



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov

Web Site: portal.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

October 21, 2020

Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq.
Robinson & Cole LLP
280 Trumbull Street
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: **DOCKET NO. 494** - Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located south of Chestnut Hill Road at the intersection with Grilley Road and Lyman Road (Parcel No. 101-1-5B), Wolcott, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Baldwin:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions no later than November 12, 2020. To help expedite the Council's review, please file individual responses as soon as they are available. At this time, consistent with the Council's policy to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, please submit an electronic copy only to siting.council@ct.gov. However, please be advised that the Council may later request one or more hard copies for records retention purposes.

Copies of your responses shall be provided to all parties and intervenors listed in the service list, which can be found on the Council's website under the "Pending Matters" link.

Any request for an extension of time to submit responses to interrogatories shall be submitted to the Council in writing pursuant to §16-50j-22a of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Sincerely,

s/Melanie Bachman

Melanie Bachman
Executive Director

MB/MP

c: Service List dated September 3, 2020

Docket No. 494
Pre-Hearing Questions
October 21, 2020
Set One

1. Of the letters sent to abutting property owners, how many certified mail receipts were received? If any receipts were not returned, which owners did not receive their notice? Were any additional attempts made to contact those property owners?
2. Referencing page 3 of the Application, Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Cellco or Applicant) notes that a copy of an affidavit of publication in the *Waterbury-Republican American* will be submitted to the Council when available. Please provide the affidavit.
3. How would the cost of the tower construction be recovered?

Site/tower

4. Referencing Sheet C-1 of the Application, the nearest property line from the proposed tower is about 106 feet east-southeast. Could the tower be designed with a yield point to ensure that the tower setback radius remains within the boundaries of the subject property?
5. Referencing page 8 and Site Evaluation Report in Tab 1 of the Application, Cellco notes that the proposed access drive would be about 650 feet long. Referencing Sheets OS-1 and SP-1 of the Application, the proposed access drive is noted as 850 feet long. Please provide the correct access road length and include corrected sheet(s) if necessary.
6. Would any blasting be required to develop the site?
7. Referencing page i of the Application, Cellco notes that its antennas would be attached to a platform. Would type of platform would be installed? What is the structural design standard applicable to the proposed antenna mount?
8. Referencing page 12 of the Application, Cellco notes that, "The tower itself could also be designed to be extended up to 20 feet..." If the tower were designed to be expandable in height, would the foundation also be designed accordingly to accommodate such tower expansion?
9. What measures are proposed for the site to ensure security and deter vandalism, e.g. alarms, gates, locks, anti-climb fence design, etc.?
10. Pursuant to CGS §16-50p(a)(3)(G), identify the safety standards and/or codes by which equipment, machinery or technology that would be used or operated at the proposed facility.
11. Has the State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture purchased any development rights for the proposed site as part of the State Farmland Preservation Program?
12. Referencing Tab 13 of the Application, Farmland Soils Map, what acreage of prime farmland soils would be impacted by the proposed access drive and underground utility route? What is the total acreage of prime farmland soils on the subject property?

13. Is the site parcel part of the Public Act 490 Program? If so, how does the town land use code classify the parcel?
14. Would any tree clearing occur within core forest? If so, how many acres? Under Connecticut General Statutes §16-50k, "Core forest" means unfragmented forest land that is three hundred feet or greater from the boundary between forest land and nonforest land, as determined by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection." How would tree clearing affect core forest? If applicable, provide the pre-construction and post-construction areas of core and edge forest at the site.

Coverage/Capacity

15. Referencing pages 8 and 9 of the Application, Cellco has identified the adjacent sites with which the proposed facility would hand off signals. Provide the antenna centerline heights for Cellco on each of those facilities and tower types (e.g. monopole).
16. Would the proposed facility provide 5G services?
17. Are all frequencies used to transmit voice and data?
18. What is the lowest height at which Cellco's antennas could achieve its wireless service objectives from the proposed site? What would be the consequences in terms of hand-off, coverage and/or capacity relief if the proposed tower was ten feet shorter, i.e. the antennas were located at a centerline height of 106 feet?
19. Could the required coverage and capacity upgrade needs be met by a series of small cell facilities or a distributed antenna system rather than the proposed macro tower facility?
20. What is the signal strength for which Cellco designs its system? For in-vehicle coverage? For in-building coverage?
21. What is the existing signal strength within the area Cellco is seeking to cover from this site?
22. Does Cellco have any statistics on dropped calls and/or ineffective attempts in the vicinity of the proposed facility? If so, what do they indicate? Does Cellco have any other indicators of substandard service in this area?
23. Referencing page 8 of the Application, for 700 MHz and 850 MHz, the proposed coverage length and area are 4 miles and 20 square miles, respectively. For 1900 MHz and 2100 MHz, the proposed coverage length and area are 1 mile and 7 square miles. Explain this significant reduction in coverage at the higher frequencies.
24. Referencing Tab 6 of the Application, Coverage Maps, please provide the existing 850 MHz coverage map. Also, provide the existing and proposed 850 MHz coverage map.
25. Referencing page 2 of the Site Search Summary of the Application, the Wolcott South site search was initiated in 2015. Provide the approximate location of the center of the search ring and its radius.
26. Referencing pages 2 and 3 of the Site Search Summary of the Application, three raw land sites were investigated. Explain why Site Nos. 2 and 3 were rejected in favor of Site No. 1.

27. Referencing page 7 of the Application, Cellco's Waterbury site (alpha sector), Wolcott site (gamma sector) and Wolcott North site (beta sector) are currently operating at or near their capacity limits. At which frequencies? Please include a projected exhaustion date for each of these sectors. Would the deployment of the proposed facility be sufficient to address these capacity concerns or would an additional facility be required in the near term to off-load traffic?
28. Have any other wireless carriers expressed an interest in co-locating on the proposed facility to date? Has the host municipality expressed an interest in co-locating emergency services antennas? Would Cellco provide space for municipal emergency services antennas, if requested?
29. Would flush-mounted antennas provide the required coverage? Would the flush-mount configuration result in reduced coverage and/or necessitate greater antenna height with multiple levels of antennas? Explain.

Backup power

30. Would the backup generator have containment measures to protect against fluid leakage?
31. What would be the respective run time for Cellco's proposed propane generator before it would need to be refueled, assuming it is running at full load under normal conditions?
32. What measures would the Applicant implement or employ to ensure an adequate supply of backup power for the site in the event of a propane fuel shortage?
33. Could the proposed generator be shared by other carriers that may locate at the proposed facility? What effect would a shared generator have on the run time of the generator if at full load?
34. Referencing page 7 of the Application, would the battery backup be used to provide uninterrupted power and prevent a reboot condition? How long could the battery backup alone supply power to the facility in the event that the generator fails to start?

Public Safety

35. Will the proposed facility support text-to-911 service? Is additional equipment required for this purpose?
36. Would Cellco's antennas comply with federal E911 requirements?
37. Would Cellco's installation comply with the intent of the Warning, Alert and Response Network Act of 2006?

Environment

38. Provide the total tree clearing area for the proposed project development area.
39. Would the proposed project comply with the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control and the 2004 Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual?

40. Could the access road be rerouted to cross Wetland 1 at what appears to be a narrower portion of the wetland south of the proposed crossing? If so, please provide the length of the access road, total tree clearing area for the project, and wetland impact area.
41. Could the Applicant maintain a vegetated buffer between the proposed access road and abutting properties to the east and west?
42. Would the proposed project be consistent with the 2015 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vernal Pool Best Management Practices?
43. Would any fuels be stored on site during construction? If yes, please provide a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan.
44. Referencing page 6 of the Visual Assessment of the Application, Cellco states “As presented on the attached viewshed maps...” Please provide such viewshed maps.
45. Would the proposed facility comply with Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) noise control standards at the property boundaries?
46. Has Cellco received a response from the State Historic Preservation Office regarding the proposed project?
47. Please submit photographic site documentation with notations linked to the site plans or a detailed aerial image that identify locations of site-specific and representative site features. The submission should include photographs of the site from public road(s) or publicly accessible area(s) as well as Site-specific locations depicting site features including, but not necessarily limited to, the following locations as applicable:

For each photo, please indicate the photo viewpoint direction and stake or flag the locations of site-specific and representative site features. Site-specific and representative site features include, but are not limited to, as applicable:

1. wetlands, watercourses and vernal pools;
2. forest/forest edge areas;
3. agricultural soil areas;
4. sloping terrain;
5. proposed stormwater control features;
6. nearest residences;
7. Site access and interior access road(s);
8. utility pads/electrical interconnection(s);
9. clearing limits/property lines;
10. mitigation areas; and
11. any other noteworthy features relative to the Project.

A photolog graphic must accompany the submission, using a site plan or a detailed aerial image, depicting each numbered photograph for reference. For each photo, indicate the photo location number and viewpoint direction, and clearly identify the locations of site-specific and representative site features shown (e.g., physical staking/flagging or other means of marking the subject area).

The submission shall be delivered electronically in a legible portable document format (PDF) with a maximum file size of <20MB. If necessary, multiple files may be submitted and clearly marked in terms of sequence.