

CERTIFIED COPY

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

Docket No. 535

**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 835 Norwich Worcester Turnpike (Route
169), Woodstock, Connecticut.**

**Zoom Remote Public Hearing (Teleconference),
on Thursday, July 31, 2025, beginning at 6:30 p.m.**

H e l d B e f o r e :

JOHN MORISSETTE, THE VICE CHAIR

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

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 DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.

13 BILL SYME

14
15 **Council Staff:**

16 ADAM MORRONE,

17 Siting Analyst

18
19 MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.,

20 Executive Director and Staff Attorney

21
22 LISA FONTAINE

23 Administrative Support

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

2 **For The Towers, LLC (APP):**

3 **ROBINSON & COLE, LLP**

4 **One State Street**

5 **Hartford, Connecticut 06103**

6 **By: JONATHAN SCHAEFER, ESQ.**

7 **JSchaefer@rc.com**

8 **860.275.8349**

9
10 **For the Intervenor (Nayden):**

11 **Paska Nayden (pro se)**

(Begin: 6:30 p.m.)

THE VICE CHAIR: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

This hearing is called to order this Thursday, July 31, 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; Daniel P. Lynch, Jr., Chance Carter, Khristine Hall, and Bill Syme.

Members of the staff are Executive Director Melanie Bachman, Siting Analyst Adam Morrone, 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 a record of this matter, the public hearing notice, and instructions for public

1 access to this public hearing, and the Council's
2 citizen's guide to the Siting Council's
3 procedures.

4 This hearing is held pursuant to provisions
5 of Title 16 of the Connecticut General Statutes
6 and of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act
7 upon an application from The Towers, LLC, for a
8 certificate of environmental compatibility and
9 public need for the construction, maintenance, and
10 operation of a telecommunications facility located
11 at 835 Norwich Worcester Turnpike, Route 169 in
12 Woodstock, Connecticut. This application was
13 received by the Council on April 7, 2025.

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

24 The federal act also prohibits this Council
25 from discriminating between and amongst providers

1 of functionally equivalent services. This means
2 that if one carrier already provides services for
3 an area, other carriers have the right to compete
4 and provide service in the same area.

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

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

18 This public comment session is reserved for
19 members of the public who have signed up to make
20 brief statements. These limited appearance
21 statements are not subject to questions from the
22 parties or the Council, and members of the public
23 making statements may not ask questions of the
24 parties or the Council. In accordance with the
25 public hearing notice, and in fairness to everyone

1 who signed up to speak, these public statements
2 will be limited to three minutes. Please be
3 advised that written comments may be submitted by
4 any person within 30 days of this public hearing.

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

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

25 A verbatim transcript will be made of this

1 hearing and will be deposited in the Woodstock
2 Town Clerk's Office for the convenience of the
3 public.

4 At this time, I request the Applicant to make
5 a brief presentation to the public describing the
6 proposed facility.

7 Attorney Schaefer, good evening.

8 ATTORNEY SCHAEFER: Good evening, Vice Chair
9 Morissette. Thank you.

10 My name is Jon Schaefer. I'm an attorney at
11 Robinson & Cole on behalf of the Applicant, the
12 Towers, LLC. As previously noted, this site
13 address is 835 Route 169, Woodstock, Connecticut.

14 As you can see on the screen, the facility is
15 to be -- the proposed facility is to be located in
16 the northerly portion of the subject parcel, which
17 is 55 acres in size. Vehicular access to the
18 proposed facility would extend from Route 169 over
19 a portion of an existing farm road to the proposed
20 tower site compound.

21 The proposed compound will be located at the
22 end of an approximately 930-foot access roadway
23 and within a 100-foot by 100-foot leased area.
24 The proposed compound will be a 50-foot by 50-foot
25 compound surrounded by an 8-foot chain-link fence.

1 The proposed tower compound has been sized
2 for three carriers, and Cellco, doing business as
3 Verizon Wireless, will be the initial anchor
4 tenant at the tower. Outside the tower compound
5 fence is a proposed utility area, which will house
6 the utility's transformer and utility backboard.
7 The proposed electric service will be provided via
8 an existing overhead utility pole on Route 169 and
9 proceed underground up the access way to the
10 proposed tower compound.

11 Inside the tower compound fence in the
12 western side will be the Verizon ground equipment,
13 which will include a 12-foot by 20-foot concrete
14 pad with equipment cabins, battery cabins, and a
15 50-kW diesel-fired emergency generator. At the
16 center of the proposed compound will be a
17 150-foot-tall monopole tower.

18 Verizon's plan is to install nine panel
19 antennas, six remote radio heads located at a
20 centerline of 145 feet on the tower. The proposed
21 tower will be designed to accommodate additional
22 carriers at intervals of approximately 10 feet,
23 and the tower will be available for municipal
24 and/or emergency use if needed. This tower will
25 not require any FAA lighting or marking.

1 Thank you very much.

2 **THE VICE CHAIR:** Thank you, Attorney Schaefer.

3 We will now call on Jessie Andrews to make a
4 public statement. Jessie Andrews, please? Good
5 evening.

6 **JESSIE ANDREWS:** Good evening, Councilmembers.

7 While I understand the need for reliable
8 service, the approach being taken in Woodstock
9 raises serious concerns. The general site
10 locations may seem logical, but the need for
11 multiple new towers has not been justified.

12 The three small-cell Verizon installations at
13 the Woodstock Fairgrounds serve fair demand only.
14 If coverage is the issue, why not replace those
15 small cells with a properly designed tower on that
16 property where Verizon already has an agreement,
17 instead of adding multiple new towers?

18 Neither proposed tower application includes
19 height justification plots. Without this, we
20 cannot evaluate whether either tower is taller
21 than necessary, or whether one facility could
22 serve the area without duplicating infrastructure.

23 Wetlands are a serious issue at both sites.
24 At this docket, the proposed access road seems to
25 cross wetland one, which is unacceptable for a new

1 construction project when there are lower-impact
2 alternatives. Why choose a site that requires
3 access through a wetland?

4 The EME/MPE studies submitted only account
5 for Verizon equipment. What process will notify
6 residents and require a new exposure study when
7 additional carriers inevitably add equipment to
8 these towers? Verizon's own references to Pomfret
9 East and services at the Docket 534 area do not
10 demonstrate spectrum exhaustion. Several sites
11 are not even using all available frequencies,
12 making it difficult to claim that new towers are
13 truly necessary.

14 Finally, it seems neither proposed tower has
15 been offered for use by Woodstock public safety
16 departments, despite claims that these towers
17 support local emergency services. If public
18 safety is a justification, why has no outreach
19 been made to integrate these towers into
20 Woodstock's emergency communication needs?

21 For these reasons, lack of clear
22 justification, failure to exhaust existing
23 options, environmental concerns and insufficient
24 planning for community needs, I urge the Council
25 to deny or suspend these applications until these

1 questions are fully addressed.

2 Thank you very much.

3 **THE VICE CHAIR:** Thank you, Jessie Andrews.

4 I'll now call upon Calvin Cecil. Calvin,
5 good evening.

6 Calvin?

7
8 (No response.)

9
10 **THE VICE CHAIR:** Well, unfortunately, it doesn't appear
11 Calvin has signed in.

12 Very good. That concludes our public comment
13 session for this evening. The Council announces
14 that it will continue the evidentiary session of
15 this public hearing on Tuesday, September 9, 2025,
16 at 2 p.m., via Zoom remote conferencing.

17 A copy of the agenda for the continued
18 evidentiary hearing session will be available on
19 the Council's website, along with the record of
20 this matter, instructions for public access to the
21 evidentiary hearing session and the Council's
22 citizens guide to siting council procedures.

23 Please note that anyone who has not become a
24 party or intervenor, but who desires to make his
25 or her views known to the Council, may file

1 written statements with the Council until the
2 public comment period closes.

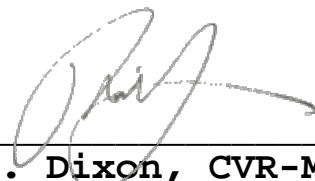
3 Copies of the transcript of this hearing will
4 be filed at the Woodstock Town Clerk's office.

5 I hereby declare this hearing adjourned.
6 Thank you for your participation.

7
8 (End: 6:43 p.m.)
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 13 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. 535, 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 835 NORWICH WORCESTER TURNPIKE (ROUTE 169), WOODSTOCK, CONNECTICUT, which was held before JOHN MORISSETTE, THE VICE CHAIR, on July 31, 2025.



Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M 857
Notary Public
My Commission Expires: 6/30/2030