

**CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

IN THE MATTER OF:

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DOCKET NO. 355

AN APPLICATION OF CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF A WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT THE NORTHVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT PROPERTY, 359 LITCHFIELD ROAD, NEW MILFORD, CONNECTICUT

AND

DOCKET NO. 342

AN APPLICATION OF OPTASITE TOWERS LLC AND OMNIPOINT COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF A WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT 425 LITCHFIELD ROAD, NEW MILFORD, CONNECTICUT

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
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Submitted by: **Cellco Partnership d/b/a  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY<sup>1</sup>

In Docket Nos. 342 and 355, the Connecticut Siting Council (“Council”) was presented with two alternative cell sites from which both Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Cellco”) and Omnipoint Communications, Inc., a subsidiary of T-Mobile USA, Inc. (“T-Mobile”) could satisfy their respective personal wireless service coverage objectives in the Northville section of the Town of New Milford (“Northville”). In Docket No. 342, Optasite Towers LLC (“Optasite”), a tower company working with T-Mobile, is proposing to construct a 140-foot tower on private property at 425 Litchfield Road. In Docket No. 355, Cellco, a wireless service provider, is proposing to construct a 150-foot tower on property owned by the Northville Volunteer Fire Department (“NVFD”) at 359 Litchfield Road. The Optasite and NVFD facilities are located within ½ mile of each other.

### A. Both Cellco and T-Mobile Have Demonstrated A Need For Wireless Service

Cellco’s coverage objectives in Northville are clear and succinct. Cellco currently experience an approximately 1.7 mile gap in coverage along Route 202 and a 0.5 mile gap in coverage along Route 109 in Northville between its existing New Milford cell site at 33 Boardman Road in New Milford, its New Milford East cell site at 399 Chestnut Land Road in New Milford, and its recently approved Washington North cell site at 6 Mountain Road in Washington. Cellco proposes to fill these gaps by installing antennas at the top of a 150-foot tower proposed to be constructed at the NVFD site. Cellco’s coverage needs in Northville can also be satisfied by installing antennas at the 127-foot level on the Optasite tower.

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<sup>1</sup> The facts and conclusions contained in this summary are supported by evidence in the Docket Nos. 355 and 342 records. Specific citations to the record of each docket are included in Cellco’s Post Hearing Brief.

T-Mobile's coverage objectives in Northville and its future plans for wireless service to the north and east along Route 202 are not as clear. T-Mobile currently experiences an 18 mile coverage gap along Route 202 between its existing New Milford cell site off Russeling Road in New Milford and an existing cell site somewhere in the City of Torrington. T-Mobile has no definitive plans, no funded or unfunded search areas, and no specific sites selected for any future cell site along Route 202 in this 18 mile gap other than the Optasite facility in Northville.

T-Mobile proposes to install antennas at the 140-foot level on the proposed Optasite tower to provide coverage to a portion of its 18 mile coverage gap. Coverage from the Optasite tower would connect with coverage from T-Mobile's Russeling Road cell site in New Milford and provide coverage along Route 202 to a point approximately 0.5 miles west of the intersection of Routes 202 and 45.

T-Mobile's coverage plan for Northville, however, ignores the fact that the Council recently approved a tower site in Washington, Connecticut (Docket No. 332) and that the Washington tower is available for co-location. If T-Mobile were to install antennas at the 140 foot level on Cellco's proposed NVFD tower in Northville and install antennas at the 140 foot level on the new Washington tower, its coverage along Route 202 would still connect with coverage from the existing Russeling Road facility in New Milford and would extend to the northeast along Route 202 approximately 1.3 miles further than the coverage from the proposed Optasite tower; thereby, further reducing T-Mobile's 18 mile coverage gap.

B. Environmental Effects

The evidence in the two pending dockets clearly demonstrates that use of either of the alternative sites would satisfy the coverage objectives of Cellco and/or T-Mobile. A review of the evidence regarding the environmental effects of each of the proposed facilities, however,

demonstrates that there are some significant differences between the two sites under consideration.

1. Physical Environmental Effects

The Optasite facility consists of a 70' x 70' (4,900 square feet) site compound, within a 100' x 100' (10,000 square feet) leased area. Access would extend from Litchfield Road along an improved 1,207-foot gravel road. Drainage improvements (i.e. swales) will be constructed along the sides of the access road. Underground utilities will also be installed along the access road from Litchfield Road to the cell site. As shown on the Optasite project plans, a significant area around the 10,000 square foot leased parcel will need to be cleared and graded to build the telecommunications facility. The total area of ground disturbance needed to build the site compound, access road and drainage swales and to install underground utilities is conservatively estimated to be approximately 40,000 square feet.

Cellco's NVFD facility will consist of a 36' x 93' (3,348 square feet) site compound within a 100' x 100' (10,000 square feet) leased area. Access to the NVFD site would extend from Big Bear Hill Road along a 160-foot access driveway. Drainage swales and underground utilities would be constructed along the side of the short 160 foot driveway. The total area of ground disturbance at Cellco's NVFD site is approximately 20,000 square feet. Cellco's use of a retaining wall system at the NVFD site results in a significant reduction in the area of ground disturbance at the NVFD site.

The parcels on which the two proposed telecommunications facilities are to be located are heavily-wooded. Because Optasite's plan requires significantly more clearing and grading, the construction of the Optasite facility will result in significantly more tree removal than is necessary at the Cellco NVFD site. Optasite's estimate of only 23 trees being removed is

inconsistent with what is depicted on the project plans included in the Docket No. 342 application. The actual number of trees removed may be as much as three times that estimated by Optasite. The total number of trees removed from the NVFD site is \_\_\_\_.

Cellco's civil engineers have fully assessed the impact of the NVFD site as it relates to stormwater run-off and controls including total and peak run-off amounts, impacts on adjacent properties and impacts on existing stormwater conveyance systems. Engineers for Optasite admitted during the hearing that similar calculations and impact analyses have not yet been completed for the Optasite facility. The Council cannot accurately and thoroughly evaluate the environmental impacts of the Optasite proposal without this important information.

2. Visibility

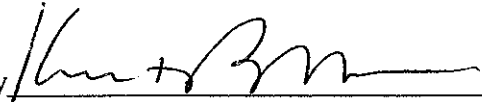
Overall, evidence in the record for both Docket Nos. 342 and 355 would support a finding that the visual impact of the NVFD facility and the Optasite facility are comparable. Some important differences are, however, worthy of mentioning. The Optasite tower extends well above the existing landscape due to its ground elevation more than 200 feet higher than the NVFD site. As a result, the Optasite tower will be visible, year round, from a larger area (38 acres) than the Cellco NVFD tower (23 acres) and will be visible, year round, from more residences in the area (25) than the Cellco NVFD facility (10).

C. Municipal Preferences and Public Participation

By statute, the Council must consider location preferences expressed by a municipality when siting a telecommunications facility. The New Milford Zoning Commission reviewed both proposed tower sites and stated very clearly and without qualification that it **prefers** the NVFD site.

Through the Council's public hearing process, New Milford residents echoed the Zoning Commission's position. A clear majority of the residents who spoke at the Council's March 11, 2008 public hearing stated that if a tower was needed in Northville, they would prefer it be located at the NVFD site.

Respectfully submitted,  
CELLCO PARTNERSHIP d/b/a  
VERIZON WIRELESS

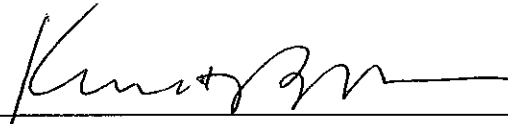
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**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2008, a copy of the foregoing was mailed,

postage prepaid, to the following:

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