

NEPA Review Summary

Site Name:	Windsor	
Site Type:	Construction of a new 135' tall monopole communications tower within a 48' x 48' fenced-in equipment compound.	
Site Address:	780 (a.k.a. 800 & 810) Prospect Hill Road, Windsor, New London County, CT 06095	
Latitude / Longitude (NAD83):	N 41° 31' 33.0" / W 72° 25' 22.5"	
TCNS Number:	177964	
<i>FCC NEPA Category</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Findings</i>
Designated Wilderness Areas	National Park Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM).	No Effect
Designated Wildlife Preserve	National Park Service, US Forest Service, BLM.	No Effect
Threatened or Endangered Species or Designated Critical Habitats	US Fish & Wildlife Service and Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) Natural Diversity Database (NDDB).	No Effect
Archeological and Historic Resources	State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) file review and consultation, archaeological assessment, public notices and Local Government involvement.	No Effect
Indian Religious Site	Indian Reservations in the Continental United States, Bureau of Indian Affairs Map, and consultation with federally recognized tribes via FCC's Tower Construction Notification System (TCNS).	No Effect
100-year Floodplain	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).	No Effect
Wetlands & Surface Waterways Features	Site Wetland Investigation, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey and USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) mapping.	No Effect
High Intensity White Lights in Residential Neighborhood	TOWAIR Determination.	No Effect
Environmental Assessment (EA)	Findings for the above FCC NEPA Categories and sources.	Not Required

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

As a licensing agency, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by requiring its licensees to review their proposed actions for environmental consequences. The FCC rules for implementing NEPA are found in Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1, Subpart I, rule sections 1.1301 to 1.1319. If a licensee's proposed action falls within one of the categories of rule sections 1.1301 to 1.1319, the licensee is required to consider the potential environmental effects from its construction of antenna facilities or structures, and disclose those effects in an environmental assessment (EA) which is filed with the Commission for review.

Additionally, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires licensees to assess the effect of their proposed action on historic properties as outlined in regulations issued by the Advisory Council on Historic Properties at 36 CFR Part 800, as well as the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement (NPA) for the Collocation of Wireless Antennas (47 CFR Part 1, See Attachments) and the NPA Regarding the Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act Review Process (47 CFR Part 1, See Attachments).

1.2 SCOPE OF WORK

At the request of Phoenix Partnership, LLC, and on behalf of Tarpon Towers II, LLC, All-Points Technology Corporation, P.C. (APT) has completed its review of environmental resource information outlined in 47 CFR Part 1, Subpart I, rule sections 1.1301 to 1.1319. The review includes the evaluation of the wireless telecommunication facility project impacts to the FCC NEPA categories outlined in this report using the sources referenced herein. Impacts from radiofrequency radiation are evaluated by the tower owner and/or applicant and are not part of this scope of work.

If the project undertaking results in an adverse effect finding under any of the FCC NEPA categories reviewed, those effects must be disclosed in the form on an EA and filed with the FCC for further review of potential environmental impacts.

This NEPA report documents the reviews completed to date. The term "Site" will be used herein to reference the location of the proposed undertaking.

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 SITE LOCATION

The Site, located at 810 Prospect Hill Road in Windsor, Connecticut, consists of a ±5.71-acre privately owned parcel located on the west side of Prospect Hill Road. The Project Area is located roughly 330 feet northwest of the intersection of Day Hill and Prospect Hill Road and is currently occupied by four (4), one-story light industrial/office buildings erected ca. 1985. The buildings are surrounded by several asphalt-paved parking lots with small landscaped lawns while the Site is surrounded by mature vegetation to the north, west, and south.

A USGS Site Location Map are presented in the Attachments section.

2.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION – PROPOSED UNDERTAKING

Tarpon Towers II, LLC, represented by Phoenix Partnership, LLC, is proposing to construct a telecommunications facility consisting of a 135-foot tall monopole with antennas and associated equipment situated within a 48-foot x 48-foot chain link fenced equipment compound. The proposed monopole and equipment compound will be located immediately west of the northernmost buildings located on the Site and will be accessed by existing paved parking areas located west of Prospect Hill Road.

Utilities are routed from Prospect Hill Road via a 10-foot wide utility easement that extends west along the northern boundary of the Site before turning south to the proposed compound. The proposed antennas affixed to the monopole will consist of one microwave dish and nine panel antennas, mounted in three separate sectors, installed at a maximum height of 134 feet above ground level (AGL). The monopole will be topped by a lightning rod bringing the overall height of the structure to 139 feet AGL.

Site Plans provided by Tarpon Towers II, LLC are included in the Attachments section.

3.0 FCC NEPA REVIEW CATEGORIES

3.1 DESIGNATED WILDERNESS AREAS

Will the facility be located in an officially designated wilderness area? **No**

The proposed facility is not located in an officially designated wilderness area.

Source: Review of Wilderness Areas of the United States mapping, <http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=NWPS> (See Attachments).

3.2 DESIGNATED WILDLIFE PRESERVES

Will the facility be located in an officially designated wildlife preserve? **No**

The proposed facility is not located in an officially designated wildlife preserve.

Source: Review of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge System Map, www.wilderness.net (See Attachments).

3.3 THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES OR DESIGNATED CRITICAL HABITATS

Will the facility affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitats? **No**

One federally-listed¹ threatened species is documented in the Site vicinity: *Myotis septentrionalis* (NLEB; northern long-eared bat). Northern long-eared bat's range encompasses the entire State of Connecticut. As a result of this preliminary finding, APT performed an evaluation to determine if the proposed undertaking would result in a likely adverse effect to NLEB.

The proposed communications tower would be located within an island surrounded by parking lots on three sides and a concrete building on the fourth side. The project is not located near known NLEB hibernacula or maternity roost trees. Consultation with the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) Wildlife Division Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB) revealed that the proposed facility is not within 150 feet of a known occupied maternity roost tree and is not within 0.25 mile of a known NLEB hibernaculum. The nearest NLEB habitat resource to the proposed activity is located in East Granby ±4.6 miles to the northwest. Therefore, the proposed undertaking is not likely to adversely affect NLEB.

Based on our consultation with the CTDEEP's NDDDB, there are known populations of state special concern *Terrapene Carolina Carolina* (Eastern Box Turtle) and *Heterodon*

¹ Listing under the federal Endangered Species Act

platirhinos (Eastern Hognose Snake) within the Site vicinity. The CTDEEP has recommended that protection strategies be employed during construction, as documented in its January 8, 2019 NDDDB determination letter. Tarpon Towers has committed to following the recommended protection strategies that are listed in the attached NDDDB determination letter.

Based on the information provided, the proposed undertaking is not likely to adversely affect any potential threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitats.

Source: Review of publicly available data and consultations with the USFWS and CTDEEP NDDDB (See Attachments).

3.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

Will the facility affect districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed, or are eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places? **No**

In a letter dated February 6, 2019, the CTSHPD determined that the proposed undertaking will have no adverse effect to sites listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, subject to the following conditions:

1. The antennas and associated equipment will be designed, painted to match adjacent materials, and installed to be as non-visible as possible, and
2. If not in use for six consecutive months, antennas, and all other equipment shall be removed by the telecommunications facility owner. This removal shall occur within 90 days of the end of such six-month period.

Source: Review of SHPO files, archaeological assessment, public involvement, and Local Government and SHPO consultation (See Attachments).

3.5 INDIAN RELIGIOUS SITES

Will the facility affect Indian religious sites? **No**

The Site is not located on an American Indian federal reservation trust land. It was determined through tribal consultation via FCC's Tower Construction Notification System (TCNS) that the proposed undertaking is unlikely to affect Indian religious sites.

In the unlikely event that tribal artifacts or human remains are/were encountered during construction activities, excavation the appropriate SHPO, tribes, and other consulting parties are to be contacted.

Source: Indian Reservations in the Continental United States, Bureau of Indian Affairs Map, archeological assessment, and consultation with federally recognized tribes using the FCC TCNS (See Attachments).

3.6 *FLOODPLAINS*

Will the facility be located in a 100-year floodplain? **No**

The Site is located outside of a 100-year flood hazard as identified on the FIRM map for the proposed Site area.

Source: Site observations and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Panel 09003C0214F, effective September 26, 2008 (See Attachments).

3.7 *WETLANDS & SURFACE WATERWAYS FEATURES*

Will construction of the facility involve a significant change in surface features (e.g. wetland fill, water diversion, or deforestation)? **No**

Development of the proposed facility would not result in a direct impact to wetland resources or significant change in surface features, water diversion or deforestation.

Source: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-Minute Series Topographic Quadrangle (See Attachments), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey, CTDEEP's data library (<http://www.ct.gov/deep>) of state wetland mapping, and Wetland Desktop Review report completed by APT (See Attachments).

3.8 *HIGH INTENSITY WHITE LIGHTS IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD*

Will the facility be equipped with high intensity white lights which are to be located in residential neighborhoods?

No lighting is required for the proposed tower.

Source: TOWAIR Determination 11/21/18 (See Attachments).

4.0 *CONCLUSIONS*

APT completed this NEPA Review in conformance with the FCC rules and regulations for implementing NEPA; 47 CFR 1.1301 to 1.1319. Based on the information obtained as part of this Review, the proposed undertaking does not require preparation and filing of an EA.