

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SITING COUNCIL**

DOCKET NO. 488 – Homeland Towers, LLC and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at one of two sites: Kent Tax Assessor ID #M10, Block 22, Lot 38 Bald Hill Road or 93 Richards Road, Kent, Connecticut.

: AUGUST 27, 2020

PDA OF CONNECTICUT LATE-FILED TESTIMONY

The following are Planned Development Alliance of Northwest Connecticut, Inc.'s responses to the inquiries made and information requested by the Council in its August hearing continuation memorandum.

1. *Information regarding the balloon float that occurred on July 4, 2020 including a scaled map identifying the balloon fly locations and photograph locations, approximate distance from the respective balloon to the photograph location, details on the ground elevation of the balloon fly locations, how the balloon string was measured, method of any balloon height adjustments to account for ground elevation, camera zoom level for each photograph and reason for that zoom level, and qualifications of any photographic consultant who directed PDA as to what camera zoom level to use.*

Response:

Balloon Float July 4, 2020

The Balloon Float was conducted from approximately 11 AM until 5 PM on July 4, 2020 simultaneously from two locations.

- (a) One East of the proposed Bald Hill Tower location (we refer to as Site C) and
- (b) a second North/Northeast of the proposed Richards Road Tower (we refer to as Site D).

Maps showing the locations and GPS coordinates of the Balloon Floats and the

approximate locations of the Applicant's Balloon Floats for Site A and Site B are attached as Exhibits A and B. The GPS locations for the proposed towers were approximated based on knowledge of the locations of the balloon floats conducted by the Applicant in January of 2020 and the Application reveals the coordinates in its FAA submissions. GPS Coordinates were taken with a Garmin GPSmap 62st.

Based on the GPS coordinates, the Bald Hill Site C is approximately 20 feet below Bald Hill Site A and Richards Road Site D is approximately 14 feet above Richards Road Site B.

The balloons were 7 feet in diameter and distance to the bottom of each balloon was taken with a Bushnell laser rangefinder, Model Z6 held at 5.5 feet high. The height of the rangefinder was added to the measurement to obtain an accurate above-ground-level measurement of the balloons. The rangefinder's specified accuracy is ± 1.5 feet.

The height to the bottom of the Site C Balloon was set at 174 feet to compensate for the 20-foot elevation gain and the height of the Site D Balloon was set at 144 feet to compensate for an estimated 10 foot elevation gain. Based on the GPS estimates this overstates the Richards height by approximately 4 feet. Both balloon heights were confirmed with the laser rangefinder.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs were taken from (i) 49 Spectacle Ridge Road looking West toward the Bald Hill Site, (ii) 22 Richards Road looking West toward the Bald Hill Site and East toward the Richards Road site and (iii) 12 Arrowhead Point to approximate a view from Lake Waramaug.

David Maxson advised PDA to follow the guidelines of Mr. George Janes, AICP, Executive Director of Environmental Simulation Center, LTD, familiar with photosimulations who recommends that photographs used for photosimulation

should be taken using a 50mm lens in full-frame format. The 50mm lens has been shown to create an image where distance relationships are similar to the perception of the human eye. Lenses less than 50mm will make elements in the photograph appear smaller than they would to the human eye, while larger lenses will make elements of the photograph appear larger. Photosimulations can be done using a magnification lens to simulate the acuity of the human eye when it focuses on an object in the distance. This lens should be 85mm or larger. Panoramic lenses (or the use of panoramic stitching) should not be used. In the photo exhibits submitted by PDA as part of Todd Powell's pre-filed testimony, there are 50mm and 85mm lens views taken for each proposed tower. Only Photo Exhibit G taken from near Lake Waramaug was taken using higher magnification.

The GPS locations of the photo sites are plotted on Exhibits A and B and details of the photo locations are included in the table attached as Exhibit C.

Balloon Elevation and Minimum Tower Height

The height of the balloon flight was chosen to represent the tower as applied for, but PDA believes the record shows that a much shorter tower would provide a balance between environmental scenic impact and the public need for wireless communications in the area.

For example, Applicant provided testimony in this docket that in order to successfully connect a microwave link to this site, a minimum of 131ft was required. Isotrope conducted a microwave link study to show that an 80 ft microwave dish would be sufficient to connect to a hypothetical microwave dish at the two tower locations AT&T identified – Mohawk Mountain and New Milford. See attached microwave link studies Ex. D, E and F.

2. Information regarding the DAS system deployed in Chilmark, MA.

Response:

See Isotrope memorandum dated August 27, 2020 attached to this filing as Exhibit G.

Isotrope determined that AT&T provides First Net bands of service on small cells in the Chilmark array along with backup power batteries and generators. The array was constructed by American Tower Corporation and is operated by a sub-contractor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Planned Development Alliance of Northwest Connecticut, Inc.,

By _____
Keith R. Ainsworth
Law Offices of Keith R. Ainsworth, Esq. LLC
51 Elm Street, Suite 201
New Haven, CT 06510-2049
(203)435-2014
keithrainsworth@live.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that a true copy of the foregoing was served on the following parties and intervenors by electronic service and/or deposit in the United States mail, first-class, postage pre-paid this 27th day of August 2020 and addressed to:

Ms. Melanie Bachman, Esq., Executive Director, Connecticut Siting Council, 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051 (1 orig plus 1 electronic) (US Mail/electronic).

Siting.Council@ct.gov

And electronic copies to:

Homeland/New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC
c/o Lucia Chiochio, Esq, Cuddy & Feder, LLP, 445 Hamilton Avenue, 14th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601 (914) 761-1300 (914) 761-5372 fax

LChiochio@CUDDYFEDER.COM

Michael D. Rybak, Jr., Esq.
Guion, Stevens & Rybak, LLP

93 West Street

PO Box 338

Litchfield, CT 06759 mdrjr@litchlaw.com; afd@litchlaw.com

(all by e-mail)

Daniel E. Casagrande, Esq.

Cramer & Anderson, LLP

30 Main Street, Suite 204

Danbury, CT 06810

Telephone: 203-744-1234

Facsimile: 203-730-2500

dcasagrande@crameranderson.com ; daniel@rosemark.law (email)

Keith R. Ainsworth, Esq.