. I don't believe we took the road right to the edge of the property.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. So, if I look on this and I see wetland flag 203 to 204, and then I look at the LOD, which is the limit of disturbance, it

appears that the limit of disturbance overlaps the wetland edge.

So, how are you not going to have a direct impact on that wetland when you put in the road, then put in a three-foot-wide utility trench along the side of it there, put in silt fencing or whatever else? So, explain to me how you're not going to have a direct impact on that wetland.

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

There's a lot happening in this area. I think it may have -- what happened is the layering and the showing of an LOD, electric/telephone lines, existing gravel; the LOD would be at the edge of the property and within that going to the west would be the development of the road and the utilities.

So, that would be -- the LOD is shown beyond the property line a little bit to the east. That that's a graphic view just because there was too many lines to -- to show in that area.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay.

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): But we will make sure that all disturbance takes place on our parcel and the LOD is along that line and not beyond it.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: So, just -- you know, I don't want you to measure whatever, but would you say there's going to be a five-foot buffer or setback from the wetland from the construction associated with the road and the utilities?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

I believe we might even be a little less than five feet. That wetland almost runs right up to the property line up in that area. It's fairly close to it and will be a few feet in on the other side. So, three to four feet perhaps.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. Would it be possible for you to flag the limits of the wetland? Or at least put something that designates the limits of the wetland so that during construction all the contractors are aware that they need to -- however.

It's tight, I'm sure. And I don't know what, you know, specific equipment is needed to trench in the utilities, but would it be possible to flag the wetlands and maintain some minimum buffer during construction?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. Again, David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

Our protocol here would be, yes, we would. We would reflag the wetlands. We would also be located in the property line on each side of that 20-foot -- 25-foot width. So we were being sure we don't cross over the property line on either side.

If our access road were to shift where it connects to the town road and it goes a little bit towards the west, and we could pull that a little bit away from the wetlands including the electric telephone services, we can do that as well. And then, of course, during construction there will be measures in place for silt sock and other techniques to protect the wetlands during our construction activities.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Yeah, that I understand you're sort of caught between two mature oak trees and the wetlands. So, I understand that you're, sort of, trying to find a middle ground.

THE WITNESS (Brogie): This is Martin Brogie from Martin Brogie, Incorporated.

I -- I delineated the wetlands out here. The wetland flags remain on the site. And it's difficult to see the detail of the topography along the east side of that road as it relates to

the wetland boundary, but the wetland boundary, certainly along wetland flags 203 to 204, fall at the base of a stone shoulder that runs along that road.

So, it's -- it's probably three feet in elevation below the existing road that runs through there now. And so, there's plenty of room to work from the top of that shoulder. So if you can visualize that, from the top of the shoulder is where we would put our silt fence and work westward of that, of that line.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay.

THE WITNESS (Brogie): It wouldn't really be down in the wetland. Yeah, it would be on top.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. And based on what I can tell, there doesn't need to be any side slopes at this point. It looks like a fairly flat already sort of prepped road base, subbase.

So, there's no need to expand anything laterally. Correct?

THE WITNESS (Brogie): Martin Brogie again.

For the record, I've -- I've been parked on that very spot probably six times and very familiar with that location. It's -- it's a very stable, like I say, a gravel shoulder there and

there's no need for any additional material to be placed there to support the future road.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. Great. All right. So on the same --

THE CHAIR: Mr. Golembiewski?

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Yes?

THE CHAIR: I'm sorry to interrupt, but we're a little past when we would take our break. Do you want to finish your questioning? Or if you have a bit more to go I suggest we take a pause for a few minutes.

What makes sense?

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Sure. Sure. Why don't we take a break? Because I do have -- I don't know, maybe another 10 minutes, 15 minutes.

THE CHAIR: Sure. Certainly.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Depending on the answers.

THE CHAIR: Yeah, absolutely. We want you to make sure all your questions are answered.

Okay, folks. So, we will take a 15-minute break which will put us back here at about 3:55.

And just so people on the call are aware, we will break at five or around then with the evidentiary portion of this, and then reconvene at 6:30 with the public hearing, the public hearing

portion of this.

So, with that let's reconvene in 15 minutes. Thank you, everyone.

(Pause: 3:39 p.m. to 3:55 p.m.)

THE CHAIR: Good afternoon. We are back on the record.

Mr. Golembiewski, would you like to continue with your cross, please?

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Thank you. Thank you very much, Chairman Katz.

All right. I just have a few more questions on referring to the site plan, the same site plan I've been referring to. I guess I have a question. So, the road, the access road is going to be, I guess, approximately 400 feet long. Is there any need to have any type of drainage swale or culvert discharge at the end, or any type of drainage measures on the road?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

It's likely a small swale will be implemented to take some of this drainage, a grass-lined swale. It may not be for this entire length, but it will evaluate that as we get into the D and M

stage, but we anticipate a swale, if anything, for that measure.

I don't foresee any culverts again as we have a narrow portion of 25 feet before we're on adjacent parcels. So, I think that the stormwater can be managed on our -- on our lot sufficiently.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. And it would be discharged up gradient of -- I'm assuming it's going to be discharged northerly towards wetland one, but it would be day lit -- or whatever discharged, say, by -- like you said, grass swale that would be essentially up-gradient of the wetland?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

That is correct, it will be up, up-gradient from the -- from the wetland.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. All right. Moving on to the compound area and wetland two. Could I ask a question on the latest, or if there was additional information, or summarize the vernal pool information that has been gathered on wetland two?

THE WITNESS (Brogie): Sure. This is Martin Brogie. For the record, Martin Brogie, Inc.

I completed the assessment of the -- of all three wetland areas on four different dates,

including March 15th, March 20th, March 25th and then another visit on April 14th, which was after our last round of interrogatory responses were submitted to the Council.

And I set traps on -- on March 15th and made visual assessments of all three areas including dip netting and going into the pools. And on the second visit, in one of the traps -- we set two in the larger pool we're calling wetland two. That was -- seemed to be the one most likely to have any kind of amphibian breeding habitat given the hydrology of the areas.

And in one of the traps during that visit there were eight wood frogs and one spotted salamander as well as one wood frog egg mass. So we released the amphibians and gently placed the -- the one wood frog egg mass back into the edge of the pool. And there were no other observations in the two remaining pools during that visit.

When we came back on March 25th we evaluated all three areas again. We observed the one wood frog egg mass that we had extracted from the trap on the earlier visit on the edge of the pool; made no other observations in our traps or with our dip

netting of -- of any amphibians in any of the three areas.

And when we returned on April 14th, again we found nothing in any of the traps, no wood frogs or salamanders in any of the three areas. We found an additional wood frog egg masses in wetland number two, totaling two would frog egg masses. Mid April it was warming up and those egg masses were just beginning to hatch out.

Dip netting in those, in that central pool, maybe 3 of the 15 dip nets we found 2 or 3 of wood frog tadpoles, tadpoles that had just hatched out, so -- and nothing in the other two pools.

So, it would appear that that central wetland has a very limited low capacity for vernal pool breeding habitat. There were no spotted salamander egg masses observed, and just the one spotted salamander during that one visit. And some obviously, you know, common wood frog breeding potential in that central pool.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Did you find any invertebrates when you did the dip netting?

THE WITNESS (Brogie): No.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Any -- no? So, no fairy shrimp?

THE WITNESS (Brogie): No. No, it's mostly leaf litter

on the bottom, a very shallow pool, very responsive to rainwater. These are parched conditions and I'm sure it's -- in summertime, dry summers especially, they'll completely dry up.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. If you refer to the same plan that I've been looking at, in the application it is stated that the compound is 40 feet from the limits of wetland two. But if you look at the limit of disturbance it's probably 20 feet from the wetland would be the limits of disturbance, which I'm assuming is, you know, based on -- I see the X's on trees and such. That that would be your clearing zone for construction?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Is that correct?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

That is correct. Those limits of disturbance are also taking into consideration a tower foundation, which below grade, could be 25 feet, 30 feet square as well. So, we accounted for that in the LOD, the limits shown.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. So, I guess my question then is -- there's a fenced compound and then there's a limit of disturbance. So, I know if I go on to

the left side of this same document it says, proposed evergreen screening.

What is the ultimate, if you want to call it, restoration or stabilization of the areas between the compound itself and the limit of clearing or limit of disturbance?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. Dave Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

At this time we have not worked out those details entirely yet. The proposed evergreen screening shown on the east and south end of the compound is more for visual screening due to the adjacent lot and the driveway.

In terms of the area between the fence and the wetlands, which is 40 feet, we have -- we have different possibilities for some native shrubs to be planted in that area. Eastern red cedar as an evergreen option, also for the visual screens are all options we can utilize here.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. So a wetland buffer enhancement planting would not -- you would be okay with something like that as a condition?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

I think that's a reasonable condition based

on the proximity we are to the wetland.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. And then I guess just following up on my thoughts on the vernal pool is, Mr. Brogie, where were your traps? I see the wetland numbers. I'm assuming you put them on the south side. I'm assuming you thought the migration was coming from the south and the east?

THE WITNESS (Brogie): Martin Brogie here for the record.

So, I initially looked at the pools to look at which ones tended to be more viable for possible vernal pool breeding habitat. The one nearest the road was very, very shallow and very small. So, I chose not to put any traps in that one whatsoever. It was very easily observable and -- and dip netted. I could, you know, it was six feet across and maybe ten feet long and four or five inches deep. So, there wasn't really much going on there.

So, I chose to put two traps in the wetland number two. And I typically don't orient traps within the pools in consideration of migratory pathways because once -- once they get into the pool it doesn't really matter where they come from in terms of what they do in there, in terms of

breeding and laying egg masses and so forth.

So, what I tried to do is find the deepest part of that pool and -- and frankly, my traps were barely submerged completely. I could -- I could still observe the very top of my traps, you know, within those pools. The entry ports were -- were well below the waterline. So, I just was looking for depth.

And where I found depth was basically if you drew a straight line between wetland flags 14 and wetland -- and wetland flag 4, they were about equidistant in between that, and that was the deepest part of the pool where I -- where I installed those two traps.

And then over on wetlands three in the southeast corner of this site there was a location. It was relatively small, perhaps ten feet across and five feet wide, but it did have some greater depth there. There was 16 to 20 inches of water in this small area, perched on rocks. So, I chose to put one trap there.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. And what is -- so, I guess I'm familiar with, like, pit traps that are not in the pool. So, what? What is your trap?

THE WITNESS (Brogie): They're basically fish traps

that are --

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay.

THE WITNESS (Brogie): -- that are placed inside the pool, yeah.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay.

THE WITNESS (Brogie): I've done those fence arrays with -- with pit traps as well to determine migratory pathways, but that was I thought more than warranted here.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. So, I am going to ask one final summarization on wetland impacts. In light of the -- how close both the compound is to a wetland with -- with some vernal pool attributes, and then the two to three feet of separation between, let's just say the northern end of the access road to wetland one and then the proximity of the compound and the construction associated with the compound, that it's within 20 feet or so of wetland two.

Explain to me how we're not going to have a long-term adverse impact to either of those two wetland areas.

THE WITNESS (Brogie): Sure. Martin Brogie here for the record.

With regard to the northernmost wetland, I

think as we stated earlier the existing shoulder from that road, that stone shoulder that comes down to the edge of -- of that wetland between flags 203 and 204 will remain.

Whatever impact occurred to that very small wetland occurred when that road was previously installed. The edge of the wetland didn't come any closer to the toe of the slope of that shoulder based on hand augering. And the construction of the roadway through that area won't add any additional, you know, direct impacts to that wetland, and it's very low functioning as it is.

So I, in my professional opinion I don't believe that the project would have any adverse impacts on that beyond which have already occurred previously. That wetland should continue to remain hydrologically and -- and ecologically as -- as functional as it is today.

With regard to wetland two, certainly the tower being 40 feet away and -- and the limit of disturbance being -- I don't know -- we would probably estimate 20 feet from the edge of that portion of the -- of the wetland; the wetland itself has a very well established shrub layer

surrounding it and a very good tree canopy over it.

There's spice bush in there, sweet pepper bush, and high bush blueberry. Not a lot of herbaceous activity going on in that, in that area. So, it's well covered, well vegetated around the entire pool, the entire wetland area. And if we look at the fact that we're disturbing just a portion of the edge where the tower is west of the wetland, if you think about the -- the perimeter of the -- in total around that wetland area, it's not -- it's not a significant upland area relative to the upland area surrounding the pool itself.

That said, we have to take a careful look at -- at stormwater runoff from the -- from the compound itself. That's a primary concern. Those compounds are constructed with processed stone and everything is built on a pad. All the pads are completely surrounded with stone. There are no stone -- there are no pads that extend to the edge of the compound.

So, all the rainwater will hit those pads and then exfiltrate off the corners and into the stone below. There are no direct stormwater discharges

that come out of the compound. So, first and foremost, that that is not an issue here.

The biggest concerns are during construction making sure that the erosion control measures are established. We did prepare and submit a wetland protection plan that would serve as a communication tool for contractors on the site, and implementing engineered controls with specified erosion control measures that would not ensnare amphibians, should they be there.

It would be no -- no mesh material other than, you know, the quarter logs, the -- the rolled wooden erosion control measures versus silt fence that might, you know, provide barriers or any other materials that might ensnare amphibians. And then there would be daily checks for amphibians work -- work-ward of the -- of the lines of erosion control.

And again, we have a very low-functioning pool here. We're not expecting, you know, large populations to be -- to be impacted associated with the wetland.

And -- and last the -- the -- I was just talking with the landscape architect before we jump back on the call about, you know, what we can

do to that buffer area on the east side of the tower, with regard to the question you asked about what we're going to do for our wetland restoration plan. And we talked about native species, the eastern red cedar to provide some visual buffers, and we're going to come up with a planting plan that actually does some wildlife enhancement features here and further restores that, that boundary as close to the compound as we can possibly get.

And so, after construction, you know, given the relatively limited footprint of the -- the tower pad itself and the access road, which is basically overlaying an area that already exists as an access road, I think the overall impact to the functionality of that wetland, wetland pool will be -- would be very, very low.

MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Okay. Thank you very much.

Chair Katz, I'm done with my questioning. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Golembiewski.

So, moving next to Mr. Nguyen. Take it away.

MR. NGUYEN: Yeah. Thank you, Chair Katz, and good afternoon.

I only have a couple of questions. I just

want to go back to the discussion with Vice-Chair Morissette regarding the tower centrally could be moved up north to northeast. Do you recall that?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

Yes, I recall that discussion.

MR. NGUYEN: Yes. So, to that extent in terms of the distance that can go farther away from any wetlands around, would there be any increased distance away from specifically to wetland two if that is the case?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air engineering.

Without a doubt, a shift to the northeast could impact double the distance to wetland two from the compound fence. It can be configured a little differently as well, perhaps even get a greater distance than 80 feet. Right now we're at 40 feet.

And again, we -- we steered a little bit away from that area as we were creeping closer to the front property line, closer to the street and we were getting into an area of a rocky ledge area. But that, that can be dealt with through construction hammering and -- and breaking a rock.

And if it's more vital to have the wetland protected with a larger buffer distance I believe this to be an option.

MR. NGUYEN: And how many feet are we talking about?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

I -- I think it could be doubled up to 80 feet just looking quickly at the plans.

MR. NGUYEN: And with respect to the property line, so that would increase another 40 feet closer to further north?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

I'm looking at just shifting it on the plan right now, just move everything 40 feet due north, for example. We start to gain better setbacks from wetland two. The tower from the front lot line, which is recessed from the street will go from around a hundred to, say, 60 feet. That may be the more governing setback for a breakpoint design for the tower.

So, we do one thing and we affect another item, but in terms of the distance from the wetland, I believe we can get that up to 80 feet perhaps a little bit greater.

MR. NGUYEN: Thank you. I know a lot of questions have been asked regarding the plots. I have a plot I want to ask and that is the latest submittal dated April 22. This has to do with the site that was proposed by the Town, 440 Town Street, and that the submittal presented a map, and that would be at the end of the document.

Did you see that?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes.

MR. NGUYEN: Yeah, just essentially the document is saying that the proposed site by the Town is not viable, and it shows a map.

So, I would appreciate if you could, for the record, walk me through. And looking at the map as a reference, if you could walk me through and understand why is it not viable?

THE WITNESS (Divito): Yes, sir. This is Kip Divito with Verizon Wireless.

Initially looking at that site you see, if you were there, that the tower is quite low, maybe 120 to 150 feet. This plot that we actually produced is at 200 feet, just assume -- assuming worst-case scenario, that we can build a bigger tower there. Right? And that we are at the top of it.

And then you can see on this coverage map that in the blue and green you see that the -- the coverage doesn't reach far enough north by northeast to fill in around the, I guess, the -- would you want to say that the east side of Moodus Reservoir and -- sorry, west side of Moodus Reservoir and sort of north of Bashan Lake. And the road one-forty -- Route 149 being able to connect to the existing site there, East Haddam two.

You see all that? That doesn't have any coverage in that map, that sort of circle there, where our existing proposal is. A worst-case scenario, 200 feet we still would not be able to use that, not just that tower, but that location to fill in the service that this site would be doing.

MR. NGUYEN: The area that indicated a potential firehouse facility, is that the site 440 Town Street?

A VOICE: That's this one.

THE WITNESS (Divito): I'm sorry. Can you just repeat your question again? I didn't --

MR. NGUYEN: Yes, 440 Town Street, where is that on this map? Is it at --

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito with Verizon Wireless.

That, that's labeled the potential firehouse facility. Okay.

MR. NGUYEN: So, surrounding that area I see -- and again for the record, I see a blue shaded area.

Does that mean it already has coverage in that area?

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito with Verizon Wireless.

Are you saying -- sorry. Just so I understand your question, are you saying not -- in the existing coverage you see -- are you referring to the existing coverage plot?

MR. NGUYEN: No, no.

THE WITNESS (Divito): Okay.

MR. NGUYEN: I'm referring to the potential.

THE WITNESS (Divito): Okay.

MR. NGUYEN: I'm looking at the potential firehouse facility.

THE WITNESS (Divito): Okay. So, that the --

MR. NGUYEN: And --

THE WITNESS (Divito): Sorry, go ahead. I apologize.

MR. NGUYEN: Yeah -- and surrounding that potential firehouse facility I see color coded on the map.

And I see a blue shaded area. Does that mean it already has a strong coverage in that particular area?

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito with Verizon Wireless.

No, that's the -- the service at 200 feet above ground elevation, if our design to -- a site there, that's what the potential coverage could look like. So, that blue is that negative 85, which we refer to as reliable indoor service. The green is reliable in-vehicle service. That's the neg 95.

So, that's just what we would show to try and propose, like, to show you that at that location at 200 feet we still wouldn't be able to cover the location that we're proposing with our current site.

MR. NGUYEN: Thank you for that clarification.

So with respect to that particular site with the potential firehouse facility, looking northeast this is where you are opposing the East Haddam -- on Bashan Lake, this is where the coverage will not reach in that particular area.

Is that right?

THE WITNESS (Divito): Yes. This is Kip Divito again.

Yes, that is correct.

MR. NGUYEN: Okay. And now that's all I have, Chair Katz. Thank you, gentlemen.

THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Nguyen.

Mr. Carter, questions?

MR. CARTER: Thank you, Chair Katz. I won't take long due to the great questioning done by my fellow councilmembers and staff. I actually just have one question regarding the potential for a tower extension.

How would the tower extension apply if the Town or another public safety entity had interest in co-locating at the site? Would two carriers still have the ability to co-locate? Or would one of those spaces in that extension be taken by the Town or public safety entity should they decide they need space at a future date?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): This is Ray Vergati, Homeland Towers.

It's our typical experience in the tower business that towns, be it public safety, municipal antennas, like to mount a transmit antenna, be it a Yagi or whip, off the very top of the tower, off the top flange of the tower and extend above the actual 20-foot extension.

So, to answer your question, they would have the top of the tower and the 20-feet extension would still be able to be used by two wireless carriers, commercial carriers.

MR. CARTER: Thank you.

Chair Katz, that's all that I have.

THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Carter.

Ms. Hall?

MS. HALL: I don't have that much either, given the very thorough job my fellow councilmembers have made here. I will say that trying to get a handle on the view was for me very difficult. I'm new to the Council, but I'm used to the red balloon thing, and I was just very confused by the view evidence that was submitted.

And I'm just wondering why you chose to do it that way through the use of LiDAR rather than the more traditional way?

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yeah. This is Matt Allen, Saratoga Associates.

We did choose to do it the way we did it because the photo simulations can be produced with high accuracy. In fact, when we -- even when a balloon is flown we use the same technology to project the tower within the photograph and rely

much less on the location of the balloon within the photograph than we do with other geographic benchmarks that the LiDAR provides us with.

And typically, balloon tests can be somewhat problematic largely because of wind. When you publicly notice a balloon test it is far more common than not for the test to be postponed any number of times in order to find a calm day. If you don't fly the balloon on a calm day the results are -- are not particularly valid. The balloon can be off horizontally by a fair distance and vertically by an even bigger distance.

So, when we do the photo simulations we typically rely on the LiDAR data. So, you know, as a visual analyst I don't need the balloon in order to produce the -- the photo simulations accurately.

MS. HALL: Okay. I understand that, but I think there's a little bit of a tradeoff there for people whose eyes may not be as expert as yours or other members of this panel on illustrating where it's actually going to be located.

But other than that inquiry I don't have any other questions. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms. Hall.

Mr. Lynch, your turn.

MR. LYNCH: I have a few questions.

THE CHAIR: Great.

MR. LYNCH: I have to apologize, though, as I may be repeating some of the questions that were already answered -- but I didn't have my hearing aids in. So, I wasn't really able -- so I didn't get a lot of it.

I'm going to start with the -- now, did I hear correctly that the 120-mile-per-hour winds were raised to 125 or 130? Did I hear that correctly?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

We -- we have corrected the record to state 125 miles per hour as the wind speed for this, for this project.

MR. LYNCH: All right. You also mentioned, you know, that was a category two. Now, is that referring to a category-two storm, or is that an engineering term?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

That's -- that's a term out of the state building code applying risk categories to

different structures as applied in this case. So, telecommunication towers fall under a category-two classification, not necessarily a storm speed or anything of that nature.

There's tables in the code and the appendix of the Connecticut code that identify for each town what the correct speed is to use.

MR. LYNCH: All right. Thank you for that. I got to -- can someone from Verizon give me a percentage of what part of the tower would be covering coverage, and what part would be -- what percentage from it would be capacity?

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito with Verizon Wireless.

I don't exactly know how to answer that question. I mean, there's coverage that, I guess, we -- we sort of went through in the interrogatory about distances, I guess, square mileages.

As far -- I guess, I just don't really --

MR. LYNCH: Let me stop you right there. I'm more interested in what part of the tower would be used for capacity.

THE WITNESS (Divito): So, I -- its capacity? So, I guess, let me start by explaining what capacity is.

MR. LYNCH: I know what it is. I don't -- go ahead.

THE WITNESS (Divito): I mean, it will be, I guess, offloading other sectors. Is that what you're asking? Like, a lot -- it has to --

MR. LYNCH: Yes, that's what I'm asking.

THE WITNESS (Divito): Okay. Okay. So, I guess, I don't have a percentage of how much it will offload our East Haddam two site to the -- to the west of our proposed location. I could say that the alpha sector on -- at 700 is overutilized, and it will be rectified once this tower is built.

I guess, I don't have the -- the numbers of that, but it will offload that sector for capacity reasons. And then the site itself you see the added coverage that it will -- that it will provide the area in the -- the proposed coverage plots that we've given.

MR. LYNCH: Okay. Thank you.

I'm going to go to your schematic on the top -- the 1-A, or A-1, whatever it is. And you have the propane tanks in -- they were within ten feet. But now, the second tank is within the ten-feet area. Would that create a hazard?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

The -- the tanks as shown do meet code and can be three feet apart from each other without causing any -- any issues. We've left space on this design for a future tank for Homeland Towers to -- to utilize for a future tenant possibly. This could be rearranged for Verizon to a 1,000-gallon tank, but that then may limit future 1,000-gallon tanks if ever we --

MR. LYNCH: You anticipated my next question.

Why is it a thousand-gallon tank?

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

It -- it comes down into -- to real estate layout and then trying to make the best use of the space with inside the fence. The 500 -- two 500-gallons reserved by Verizon will be the same volume capacity as the 1,000.

We're finding T-Mobile on particular projects they are putting in generators, they're not putting in generators. AT&T uses different configurations at times. So, it's hard to predict down the road what might happen.

But what we have experienced is putting in two thousand-gallon tanks in a compound takes up a lot of space.

MR. LYNCH: And how much of that 500 gallons would

actually be utilized in an emergency situation?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl again, On Air Engineering.

The tank capacity is up to 80 percent of the -- of the tank size. So, up to 400 gallons per tank would be filled. The tanks would be connected and regulated through one device. So, as -- as the tanks lower as propane is utilized each tank will lower around the same amount. It's not like you'll use one 500-gallon tank and then shift over to the other tank for propane. It -- it wouldn't work that way.

And then Verizon can monitor -- and they will monitor the volume of the tank so they know when to fill them up.

MR. LYNCH: All right. You're leading me right into my next question. In monitoring it, the regulators on these tanks are -- they tend to freeze up a little bit during cold weather. So, would the maintenance people be checking that?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes. David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

Maintenance for these structures is typically once -- once a month perhaps, or more often. Field techs for Verizon have a number of

facilities to visit for different reasons. I don't know the exact answer as to how often they might go back under freezing conditions to check the tank valves and see that they're all operating, but it -- it would make sense that that would be accomplished somehow.

MR. LYNCH: All right. Thank you.

Now, is the maintenance on these towers done by Verizon employees, or do you subcontract that out?

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip --

THE WITNESS (Glidden): This is Liz Glidden from Verizon Wireless. The maintenance is done by -- for our equipment and our shelter, it would be done by our operations team, which are Verizon people.

MR. LYNCH: All right. Thank you.

And if we can go up to C-1 of your plan for the compound? Now, I see the proposed underground conduit. Now, is that where the fiber-optic telephone line would be coming in?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): David Weinpahl, On Air Engineering.

Correct, the electric telephone lines, those conduits would include fiber cable for Verizon's

use.

MR. LYNCH: All right. Now, if that fiber-optic cable is down or -- that would put your whole -- I don't care how much backup power you have. That would put the whole cell site down. How do you plan?

Do you have any connections with the telephone company to come in and take care of that situation?

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito with Verizon Wireless.

I can't necessarily speak to the transport of fiber optics, but I understand that they do have redundant paths back to the NID.

MR. LYNCH: I was just wondering if you had any contract with Frontier or anybody, whoever's running the line.

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito again.

I don't know who -- from my experience sometimes we typically try and get Verizon hardline to do it. I can't speak if we have contracts with other companies in the area.

MR. LYNCH: All right. Thank you.

And I have a hypothetical question for you and it has to do with the site itself. In your -- I see you've got -- you asked SHPO about an

archaeological study and they gave you a go-ahead. Now, if you -- and this is my hypothetical question. If you should run across any archaeological discoveries, how would that impact your project? Would it shut it down?

Would you have to go back and do another archaeological study, and would the Native Americans be involved in any of this?

THE WITNESS (Thacker): This is Brooks Thacker with Trileaf Corporation.

As part of the archaeological study that was completed, there is what is called an unanticipated discovery plan that effectively maps out if you do find some archaeological resources, be it prehistoric or relatively modern artifacts, what to do.

And it effectually -- effectively stops construction until the correct pathway and the correct parties are notified, and a path is -- is determined. But once there -- there is a plan in place to -- to stop construction if artifacts are found.

MR. LYNCH: Thank you.

And I think those are all my questions, Madam Chairman.

THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Lynch.

So, I guess I'm on deck now, guys. Thank you. My fellow councilmembers and the team at the Siting Council have gone into great depths on a lot of the details. I'd like to actually ask a little bit more about kind of a different area, which is public engagement.

I appreciate that some of what I'm going to ask you is in the public record, but I would like to ask you about it so we can get it as part of the transcripts -- and so that members of the public who may be listening and don't have the ability to sort of weed through the way we do.

So, we've talked a lot about coverage and coverage maps. And if you can tell me, is this area that you are hoping to improve coverage for, is this an area in which you are aware of complaints, or you've heard citizens' complaints or from businesses as to the quality of coverage?

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito with Verizon Wireless.

I have not personally heard it. I just know, studying our network, that we don't have sites out there, that we don't have sites and we don't have coverage and reliable service. So, I know by

looking at RSRP plots that the experience people have there is poor.

And I understand -- I believe there was a survey in town that people were in need of, or did want better service. That that's all I understand about, I guess, that question.

THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you.

And so, if there's -- let's call it unreliable or spotty service, is that going to impact people's ability to reach 911, potentially?

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito with Verizon Wireless.

Yes, it will. So if you have unreliable service and as more and more people, for lack of better words, ditch the hardline and rely on cellular service, then that's your only forms of communication.

So if you're unable to place a call or your call drops when you go behind a hill, then that's definitely an outcome.

THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you.

Now, you posted a sign. Correct? At the site that this hearing was proposed.

Is that correct?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): This is Ray Vergati, Homeland

Towers.

Yes, we posted an affidavit by the sign vendor, Graphics Edge, that the sign was posted April 2, 2025. And I was actually at the site yesterday and the sign is still up, the same location.

THE CHAIR: And there was also a newspaper notice published as well?

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Chair Katz, the newspaper notice that the Applicant was responsible for was for the -- just prior to the submission of the application. Yes, that was published.

THE CHAIR: Okay.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: I believe the Siting Council publishes its own notice with respect to the hearing.

THE CHAIR: Correct. Correct.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Thank you.

And notice was sent to abutting landowners?

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Yes. Again, prior to the filing of the application, notice was sent to abutting landowners.

THE CHAIR: Did you get any feedback from neighbors that they did not receive notice?

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: No, all of the abutting property owners, we received green cards back from all of them.

THE CHAIR: Okay. And are you aware of any -- if you're aware of any notice or discussion of this project on social media?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): This is Ray Vergati, Homeland Towers.

I saw one through an e-mail. I don't do any social media myself, but I believe there was a Facebook chain of somebody conducted a balloon float out there on their own accord. I don't know who did that, and I think maybe some photos made its way onto a Facebook page for that.

THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you.

Did you respond in any way to that? Or did you just monitor that conversation?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): Ray Vergati, Homeland Towers.

Again, I -- I don't partake in any type of social media, so I was unable to respond to it. It was just an e-mail chain passed to me.

THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you.

And you had a public meeting in town along the way during the process. Is that correct?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): Ray Vergati, Homeland Towers.

Yes, we had a public information meeting that was in -- held on November 7th of 2024 in town hall.

THE CHAIR: And can you give me an idea of how many people showed up? Bigger than a bread box?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): This is Ray Vergati, Homeland Towers.

My recollection, there were roughly 50 to 60 people in the room. I can check an e-mail as a homework assignment if needed, because I usually count and then put it into my notes -- but I recall about 50 or 60 residents had showed up.

THE CHAIR: Okay. And can you tell us what kind of concerns you had about the project, or what kind of support you might have heard?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): So again, Ray Vergati, Homeland Towers.

At the public information meeting, I think some questions/comments that were raised were, you know -- and we hear this quite often. You know, I have service already in the area. We don't need a tower. What's it going to do to my -- my property values?

You know we are roughly 1500 feet to Lake Bashan and, you know, there were some people that

brought up, well, you know, can you move it? Why does it have to be where it is? Otherwise -- and there was a couple, I think, health and safety RF emissions questions that were -- were posed by the public as well. That's a typical response we get.

Oh, and yes, there were -- were alternate sites raised by a couple of people attending that meeting. They had asked us to look at the Nichols Tower, the transfer station at 39 Nichols Road, to understand why Verizon was not on there, and could they be on there? And if they were on there, even with an extension, would that negate the need for this particular proposed facility at its location?

We had since submitted that information, obviously, to the Council and to the Town itself. They had also asked about the CTI cable tower at 126 Parker Road, if that in essence could be used as well in lieu of this tower. Again, we provided information back to the Town. That's way too far away.

And then we talked about the existing DPS tower on Mount Parnassus Road, and talked about how it would be extended, and Verizon has approvals to do that. So, it was an open format with questioning/answering with the public.

THE CHAIR: And we've had actually quite a bit of discussion about that transfer -- that planned transfer station tower location in this hearing as well. Were there people who spoke in support at that meeting in support of the project?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): Ray Vergati, Homeland Towers.

Without looking at my -- my e-mail, I usually send an e-mail the day after. I can circle back and -- and see if I had addressed that. People were speaking in support. I believe there were a few.

I will tell you in speaking with the Town, with their director of emergency management, I believe his name is -- I want to say -- I want to say Craig. That while there's no need today for the Town, there's interest from the Town to co-locate equipment on it, and they want to reserve that should the future hold a need for them.

Craig Mansfield, I believe, is the gentleman's name.

THE CHAIR: Okay. And did you make such a reservation? Or was that not -- was that more of a conversation?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): It's just a conversation.

Again, Ray Vergati, Homeland Towers.

It's just a conversation I've had with Mr. Mansfield about the future use of the tower by the Town for public safety.

THE CHAIR: Okay. Did you receive any follow-up requests from members of the public for additional information?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): This is Ray Vergati, Homeland Towers.

I think just the Town Attorney Brian McCann I think had reached out to Attorney Baldwin to request the -- the plots for the 440 Town Road site, the firehouse site, and -- and we obviously assessed that. It's on the record.

I don't think there was any other further requests from the Town.

THE CHAIR: Were there requests from members of the public?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): No, not that I know of. Ray Vergati. Not that I know of.

THE CHAIR: All right. Well, thank you. That concludes my questions. And so, I am going to continue with cross-examination of the Applicants by Mr. Longobardi and Ms. Longobardi.

Mr. Longobardi, I'm assuming -- correct me if

I'm wrong. You are also representing Cindyann Longobardi?

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: Yes, that is my wife.

THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you. Please proceed.

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: All right. I guess my first question is going to be to the RF group from Verizon. During the propagation maps, did they perform a drive test?

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito with Verizon Wireless. I haven't seen a drive test.

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: Okay. Well, that answers that question. Because obviously when I drive the roads there, I could tell you what roads that I get signal. It may not be to the level that you're trying to provide here.

Normally -- and I used to do this years and years ago before all this --

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Chair Katz? Excuse me, Mr. Longobardi. Chair Katz, this is an opportunity for Mr. Longobardi to ask questions, not to provide testimony.

THE CHAIR: Okay. I appreciate that.

Mr. Longobardi, you will have an opportunity to present your testimony. So, if we could keep this in a form of questions to the panel at this

time?

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: Okay. When Mount Parnassus two, that 1616 that was just approved, I noticed that they raised a crane there, and I'm assuming Verizon did that test because it was Verizon, not Homeland. I was wondering if they ran a drive test.

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito with Verizon Wireless.

I don't understand. Are you just asking me if they did a drive test around Mount Parnassus Road, or is there -- what does the crane have to do with a drive?

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: My understanding of a drive test is they raise an antenna at the height of what the tower would be to simulate the signal in that area, and not just rely on the propagation maps.

THE WITNESS (Divito): My name is -- this is Kip Divito again.

So, there there's multiple types of drive tests. We could extend a crane to simulate what coverage would be like. I have not seen that if they have. Another option would be to just have somebody drive around and monitor the existing signal. Again, I have not seen drive tests data.

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: Okay. In the report it states that this East Haddam location would cover part of 149. Correct? From the transfer station?

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Which report are you speaking about?

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: Question and answers. Hold on one second. I'll get you a number.

Okay. So, question number 30. It says the strength along -- it will improve signal strength along a small part of 149.

THE WITNESS (Divito): So, this is Kip Divito with Verizon Wireless.

Question 30 asks about building a tower at a lower height. Are you ask -- are you referring to the transfer station if it would cover 149? Or are you asking if our proposed site would cover areas of Route 149?

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: I am asking both, though. This, this is saying that the one that you're trying to build will only cover a small portion of 149. If you build a transfer station, I'm assuming doing a two-mile radius, will that cover from East Haddam two, and unload that and a handoff to Colchester South? Because that's within a two-mile radius.

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito with Verizon Wireless.

Yes, that is correct. So, if we build the site at the transfer station, at our proposed site we'll be able to transfer -- or handoff, excuse me, Colchester South. The proposed site that we're discussing this afternoon -- and then one moment, please?

There's -- there will be slight handoff between the transfer station and East Haddam two. On Route 149 it would be slight.

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: So, if we're using -- and pardon me. I'm taking the initiative, but if we're using a two-mile radius from the transfer station in Mount Parnassus, which just got approved, there's an overlap of about three-quarters of a mile just from those two sites without the East Haddam location.

So, if the new tower goes in, there's going to be a huge overlap, and that's not a route -- I think East Haddam-Colchester has one-third the traffic of 149. Again, according to --

THE WITNESS (Divito): (Unintelligible) -- sorry, I didn't mean to cut you off there. I thought you were done.

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: That's okay.

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito with Verizon

Wireless.

I think maybe I misunderstood you. I didn't say that without the site that we're proposing this afternoon that we'd be able to hand off from the transfer station to Mount Parnassus site. We would still need the proposed site that we're discussing to accomplish that.

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: If there's no obstructions between two towers, what is the distance for a proper handoff? Minimum and maximum?

THE WITNESS (Divito): This is Kip Divito with Verizon Wireless.

I don't have -- it's not like there isn't obstructions. Due to terrain and the characteristics of RF propagation these two sites, due to the coverage patterns that we provided, do not hand off to one another without the proposed site that we're discussing today.

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: Okay. My next question is for Ray from Homeland. On Docket 529, a balloon was flown for height and photo simulation. Correct?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): Ray Vergati, Homeland Towers.

That's correct.

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: And Verizon, as I said before, I think on the Mount Parnassus site, most likely due

to the weather, they flew a crane to get a proper simulation of that height. Correct?

THE WITNESS (Vergati): This is Ray Vergati, Homeland Towers.

I'm not -- I was -- am not and was not involved with the Mount Parnassus site. So, I -- I don't know if they had a crane or balloon.

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: I don't know. If nobody is there, there was -- according to that, that petition, I saw that they had flown a crane.

My question is, the balloon not only gives a better simulation, but it allows the people in the neighborhood to see what they're going to see. Because obviously if we just use LiDAR through this report, nobody knows the tower is going up. So, I have questions on some of the photos that were taken.

So, this is to Saratoga. I noticed that not all the photos that were taken ended up in the appendix C for simulations. Is there a reason for that?

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yeah. This is Matthew Allen, Saratoga Associates.

Yes, the reason is the photos selected for simulations are intended to be representative and

not all-inclusive. And secondarily, as evidenced by the views that were simulated, a majority of the views that were photographed are non-views.

So, it would be very repetitive to simply do the dashed-in line version that we showed in some -- several of our simulations. That would just be repetitive through several dozen photographs.

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: Well, let's start with photo number two. That's right on Bashan Road. It's 670 feet away. I don't know why it was taken from that side of the road, because it's almost like it's behind the trees. It would be very visible from that area.

It just seems that that was not presented properly.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Longobardi, is there a question?

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: Yeah, I'm trying to understand why the picture was taken from the side of the road behind the trees.

THE WITNESS (Allen): This is Matthew Allen.

When we go in the field -- well, first of all, we, when we go in the field, we take a digital copy of the viewshed map that you'll find in the visual assessment report. So, we know when

we're in the field whether we are standing in an area of likely visibility. And when we -- we also had -- you use a handheld GPS, global positioning system, that is programmed to point an arrow in the direction of the tower.

From this particular location it appears from viewpoint number two that the tower would be, you know, roughly over the top of the stop sign that you see in photograph number two. So, I -- I question whether it would be behind the evergreen trees that you see in the photograph or to the -- to the right of that.

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: Previously, someone had asked about -- one of the board members on the Council said that 197 East Haddam-Colchester. Out of all the homes, that one is going to be the most affected. They're right across the street and they're going to be looking right down my driveway and the driveway next to it.

I noticed that none of the photos were taken from that location.

THE WITNESS (Allen): This is Matt -- Matthew Allen.

I believe photo one is very close to that location.

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: It's over to the right more, but I

understand what you're saying.

THE WITNESS (Allen): Yeah, I think -- again, Matthew Allen.

I think that the subtle difference between standing where this photo was taken and standing in front of the house is the views are very, very similar. And you'll notice that in the photo simulation that we provide from viewpoint one, the reason we took it from the location, from viewpoint one, it is directly in line with the proposed access road.

So, the photo simulation shows the clearing of the access road, thus removal of those trees exposing a worst-case view down the line of that access road.

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: Well, I will tell you that I was the person that flew the balloon. I did it on April 14th from 9:30 to 11:30. I had a professional taking pictures.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Chair Katz, Mr. Longobardi will have an opportunity to present his case.

THE CHAIR: Mr. Longobardi, I appreciate that you are an intervener and a member of the public, and I want to make sure you get your questions asked and that you have your own opportunity to present your

own evidence.

I just ask you to remember that this is the question period right now, so.

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: Okay. I apologize.

Laurel Cove, there was -- I noticed in your -- was there a reason why you didn't take pictures from the southwest side of the lake?

THE WITNESS (Allen): This is Matthew Allen.

The -- the day we were in the field was in December. It would have been difficult to access the lake in December.

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: Those are public road -- Laurel Cove is a public road. It's plowed.

THE WITNESS (Allen): We did not find a publicly accessible vantage point on the -- the south shore of the lake. If -- if there is such a place, we -- we did not find it.

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: On Bailey Road, was there a reason why you only took one picture on that road?

THE WITNESS (Allen): Matthew Allen.

I'm sorry. Can you reference the one picture we did take? Just for ease of --

STEPHEN LONGOBARDI: I will do that. Number 21.

THE WITNESS (Allen): Again, Matthew Allen, Saratoga Associates.

When we went to Bailey Road, we were looking for the most exposed view we could find. Again, we go in the field with the digital copy of the viewshed map, geo-referenced on our mobile device. So, we know when we are standing in an area with predicted visibility and when we're standing in an area outside of predicted visibility.

We also look for places where visibility may not necessarily be projected on the viewshed, but where local residents may expect the view to be found. So, those are the types of places we look for. When we went to Bailey Road, you know, photo 21 looks like a fairly exposed view in the direction of the tower. I think we determined in the field that that was the -- the most likely, most expect -- most exposed vantage point on that road. So, we did not look for other locations.

THE CHAIR: All right. We are going to stop the questioning for this evening. I note the Council is announcing it will continue the evidentiary session of the public hearing on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 2 p.m. via remote conferencing.

Mr. Longobardi, you will have an opportunity to continue your cross then, and then Attorney McCann will also have the opportunity then.

A copy of the agenda for that continued evidentiary session will be available on the Council's website along with a recording of the hearing. So the Council will --

MR. MORISSETTE: Attorney Katz, before we close?

THE CHAIR: Yes?

MR. MORISSETTE: Before we close, I just wanted to bring up that we have four late files that are still pending.

THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair.

MR. MORISSETTE: Attorney Baldwin, do you have the same number?

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: I have three. Perhaps we can review them quickly. I have the percentage of dropped calls; the noise at the property line; and then the scenic road, the closest designated state scenic road distance from the tower site.

Is there a fourth, Mr. Morissette?

MR. MORISSETTE: The fourth one was a discussion relating to the open house, the number of people that attended --

THE WITNESS (Vergati): This is Ray Vergati.

MR. MORISSETTE: -- and the comments.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: I think Mr. Vergati was just saying that he has that information, if you would like

that part of it now, or we can do them all as late files.

MR. MORISSETTE: I'll leave that to Chair Katz. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Yeah, let's do that as a late file as well. Thank you.

ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Very good. Thank you, Mr. Morissette, for the fourth one.

MR. MORISSETTE: Certainly.

THE CHAIR: Okay. Unless there's further comments or questions from the Council, the Council will recess until 6:30, at which time we will commence the public comment session of this public hearing. Thank you all --

MR. LYNCH: Madam Chair?

THE CHAIR: -- for you time and attention today. Yes, Mr. Lynch.

MR. LYNCH: I will not be attending the night hearing. I have to pick up one of my twins at the airport, so I will not be attending.

THE CHAIR: Thank you for letting us know.

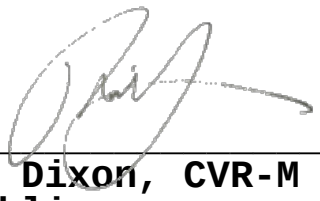
MR. LYNCH: I just wanted to let you know.

THE CHAIR: I appreciate that, Mr. Lynch. All right. So, we are in recess until 6:30. Thank you.

(End: 5:04 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 128 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the remote teleconference meeting of The Connecticut Siting Council hearing in Re: DOCKET NO. 530, 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 AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT LOCATED AT 196 EAST HADDAM-COLCHESTER TURNPIKE, EAST HADDAM, CONNECTICUT, which was held before ELIN S. KATZ, ESQ., THE CHAIR, on April 24, 2025.



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

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