

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 537

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
Associated Equipment Located at 327 North Anguilla
Road, Stonington, Connecticut.

Zoom Remote Council Meeting (Teleconference),
on Thursday, August 28, 2025, beginning at 2 p.m.

H e l d B e f o r e :

JOHN MORISSETTE, THE VICE CHAIR

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

Councilmembers:

JOHN MORISSETTE (Vice Chair)

BRIAN GOLEMBIEWSKI,

DEEP Designee

QUAT NGUYEN,

PURA Designee

CHANCE CARTER

KHRISTINE HALL

BILL SYME

DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS

DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.

Council Staff:

MICHAEL PERRONE,

Siting Analyst

MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.,

Executive Director and Staff Attorney

LISA FONTAINE

Administrative Support

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

For THE TOWERS, LLC (APP):

ROBINSON & COLE, LLP

One State Street

Hartford, Connecticut 06103

And: KENNETH BALDWIN, ESQ.

KBaldwin@rc.com

860.275.8345

For the TOWN OF STONINGTON:

CONWAY, LONDREGAN, SHEEHAN & MONACO, P.C.

38 Huntington Street

PO Box 1351

New London, Connecticut 06320

By: BRIAN ESTEP, ESQ.

BEstep@clsmlaw.com

860.903.5854

(Begin: 2:00 p.m.)

THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Can everybody hear me okay?

Very good. Thank you.

This public hearing is called to order this Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 2 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; Bill Syme; Dr. Scott Williams; and Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.

Members of the staff are Executive Director Melanie Bachman, Siting Analyst Michael Perrone, 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 hearing is held pursuant to provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act

1 upon an application from the Towers, LLC, for a
2 certificate of environmental compatibility and
3 public need for the construction, maintenance, and
4 operation of a telecommunications facility and
5 associated equipment located at 327 North Anguilla
6 Road in Stonington, Connecticut.

7 This application was received by the Council
8 on April 25, 2025. The Council's legal notice of
9 the date and time of this public hearing was
10 published in The Day on May 17, 2025.

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

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

21 The parties and interveners to the proceeding
22 are as follows. The Applicant, the Towers, LLC,
23 represented by Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esquire; and
24 Jonathan Schaefer, Esquire, of Robinson & Cole,
25 LLP.

1 We will proceed in accordance with the
2 prepared agenda, a copy of which is available on
3 the Council's website, along with a record of this
4 matter, the public hearing notice, instructions
5 for public access to this public hearing, and the
6 Council's citizens guide to the Siting Council's
7 procedures.

8 Interested persons may join any session of
9 this public hearing to listen, but no public
10 comments will be received during the 2 p.m.
11 Evidentiary session. At the end of the
12 evidentiary session we will recess until 6:30 p.m.
13 for the public comment session. Please be advised
14 that any person may be removed from the
15 evidentiary session or the public comment session
16 at the discretion of the Council.

17 That 6:30 p.m. public comment session is
18 reserved for members of the public who have signed
19 up to make brief statements into the record. I
20 wish to note that the Applicant, parties, and
21 interveners, including their representatives,
22 witnesses, and members are not allowed to
23 participate in the public comment session.

24 I also wish to note for those who are
25 listening and for the benefit of your friends and

1 neighbors who aren't able to join us for the
2 public comment session, that you or they may send
3 written statements to the Council within 30 days
4 of the date hereof either by e-mail or by mail,
5 and such written statements will be given the same
6 weight as if spoken during the public comment
7 session.

8 A verbatim transcript of the public hearing
9 will be posted on the Council's website and
10 deposited in the Stonington Town Clerk's office
11 for the convenience of the public.

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

14 We have two motions to take care of this
15 afternoon. The first motion is Towers, LLC,
16 motion for protective order of the lease agreement
17 financial terms dated May 14, 2025. Attorney
18 Bachman may wish to comment.

19 Attorney Bachman, good afternoon.

20 ATTORNEY BACHMAN: Good afternoon, Vice Chair

21 Morissette. Thank you.

22 Pursuant to General Statute Section 16-50o,
23 the Towers submitted a motion for protective order
24 for the lease agreement financial terms, which are
25 exempt from the Freedom of Information Act, and

1 therefore staff recommends the motion be granted.

2 Thank you.

3 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Attorney Bachman.

4 Is there a motion?

5 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: I'll make a motion to approve the
6 request for protective order. Thank you.

7 MR. LYNCH: I'll second.

8 THE HEARING OFFICER: And thank you, Mr. Lynch.

9 We have a motion by Mr. Golembiewski to
10 approve the motion for protective order, and we
11 have a second by Mr. Lynch.

12 We'll now move to discussion.

13 Mr. Golembiewski, any discussion?

14 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: I have no discussion. Thank you.

15 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Nguyen?

16 MR. NGUYEN: Good afternoon.

17 THE VICE CHAIR: Good afternoon.

18 MR. NGUYEN: No discussion. Thank you.

19 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Carter?

20 MR. CARTER: Good afternoon. I have no discussion.

21 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Carter. Ms. Hall?

22 MS. HALL: No discussion. Thank you.

23 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Syme?

24 MR. SYME: I have none. Thank you.

25 THE VICE CHAIR: Dr. Williams?

1 DR. WILLIAMS: No discussion.

2 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Lynch?

3 MR. LYNCH: No discussion.

4 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. And I have no discussion.

5 We'll now move to the vote.

6 Mr. Golembiewski, how do you vote?

7 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: I vote to approve. Thank you.

8 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Nguyen?

9 MR. NGUYEN: Vote to approve.

10 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Carter?

11 MR. CARTER: Vote to approve. Thank you.

12 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Ms. Hall?

13 MS. HALL: Vote to approve. Thank you.

14 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Syme?

15 MR. SYME: Vote approval. Thank you.

16 THE VICE CHAIR: Dr. Williams?

17 DR. WILLIAMS: Vote to approve.

18 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Lynch?

19 MR. LYNCH: Vote in the affirmative.

20 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. I vote for approval. We
21 have a unanimous decision. The motion for a
22 protective order is approved.

23 Moving on to motion number two, the Town of
24 Stonington's request for party, slash, CEPA
25 intervener status dated August 20, 2025. Attorney

1 Bachman may wish to comment.

2 Attorney Bachman?

3 ATTORNEY BACHMAN: Thank you, Vice Chair Morissette.

4 In addition to the request for status, the
5 Town also submitted some pre-filed testimony, and
6 staff therefore recommends approval. Thank you.

7 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Attorney Bachman.

8 With that, is there a motion?

9 MS. HALL: I'll make a motion to grant the Town of
10 Stonington intervener status.

11 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms. Hall.

12 Is there a second?

13 MR. CARTER: I'll second.

14 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Carter.

15 We have a motion by Ms. Hall to approve the
16 motion for intervener status, party or intervener
17 status, and we have a second by Mr. Carter. We'll
18 now move to discussion.

19 Mr. Golembiewski, any discussion?

20 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: I have no discussion. Thank you.

21 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you.

22 Mr. Nguyen, any discussion?

23 MR. NGUYEN: No discussion.

24 THE VICE CHAIR: Mr. Carter, any discussion?

25 MR. CARTER: No discussion. Thank you.

1 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Ms. Hall?

2 MS. HALL: No discussion. Thank you.

3 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Syme?

4 MR. SYME: I have none.

5 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Dr. Williams?

6 DR. WILLIAMS: No discussion. Thank you.

7 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Lynch?

8 MR. LYNCH: No discussion.

9 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. And I have no discussion.

10 We'll now move to the vote.

11 Mr. Golembiewski, how do you vote?

12 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: I vote to approve. Thank you.

13 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Nguyen?

14 MR. NGUYEN: I vote to approve.

15 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Carter?

16 MR. CARTER: I vote to approve. Thank you.

17 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Ms. Hall?

18 MS. HALL: I vote to approve. Thank you.

19 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Syme?

20 MR. SYME: I vote approval.

21 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Dr. Williams?

22 DR. WILLIAMS: I vote to approve.

23 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Mr. Lynch?

24 MR. LYNCH: Vote approval.

25 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. And I vote to approve. We

1 have a unanimous decision that we grant the
2 request. The party or CEPA intervenor status is
3 approved. We'll now move on to administrative
4 notices taken by the Council.

5 I call your attention to those items shown on
6 the hearing program marked as Roman numeral 1C,
7 items 1 through 93. Does any party or intervener
8 have an objection to these items that the Council
9 has administratively noticed?

10 Attorney Baldwin or Attorney Schaefer, good
11 afternoon.

12 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Good afternoon, Mr. Morissette.

13 The Applicant has no objection.

14 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Attorney Baldwin.

15 Attorney Eh-step [phonetic], any objection?

16 ATTORNEY ESTEP: Ee-step [phonetic], no. No objection.

17 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you. Thank you, Attorney Estep.

18 Accordingly, the Council hereby
19 administratively notices the existing documents.
20 We'll now continue with the appearance by the
21 Applicant.

22 Will the Applicant present its witness panel
23 for purposes of taking the oath? And we will have
24 Attorney Bachman administer the oath.

25 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Thank you, Mr. Morissette.

1 Again, for the record, I'm Kenneth Baldwin
2 with Robinson & Cole here today on behalf of the
3 Applicant, the Towers, LLC. Our witness panel is
4 listed in the hearing program, but let me
5 introduce them to you.

6 On the far right is Ms. Elizabeth Glidden.
7 Ms. Glidden is a real estate and regulatory
8 specialist with Verizon Wireless.

9 To my right is Kip DiVito. Mr. DiVito is a
10 radiofrequency engineer responsible for the site
11 in Stonington that we're talking about today.

12 To my left is Brian Paul. Mr. Paul is a
13 project manager with Vertical Bridge, who is a
14 member of the joint venture making up of the
15 Towers, LLC, with Verizon Wireless. To his left
16 is Rick Landino, a senior design analyst with
17 All-Points Technology.

18 Next is Robert Burns, a professional
19 engineer, also with All-Points Technology
20 Corporation. And then, last but not least is Matt
21 Gustafson, who is a registered soil scientist and
22 forester, also with All-Points Technology.

23 And we offer them to be sworn at this time.

24 **THE VICE CHAIR:** Thank you, Attorney Baldwin.

25 Attorney Bachman, please administer the oath.

1 ATTORNEY BACHMAN: Thank you, Vice Chair Morissette.

2 Could the Witnesses please raise their right
3 hand?

4 B R I A N P A U L,

5 K I P D i V I T O,

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

7 R O B E R T B U R N S,

8 M A T T H E W G U S T A F S O N,

9 R I C K L A N D I N O,

10 called as witnesses, being sworn by

11 THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, were examined and

12 testified under oath as follows:
13

14 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Attorney Bachman.

15 Attorney Baldwin, please begin by verifying
16 all the exhibits by the appropriate sworn
17 witnesses.

18 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Thank you, Mr. Morissette.

19 Our exhibits are listed in the hearing
20 program under Roman two, subsection B, items one
21 through five in the application; the affidavit of
22 publication; the replacement for application
23 attachment number 17, which is the redacted lease
24 agreement dated May 5, 2025; the Applicant's
25 responses to council interrogatories dated August

1 7, 2025; and the sign posting affidavit dated
2 August 18, 2025.

3 I'm going to ask my witnesses to verify by
4 answering the following questions. Did you
5 prepare or assist in the preparation, and are you
6 familiar with the information contained in the
7 exhibits listed in the hearing program under Roman
8 2B, items one through five? Ms. Glidden?

9 THE WITNESS (Glidden): Yes.

10 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. DiVito?

11 THE WITNESS (DiVito): Yes.

12 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Paul?

13 THE WITNESS (Paul): Yes.

14 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Landino?

15 THE WITNESS (Landino): Yes.

16 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Burns?

17 THE WITNESS (Burns): Yes.

18 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Gustafson?

19 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes.

20 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: And do you have any corrections,
21 modifications or clarifications to offer to any of
22 those exhibits? Ms. Glidden?

23 THE WITNESS (Glidden): No.

24 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. DiVito?

25 THE WITNESS (DiVito): Yes, I have one correction to

1 attachment or tab eight, which is the site search
2 summary, page 1. It's the last paragraph on line
3 two. We state that there's five macros within the
4 four-file radius. There's actually six macros,
5 which then matches our response to question number
6 22, and the interrogatory is where we list all six
7 macros. That's all.

8 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Thank you.

9 Mr. Paul, any corrections?

10 THE WITNESS (Paul): No.

11 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Landino?

12 THE WITNESS (Landino): No.

13 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Burns?

14 THE WITNESS (Burns): No.

15 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Gustafson?

16 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): No.

17 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: And with those questions,

18 corrections and clarifications, is the information
19 contained in those exhibits true and accurate to
20 the best of your knowledge?

21 Ms. Glidden?

22 THE WITNESS (Glidden): Yes.

23 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. DiVito?

24 THE WITNESS (DiVito): Yes.

25 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Paul?

1 THE WITNESS (Paul): Yes.

2 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Landino?

3 THE WITNESS (Landino): Yes.

4 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Burns?

5 THE WITNESS (Burns): Yes.

6 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Gustafson?

7 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes.

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

11 Ms. Glidden?

12 THE WITNESS (Glidden): I do.

13 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. DiVito?

14 THE WITNESS (DiVito): Yes.

15 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Paul?

16 THE WITNESS (Paul): Yes.

17 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Landino?

18 THE WITNESS (Landino): Yes.

19 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Burns?

20 THE WITNESS (Burns): Yes.

21 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Gustafson?

22 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes.

23 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Morissette, I offer them as full
24 exhibits.

25 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Attorney Baldwin.

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

3 Attorney Estep?

4 ATTORNEY ESTEP: No objection.

5 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Attorney Estep. I get it
6 right. Thank you.

7 The exhibits are hereby admitted.

8 We'll now begin with cross-examination of the
9 Applicant by the Council. And I remind the
10 witness panel to please state their names before
11 responding so that the Court Reporter can capture
12 it correctly. Thank you. We'll start with
13 Mr. Perrone followed by Mr. Golembiewski.

14 Mr. Perrone, good afternoon.

15 MR. PERRONE: Good afternoon. Thank you, Vice Chair
16 Morissette.

17 Turning to response to interrogatories three
18 and seven, there's reference to the Town of
19 Norfolk and the Norfolk south facility. Should
20 those references be the Town of Stonington and
21 Stonington 2 facility?

22 THE WITNESS (Paul): This is Brian Paul.

23 Yes, that's correct.

24 MR. PERRONE: Turning to response to counsel
25 interrogatories four and five, did Vertical

1 Bridge's site search overlap with Cellco's site
2 search in terms of the properties that were
3 investigated?

4 THE WITNESS (Glidden): For the record, this is Liz
5 Glidden.

6 Yes, we -- Verizon looked at a number of
7 sites and Vertical Bridge also looked at those
8 sites. So, yes.

9 MR. PERRONE: Were there any sites that Vertical Bridge
10 looked at that aren't listed by Cellco?

11 THE WITNESS (Glidden): No, there are not.

12 MR. PERRONE: Okay. Has the Applicant identified a
13 staging area for proposed facility construction?

14 THE WITNESS (Burns): This is Robert Burns with
15 All-Points.

16 Most likely the staging area will be adjacent
17 to the existing access road probably just before
18 you pull into the proposed driveway off of the
19 existing driveway.

20 MR. PERRONE: Next, turning to the structural design
21 standards, response to interrogatories 17 and 20,
22 the tower would be designed for TIA version H.

23 Is version H still the applicable structural
24 design standard in Connecticut?

25 THE WITNESS (Burns): Yes, per the current Connecticut

1 state building code which is dated 2022-H is the
2 current design standard.

3 MR. PERRONE: What is the status of applicability of
4 version I in Connecticut?

5 THE WITNESS (Burns): Version I will be more than
6 likely added to the next -- next state building
7 code update. I do not have a timeframe for that.
8 The thought is probably late 2026, but that's just
9 an estimate.

10 MR. PERRONE: And I understand the tower is designed
11 for H. Would the tower also need to be designed
12 for I in anticipation of that standard?

13 THE WITNESS (Burns): Whatever the standard is at the
14 time of the design will be the one that is adhered
15 to. At this point we're not even sure what is
16 final in I.

17 So, if H is accurate -- if H is current, then
18 that's what it will be designed to.

19 MR. PERRONE: Moving on to the utility connections, on
20 sheet SP-2 the existing pole 3397 would be
21 replaced. Would that serve as a riser pole?

22 THE WITNESS (Burns): Yes. Robert Burns with
23 All-Points. Yes, that's correct.

24 MR. PERRONE: Okay. Would that be the only pole?

25 THE WITNESS (Burns): Robert Burns again. There is

1 existing poles that run through the site. I
2 believe it carries telephone to -- telephone
3 service to the north. Eversource is planning on
4 replacing all of those poles.

5 So, they're just replacement poles for what's
6 currently out there. And that will be the pole we
7 pull services from.

8 MR. PERRONE: And from 3397 headed southwest, that's
9 going to be underground all the way to the
10 compound? Is that right?

11 THE WITNESS (Burns): Robert Burns with All-Points.

12 Yes, sir, that's correct.

13 MR. PERRONE: Okay. Moving on to fence design, sheet
14 C-1, would the proposed privacy slats be located
15 around the entire fence?

16 THE WITNESS (Burns): Robert Burns with All-points.

17 Yes, that's correct .

18 MR. PERRONE: Next, moving onto fire safety. In the
19 event of a fire at the proposed facility, how
20 would power be turned off to deenergize the
21 facility?

22 THE WITNESS (DiVito): This is Kip DiVito with Verizon
23 Wireless.

24 We are capable of turning off our site from
25 many places, our main operations in New Jersey,

1 local site techs can do it remotely, and also our
2 local switch can turn off the site from here in
3 Wallingford.

4 MR. PERRONE: So, that refers to on-air/off-air. I'm
5 referring to the power to the site.

6 THE WITNESS (Burns): So, there is -- Robert Burns with
7 All-Points.

8 There is a transfer switch at the main meter
9 bank that can be turned off.

10 MR. PERRONE: And also what types of fire safety and
11 management systems would be employed at the site?

12 THE WITNESS (Burns): Robert Burns with All-Points.

13 The site is -- is fitted with fire alarms and
14 would be -- could be turned off remotely, and --
15 and emergency crews could be alerted.

16 MR. PERRONE: Moving on to noise, response to
17 interrogatory 45, what would be the approximate
18 projected noise level at the nearest property
19 line?

20 THE WITNESS (Burns): The -- the noise level from the
21 fans of equipment would be at -- the closest
22 property line would be the eastern property line,
23 and it would be 29 dBa.

24 MR. PERRONE: Moving on to environmental. In
25 application tab eleven, wetland and vernal pool

1 impact analysis, page 2, the second paragraph, the
2 Applicant notes that alternative sites one through
3 three were not feasible or prudent due to the
4 proximity to sensitive wetland resources.

5 Of these three alternatives, which one would
6 have the least impact on wetland and vernal pool
7 resources?

8 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Matthew Gustafson.

9 Based on an assessment of all three sites in
10 relation to both the wetland associated with
11 Anguilla Brook and vernal pool one, generally we
12 consider alternate site one the least impactful to
13 those resources due to the greater separating
14 distance to vernal pool one and Anguilla Brook.

15 MR. PERRONE: And moving onto RF with respect to those
16 sites, how would the three alternative sites work
17 in terms of coverage relative to the proposed
18 site?

19 THE WITNESS (DiVito): This is Kip DiVito with Verizon
20 Wireless.

21 I -- I don't know the elevation of the area,
22 but like, compared to where we -- where we are at
23 right now, but I think it would have very little
24 impact compared to where we are, because it's --
25 it's not that much of a difference in distance.

1 MR. PERRONE: Okay. So, you wouldn't know any
2 potential change in tower height without the
3 elevation?

4 THE WITNESS (DiVito): Right, correct.

5 MR. PERRONE: And also, this is relating to
6 construction at those potential alternative sites.
7 Would the Applicant have any estimate of
8 additional cost impacts to utilize one of the
9 alternative sites due to longer access and longer
10 utilities, no other factors?

11 THE WITNESS (Burns): So, this is Robert Burns with
12 All-Points. Alternate site three would have
13 longer access. The utility run would probably be
14 similar, so there would be some additional costs
15 there.

16 Alternative site two, there probably wouldn't
17 be much of a difference.

18 MR. PERRONE: And moving on to visibility, application
19 attachment nine, the visual assessment has a
20 number of photo sims. Which one would be the
21 closest depiction to the proposed visibility from
22 345 North Anguilla Road?

23 THE WITNESS (Landino): I'm Rick Landino, All-Points
24 Tech. Let me just take a look at that.

25 So, I'm sorry. Could you repeat that

1 question?

2 MR. PERRONE: Of the photo sims, which one would be the
3 closest depiction of views of the tower from 345
4 North Anguilla Road?

5 THE WITNESS (Landino): Its closest? It's hard to say.
6 It's probably between -- let me just take one more
7 look.

8 I -- I think it's between five and six.
9 It's -- 5 and 6 are -- are -- 345 is between 5 and
10 6, that location.

11 MR. PERRONE: Thank you. That's all I have.

12 THE VICE CHAIR: We'll continue with cross-examination
13 by Mr. Golembiewski followed by Mr. Nguyen.

14 Good afternoon, Mr. Golembiewski.

15 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Good afternoon, Vice Chair. I have
16 no questions of the panel. Thank you.

17 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Golembiewski. We'll
18 now continue with cross-examination by Mr. Nguyen
19 followed by Mr. Carter.

20 Good afternoon, Mr. Nguyen.

21 MR. NGUYEN: Good afternoon, Mr. Vice Chair. And good
22 afternoon, panel. Just a couple.

23 I'll follow up on Mr. Perrone's question
24 regarding response to interrogatory number seven.
25 And I understand you already corrected that the

1 Norfolk cell facility should be placed at
2 Stonington.

3 At the end of the response it indicated
4 75,000. Should that number be revised as well?

5 THE WITNESS (DiVito): This is Kip DiVito.

6 With each small cell -- yeah. This is Kip
7 DiVito With Verizon Wireless.

8 Now, that's a rough estimate of about what it
9 costs Verizon to build a small cell here in New
10 England.

11 MR. NGUYEN: Okay. Referencing Question Number 32, and
12 I also see that Cellco already corrected that your
13 proposed backup generators would be utilizing a
14 diesel fuel generator. Is that correct?

15 THE WITNESS (Glidden): This is Liz Glidden.

16 Yes, that is correct.

17 MR. NGUYEN: And the question, is there any natural gas
18 line available that could be utilized for the
19 backup generator?

20 THE WITNESS (Burns): This is Robert Burns with
21 All-Points.

22 According to Eversource's website, there is
23 no natural gas in the area.

24 MR. NGUYEN: And just a quick question regarding the
25 environment. This compound or this proposed site,

1 it's in the core frost?

2 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Matthew Gustafson with
3 All-Points.

4 No, the proposed compound location is located
5 in the edge of an existing agricultural field with
6 no mature forest around the surrounding area or
7 within the proposed area.

8 MR. NGUYEN: Okay. Thank you panel.

9 And that's all I have, Mr. Vice Chair.

10 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Nguyen.

11 We'll continue with cross-examination by
12 Mr. Carter, followed by Ms. Hall.

13 Good afternoon, Mr. Carter.

14 MR. CARTER: Good afternoon, Mr. Vice Chair.

15 I won't be taking up much time. I only have
16 one question for the panel, and it is in reference
17 to question number three from Council Staff
18 interrogatories.

19 I saw that you all had sent communication to
20 state legislators. Has there been any
21 communication received back from them?

22 THE WITNESS (Paul): This is Brian Paul.

23 No, we have nothing at this time.

24 MR. CARTER: Okay. Thank you.

25 That's all I have, Mr. Vice Chair. I will

1 yield back my time.

2 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Carter. We'll continue
3 cross-examination by Ms. Hall, followed by
4 Mr. Syme.

5 Ms. Hall, good afternoon.

6 MS. HALL: Good afternoon.

7 Following up on Mr. Perrone's question, if
8 you were to explore the use of alternate site one,
9 what would be the environmental impacts, the
10 impacts to wetlands, et cetera?

11 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Matthew Gustafson, with
12 All-Points.

13 There will be several additional impacts
14 associated with alternate site one, the first
15 being that the inc -- or the decreased buffer to
16 Anguilla Brook, identified as wetland one, that's
17 the location; and all three alternate site
18 locations are located in direct proximity to that
19 resource.

20 In addition, site one is located within the
21 750-foot upland review area, or the critical
22 terrestrial habitat buffer to vernal pool one,
23 which would result in some impact to that buffer
24 habitat to vernal pool one.

25 In addition, all three -- or I believe at

1 least two, alternate site one and alternate site
2 two locations will be located in areas of either
3 prime farmland or statewide important farmland
4 soils, which would result in direct impacts to
5 those locations. And all three sites result in
6 increased impacts associated with longer access
7 drives to -- to reach those locations.

8 MS. HALL: Okay. That's my only question.

9 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms. Hall.

10 We'll now continue with cross-examination by
11 Mr. Syme, followed by Dr. Williams.

12 Mr. Syme, good afternoon.

13 MR. SYME: Good afternoon, everybody.

14 I have no concerns with this one. There's no
15 environmental things that struck my eyes, caught
16 my eyes. And there's actually already an access
17 road available, so there's going to be a minimum
18 of destruction to put, whatever the word is --
19 disruption, there's the word -- to put an access
20 road in.

21 So, I really don't have anything that's
22 catching my eye on this one. Thank you.

23 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Syme.

24 We'll now continue cross-examination by
25 Dr. Williams, followed by myself.

1 Dr. Williams, good afternoon.

2 DR. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon.

3 My questions I had were in terms of wetland
4 proximity and tree removal, and location of the
5 proposed on-site. And my questions are answered,
6 and it poses minimal ecological disturbance, in my
7 opinion. So, I'm good. Thank you.

8 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Dr. Williams.

9 I'd like to start off on page 7 of the
10 introduction, and it has to do with the second
11 paragraph relating to coverage.

12 MR. LYNCH: You're going to forget me, Mr. Morissette?

13 THE VICE CHAIR: Yes. How could I forget you,
14 Mr. Lynch? Go ahead, Mr. Lynch. Excuse me.

15 MR. LYNCH: I only have one. It's my standard
16 question, anyhow.

17 THE VICE CHAIR: I'm sure it's an important one.

18 MR. LYNCH: If your telephone trunk line goes down,
19 what are your plans to get the site up and running
20 again, because your backup generators are no good?

21 THE WITNESS (DiVito): This is Kip DiVito with Verizon
22 Wireless.

23 If a telephone line goes down, I would
24 suspect we would call the appropriate company to
25 come and fix whatever fiber line, wherever it is,

1 to come and fix that.

2 MR. LYNCH: Well, I've been asking this question for a
3 long time. And would that be Frontier that you
4 would be calling? And shouldn't you already have
5 something in place in case that telephone line
6 goes down?

7 THE WITNESS (DiVito): This is Kip DiVito with Verizon
8 Wireless.

9 I don't know who the service provider is. It
10 might be Frontier. It might be VZT, but --

11 THE WITNESS (Glidden): It is Frontier.

12 THE WITNESS (DiVito): It is Frontier? Okay.

13 So, in any case, from my understanding and
14 my, I guess, experience here, it's -- it's been
15 working for us.

16 MR. LYNCH: If that trunk line does go down and you do
17 contact the appropriate agency, how long would it
18 take to get that thing up and running again?

19 THE WITNESS (DiVito): This is Kip DiVito with Verizon
20 Wireless.

21 I don't -- it's, I guess, in a storm
22 situation there would be an emergency to, I guess,
23 hasten things. But I can't say for certain how
24 long it would be to get the company out there, or
25 a bucket truck out there to fix it.

1 THE WITNESS (Paul): This is Brian Paul with Vertical
2 Bridge.

3 We offer a redundant path for that fiber from
4 the road to the site in the case that the original
5 fiber were to go down. We can pull a new fiber
6 through the redundant path, therefore expediting
7 the ability to get that site back up and running
8 should that need to occur.

9 MR. LYNCH: Thank you. That's the first time I heard
10 that. So, thank you very much.

11 That's my one question, Mr. Morissette.

12 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Lynch. I'm going to
13 start over. I'm going to pull a Mulligan on this
14 one.

15 My first question has to do with fire safety.
16 Will the site be equipped with fire extinguishers
17 or other devices to put fires out, and where will
18 they be installed?

19 THE WITNESS (Paul): This is Brian Paul.

20 Are you asking that question during
21 construction, or as after the tower is
22 constructed?

23 THE VICE CHAIR: No, in operation.

24 THE WITNESS (Paul): In operation? Typically, sites
25 don't have any fire suppression on them outside of

1 the equipment that Verizon installs, but I'll
2 defer to Verizon for what is inside their
3 equipment.

4 **THE WITNESS (DiVito):** This is Kip DiVito with Verizon
5 Wireless.

6 To my understanding, we have the equipment
7 cabinet that has only equipment in it. I don't
8 understand. You know, cell -- Celltex might carry
9 a fire extinguisher in their vehicle, but I highly
10 doubt it's capable of putting out a large-scale
11 fire. It's probably mostly for their vehicle
12 safety.

13 **THE VICE CHAIR:** So, the local fire department would be
14 called in if there is a fire, for example, in the
15 cabinet?

16 **THE WITNESS (DiVito):** This is Kip DiVito.

17 That's my understanding.

18 **THE VICE CHAIR:** Okay. And I take it there's no fire
19 hydrants in close proximity?

20 **THE WITNESS (DiVito):** This is Kip DiVito.

21 I do not know.

22 **THE VICE CHAIR:** Okay. I'd like to turn to page 7 of
23 the introduction, having to do with public need
24 for the Stonington 2 facility in the second
25 paragraph. I would like to understand the

1 coverage versus capacity needs.

2 So, the first sentence basically indicates
3 it's primarily for coverage relief, and then the
4 last sentence indicates that it's also for
5 capacity relief for the existing Stonington cell
6 site.

7 Can somebody further elaborate on that so
8 that I understand?

9 THE WITNESS (DiVito): Yes. This is Kip DiVito with
10 Verizon Wireless.

11 I would -- I'm going to be referencing
12 attachment six, the coverage plots, page 1 and
13 page 2.

14 THE VICE CHAIR: Okay.

15 THE WITNESS (DiVito): They show the -- the main 700
16 megahertz coverage. On page 1, there you can see
17 that where our proposed site is, Stonington 2.
18 There's just a large coverage gap there between --
19 you have, I guess, southwest you have Stonington
20 and then to the east you have Stonington East.

21 So, our engineers had stated that Stonington,
22 Connecticut, the existing macro experiences about
23 650 dropped calls every month in that area, which
24 I don't recall which interrogatory question it is,
25 but it's -- it's in the interrogatories.

1 So, this site will fill in that coverage gap
2 you see there on page 1.

3 THE VICE CHAIR: Okay.

4 THE WITNESS (DiVito): And you'll see it on page 2 get
5 filled in, but then it will also help Stonington
6 fix those dropped calls in the area because the
7 proposed site will take over as a dominant site in
8 the area.

9 And then you also have Stonington East there
10 that has -- it will be able to down tilt the, I
11 think it's the gamma sector a little bit that
12 points towards Stonington 2. And we'll be able
13 to, I guess you could say, gain a little capacity
14 to Stonington East because it will be covering
15 less area due to Stonington 2.

16 So, you have some commercial areas in that
17 area. Stonington 2 will fill in the coverage gap
18 there, but also improve network performance on the
19 Stonington and Stonington East by becoming the
20 dominant sector in the area.

21 THE VICE CHAIR: Very good. Thank you. That helps.

22 THE WITNESS (DiVito): The question I was referring to
23 in an interrogatory was interrogatory number 30.

24 THE VICE CHAIR: Great. Thank you.

25 Looking at that same map, is Stonington

1 small-cell 2, is that still going to be needed?

2 THE WITNESS (DiVito): This is Kip DiVito with Verizon
3 Wireless.

4 We would still most likely utilize that small
5 cell. At least at this time there's no -- there's
6 no plans to turn it off. I think small cells
7 serve a very unique aspect to our network as they
8 are more easily, I guess, upgraded -- or changed
9 the radio's frequency.

10 So that if -- if instead of decommissioning
11 it, you could change sectors to add more, or
12 change radios to add more capacity to the area
13 without causing interference.

14 THE VICE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you.

15 Going to the existing and proposed Verizon
16 plot, now I noticed that Stonington 2 does not
17 quite get up to Route 184, State Highway 184 of
18 the New London Turnpike. And it also doesn't get
19 up close to the junction of I-84 and Route 2. So,
20 you still have coverage gaps on those two roads.

21 Is Stonington 3 going to fill that gap?

22 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Mr. Morissette, just for
23 clarification? I think you said I-84.

24 Did you mean Route 184?

25 THE VICE CHAIR: Yes. I'm sorry.

1 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Okay. I'm sorry. Thank you.

2 Thanks for that clarification.

3 THE VICE CHAIR: Yes. Thank you.

4 THE WITNESS (DiVito): This is Kip DiVito with Verizon
5 Wireless.

6 I would have to review, I guess, the
7 parameters or settings of the antennas of North
8 Stonington 3. That is the site you were talking
9 about. Right? That -- this existing site north
10 of the proposed site, North Stonington 3?

11 THE VICE CHAIR: No, I'm asking about coverage on Route
12 184 --

13 THE WITNESS (DiVito): Right. That's --

14 THE VICE CHAIR: -- and Route 2, north of the
15 Stonington 2 site.

16 THE WITNESS (DiVito): Right, but I believe you asked
17 if a site would cover that, like -- or maybe I'm
18 misinterpreting your question.

19 But in -- in any case, I guess to your point,
20 correct; it doesn't reach quite up there as much
21 to Route 184 or as much to Route 2.

22 THE VICE CHAIR: Uh-huh?

23 THE WITNESS (DiVito): However, if you're asking if we
24 would propose another site or anything like that
25 at this time? No, we would do our review of the

1 area after the site is built and more testing and
2 customer feedback and whatnot.

3 But there might be the ability to, which is
4 what I was trying to get at with North Stonington
5 3, to improve coverage a little bit. But I
6 believe that what we're showing you is everything
7 extended out as full as possible.

8 THE VICE CHAIR: Okay. Where is Stonington 3 going to
9 go?

10 THE WITNESS (DiVito): So, it's north -- are you
11 referring to North Stonington 3, which is the
12 existing site on that that's north of Stonington 2
13 and Route 184?

14 THE VICE CHAIR: No, I'm -- let's see. It's in
15 response number six in reference to Stonington 3.
16 I'm going to go there and see if I'm reading it
17 correctly.

18 The existing Stonington, is that Stonington
19 North 3?

20 A VOICE: Which is it? Here?

21 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Yeah, it's number six.

22 (Unintelligible.)

23 THE WITNESS (DiVito): Yeah, that must -- that must be
24 an error there. That should read, North
25 Stonington 3 --

1 THE VICE CHAIR: Okay.

2 THE WITNESS (DiVito): -- which is the existing site to
3 the north. My apologies.

4 THE VICE CHAIR: Okay. I got you. Okay. Well -- so,
5 the bottom line is that Route 184 and Route 2 will
6 have coverage gaps north of Stonington 2. So,
7 why -- why wouldn't you want to move the
8 Stonington 2 site further north to capture that
9 area?

10 THE WITNESS (DiVito): This is Kip DiVito with Verizon
11 Wireless.

12 It's not just those routes. I mean, it's --
13 you're still trying to get it in the middle to
14 where you could get some coverage to route -- or
15 I-95. So, it's a mix between, not just 184.

16 But you don't get to build a lot of these
17 rural macros as you may need, but when you do get
18 one, a willing landlord, you try and, you know,
19 get the most out of it by covering as much of the
20 main roads as possible. So, if we moved it more
21 north, you'd lose some of that coverage on I-95.

22 THE VICE CHAIR: It appears from your existing Verizon
23 Wireless map you have decent coverage on 95.

24 THE WITNESS (DiVito): This is Kip DiVito with Verizon
25 Wireless.

1 Yes, but the point is to also remove tilt
2 from Stonington East and Stonington, those two
3 sites that are south of Stonington 2. So by
4 removing the tilts on those, you're down tilting
5 those antennas, which would prevent those 650
6 dropped calls a month, but you have to add that
7 coverage back with a site, and that's why we're
8 proposing this site.

9 THE VICE CHAIR: All right. Well, I think an
10 opportunity is being lost here to cover that major
11 Route 2 at the intersection. I would imagine
12 that's a pretty, pretty busy area.

13 Okay. Let's see what else I have here.

14 My other questions have already been asked.
15 I thank my fellow Councilmembers for asking
16 thorough questions. Okay. That concludes my
17 questioning for this afternoon, and thank you
18 everyone for your responses. I appreciate it.

19 Okay. We will now continue with
20 cross-examination of the Applicant by the Town of
21 Stonington.

22 Attorney Estep, good afternoon.

23 ATTORNEY ESTEP: Good afternoon. Thank you.

24 Regarding the selection process for the site,
25 45 inquiries went out and you only received 3

1 responses. Is that correct?

2 THE WITNESS (Paul): This is Brian Paul.

3 Yes, I believe that's correct.

4 ATTORNEY ESTEP: Was there any consideration taken to
5 following up on those that did not respond, and in
6 particular, those that are in commercial areas?

7 THE WITNESS (Paul): This is Brian Paul again.

8 We don't typically follow up once we send out
9 our standard letter to folks in the area. It's
10 much like cold calling. If people don't answer or
11 aren't interested in our service, then we move on
12 to the next person. And once we find a willing
13 landlord, we typically will move forward with that
14 person.

15 ATTORNEY ESTEP: But you were aware that the Town -- at
16 some point you became aware the Town was concerned
17 at this site location. Is that correct?

18 THE WITNESS (Paul): This is Brian Paul again.

19 I believe that was well into the process.

20 ATTORNEY ESTEP: So, well into the process, but did you
21 consider at that point attempting to locate this
22 in a more commercial area where there's already
23 pre-existing structures?

24 THE WITNESS (Paul): Brian Paul again.

25 I -- I'm not sure exactly which sites here,

1 which locations you're referring to. So, I can't
2 really provide you with a correct answer to that
3 question as is, as it references the initial 45
4 notices we sent.

5 In other words, I don't know if the forty --
6 if what you are referencing was indeed included in
7 those 45. And if you're asking why we didn't
8 follow up with them, it sounds like it's where
9 you're headed.

10 ATTORNEY ESTEP: That is what I'm asking. And more
11 importantly, in the initial site selection did you
12 take into consideration commercial areas versus a
13 residential scenic road area?

14 THE WITNESS (DiVito): This is Kip DiVito with Verizon
15 Wireless.

16 To our understanding, the commercial areas
17 are located, I guess you can say the overlap of
18 I-95 and Route 2 to, like, the northwest corner of
19 the G -- I believe it's like a GE building. And
20 then also the commercial areas are south on Route
21 2, more south of I-95 on Route 2.

22 But in any case, those commercial areas are
23 all firmly within the Stonington East existing
24 coverage. So, adding a site in that area would
25 cause immense interfering -- inter --

1 interference.

2 ATTORNEY ESTEP: So were there no commercial areas
3 available in the general area you were looking to
4 put this tower up -- available?

5 THE WITNESS (DiVito): This is Kip DiVito with Verizon
6 Wireless. Correct.

7 ATTORNEY ESTEP: Okay. And was there any consideration
8 given to placing the tower further from the public
9 view on the site where you selected it?

10 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): This is Matthew Gustafson.

11 Yes, alternatives were considered to the
12 north on the property, as detailed in our
13 attachment eleven of the application, which is
14 Exhibit 1, and referring back to my testimony
15 previously in the increased impacts associated
16 with those sites and the reasons why we eliminated
17 them as -- as viable locations.

18 ATTORNEY ESTEP: Was there any applications made
19 regarding the possible impacts to the Stonington
20 inland wetlands or -- commission?

21 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Matthew Gustafson again.

22 I don't think I understand your question.
23 Are you asking if we -- if we sent an application
24 to the local commission?

25 ATTORNEY ESTEP: Well, I mean, based upon your review,

1 you felt there would be a greater impact.

2 Is that correct?

3 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): I would say that's a fair
4 characterization of my assessment, yes.

5 Matthew Gustafson again for the record.

6 ATTORNEY ESTEP: And did you seek any information from
7 the inland wetlands officer of the Town of
8 Stonington to either confirm or deny your
9 concerns?

10 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): I've had no contact with the
11 inland wetlands officer to -- to that effect, no.

12 ATTORNEY ESTEP: Okay. Thank you. That's all I have.

13 THE VICE CHAIR: Thank you, Attorney Estep.

14 Very good. We will now move on to the
15 appearance by the Town of Stonington. Will the
16 party present its witness panel for purposes of
17 taking the oath? And Attorney Bachman will
18 administer the oath.

19 Attorney Estep?

20 ATTORNEY ESTEP: I'm sorry. Unfortunately, I do not
21 have any witnesses available today. The two
22 witnesses that might have testified are both
23 unavailable. We'll just rely on our filings by
24 the first selectwoman in this matter.

25 THE VICE CHAIR: Very good. And that filing has been

1 made. Correct? Prefiled testimony?

2 ATTORNEY ESTEP: Yes, we filed her pre-filed testimony.
3 Correct.

4 THE VICE CHAIR: Very good. Okay. All right. Very
5 good.

6 So, this will conclude the hearing for today.
7 And the first selectwoman will not have an
8 opportunity to testify.

9 ATTORNEY BACHMAN: Excuse me, Vice Chair Morissette.

10 Can we please ask the Applicant if they have
11 any objection to allowing the first selectwoman's
12 pre-filed testimony into the record without
13 cross-examination?

14 THE VICE CHAIR: Attorney Baldwin?

15 Thank you, Attorney Bachman.

16 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: Thank you, Attorney Bachman and
17 Mr. Morissette.

18 Just to be clear that the testimony that
19 we're talking about from the first selectwoman is
20 the August 18, 2025, letter that was submitted to
21 the record. Could I just get clarification of
22 that?

23 ATTORNEY ESTEP: Yes. From the Town, yes.

24 ATTORNEY BALDWIN: We have no objection.

25 THE VICE CHAIR: Very good. Thank you.

1 Okay. With that, that concludes our hearing
2 for this afternoon. The Council will recess until
3 6:30 p.m., at which time we will commence with the
4 public comment session of this public hearing.

5 Thank you, everyone, and we'll see you at
6 6:30. Good evening.

7 ATTORNEY ESTEP: Thank you.

8
9 (End: 2:52 p.m.)
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 46 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. 537, 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 ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT LOCATED AT 327 NORTH ANGUILLA ROAD, STONINGTON, CONNECTICUT, which was held before JOHN MORISSETTE, THE VICE CHAIR, on August 28, 2025.


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

INDEX

WITNESSES

PAGE

Brian Paul	
Kip DiVito	
Elizabeth Glidden	
Robert Burns	
Matthew Gustafson	
Rick Landino -----	14

(EXAMINATION)

By Attorney Baldwin -----	15
By Mr. Perrone -----	18
By Mr. Nguyen -----	25
By Mr. Carter -----	27
By Ms. Hall -----	28
By Mr. Lynch -----	30
By The Vice Chair (Morissette) -----	32
By Attorney Estep -----	40