

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE: :
: :
APPLICATION OF DIAMOND TOWERS V LLC : DOCKET NO. 498
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL :
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR :
THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND :
OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS :
FACILITY LOCATED AT 185 ACADEMY :
ROAD (ROUTE 68/ROUTE 70), CHESHIRE, :
CONNECTICUT : MAY 4, 2021

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

On April 16, 2021, the Connecticut Siting Council (“Council”) issued Pre-Hearing Questions – Set One to Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Cellco”), relating to Docket No. 498. Below are Cellco’s responses.

General

Question No. 1

What is the estimated cost of Cellco’s equipment, including installation? How is the cost of Cellco’s installation recovered?

Response

Cellco estimates the cost of its equipment to be approximately \$200,000. 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 service.

Site Search

Question No. 2

Identify the approximate center and radius of Cellco's site search area.

Response

The Cheshire East search area has a radius of approximately 0.5 miles and is centered at 41°-29'-58.92" N 72°-52'-18.12" W.

Proposed Wireless Services

Question No. 3

Will the Cellco's equipment support text-to-911 service? Is additional equipment required for this purpose?

Response

Yes, Cellco's equipment will be capable of supporting text-to-911 service. Additional equipment is not required to provide this service.

Question No. 4

What is the signal strength for which Cellco designs its system? For in-vehicle coverage?
For in-building coverage?

Response

In-building -85 RSRP

In-Vehicle -95 RSRP.

Question No. 5

What is the existing signal strength within the area Cellco is seeking to cover from this site?

Response

Cellco's existing signal strength in the area around the proposed Cheshire East cell site ranges between -105 dBm and -95 dBm.

Question No. 6

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?

Response

The network statistics show higher than normal dropped calls and ineffective attempts on some of the neighboring sites. In addition, drive test results show sub-standard coverage along portions of Route 68 between Cheshire and Wallingford.

Question No. 7

What frequencies would be installed at the site? Would all frequencies provide both voice and data? Please explain.

Response

Cellco plans to deploy wireless service in its 700, 850, 1900, 2100, and 3550 MHz (CBRS) operating frequencies. All frequencies being deployed are used to transmit voice and data services.

Question No. 8

Is there existing Cellco coverage for the 850 MHz frequency within the subject area? If not, does Cellco intend to provide coverage for the 850 MHz frequency as part of its installation?

Response

Cellco is in the process of deploying 4G and 5G technologies in its 850MHz frequency range. The 850MHz frequencies were recently activated on Cellco’s Cheshire CT cell site at 751 Higgins Road which covers the area adjacent to the proposed Cheshire East cell site. As mentioned in the response to Question No. 7 above, Cellco will also deploy 850MHz at the proposed Cheshire East cell site.

Question No. 9

Provide existing coverage gaps in miles for the 700, 1900, and 2100 MHz frequencies for the eastern portion of Route 68 and the surrounding local roads, the overall existing coverage footprints in square miles and the proposed coverage mileage and square miles as represented in the example below:

Street Name	700 MHz Coverage Gap	1900 MHz Coverage Gap	2100 MHz Coverage Gap
Route 2	2.5 miles	5 miles	4.5 miles
Route 32	1.0 mile	3 miles	2 miles
Route 87	0.5 mile	2.5 miles	1 mile
Interstate 395	2.5 miles	2.5 miles	2.5 miles
State Road Total	6.5 miles	13 miles	10 miles
Overall Coverage Footprint	49 square miles	6 square miles	7.5 square miles

Response

Street Name	700 MHz Coverage Gap	850 MHz Coverage Gap	1900 MHz Coverage Gap	2100 MHz Coverage Gap
CT-10	0 miles	0 miles	0 miles	0.4 miles
CT-68	0.4 miles	2.7 miles	3.3 miles	4.2 miles
State Road Total	0.4 miles	2.7 miles	3.3 miles	4.6 miles
Proposed Site Coverage Footprint	36 square miles	29 square miles	4 square miles	7 square miles

Question No. 10

In addition to the information provided in Attachment 2 of the Application, please provide the distances and directions to the adjacent sites with which the proposed facility would hand off signals. Include antenna centerline heights for Cellco at these sites.

Response

Site Name	Structure Type	Antenna Height (ft)	Distance (mi)	Direction
Cheshire CT	Lattice Tower	252	2.0	Southwest (250°)
Cheshire CT SC1	Utility Pole	26	0.5	Northwest (320°)
Cheshire NE CT	Monopole Tower	122	1.0	North (350°)
Cheshire North CT	Silo	70	2.8	North (1°)
Cheshire SC02 CT	Utility pole	24	0.8	Southwest (220°)
Oakdale CT	Water Tank	110	2.5	Southeast (135°)

Question No. 11

Please identify which of the sites listed in Attachment 2 of the Application and what frequencies and sectors would benefit from capacity relief.

Response

The proposed Cheshire East Facility will provide capacity relief to all four frequencies (700, 850, 1900, 2100 MHz) to the Alpha sector of Cellco's existing Cheshire CT cell site located at 751 Higgins Road in Cheshire.

Question No. 12

What is the lowest height at which Cellco's antennas could achieve its wireless service objectives from the proposed facility? What would be the consequences in terms of coverage and/or capacity relief?

Response

Cellco's antennas are proposed at the lowest height needed to meet its wireless service objectives in this area. Reducing the antenna height even 10 feet would have the effect of reducing the coverage footprint from the facility thereby reducing the capacity offload to the Alpha sector of the existing Cheshire CT cell site located at 751 Higgins Road.

Question No. 13

Would the deployment of the proposed facility be sufficient to address Cellco's capacity concerns or would an additional facility be required in the near term to off-load traffic?

Response

The proposed Cheshire East facility will provide some capacity offload to the Alpha sector of Cellco's existing Cheshire CT cell site located at 751 Higgins Road. Cellco is also planning to establish an additional facility that will offload the Beta sector of the existing Cheshire CT cell site.

Question No. 14

Are any of the frequencies planned for installation at this facility capable to provide 5G services for Cellco's network? If so, identify the frequencies.

Response

Yes. Cellco plans to provide its new 5G Nationwide Service in its 850MHz and 2100MHz operating frequencies at the proposed Cheshire East Facility.

Backup Power

Question No. 15

Would the proposed emergency backup generator and concrete pad have containment measures to protect against fluid leakage?

Response

The propane generator's concrete pad does not typically include any form of containment for generator fluids.

Question No. 16

What would be the estimated run time for Cellco's propane generator before they 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 114 hours (4.75 days) before refueling of the 500-gallon propane fuel tank would be necessary. This run time is based on 75% of the rated electrical load of the generator.

Public Safety

Question No. 17

Would a battery backup (if applicable) 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?

Response

Yes, Cellco's proposed battery backup battery system would provide uninterrupted power to the cell site and prevent a reboot condition. The backup battery system is designed to keep the cell site operating for up to four (4) hours.

Question No. 18

Would Cellco's antennas comply with federal E911 requirements?

Response

Yes.

Question No. 19

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

Response

Yes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 4th day of May 2021, a copy of the foregoing was sent, via electronic mail, to:

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