Visual Resource Evaluation

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> > Prepared for Crown Castle





VISUAL ASSESSMENT & PHOTO-SIMULATIONS

Global Signal Acquisition IV LLC and Crown Towers 06-02 LLC (collectively "Crown Castle") is seeking approval for the development of a new wireless communications facility (the "Facility") on a property identified as a 17.37-acre parcel east of Lakeview Street in East Hampton, Connecticut (the "Host Property"). The Facility is proposed to replace an existing facility located nearby at 94 East High Street in East Hampton. At the request of Crown Castle, All-Points Technology Corporation, P.C. ("APT") completed a balloon float, field reconnaissance, photodocumentation, and photographic simulations to evaluate the potential visual effects of the proposed Facility on surrounding locations.

Project Setting

The Host Property is a 17.37-acre wooded parcel located east of Lakeview Street (Route 196) and south of East High Street (Route 66). Crown Castle plans to construct the proposed Facility in the central portion of the Host Property (the "Site"). Site access will be from Route 66 through a separate 7.63-acre, wooded parcel immediately to the north, which is held in common ownership with the Host Property.

Land use in the immediate vicinity consists primarily of residentially-developed properties. Commercial development is located north of the Host Property along East High Street. Wooded land extends to the east and to the west beyond residences along Lakeview Street. The topography within the area generally consists of rolling to hilly terrain. The ± 512 -acre Lake Pocotopaug is a dominant feature in this area of East Hampton. The closest portion of the lake (its southern shoreline) is approximately 1,500 feet northwest of Site. The Smith Street/Cranberry Bog parking area and trailhead of the Air Line State Park Trail are located approximately 1,300 feet south of the Host Property.

Project Undertaking

The Site consists of a 100-foot by 100-foot ground lease area in the central portion of the Host Property. The Facility would be located at a ground elevation of approximately 523 feet above mean sea level and include a 250-foot tall monopole¹ and associated ground-mounted equipment in a 75-foot by 75-foot fenced equipment compound. Access to the Facility would be provided over a proposed 12-foot wide gravel access drive extending southward from East High Street approximately 1,366 feet to the Site.

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¹ The 250' tall monopole would be capped with a 5' tall lightning rod, bringing the total height of the Facility to 255' above ground level.

Methodology

APT used the combination of a predictive computer model, in-field analysis, and a review of various data sources to evaluate the visibility associated with the proposed Facility on both a quantitative and qualitative basis. The predictive model provides a measurable assessment of visibility throughout the entire Study Area, including private properties and other areas inaccessible for direct observations. The in-field analyses included a balloon float and field reconnaissance of the Study Area to record existing conditions, verify results of the model, inventory seasonal and year-round view locations, and provide photographic documentation from publicly accessible areas. A description of the procedures used in the analysis is provided below.

Preliminary Computer Modeling

To conduct this assessment, a predictive computer model was developed specifically for this project using ESRI's ArcMap GIS² software and available GIS data. The predictive model incorporates Project and Study Area-specific data, including the site location, its ground elevation and the proposed Facility height, as well as the surrounding topography, existing vegetation, and structures (the primary features that can block direct lines of sight).

A digital surface model ("DSM"), capturing both the natural and built features on the Earth's surface, was generated for the extent of the Study Area utilizing State of Connecticut 2016 LiDAR³ LAS⁴ data points. LiDAR is a remote-sensing technology that develops elevation data by measuring the time it takes for laser light to return from the surface to the instrument's sensors. The varying reflectivity of objects also means that the "returns" can be classified based on the characteristics of the reflected light, normally into categories such as "bare earth," "vegetation," "road," or "building." Derived from the 2016 LiDAR data, the LAS datasets contain the corresponding elevation point data and return classification values. The Study Area DSM incorporates the first return LAS dataset values that are associated with the highest feature in the landscape, typically a treetop, top of a building, and/or the highest point of other tall structures.

Once the DSM was generated, ESRI's Viewshed Tool was utilized to identify locations within the Study Area where the proposed Facility may be visible. ESRI's Viewshed Tool predicts visibility by identifying those cells⁵ within the DSM that can be seen from an observer location. Cells where visibility was indicated were extracted and converted from a raster dataset to a polygon feature which was then overlaid onto an aerial photograph and topographic base map. Since the DSM includes the highest relative feature in the landscape, isolated "visible" cells are often indicated within heavily forested areas (e.g., from the top of the highest tree) or on building rooftops during the initial processing. It is recognized that these areas do not represent typical

² ArcMap is a Geographic Information System desktop application developed by the Environmental Systems Research Institute for creating maps, performing spatial analysis, and managing geographic data.

³ Light Detection and Ranging

⁴ An LAS file is an industry-standard binary format for storing airborne LiDAR data.

⁵ Each DSM cell size is 1 square meter.

viewer locations and overstate visibility. As such, the resulting polygon feature is further refined by extracting those areas. The viewshed results are also cross-checked against the most current aerial photographs to assess whether significant changes (a new housing development, for example) have occurred since the time the LiDAR-based LAS datasets were captured.

The results of the preliminary analysis are intended to provide a representation of those areas where portions of the Facility *may* potentially be visible to the human eye without the aid of magnification, based on a viewer eye-height of five (5) feet above the ground and the combination of intervening topography, trees and other vegetation, and structures. However, the Facility may not necessarily be visible from all locations within those areas identified by the predictive model, which has limitations. For instance, it is important to note that the computer model cannot account for mass density, tree diameters and branching variability of trees, or the degradation of views that occur with distance. As a result, some areas depicted on the viewshed maps as theoretically offering potential visibility of the Facility may be over-predicted because the quality of those views is not sufficient for the human eye to recognize the Facility or discriminate it from other surrounding or intervening objects.

Seasonal Visibility

Visibility also varies seasonally with increased, albeit obstructed, views occurring during "leaf-off" conditions. Beyond the variabilities associated with density of woodland stands found within any given Study Area, each individual tree also has its own unique trunk, pole timber and branching patterns that provide varying degrees of screening in leafless conditions which, as introduced above, cannot be precisely modeled. Seasonal visibility is therefore estimated based on a combination of factors including the type, size, and density of trees within a given area; topographic constraints; and other visual obstructions that may be present. Taking into account these considerations, areas depicting seasonal visibility on the viewshed maps are intended to represent locations from where there is a potential for views through intervening trees, as opposed to indicating that leaf-off views will exist from within an entire seasonally-shaded area.

Balloon Float and Field Reconnaissance

APT completed a balloon float, vehicular and pedestrian reconnaissance, and photo-documentation on July 24, 2020. The balloon float consisted of raising a brightly-colored, approximately 4' diameter, helium-filled balloon to a height of approximately 250 feet above ground level ("AGL")⁶ at the proposed monopole location. Weather conditions were favorable for the in-field activity with calm winds and overcast skies.

Once the balloon was raised to the proposed height of the monopole, APT conducted a field reconnaissance by walking and driving local and State roads and other publicly accessible locations to document and inventory where the balloon could be seen above and through the tree canopy and other visual obstructions.

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⁶ The bottom of the balloon represented the top of the proposed 250' tall monopole.

Photographic Documentation and Simulations

During the reconnaissance, APT obtained photo-documentation of representative locations where the balloon was and was not visible. At each photo location, the geographic coordinates of the camera's position were logged using global positioning system ("GPS") technology. Photographs were taken with a Canon EOS 6D digital camera body⁷ and Canon EF 24 to 105 millimeter ("mm") zoom lens. APT typically uses a standard focal length of 50mm to present a consistent field of view. On occasion, photos are taken at lower focal lengths to provide a greater depth of field and to provide context to the scene by including surrounding features within the photograph. During this evaluation, two (2) photographs were taken at 24mm focal length and four (4) photographs were taken at 35mm focal length as noted in the Table 1, Photo Locations.

Photographic simulations were generated to portray scaled renderings of the proposed Facility from twenty-four (24) locations presented herein where the Facility may be recognizable above or through the trees. Using field data, site plan information and 3-dimensional (3D) modeling software, spatially referenced models of the Site and Facility were generated and merged. The geographic coordinates obtained in the field for the photograph locations were incorporated into the model to produce virtual camera positions within the spatial 3D model. Photo-simulations were then created using a combination of renderings generated in the 3D model and photorendering software programs, which were ultimately composited and merged with the existing conditions photographs (using Adobe Photoshop image editing software). The scale of the subjects in the photograph (the balloon) and the corresponding simulation (the Facility) is proportional to their surroundings.

For presentation purposes in this report, the photographs were produced in an approximate 7-inch by 10.5-inch format. When reproducing the images in this format size, we believe it is important to present the largest view while providing key contextual landscape elements (existing developments, street signs, utility poles, etc.) so that the viewer can determine the proportionate scale of each object within the scene. Photo-documentation of the field reconnaissance and photo-simulations of the proposed Facility are presented in the attachment at the end of this report. The field reconnaissance photos that include the balloon in the view provide visual reference points for the approximate height and location of the proposed Facility relative to the scene. All simulations were created to represent the proposed monopole height of 250' AGL. The photo-simulations are intended to provide the reader with a general understanding of the different view characteristics associated with the Facility from various locations. Photographs were taken from publicly accessible areas and unobstructed view lines were chosen wherever possible.

The table on the following pages summarizes the photographs and simulations presented in the attachment to this report, and includes a description of each location, view orientation, distance from where the photo was taken relative to the proposed Facility, and the general

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⁷ The Canon EOS 6D is a full-framed camera which includes a lens receptor of the same size as the film used in 35mm cameras. As such, the images produced are comparable to those taken with a conventional 35mm camera.

characteristics of the view. The photo locations are depicted on the photolog and viewshed maps provided as attachments to this report.

Table 1 – Photo Locations

Photo	Location	Orientation	Distance to Facility	Visibility	
1	East High Street	Southwest	± 0.70 Mile	Not Visible	
2	East High Street	South	± 0.52 Mile	Year Round	
3	East High Street	South	± 0.31 Mile	Year Round	
4	Old Marlborough Road	South	± 0.45 Mile	Year Round	
5	East High Street	Southeast	± 0.22 Mile	Year Round	
6	East High Street	Southeast	± 0.31 Mile	Year Round	
7	West Point Road at	Southeast	± 0.42 Mile	Year Round	
/	East High Street	Southeast	± 0.42 Mile	real Roullu	
8	East High Street	East	± 0.56 Mile	Year Round	
9	Laurel Glen Drive at West High Street	East	± 0.76 Mile	Not Visible	
10	Barton Hill Road	Northeast	± 0.88 Mile	Not Visible	
11	Barton Hill Road at Oak Knoll Road	Northeast	± 0.86 Mile	Year Round	
12	Barton Hill Road at Steepleview Drive	Northeast	± 0.82 Mile	Not Visible	
13	Barton Hill Road adjacent to East Hampton Fire Department	Northeast	± 0.74 Mile	Year Round	
14	Summit Street	Northeast	± 0.63 Mile	Not Visible	
15	Smith Street	Northwest	± 0.51 Mile	Not Visible	
16	Viola Drive	Northwest	± 0.33 Mile	Not Visible	
17	Air Line State Park Trail	Northwest	± 0.26 Mile	Not Visible	
18	Flanders Road at Bear Swamp Road ^a	West	± 0.66 Mile	Not Visible	
19	Whispering Woods Road at Orchard View Lane	Southwest	± 1.10 Miles	Not Visible	
20	Lakeview Street	Northeast	± 0.20 Mile	Year Round	
21	Lakeview Street	East	± 0.19 Mile	Year Round	
Note a Photo	graph was taken at 24 mm focal length				

Note a - Photograph was taken at 24 mm focal length.

Note c – Existing tower that will be removed is shown in photograph.

(Table continued on the following page)

Note b - Photograph was taken at 35 mm focal length.

Table 1 – Photo Locations (continued)

22 Lakeview Cemetery East	Photo	Location	Orientation	Distance to Facility	Visibility
24 North Main Street³ East ± 0.72 Mile Not Visible 25 Wells Avenue Southeast ± 0.65 Mile Not Visible 26 Sears Place¹ Southeast ± 0.83 Mile Not Visible 27 North Main Street at Christopher Road Southeast ± 0.96 Mile Not Visible 28 Sears Park Southeast ± 0.91 Mile Year Round 29 Sears Park Southeast ± 0.94 Mile Year Round 30 North Main Street at Sears Park³ Southeast ± 1.00 Mile Not Visible 31 North Main Street² Southeast ± 1.16 Miles Year Round 32 North Main Street² Southeast ± 1.35 Miles Year Round 33 Sunrise Lane Southeast ± 1.66 Miles Year Round 34 Mountainview Road² Southeast ± 1.46 Miles Year Round 35 Mountainview Road Southeast ± 1.61 Miles Not Visible 36 Lake Drive¹ Southeast ± 1.38 Miles Year Round 37 Lake Drive² Southeast ± 1.41 Miles Year Round 38 Lake Drive¹ Southeast ± 1.41 Miles Year Round 40 Lake Drive² Southeast ± 1.51 Miles Not Visible 40 Lake Drive² Southeast ± 1.64 Miles Year Round 41 Mott Hill Road at Lake Drive Southeast ± 1.64 Miles Year Round 41 Lake Drive Southeast ± 1.64 Miles Year Round 42 Lake Drive² Southeast ± 1.64 Miles Year Round 43 Candlewood Drive at Lake Drive Southeast ± 1.60 Miles Year Round 44 Candlewood Drive at Lake Drive² Southeast ± 1.60 Miles Not Visible 44 Raymond Road at Lake Drive² Southeast ± 1.63 Miles Not Visible	22	Lakeview Cemetery	East	± 0.27 Mile	Year Round
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	45	Pocotopaug Drive	Southeast	± 1.62 Miles	Not Visible
46 Auburn Knoll Southeast ± 1.95 Miles Not Visible	46	Auburn Knoll	Southeast	± 1.95 Miles	Not Visible
47 Blue Heron Drive Southeast ± 1.88 Miles Not Visible	47	Blue Heron Drive	Southeast	± 1.88 Miles	Not Visible
48 Spellman Point Road Southeast ± 1.38 Miles Not Visible	48	Spellman Point Road	Southeast	± 1.38 Miles	Not Visible

Note a - Photograph was taken at 24 mm focal length.

Note b - Photograph was taken at 35 mm focal length.

Note c – Existing tower that will be removed is shown in photograph.

Final Visibility Mapping

Information obtained during the field reconnaissance was incorporated into the mapping data layers, including observations of the field reconnaissance, the photograph locations, areas that experienced recent land use changes and those places where the initial model was found to over or under-predict visibility. Once the additional data was integrated into the model, APT recalculated the visibility of the proposed Facility within the Study Area.

Conclusions

As presented on the attached viewshed maps, the Facility would be visible year-round primarily to the north and northeast up to approximately 1.7 miles from the Site, including along the majority of the Pocotopaug Lake shoreline. The Facility would also be visible from select areas in all directions from the Site at distances ranging from approximately 0.25 mile to 0.75 mile. Photos 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 20, 21, 22 and 23 depict representative views from locations within this area. Year-round visibility can be expected along the majority of the shoreline of Lake Pocotopaug.

Seasonally, when the leaves are off the deciduous trees, visibility will be experienced in the immediate vicinity of the Facility. To the south, seasonal visibility is anticipated along approximately 0.25 mile of the Air Line State Park Trail. Seasonal visibility could extend up to approximately 0.75 mile from the Facility to the north and northwest.

Predicted year-round visibility of the proposed Facility is estimated to include approximately 443 acres (±5.5% of the 8,042-acre Study Area), with approximately 410 of the 443 acres occurring over open water on Lake Pocotopaug. Predicted potential seasonal visibility is estimated to include an additional approximately 239 acres (±3% of the Study Area).

Proximity to Schools And Commercial Child Day Care Centers

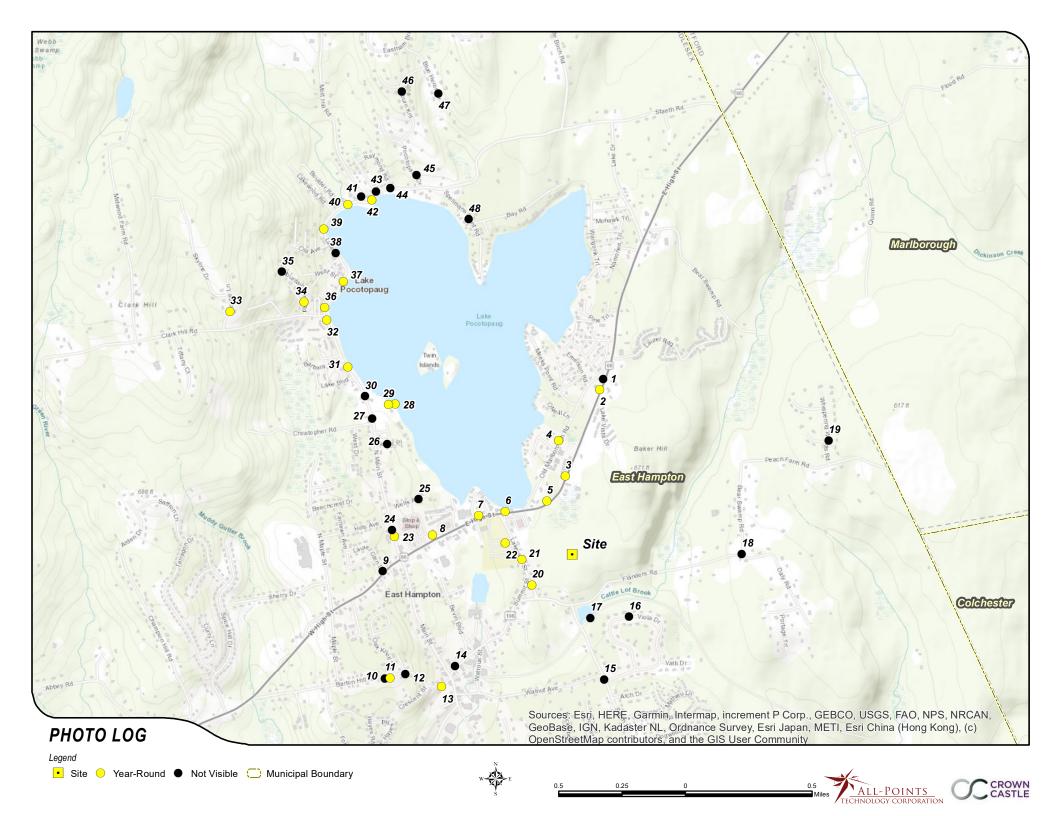
The nearest school is Center Elementary School located approximately 0.58 mile to the southwest at 7 Summit Street in East Hampton. The nearest Commercial Child Day Care Center is Educational Playcare located approximately 0.76 mile to the northeast at 140 East High Street in East Hampton. Views of the proposed facility are not anticipated from either location.

Limitations

The photo locations presented in the preceding table catalog views of the Facility that are representative of the views observed during the field reconnaissance. These locations do not include all locations where the Facility may be visible, as it is based on in-field observations from publicly-accessible locations. No access to private properties was provided to APT personnel during the reconnaissance. This analysis does not claim to depict the only areas, or all locations, where visibility may occur; it is intended to provide a representation of those areas where the Facility is likely to be seen.

The photo-simulations provide a representation of the Facility under similar settings as those encountered during the field review and reconnaissance. Views of the Facility can change throughout the seasons and the time of day, and are dependent on weather and other atmospheric conditions (e.g., haze, fog, clouds); the location, angle and intensity of the sun; and the specific viewer location. Weather conditions were favorable for the in-field activity, with calm winds and overcast skies.

ATTACHMENTS











































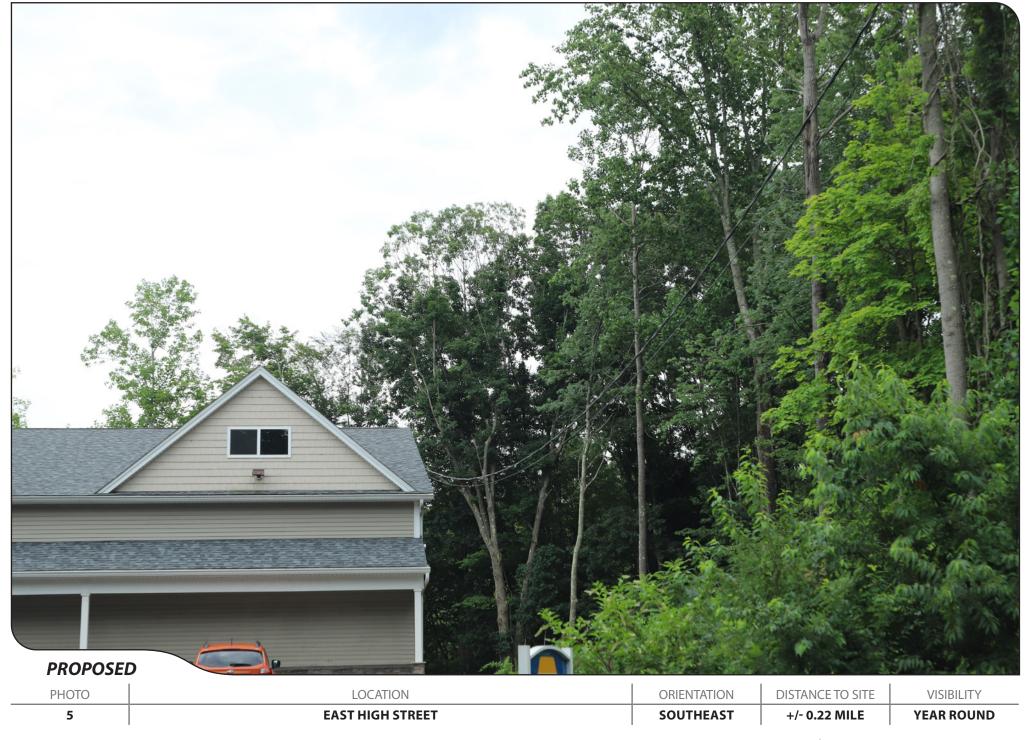


















6	EAST HIGH STREET	SOUTHEAST	+/- 0.31 MILE	YEAR ROUND
PHOTO	LOCATION	ORIENTATION	DISTANCE TO SITE	VISIBILITY































8	EAST HIGH STREET	EAST	+/- 0.56 MILE	YEAR ROUND
PHOTO	LOCATION	ORIENTATION	DISTANCE TO SITE	VISIBILITY



























































































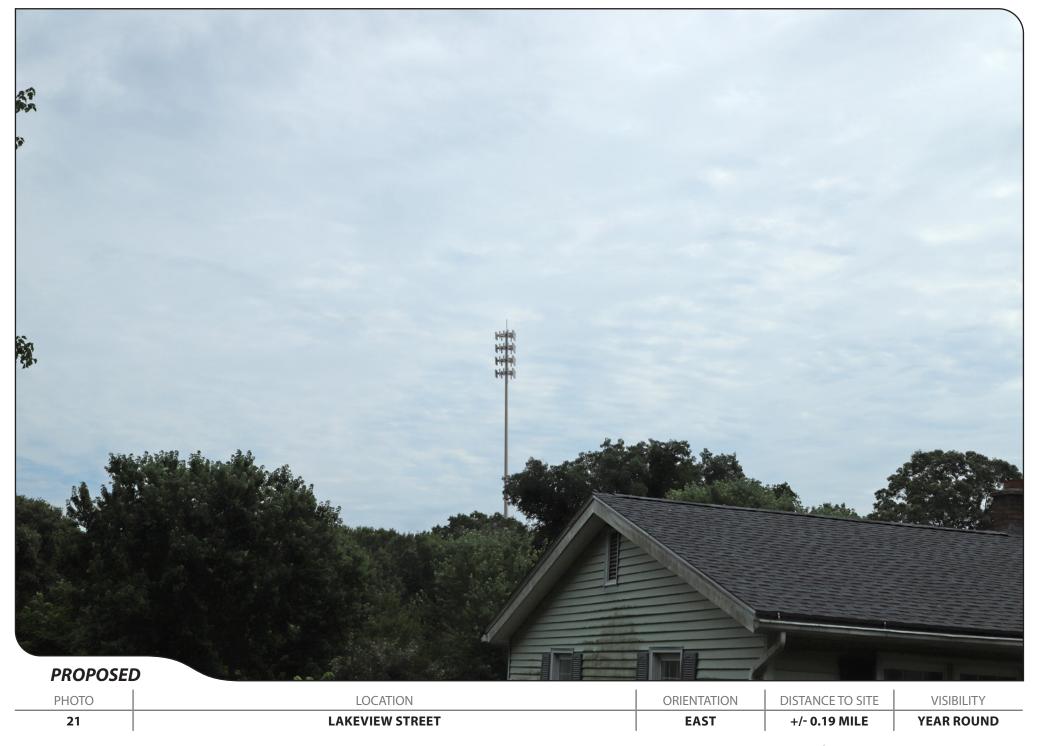






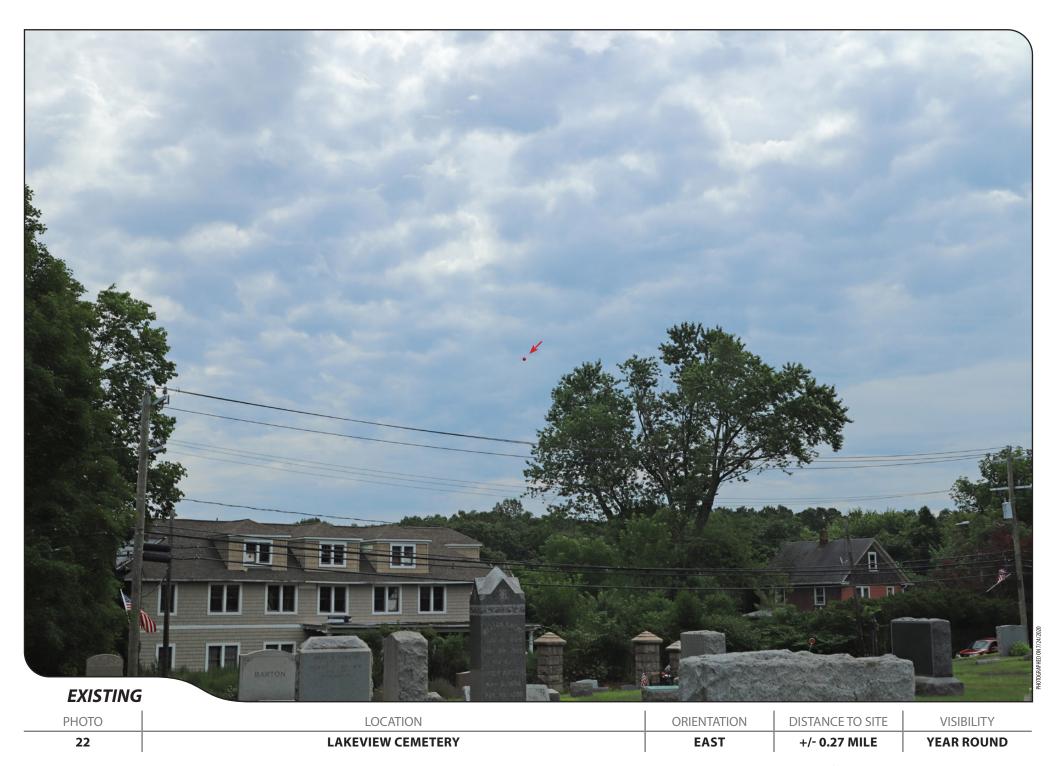


















22	LAKEVIEW CEMETERY	EAST	+/- 0.27 MILE	YEAR ROUND
PHOTO	LOCATION	ORIENTATION	DISTANCE TO SITE	VISIBILITY

































