

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE: :
 :
APPLICATION OF CELLCO : DOCKET NO. 495
PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON :
WIRELESS FOR A CERTIFICATE OF :
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND :
PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, :
MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF A :
WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS :
FACILITY AT 5151 PARK AVENUE, :
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT : JANUARY 7, 2021

**RESPONSES OF CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS
TO CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL PRE-HEARING QUESTIONS (SET ONE)**

On December 17, 2020, the Connecticut Siting Council (“Council”) issued Pre-Hearing Questions (Set One) to Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Cellco”), relating to Docket No. 495. Below are Cellco’s responses.

General

Question No. 1

Referring to Application pp. 3-4, 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?

Response

Cellco received confirmation that all abutting property owners listed behind Tab 4 of the Application received the October 8, 2020 notice letter.

Question No. 2

Referring to Application p. 24, how is the construction cost of the facility recovered?

Response

The costs associated with providing Cellco customers with the nation's most reliable wireless service network, including the cost for development of network infrastructure (small cells and macro-cells), are paid for by the individuals, corporations and government entities that purchase Cellco's service.

Question No. 3

Referring to Application p. iv, revise the image to include the location of Cellco's existing facility. What is the elevation above mean sea level of Cellco's antennas at the existing facility?

Response

Included in Attachment 1 is a copy of the Site Location Map showing the location of Cellco's existing rooftop wireless facility on the SHU campus. The ground elevation around the Toussaint Hall building is 283 feet AMSL. Cellco's antennas are located on the roof at heights of 65 feet above ground level (348 feet AMSL) and 70 feet above ground level (353 feet AMSL).

Site Search

Question No. 4

Identify the approximate center and radius of the site search area.

Response

The Plattsville Relo search area has a radius of 1.0 miles and is centered at 41.221764, 73.243928. See Attachment 2.

Question No. 5

Application Attachment 8, p. 2 states the SHU West Campus is one mile west of the site whereas p. 3 states it is 0.5 mile west. Please clarify.

Response

The distance from Celloc's existing rooftop wireless facility on the SHU Main Campus to eastern edge of the SHU West Campus (Easton Turnpike) is approximately 0.5 miles.

Question No. 6

Referring to Application Attachment 8- Main Campus Summary Map – is the area southwest of rejected location B (wooded triangle area) a viable tower site?

Response

The wooded triangle area southwest of Alternative Site Location B is part of the same six (6) acre parcel that includes alternative Location A on the site search map and is subject to the development restrictions referenced in the Site Search Summary. Included as Attachment 3 is a Property Transfer Map showing, as Parcels A and B, those portions of the Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course property that were purchased from the City of Bridgeport and are subject to the same development restrictions.

Question No. 7

Was a light pole/tower facility similar to the facility proposed in Docket 439 considered in the area of the athletic field near rejected location B?

Response

Use of one of the existing light poles was not offered as an alternative during the extensive site search process with SHU. Recently, Cellco explored this option with SHU. Due to their location, access to the existing light poles is very restricted and ground space near the

base of the poles is very limited making it difficult to install wireless equipment, generators and fuel tanks needed for site operations. Finally, SHU is not interested in allowing Celco to use any of the existing light poles for telecommunications purposes.

Question No. 8

Referring to Application p. 22, which alternative locations in the Attachment 8 Site Summary were suggested at the Public Information Meeting?

Response

The additional locations investigated after the Public Information Meeting are labeled as alternative site locations E, F, G and H.

Site/Tower

Question No. 9

Estimate the amounts of cut and fill that would be required to develop the proposed facility.

Response

The earthwork material cut volumes will be approximately 580 Cubic Yards ("CY").

The earthwork material fill volumes will be approximately 0.3 CY

Question No. 10

Would any blasting be required to develop the site?

Response

Celco does not anticipate the need for blasting. If the Council approves the Docket No. 495 application, Celco will prepare a Geotechnical Survey of the tower site to determine the nature of sub-surface conditions.

Question No. 11

What measures are proposed for the site to ensure security and deter vandalism?

(Including alarms, gates, locks, anti-climb fence design, etc.)

Response

The wireless facility compound will be surrounded by an eight (8) foot tall chain link security fence and gate. The gate will be locked with access limited to the wireless carriers sharing the facility. Cellco is willing to discuss and consider design changes that may make the fence more difficult to climb including but not limited to smaller chain link mesh size or the installation of privacy slats.

Typically, the monopole tower will include climbing pegs for site technicians. However, climbing pegs will be removed on the lower portion of the tower. Cellco's wireless equipment cabinets will maintain a silent intrusion alarm which is monitored remotely by Cellco technicians at the mobile telephone switching office. If an alarm is activated, local police would be called to investigate. In addition to the security measures at the tower compound, Cellco will also install a gate that can be locked, near the northerly end of the access driveway to prevent vehicles from accessing the site from Jefferson Road.

Question No. 12

Would the tower have a galvanized gray finish?

Response

Yes, as currently proposed the monopole tower would maintain a galvanized gray finish. However, based on the visual assessment, SHU asked Cellco to consider the potential benefits of a monopine tower to mitigate visual impact of the facility on adjacent residential parcels and the SHU Main Campus.

Question No. 13

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.

Response

- 2015 International Building Code with the 2018 CT Building Code Amendments.
- National Electric Code (NFPA70).
- 2018 CT State Fire Safety Code.
- TIA-222-G-4 “Structural Standards for Steel Antenna Towers and Antenna Supporting Structures”.
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Coverage/Capacity

Question No. 14

Application Attachment 15 indicates the frequencies that will be installed at the site.

How do these frequencies interact within Cellco’s wireless network? Are all frequencies used to transmit voice and data?

Response

All of Cellco’s licensed frequencies (700 MHz, 850 MHz, 1900 MHz, 2100 MHz) are LTE capable and are used to transmit both voice and data services. Cellco customer utilizing LTE services transfer seamlessly between Cellco’s operating frequencies during handoff between cell sites. Handoff can also occur between frequencies at an individual cell site for load balancing purposes. Subject to availability at a particular cell site, LTE frequencies can also be used together (a feature called “carrier aggregation”) making more of the existing bandwidth

available to a particular user.

Question No. 15

Would the proposed facility provide 5G services?

Response

Yes. The proposed Plattsville Relo Facility will provide Verizon's 5G Nationwide service.

Question No. 16

Referring to Application pp. 8-9, provide more specific information as to how the site will improve upon the existing wireless service in the area. Include data on additional road miles and additional coverage area footprint that would be served by the proposed facility.

Response

At 700 MHz, the existing Plattsville rooftop facility provides some limited coverage to a 1.35 mile stretch of the Merritt Parkway (Route 15) immediately north of the SHU Main Campus. Gaps in service remain in this area. The Plattsville Relo Facility will cover this same 1.35-mile portion of Route 15 without any service gaps.

This is also the case along a portion of Easton Turnpike. The existing Plattsville rooftop facility provides some limited coverage along a one-mile stretch of Easton Turnpike at 700 MHz. Significant coverage gaps, however, remain. The Plattsville Relo Facility will cover this same portion of Easton Turnpike without any service gaps.

Question No. 17

Can coverage objectives be met by installing antennas at a lower tower height? Identify the lowest possible antenna height and describe how this height would affect coverage needs and/or capacity relief within the service area.

Response

No. It is important to note that the ground elevation at the Plattsville Relo Facility is approximately 60 feet lower than the ground elevation around the Toussaint Hall building. The 130-foot tower height is needed to match the antenna height (above mean sea level) at the existing Plattsville rooftop facility which are located at heights of 65 and 70 feet above ground level.

Question No. 18

Can flush-mounted antennas be installed at the site to provide the required coverage? Describe any antenna/tower modifications that would be required to achieve coverage objectives.

Response

As discussed in prior Council proceedings, the use of flush-mounted antennas would reduce the coverage footprint from the proposed tower site and likely require the installation of a taller tower structure to make up for the coverage loss. The use of flush-mounted antennas also limits Cellco's ability to deploy multiple frequencies at the same horizontal location on the tower. To deploy all of its frequencies, Cellco would need two or three antenna locations on a flush-mounted tower, thereby limiting tower sharing opportunities.

Question No. 19

Referring to Application p. 8, what frequencies are currently at exhaustion at Cellco's Bridgeport NW 2 and Fairfield South sites? Would the proposed facility sufficiently address these capacity issues, or would an additional facility be required in the near term to off-load traffic?

Response

The proposed Plattsville Relo Facility will provide capacity relief needed in Cellco's 700

MHz frequency range at both the Bridgeport NW 2 CT and Fairfield South facility locations. The proposed Plattsville Relo Facility would sufficiently address these current capacity needs. Given the rate of network growth in the area, Cellco is anticipating that additional capacity issues, in the areas proximate to the Bridgeport NW 2 and Fairfield South cell sites, could occur soon (1 to 2 years). Currently, Cellco is considering addressing these future capacity needs with small cell installations closer to the Bridgeport NW 2 and Fairfield South macro-cell facilities.

Backup Power

Question No. 20

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?

Response

Under normal loading conditions, the proposed 30 kW propane generator could operate for approximately 120 – 168 hours (5-7 days) before refueling of the 1,000-gallon fuel tank would be necessary.

Question No. 21

What is the purpose of the emergency power battery if the site has a backup propane generator?

Response

The batteries serve two purposes. The batteries serve as backup power to the cell site for that short period of time between the interruption of commercial power and the time when the generator is up and running at full load. Also, if the generator doesn't start or stops unexpectedly, the batteries would provide backup power to the cell site. The backup battery

system could keep the cell site operating for approximately eight (8) hours.

Public Safety

Question No. 22

Would the proposed facility support text-to-911 service? Is additional equipment required for this purpose?

Response

Yes, the proposed facility will support text-to-911 service. No additional equipment is required for Cellco to provide this service.

Question No. 23

Would Cellco's antennas comply with federal E911 requirements?

Response

Yes.

Question No. 24

Would Cellco's installation comply with the intent of the Warning, Alert and Response Network Act of 2006?

Response

Yes.

Environment

Question No. 25

Referring to Application Attachment 13, was a filing made to the State Historic Preservation Office, and if so, what was their response? If not, when would the filing occur?

Response

Yes. Cellco has commenced its National Environmental Policy Act compliance process

which includes the formal submission of project information to the SHPO. As indicated in the Preliminary Historic Resources Determination in the Application (Attachment 13), the Merritt Parkway, a designated National Scenic Byway is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and located within one-half mile of the proposed Facility.

Question No. 26

Referring to Application Attachment 9 – Visibility Assessment, revise Table 1 on pp. 5-6 to include a column that estimates how much of the tower is visible in each photograph (in feet).

Response

Photo	Location	Orientation	Distance to Site	Visibility Above Tree Line
2	Park Avenue	Southwest	± 0.39 Mile	30'-40'
5	Sacred Heart University Parking Lot - Park Avenue	Southwest	± 0.30 Mile	30'-40'
6	Park Avenue	West	± 0.40 Mile	10'-20'
19	Weeping Willow Lane	Southeast	± 0.13 Mile	60'-70'
21	Donna Drive	Southwest	± 0.14 Mile	20'-30'
22	Donna Drive at Jefferson Street	Southwest	± 361 Feet	10'-20'
23	Sacred Heart University	West	± 0.22 Mile	10'-20'
24	Sacred Heart University	Northwest	± 0.17 Mile	50'-60' (Above Building)
25	Sacred Heart University	West	± 0.12 Mile	20'-30' (Above Building)
27	Easton Turnpike	Northeast	± 0.32 Mile	40'-50'
28	Federal Street	East	± 0.31 Mile	20'-30'
29	Congress Street	Northeast	± 0.37 Mile	20'-30'

Question No. 27

Referring to Application Attachment 9 – Visibility Assessment, for photos #19 and #21, estimate the number of homes that would have a similar view.

Response

Approximately 5 houses would likely have a similar view as shown in Photo #19.

Approximately 4 houses would likely have a similar view as seen in Photo #21.

Question No. 28

Please submit photographic site documentation with notations linked to the site plans or a detailed aerial image that identifies 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.

Response

Field work for the Remote Field Review will be completed shortly. Cellco anticipates that it will be able to file this document with the Council on or before January 14, 2021. We apologize for the delay.



Legend

- Site
- Existing Verizon Wireless Plattsville CT Facility
- Subject Property
- Municipal Boundary

Map Notes:
 Base Map Source: CT ECO 2019 Imagery
 Map Scale: 1 inch = 600 feet
 Map Date: January 2021



Site Location Map

Proposed Wireless
 Telecommunications Facility
 Plattsville RELO CT
 5151 Park Avenue
 Fairfield, Connecticut

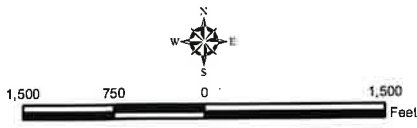


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- Legend**
- Center of Verizon Wireless Search Area
 - Verizon Wireless Search Area (1 Mile Radius)
 - Municipal Boundary

Base Map Source: CT ECO 2019 Aerial Photograph
 Map Scale: 1 inch = 1,500 feet
 Map Date: January 2021



**Connecticut Siting Council
 Docket No. 495
 Response to Pre-Hearing Question #4**

Proposed Wireless
 Telecommunications Facility
 Plattville Relo CT
 5151 Park Avenue
 Fairfield, Connecticut



