

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE: :
: :
APPLICATION OF MCF COMMUNICATIONS : DOCKET NO. 358
bg, INC. AND 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 IN THE :
TOWN OF THOMPSON, CONNECTICUT : MAY 20, 2008

RESPONSES OF CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS
TO CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL PRE-HEARING INTERROGATORIES

On May 2, 2008, the Connecticut Siting Council (“Council”) issued Pre-Hearing Interrogatories to the applicants, MCF Communications bg, Inc. (“MCF”) and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Cellco”) (collectively the “Applicants”), relating to the above-captioned docket. Below are the Applicant’s responses.

Question No. 1

Did the Applicants receive return receipts for all adjacent landowners listed behind Tab 5 of the application? If not, was any additional effort made to make sure that notice was received by these property owners?

Response

Cellco received return receipts from all of the Site A abutters and from all but five of the Site B abutters. Notices to the five Site B abutters were resent by regular mail.

Question No. 2

Discuss the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 (the 911 Act) and the Enhanced 911 Act. How does the proposed site comply with these Acts?

Response

The Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 (the “WCPS Act”) was enacted to promote and enhance public safety by making 911 the universal emergency assistance number, by furthering deployment of wireless 911 capabilities and related functions, and by encouraging construction and operation of seamless, ubiquitous and reliable networks for wireless services.

The Enhanced 911 Act of 2004 (the “E-911 Act”) was enacted to facilitate the reallocation of spectrum from the government to commercial users; improve, enhance and promote Homeland Security, public safety, and citizen activated emergency response capabilities through enhanced 911 services; upgrade Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) capabilities and related functions in receiving E-911 calls; and support the construction of a ubiquitous and reliable citizen activated system.

The FCC has divided the implementation of the E-911 program into two parts. Under Phase 1, carriers had to provide a local PSAP with the telephone number of the originator of a 911 call and the location of the cell site or base station transmitting the call. Under Phase 2, carriers had to begin to provide PSAP’s with more precise information including the latitude and longitude of the caller. The FCC requires the technology used for E-911 services to meet certain accuracy standards, the development of new technologies to support E-911 services, as well as coordination among public safety agencies, wireless carriers, technology vendors, equipment manufacturers and wireline carriers.

Technology satisfying the Phase 1 and Phase 2 requirements has been incorporated into all existing Cellco facilities in Connecticut and will be installed in the proposed Thompson 2 facility.

Question No. 3

When did Cellco first establish a search ring in the area of the proposed sites?

Response

The Thompson 2 search area was established on June 30, 2005.

Question No. 4

Provide a map with a scale including size (area), shape and location of Cellco's search ring for the proposed sites.

Response

The Thompson 2 search area map is included as Attachment 1.

Question No. 5

Has Cellco investigated the potential use of microcells, repeaters or distributed antenna systems to provide coverage to the existing gaps in Thompson? Please describe the reason each of these technologies were rejected.

Response

No. The area Cellco intends to cover from the Thompson 2 facility, including significant portions of I-395 and Routes 12, 200 and 193, is too large to reliably serve with micro-cells, repeaters or a distributed antenna system, especially at PCS frequencies.

Question No. 6

Could the proposed Site A compound be moved farther east or west to avoid the need for significant grading in the apparent steep slope area of the parcel?