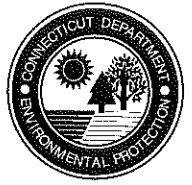


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



January 16, 2008

Daniel F. Caruso, Chairman
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

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CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Re: Wireless Telecommunications Facility
Sprint Nextel Corp. and Connecticut Light and Power
Haddam, Connecticut
Docket No. 348

Dear Mr. Caruso:

I am the designee of the Commissioner of Environmental Protection on the Connecticut River Gateway Commission, a regional agency established pursuant to section 25-102e of the General Statutes to promote preservation of the landscape values of the lower Connecticut River area. The proposed Sprint Nextel/CL&P tower off Cove Road in Haddam would be located within and visible from the Gateway Conservation Zone as defined by section 25-102c of the General Statutes. As such, the facility is subject to the policy of the State to preserve scenic values and to "prevent deterioration of the natural and traditional riverway scene" under section 25-102a.

Based on the applicant's visual resource evaluation, it appears that the reconstruction of a telecommunications tower at the proposed location would be distinctly visible above the ridgeline from much of the western shore of the River, including such publicly accessible scenic and recreational areas such as Haddam Meadows State Park, the Valley Railroad, and the Connecticut River itself. However, the applicant's analysis does not even mention the Gateway area, and focuses on visibility of the structure from residences and inhabited areas. This perspective tends to dismiss the importance of visibility from public areas along the River, which is precisely the realm of scenic values that the Gateway policies were intended to protect. Accordingly, the Council should carefully consider whether this facility will adversely affect the natural and traditional riverway scene, and whether there are available alternatives to reduce the tower's height or otherwise minimize its visibility from public access points.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments to the Council. If you have any additional questions or need additional information concerning this matter, please contact me at (860) 424-3034 or david.blatt@po.state.ct.us.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature of David J.L. Blatt]

David J.L. Blatt, AICP
Supervising Coastal Planner
Office of Long Island Sound Programs

DB/b

cc: Gateway Commission
Frederick L. Riese, DEP