



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov

Web Site: portal.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

April 29, 2021

TO: Service List, dated March 15, 2021

FROM: Melanie Bachman, Executive Director *MAB*

RE: **DOCKET NO. 499** – Homeland Towers, LLC and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 16 Coote Hill Road, Sherman, Connecticut.

Comments have been received from the State of Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality on April 29, 2021. A copy of the comments is attached for your review.

MB/RDM/lm

c: Council Members



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

April 29, 2021

Melanie Bachman, Executive Director Connecticut
Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square New
Britain, CT 06051

DOCKET NO. 499 – Homeland Towers, LLC and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 16 Coote Hill Road, Sherman, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Bachman:

The Council on Environmental Quality (“the Council”) offers the following comments with regard to Docket 499.

1. Visibility

The Council notes that the proposed tower might be visible, both year-round and seasonally during leaf-off conditions, from locally designated scenic roads in the area. The Council recommends that, if approved, best management practices be employed to minimize the visual impact of the proposed facility and that it be constructed no taller than necessary to provide coverage.

2. Wildlife – Northern Long-eared Bat (NLEB)

The Applicant states in Attachment 10 that “Protection measures for eastern box turtle and eastern hognose snake include various protection measures to be employed during construction activities while a time of year (“TOY”) restriction for tree clearing (limit tree clearing between November 1st and March 30th) is required to protect the two bat species. The TOY tree clearing restrictions for these two bats will also comply with the associated NLEB voluntary conservation measures.” This suggests that tree clearing should not happen between November and March. However, the Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) letters dated October 6, 2020 and January 9, 2021 state that “Tree clearing should be limited to between November 1st and March 30th”. Therefore, the Council recommends that the Applicant adhere to the time of year restrictions indicated by the NDDDB, as well as the other protection strategies, in the letters noted above.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please do not hesitate to contact the Council if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta
Environmental Analyst II

Keith Ainsworth
Acting Chair

Alicea Charamut

David Kalafa

Lee E. Dunbar

Kip Kolesinskas

Matthew Reiser

Charles Vidich

Peter Hearn
Executive Director