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2	STATE OF CONNECTICUT
3	CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
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5	Docket No. 534
6	The Towers, LLC, Application for a Certificate of
7	Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the
8	Construction, Maintenance, and Operation of a
9	Telecommunications Facility and Associated Equipment
10	Located at 90 Woodstock Avenue West (Route 171),
11	Woodstock, Connecticut.
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14	Zoom Remote Public Hearing (Teleconference),
15	on Thursday, July 17, 2025, beginning at 6:30 p.m.
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17	Held Before:
18	JOHN MORISSETTE, THE VICE CHAIR
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1	Appearances:
2	Councilmembers:
3	JOHN MORISSETTE (Vice Chair)
4	
5	BRIAN GOLEMBIEWSKI,
6	DEEP Designee
7	
8	QUAT NGUYEN,
9	PURA Designee
10	
11	CHANCE CARTER
12	KHRISTINE HALL
13	DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.
14	
15	Council Staff:
16	IFEANYI NWANKWO,
17	Siting Analyst
18	
19	MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.,
20	Executive Director and Staff Attorney
21	
22	LISA FONTAINE
23	Administrative Support
24	
25	

(Begin: 6:30 p.m.)

THE VICE CHAIR: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

This hearing is called to order this Thursday,

July 17, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

This is a continuation of the public hearing that began at 2 p.m. this afternoon. A copy of the prepared agenda is available on the Council's website, along with the record of this matter, the public hearing notice, instructions for public access to this public hearing, and the Council's

citizens guide to the Siting Council's procedures.

This hearing is held pursuant to the provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act upon application from The Towers, LLC, for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility and the associated equipment located at 90 Woodstock Avenue West, also known as Route 171, in Woodstock, Connecticut. This application was received by the Council on April 1, 2025.

This application is also governed by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which is administered by the Federal Communications

Commission. This Act prohibits this Council from considering the health effects of radiofrequency emissions on human health and wildlife to the extent the emissions from the tower are within federal acceptable safe limits standards, which standard is also followed by the State Department of Public Health.

The Federal Act also prohibits this Council from discriminating between and amongst providers

of functionally equivalent services. This means that if one carrier already provides a service for an area other carriers have the right to compete and provide service in the area.

The Council's legal notice of the date and time of this public hearing was published in the Woodstock Villager on May 9, 2025. Upon this Council's request, the Applicant erected a sign in the vicinity of the proposed site so as to inform the public of the name of the Applicant, the type of the facility, the public hearing date, and contact information for the Council, including the website and phone number.

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

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

In accordance with the public hearing notice,

and in fairness to everyone who signed up to speak, these public statements will be limited to three minutes. Please be advised that written comments may be submitted by any person within 30 days of this public hearing.

I wish to note that the Applicant, including their representatives, witnesses, and members, are not allowed to participate in the public comment session. I also wish to note 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 you or they may send written statements to the Council within 30 days of the date hereof of by mail or by e-mail.

Please be advised that any person may be removed from the public comment session at the discretion of the Council. We ask each person making a limited appearance statement in this proceeding to confine his or her statements to the subject matter before the Council, and to avoid unreasonable repetition so that we may hear all the concerns you and your neighbors may have. Please be advised the Council cannot answer questions from the public about the proposal.

A verbatim transcript will be made of this

hearing, and will be deposited at the Woodstock Town Clerk's office for the convenience of the public.

At this time, I request the Applicant to make a brief presentation to the public describing the proposed facility. Mr. Robert Burns will be making that presentation.

Mr. Burns, good evening.

ROBERT BURNS: Thank you. Good evening,

Mr. Morissette.

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

This is a presentation for the Towers, LLC, Woodstock South Telecommunication Facility. This facility is to be located in an existing area at 90 Woodstock Avenue West, otherwise known as Route 171 in Woodstock, Connecticut, which is currently occupied by an existing building supply retail store. This parcel is located on the south side of Route 171.

If we could go to the next sheet, please?
Thank you.

Vehicle access to the proposed facility will

be from Route 171 along the existing paved driveway for the building supply store for approximately 365 feet, and then commencing along a proposed 12-foot-wide gravel driveway located on the east side of the existing drive, and will proceed for approximately 265 feet east to the proposed facility.

The proposed facility is to be located approximately 50 feet east of the existing paved parking area for the building supply store. The proposed facility will be a 60-foot by 60-foot gravel surface compound surrounded by an 8-foot-high chain-link fence with a 12-foot-wide access gate on the north side.

The interior of the compound has been sized for four telecommunication carriers; Verizon and ground space for three additional future carriers.

Outside of the fence -- we could probably go to the next sheet. Thank you.

Outside of the fence on the northwestern side of the compound will be a proposed utility area, which will include a utility backboard, which will house the electric meters for the facility, and an electric transformer. This area will be surrounded by steel bollards for protection.

The proposed electric and telephone service that will feed this site will be overhead from a new utility pole on the north side of Route 171 to a new utility pole on the south side of Route 71 on the subject parcel.

From that pole, it will proceed underground from that pole along the east side of the existing driveway, and then along the north side of the proposed gravel driveway, and terminate at the facility. Inside the fence in the southwestern corner will be Verizon's ground equipment, which will include a 10-foot by 20-foot concrete pad with equipment cabinets and a 50 kW diesel-fired generator. In the center of the compound will be a 150-foot tall monopole.

Verizon, who is the anchor tenant here, is planning to install 9 panel antennas, 6 radios, and a 12 OVP, which will be mounted on a triangular platform, the center line of which will be at 145. The tower will be designed for three additional future carriers at ten-foot intervals below Verizon's installation. The tower will not be required to be lit or marked.

That concludes my presentation. Thank you.

THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Burns.

1 At this time, I will call on James Huntley to 2 make a public statement, followed by Jessie 3 Andrews. 4 James Huntley, please? 5 JAMES HUNTLEY: Hello. Can you hear me? 6 THE VICE CHAIR: Yes, I can. Thank you. 7 JAMES HUNTLEY: Perfect. Thank you. 8 I'm speaking to issue my support for the cell 9 The current coverage on Senexet Road is 10 terrible. I cannot make consistent phone calls 11 and carry on conversations with my doctors 12 currently without being connected to a Wi-Fi to 13 assist. And I really would like to be able to 14 have really good coverage so that if I'm outside 15 of my house, that I know that I can make the call for 911 or other services. So, I really would 16 17 support this cell tower. 18 Thank you. 19 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Huntley. 20 I will now call upon Jessie Andrews, followed 21 by Ken Pelleck. Jessie Andrews, please? 22 Good evening. You're on mute. There you go. 23 JESSIE ANDREWS: Are we good? 24 THE VICE CHAIR: Yes, we're good. Thank you. 25 JESSIE ANDREWS: Hello, Siting Councilmembers. My name

is Jessie Andrews. I'd like to speak today about the wetlands and flood risks surrounding the proposed cell tower site and the serious concerns I have.

In recent years, heavy rains have caused the Little River to flood so severely that the water reaches the treeline visible from my backyard, and that's just from rain. I can't imagine what the flooding would look like during a hurricane or a major nor'easter.

With climate change accelerating, those events are no longer rare. They are expected. Six months ago when we built an addition on our home, we received a notice from -- (inaudible) -- flooded basements when it rains.

This proposed tower would be located just five feet from the outdated 500-year flood zone, 25 feet from the outdated hundred-year, 170 feet from mapped wetlands, and 370 feet from the Little River. For context, my home is roughly 400 feet from that same river.

Failing to reassess this site using updated

FEMA flood data would be irresponsible. Approving
this parcel for a massive structure without fully
understanding how water moves through it is a risk

we simply cannot take. This area is already flood-prone. If the tower is built here, it may become inaccessible during the very emergencies Verizon claims it's needed for. Backup systems could fail. Electrical components could be compromised. First responders and Verizon technicians might not be able to reach the site for refueling or repairs. Rather than serving as a safety asset, this tower could become a dangerous liability.

I also want to highlight a recent incident that demonstrates the real risk that this project poses. On July 10th, an enclosed exterior emergency diesel generator, just like this one, at Killingly Intermediate School just seven miles away, leaked 30 to 50 gallons of fuel, triggering a hazardous materials response and an investigation by Connecticut DEEP. This wasn't hypothetical. It happened, and it highlights why fuel-powered infrastructures should not be placed near sensitive ecosystems or drinking water sources.

The tower proposed in this application includes a generator holding between 62 and 158 gallons of diesel. It would sit just 179 feet

from wetlands and 370 feet from the Little River, a drinking water source for Putnam. According to the Town of Woodstock's aquifer maps, this location lies directly over a high-capacity, highly-permeable groundwater recharge area.

Fuel doesn't stay put; it migrates. In fast-draining aquifers like this one, even a small spill can quickly lead to widespread contamination. And if a leak can happen at a monitored school facility, it can absolutely happen at a remote, less supervised site like Chace Building Supply. We are, after all, the quiet corner.

This decision to approve this tower should be based on clear community need, but in the months I've spoken with residents and workers near this site, other than Jim, who came out of the woodworks -- I don't know -- I haven't heard one person complain about cell service or ask for a new tower, including myself.

Verizon already has another 150-foot tower going up just three miles away at a far less impactful location.

THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Jessie Andrews.

Unfortunately, your time has expired, but thank

1 you for your comments this evening. 2 We'll now call upon Ken Pelleck, followed by 3 Craig Andrews. Ken Pelleck, please? Ken Pelleck? 4 5 (No response.) 6 7 THE VICE CHAIR: We'll now move on to Craig Andrews, 8 followed by Thomas and Lynn Goodell. 9 Craig Andrews, please? 10 CRAIG ANDREWS: Hey, John. Do I get any of the 11 person's minutes before mine in the attempt not to 12 waste what I have? 13 THE VICE CHAIR: No, you get your three minutes. 14 CRAIG ANDREWS: All right, fantastic. My name is Craig 15 I'm joining you today with a strong Andrews. 16 opposition to this proposed cell tower. 17 We acknowledge there's some reliable -- a 18 need for reliable telecommunications, but this 19 proposal presents a significant drawback that 20 outweighs its purported benefits. 21 Let's address the tower's visual impact on 22 our community. 150-foot galvanized steel 23 structure, even with a muted gray finish will be 24 undeniably prominent in the landscape. 25 Applicant's own visual assessment identifies 18

residential properties with views, including year-round visibility for some.

It's not a de minimis impact, and Woodstock's known for its rural charm and scenic beauty, and this towering structure will irrevocably alter the visual character of our town. It's going to diminish property values and disturb the serene environment, environments that our residents and visitors cherish, and the proposed location within the site of homes is going to be terrible.

Secondly, the justification for this tower, while citing service exhaustion in a Putnam site, seems to overlook existing infrastructure. We've heard earlier today that three small-cell antennas at the Woodstock Fairground remain operational even if this new tower is built. If existing small cells can provide capacity, why is such a massive and visually intrusive tower the only solution? We also heard that the Pomfret east tower covers a similar area and is yet to be exhausted by the demand it receives.

So, we urge the Council to explore less impactful alternatives, such as optimizing these existing infrastructures or considering smaller solutions that integrate better with the

community's aesthetic. I don't think the

Applicant has adequately demonstrated that this
specific 150-foot tower is the least intrusive
means to address the service needs.

Furthermore, we have to consider the environmental and ecological impacts. The Applicant outlined measures for vernal pool protection and stormwater management, but the fact remains that any construction introduces disturbances to the natural habitats, especially the deep holes that will be dug for the foundation.

There's the presence of wood frogs, spotted salamanders, and the likely migration across 171 underscores the ecological sensitivity of the area. And additionally, the Applicant admitted that deterring birds, particularly ospreys, from nesting on the tower has been very unsuccessful in the past, which means we're potentially creating an attractive nuisance for wildlife, leading to ongoing maintenance issues and potential harm to the protected species.

And the lack of proactive engagement with local officials and emergency services is very concerning. The Applicant stated they're not

aware of any conversations at this time with local officials and have disregarded sites proposed by the Town of Woodstock. This suggests more of a top-down approach that prioritizes corporate deployment over genuine community partnership.

And in conclusion, we respectfully request the Council to deny this application and encourage the Towers, LLC, and Verizon to pursue solutions that are truly compatible with the character and values of our community.

A project of this scale should involve early and robust dialogue with local authorities and town officials to collaborate, not just work on private property and try to restrict the notice of what they're paying that private property by what was proposed and approved earlier today.

Thank you.

THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Andrews.

We'll continue with Thomas and Lynn Goodell, followed by Brianna Carter.

Thomas and Lynn Goodell, please?

THOMAS GOODELL: Hi, good afternoon. I just want -- I
don't have anything to add other, you know, to
what Craig and Jessie Andrews just stated. We
just want to just tell you that we are in

opposition of the Tower for the same reasons.

Thank you.

THE VICE CHAIR: Very good. Thank you.

We'll now continue with Brianna Carter, followed by Carl Cecil. Brianna Carter, please?

BRIANNA CARTER: Hi, thank you so much for the chance to join the conversation.

THE VICE CHAIR: Good evening.

BRIANNA CARTER: I just want to talk a little bit about the flood zone we're in here. I'm on Peake Brook directly behind the Chace building and the proposed Tower site.

The area here is very sensitive. It's a very sensitive wetland in regards to flooding. The three houses directly next to Chace experience annual flooding, mostly in the spring, but we might even experience flooding with moderate rainfall, not only our yards going towards Chace, but even our houses. I can't speak too much for my neighbors, but our home alone can reach up to two feet of water.

I have an elderly neighbor across the street who still lives in his childhood home, and he said ever since he was little there has been significant flooding every year for those near the

brook, which Chace is near the brook, and he hasn't seen a year without. And we ourselves, unfortunately, have experienced that firsthand.

But I do want to say that even when it doesn't flood, the ground is always very heavily saturated even on our dry days. The improvements that have been made over here, like the culvert recently put in, are still failing to mitigate and drain the water from the area. The flood zone actually wraps around the entirety of Chace, with one little area where the tower is supposed to go. I can e-mail the map.

So, realistically, this area obviously doesn't provide a good foundation for the tower, even with the proposed site just being as little as 5 feet away from the hundred-yard flood zone or 25 feet from the 500-year non-updated map. I can also go into detail about decreasing home values, nearly year-round view of the tower, and quite a few other things, but three minutes is short.

Earlier, it was said that the risk of flooding was 1 percent, which sounded minimal, but FEMA website itself concludes that 1 percent is high risk. Addressing the question on whether the need is there for the tower, the townspeople and

those in the direct area were mostly in agreeance of saying no. The majority of us say no. It's not safe, we don't need it, and we don't want it. We want to protect our land that we already battle with daily.

There are other proposed sites that Verizon turned down that would have been better for the structure itself and could benefit the Town itself financially instead of a single private business. Also, there's a tower going up a small distance away. So, for the better service, that would be supplied.

So, this high-risk tower is not only dangerous, but it's just overkill. It threatens the thriving ecosystem, and without debate poses a negative health impact to us and all, especially the small children in the neighborhood. So, it's easy to disconnect when it doesn't affect you directly, but I wanted to speak for my family and my neighbors because we do deserve to be heard.

It's really a disaster waiting to happen and not in the sense of if, but more in the sense of when, and really who becomes responsible for that. You know?

But that's what I wanted to say. So, thank

you so much.

THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Brianna Carter, and thank you for your comments this evening.

We'll now continue with Carl Cecil. Carl, please? Good evening.

CARL CECIL: Thank you for the opportunity to speak
this evening. My name is Carl Cecil. I am a
resident of Woodstock located in the quiet corner
of Connecticut and the Last Green Valley.

I object to this 5G tower installation on the following grounds. The public notice was poorly advertised, only once listed in a local flyer, Woodstock Villager. Had I known, I would have put, you know, objections up much sooner and more vehemently.

But the impacts. First, impact on the local bee population -- and as a beekeeper, I see this directly. So first, the electromagnetic field exposure causes distress, disorientation, and death for the bees. It also disrupts their habitat as well as their behavior. These factors lead to a declining bee population, thus reducing pollination, which then impacts our food sources.

Second, impacts on local wildlife. EMF disrupts wildlife communications and radar

navigation. It disrupts behavior and health, leading to a decline in the number and variety of species.

Third, impact on humans. 5G EMF at higher frequencies -- that's electromagnetic fields at higher frequencies have a much greater impact on humans. As noted earlier today in the testimony, the 5G communications poses a particular threat within the range of up to 300 feet, but actually extending much further from the source.

This proximity is critical for the understanding of the cumulative impact on human and environmental health. A thorough re-evaluation of the existing safety standards and the implementation of protective measures to mitigate the risk of prolonged exposure to millimeter waves is required.

Let me also -- let us also consider the visual impact. The average height of trees in Woodstock range from 60 to 80 feet tall. This eyesore would tower anywhere from 70 to 90 feet above the treetops. Just imagine that.

Therefore, this tower will be observed miles away, disrupting the small-town character of our town, Woodstock, in the quiet corner of Connecticut.

A recommendation? Reconsider the siting of this tower or any future towers in an area that is less traveled by both humans and wildlife and will not disturb the look and feel of the quiet corner. Consider the Woodstock Town Transfer Site alluded to earlier, located on Paine District Road as a future site, rather than where everybody in Woodstock is going to see this eyesore.

So that's -- that those are my conclusions.

I thank you for this opportunity.

THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Cecil. Thank you for your comments this evening.

Okay, I'm going to go back to Ken Pelleck.

Has Ken joined us this evening? Mr. Pelleck -
Pelc? Mr. Pelc.

(No response.)

THE VICE CHAIR: Well, that concludes our public comments for this evening. Before closing this hearing, the Connecticut Siting Council announces that briefs and proposed findings of fact may be filed with the Council by any party or intervener no later than August 16, 2025.

The submissions of briefs or proposed

findings of fact are not required by this Council.

Rather, we leave it to the choice of the parties
and interveners. Anyone who has not become a

party or an intervener but who desires to make his
or her views known to the Council may file written
statements with the Council within 30 days of the
date hereof.

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

Copies of the transcript of this hearing will be filed with the Woodstock Town Clerk's office.

I hereby declare this hearing adjourned and thank you everyone for your participation.

Have a good evening. Thank you.

21 (End: 6:57 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 25 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the teleconference PUBLIC HEARING of THE CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL in Re: DOCKET NO. 534, THE TOWERS, LLC, 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 90 WOODSTOCK AVENUE WEST (ROUTE 171), WOODSTOCK, CONNECTICUT, which was held before JOHN MORISSETTE, THE VICE CHAIR, on July 17, 2025.

Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M 857

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 6/30/2030