

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE: :
 :
APPLICATION OF CELLCO : DOCKET NO. 495A
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 IN :
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT : MARCH 17, 2022

**RESPONSES OF CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS
TO CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL PRE-HEARING INTERROGATORIES**

On March 3, 2022, the Connecticut Siting Council (“Council”) issued Pre-Hearing Questions to Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Cellco”), relating to Docket No. 495A. Below are Cellco’s responses.

General

Question No. 1

Referencing Motion to Reopen, p. 2, provide more information regarding the meetings that took place with municipal officials and area neighbors.

Response

Cellco was not invited to attend the meetings referenced on page no. 2 of the Motion, but from what we understand, several neighbors to the north and west of the SHU main campus, unhappy with the tower location approved by the Council in Docket No. 495, approached the Town and asked the Town to ask SHU to reconsider an alternative tower location on the main campus. As the Council may recall from the Docket No. 495 Site Search Summary, SHU

considered and rejected several alternative tower locations on the main campus. Following the discussions with the Town, SHU and Cellco agreed to explore alternative tower locations and tower designs culminating in the proposal presented in Docket No. 495A.

Question No. 2

What is the estimated cost of the faux bell tower facility? How would Cellco recover these costs?

Response

Cellco estimates the total cost of the Bell Tower Facility to be approximately \$ 1,000,000.

These costs can be broken down as follows:

Bell Tower and Foundation	\$ 525,000
Two-Story Equipment Shelter	\$ 300,000
Cell Site Radio Equipment	\$ 50,000
Generator	\$ 25,000
Miscellaneous Site Prep and Construction	\$ 100,000

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 wireless service.

Question No. 3

Is Cellco responsible for the maintenance of the facility and SHU storage areas?

Response

Cellco will share responsibility for the general maintenance of the facility with AT&T and T-Mobile pursuant to a cost sharing agreement that the carriers will enter into if the tower

relocation is approved. Each of the wireless carriers will be responsible for the maintenance of their own antennas and related equipment. SHU's storage space will be controlled and maintained by SHU.

Site/Tower

Question No. 4

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

Response

Cellco estimates the site work will involve a total cut volume of approximately 104 cubic yards and a total fill volume of approximately 44 cubic yards; a "Net Cut" volume of approximately 60 cubic yards.

Question No. 5

Would any blasting be required to develop the site?

Response

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

Question No. 6

What measures are proposed for the faux bell tower facility to ensure security and deter vandalism? (Including alarms, gates, locks, anti-climb fence design, etc.)

Response

The proposed Bell Tower equipment shelter will be surrounded by an existing iron fence to the west and a chain link fence to the east of the proposed facility. Doors to the individual

carrier equipment space will be lock and secure. Cellco's equipment room will maintain silent intrusion alarms which are monitored 24/7 by site performance technicians. Also, the service ladder for the bell tower will be fitted with a 6-foot tall ladder guard to deter unauthorized tower access or climbing.

Question No. 7

Describe how the fiber connection would be installed along the west property line. It appears the fiber line trench and associated five-foot wide corridor extends through a wooded corridor - how many trees would be removed to install the fiber line?

Response

Fiber conduit will be buried in an approximately 1.5-foot wide x 2-foot deep x 2088-foot long trench beginning at an existing cable vault generally located along the southerly right of way line of Jefferson Street, then routed underground along an existing stone retaining wall and tree clearing at the westerly boundary line of Property to the proposed Bell Tower facility. Approximately 15 trees will be removed within the 5-foot wide fiber optic corridor.

Question No. 8

Submit photographic site documentation of the proposed site construction area and the proposed fiber line utility trench location.

Response

Photographs of the proposed Bell Tower compound area and the fiber run are attached. The first five (5) photographs show the area near the southwest corner of the Pitt Center where the proposed Bell Tower facility compound would be located. The remaining photographs show the route of the proposed fiber run from the compound area, along the southern property boundary, behind the football stadium scoreboard and then turning to the north and extending

along the western property boundary, behind the stadium bleachers and the new Valentine recreation building toward the northwest corner of the SHU main campus¹. The last photograph shows the area along the south side of Jefferson Street where the fiber line would connect to existing service in the public right of way.

Question No. 9

Is FAA lighting or any other type of lighting proposed for the site?

Response

No FAA marking, or lighting is required. According to the Federal Airway and Airspace analysis completed for the proposed facility, the Bell Tower structure will not constitute a hazard to air navigation and notification to the FAA is not required. A copy of the Federal Airway and Airspace Summary Report is attached.

Coverage/Capacity

Question No. 10

Referring to Docket 495 Application p. 9, provide revised information regarding coverage from the proposed site in relation to area roads and coverage footprint.

Response

Like the tower site approved in Docket No. 495, Cellco will deploy its 700, 850, 1900 and 2100 MHz frequencies on the proposed Bell Tower. The Bell Tower Facility would provide reliable wireless service to a 3.5 mile portion of Route 15; a 1.8 mile portion of Route 59 (Easton Turnpike) and an overall area of 14.5 square miles at 700 MHz frequencies; a 2.5 mile portion of Route 15; a 1.0 mile portion of Route 59 (Easton Turnpike) and an overall area of 6.3 square

¹ Please note that the attached photographs were taken prior to the installation of the temporary tower approved in Petition No. 1470.

miles at 850 MHz frequencies; a 0.6 mile portion of Route 15; a 0.23 mile portion of Route 59 (Easton Turnpike) and an overall area of 1.35 square miles at 1900 MHz frequencies; and a 0.45 mile portion of Route 15; a 0.17 mile portion of Route 59 (Easton Turnpike) and an overall area of 1.15 square miles at 2100 MHz frequencies.

Backup Power

Question No. 11

Referencing the Motion to Reopen p. 4, what would be the generator run time for the shared generator, assuming three carriers locate at the facility?

Response

Cellco intends to install a 100-KW diesel generator at the proposed tower site. The generator will be shared by Cellco, AT&T and T-Mobile. At 100% loading conditions, the proposed 100-kW generator could operate for approximately 24 hours before refueling would be necessary.

Question No. 12

Would Cellco install an emergency power battery for its equipment?

Response

Yes, backup batteries will be installed in Cellco's equipment room inside the proposed two-story shelter.

Environment

Question No. 13

Referring to the Motion to Reopen Visibility Assessment, were any photographs taken from the area marked as seasonal visibility along Autumn Ridge Road and/or Shadybrook Road? If yes, submit. If not, describe the visibility of the tower from this area.

Response

As seen in Exhibit 4 of the Motion to Reopen, the leaves were on the deciduous trees at the time of the balloon float and field reconnaissance for the proposed Bell Tower. No photos were taken on Autumn Ridge or Shadybrook Roads at that time as the balloon was not visible above or through the trees in a leaf-on setting. A small portion of Autumn Ridge and Shadybrook Roads are predicted to have seasonal visibility of the proposed Bell Tower. The proposed Bell Tower will likely be visible through the trees in leaf-off conditions in areas where the existing lights and infrastructure associated with the SHU athletic field are currently visible.

Question No. 14

Referring to the Motion to Reopen Visibility Assessment, Photograph 8, what is the building on the left side of the photo? Are there any residences in this area that would have a similar or a more pronounced view of the proposed facility?

Response

The building on the left side of Photo No. 8 is the Sheila Hamilton Student Success Center located at the southwest corner of Park Avenue and St. Nicholas Drive. This building is owned by SHU and houses programs which enhance student learning, testing and achievement. It is possible that the residence at 5088 Park Avenue may have a similar view of the top portion of the Proposed Bell Tower shown in Photo Nos. 8 and 10.

Question No. 15

Describe the differences in visibility from residential areas between the proposed site and the Docket 495 Certificated site.

Response

The approved Docket No. 495 cell site is located northwest of the proposed Bell Tower

facility, adjacent to Jefferson Street, and is closer to the residential neighborhoods of Donna Drive and Weeping Willow Lane. The proposed site provides a significantly greater separating distance between the nearest residential property to the north, as compared to the tower site in Docket No. 495. There are 40 residences within 1,000 feet of the approved tower site and zero (0) residences within 1,000 feet of the proposed Bell Tower site. With the exception of a few residences along Park Avenue directly across the street from the Main Campus entrance drive, to the east, the proposed site eliminates predicted year-round visibility from a majority of residential properties surrounding the SHU Main Campus. The proposed site also minimizes the aesthetic impact by being designed as a “stealth” Bell Tower that aligns with the context of the SHU Campus development.