



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

December 22, 2022

Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq.  
Robinson & Cole LLP  
280 Trumbull Street  
Hartford, CT 06103-3597  
[kbaldwin@rc.com](mailto:kbaldwin@rc.com)

RE: **DOCKET NO. 495A** - Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located 5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Baldwin:

At a public meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) held on December 22, 2022, the Council considered and approved the Development and Management (D&M) Plan submitted for this facility on November 2, 2022 with the following conditions:

1. RF access restriction and caution signage shall be installed at each facility in compliance with FCC guidance;
2. Deployment of any 5G services must comply with FCC and FAA guidance relative to air navigation, as applicable; and
3. Prior to the commencement of construction, Cellco shall provide a rigorous cumulative far-field radio frequency analysis for the facility that accounts for all entities on the tower, a 6-foot tall person at ground level and the actual antenna patterns for the facility with a cumulative %MPE at or below 100%. Identify the distance from the tower with the highest cumulative %MPE.

This approval applies only to the D&M Plan submitted on November 2, 2022, and other supplemental information received on November 28, 2022 and December 13, 2022. Requests for any changes to the D&M Plan shall be approved by Council staff in accordance with Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section (RCSA) §16-50j-77(b).

Furthermore, the Certificate Holder is responsible for compliance with the reporting requirements under RCSA 16-50j-77, including:

1. Contact information for the personnel of the contractor assigned to the project;
2. Notification of commencement of construction;
3. Quarterly construction progress reports;
4. Notification of completion of construction and commencement of operation; and
5. Final report.

Please be advised that deviations from the approved D&M Plan and non-compliance with the D&M Plan reporting requirements are enforceable under Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50u.

Enclosed is a copy of the staff report for this D&M Plan, dated December 22, 2022.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Melanie A. Bachman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Melanie A. Bachman  
Executive Director

MAB/RDM/lm

Enclosure: Staff Report, dated December 22, 2022



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## **Docket No. 495A Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless 5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, Connecticut Development and Management Plan**

### **Staff Report December 22, 2022**

On June 10, 2022, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Cellco) for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a 100-foot wireless telecommunications facility at Sacred Heart University (SHU) Main Campus at 5151 Park Avenue in Fairfield, Connecticut. As required in the Council's Decision and Order (D&O), Homeland submitted a Development and Management (D&M) Plan to the Council on November 2, 2022. Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) §16-50j-75(e), copies of the D&M Plan were also submitted to the service list for comment. The Council has not received any comments regarding the D&M Plan to date.

On November 10, 2022, the Council issued interrogatories to Cellco. On November 28, 2022, Cellco submitted responses to the Council's interrogatories. On December 13, 2022, Cellco submitted updated construction drawings consistent with the 2022 Connecticut State Building Code and far-field radio frequency data.

The tower site is located in the southeast corner of the campus, adjacent to the loading dock for William H. Pitt Health and Recreation Center (Pitt Center) in an area with mobile storage containers. The site is adjacent to a paved driveway and wooded strip of land along the south property boundary (Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course).

Condition No. 1 of the D&O requires the following:

*"The tower shall be constructed as a three-pole telecommunications facility at a height of 100 feet above ground level to provide the proposed wireless services, sufficient to accommodate the antennas of Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Cellco), New Cingular Wireless, LLC, and other entities, both public and private, in accordance with the facility design proposed in Cellco's April 8, 2022 Late-Filed Exhibit. ..."*

In compliance with Condition 1 of the D&O, Cellco's D&M Plan includes plans and specifications for a 100-foot three-pole telecommunications facility sufficient to accommodate the antennas of Cellco, New Cingular Wireless, LLC (AT&T) and T-Mobile.<sup>1</sup> The three-pole tower is arranged in a triangle with each pole 18 feet from adjacent poles. The tower is designed to conceal the antennas from view using a mix of interior flush mounted antennas covered by a casing and exterior platform mounted antennas concealed by panels spanning the poles.

The tower is designed to support five levels of antennas. The upper portion of each pole could accommodate three interior flush-mount antennas at the 95-foot and 85-foot levels, concealed within a fiberglass casing approximately 48-inches in diameter. Two antenna platforms would be installed at the 77-foot and 67-foot levels of the tower, with platform mounts attached to each pole. The platforms will be concealed by fiberglass panels that extends from 62 feet above ground level (agl) to 80 feet agl. The tower could support

<sup>1</sup> T-Mobile was not a party to the Docket 495A proceeding.

a future antenna platform at the 57-foot level. It would be concealed from view by an extension of the fiberglass panel.

Condition No. 2 of the D&O requires the following information to be included in the D&M Plan:

- a) **final site plan(s) for development of the facility that employ the governing standard in the State of Connecticut for tower design in accordance with the currently adopted International Building Code and include specifications for the tower, tower foundation, antennas and storage/equipment building, including but not limited to, tower finish/color, ground equipment, facility access, utility installation and emergency backup generator with a minimum three-day supply of on-site fuel;**

Cellco will construct a 100-foot three-pole telecommunications facility designed in accordance with the EIA/TIA Structural Standards for Steel Antenna Towers and Antenna Supporting Structures-Revision H. The tower was not designed to be extended. The facility is designed in accordance with the International Building Code, effective October 1, 2021, and the Connecticut State Building Code, effective October 1, 2022.

Based on a geotechnical survey of the site, the tower will be supported by a drilled pier foundation adhered to underlying bedrock. Cellco will retain an engineering firm to oversee the foundation installation.

Cellco will install two interior flush-mounted antennas at the 95-foot level of each pole (for a total of 6) and 8 antennas and 14 remote radio units (RRUs) on an antenna platform at a centerline height of 68.5 feet agl. AT&T will install 12 panel antennas and 12 RRUs on an antenna platform at a centerline height of 76.7 feet agl. T-Mobile is anticipated to locate at the 85-foot level of the tower. Consistent with the record of Docket 495A, T-Mobile will file a tower share request with the Council to locate on the facility.

The tower will be located in the southwestern portion of the SHU campus at the edge of a driveway that services the Pitt Center. Cellco will install a two-story, 1,245 square foot building adjacent to the tower to house telecommunications equipment and to provide ground level storage space for SHU. The building will have brick veneer to match the Pitt Center. Cellco's radio equipment will be installed within a ground floor room of the building. AT&T and T-Mobile's equipment will be located in separate areas on the second level of the building, accessed by an exterior steel stairway. The building and tower will be accessed by existing campus driveways.

A new, shared diesel-fueled generator will be installed on a 6.7-foot by 12.5-foot concrete pad on the east side of the tower, adjacent to an existing campus generator, that will provide backup power for Cellco's, AT&T's and T-Mobile's installations. The shared generator is designed to supply 96 hours of backup power before refueling is required. The 100-kW generator includes a subsurface 816-gallon fuel tank. The fuel tank is doubled walled with a rubberized coating and features a leak detection system.

An existing fence that surrounds an existing campus generator would be relocated and expanded by 75 linear feet to enclose the campus generator and the telecommunications facility generator.

An underground telco fiber line would be installed from the new building to existing service on Jefferson Street, extending for approximately 2,000 feet along the south and west property lines.

The tower and fiberglass panels will be painted a light gray.

**b) construction plans for site clearing, grading, water drainage and stormwater control, and erosion and sedimentation controls consistent with the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, as amended; and**

The tower and building will be constructed in a level area behind the Pitt Center. Construction of the site will disturb an approximate 9,866 square foot area, requiring require approximately 147 cubic yards of cut and 171 cubic yards of fill.

A 20-foot by 30-foot construction staging area will be established in a gravel area adjacent to the west side of the Pitt Center.

The work area will be isolated with erosion and sedimentation controls that comply with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control*. A catch basin in the adjacent driveway will be protected from siltation. The underground telco fiber line work area will be isolated from adjacent areas with silt socks.

Fifteen trees with a diameter greater than 6 inches at breast height will be removed along the east and south property lines for installation of the tower/building and telco line.

**c) construction schedule including hours and days of the week for construction activities;**

Construction hours will be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Construction of the site is anticipated to take 4 to 6 months.

Condition No. 3 of the D&O requires the following:

*“Prior to the commencement of operation, the Certificate Holder shall provide the Council worst-case modeling of the electromagnetic radio frequency power density of all proposed entities’ antennas at the closest point of uncontrolled access to the tower base, consistent with Federal Communications Commission, Office of Engineering and Technology, Bulletin No. 65, August 1997...”*

The cumulative worst-case maximum power density from the radio frequency emissions from the operation of Cellco’s and AT&T’s antennas would be approximately 79.6 percent for the General Public/Uncontrolled Maximum Permissible Exposure, as adopted by the FCC, at the base of the proposed tower.

### **Conclusion**

The D&M Plan is consistent with the Council's D&O for Docket No. 495A.

If approved, staff recommends the following conditions:

1. RF access restriction and caution signage shall be installed at each facility in compliance with FCC guidance;
2. Deployment of any 5G services must comply with FCC and FAA guidance relative to air navigation, as applicable; and
3. Prior to the commencement of construction, Cellco shall provide a rigorous cumulative far-field radio frequency analysis for the facility that accounts for all entities on the tower, a 6-foot tall person at ground level and the actual antenna patterns for the facility with a cumulative %MPE at or below 100%. Identify the distance from the tower with the highest cumulative %MPE.



### Tower Elevation Drawing

