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August 11, 2008

TO: Parties and Intervenors

FROM: S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director

RE: **DOCKET NO. 358** – MCF Communications bg, Inc. and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility at one of two locations located at 347 Riverside Drive (Route 12)- Site A, and 407 Riverside Drive (Route 12)- Site B, Thompson, Connecticut.

By its Decision and Order dated August 7, 2008, the Connecticut Siting Council granted a Certificate for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 347 Riverside Drive (Route 12)- Site A, Thompson, Connecticut.

Enclosed are the Council's Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order.

SDP/CML/jb

Enclosures (3)

c: State Documents Librarian

LIST OF PARTIES AND INTERVENORS
SERVICE LIST

Status Granted	Status Holder (name, address & phone number)	Representative (name, address & phone number)
Applicant	MCF Communications bg, Inc. and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless	<p>Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq. Robinson & Cole LLP 280 Trumbull Street Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3597 (860) 275-8200 kbalwin@rc.com</p> <p>Brad Gannon MCF Communications bg, Inc. 733 Turnpike Street, Suite 105 North Andover, MA 01845</p> <p>Sandy Carter, Regulatory Manager Verizon Wireless 99 East River Drive East Hartford, CT 06108 alexandria.carter@verizonwireless.com</p>
Intervenor (Approved on 04/24/08)	Thompson Hills West Condominium Association	<p>Richard W. Thunberg Jr. Board President Thompson Hills West Condominium Association Board of Trustee's 13 Westside Drive, Suite 92 North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 (860) 923-1919 WThunberg@aol.com</p>

<p>DOCKET NO. 358 – MCF Communications bg, Inc. and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility at one of two locations located at 347 Riverside Drive (Route 12)- Site A, and 407 Riverside Drive (Route 12)- Site B, Thompson, Connecticut.</p>	<p>} Connecticut } Siting } Council } August 7, 2008</p>
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Findings of Fact

Introduction

1. MCF Communications bg, Inc. (MCF) and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Cellco), collectively referred to as the “Applicants”, in accordance with provisions of Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) § 16-50g through 16-50aa, applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) on February 25, 2008 for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a wireless telecommunications facility at one of two locations in Thompson, Connecticut. Site A is proposed at 347 Riverside Drive (Route 12) and Site B is proposed at 407 Riverside Drive (Route 12). (Applicants 1, p. 1)
2. MCF is a subsidiary of MCF Communications, which is a stock corporation organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MCF develops, owns, manages and markets communication sites in New England for wireless communication companies. (Applicants 1, p. 5)
3. Cellco is a Delaware Partnership with an administrative office in Connecticut. Cellco is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to provide personal wireless communication services at both cellular and personal communication service (PCS) frequencies in Windham County, Connecticut. Operation of the wireless telecommunications systems and related activities are Cellco’s sole business in the State of Connecticut. (Applicants 1, pp. 5, 8, Tab 7)
4. The party in this proceeding is the Applicants. The intervenor in this proceeding is the Thompson Hills West Condominium Association, represented by Richard W. Thunberg, Jr. (Board President). (Transcript 1, 3:00 p.m. [Tr. 1], pp. 6, 7)
5. The purpose of the proposed facility is to provide cellular and PCS coverage along Interstate 395 (I-395), Route 200, Route 193 and Route 12, as well as local roads in the southern portion of Thompson. (Applicants 1, p. 2)
6. Pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50m, the Council, after giving due notice thereof, held a public hearing on June 10, 2008, beginning at 3:00 p.m. and continuing at 7:00 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room of the Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale (Thompson), Connecticut. (Council's Hearing Notice dated April 25, 2008; Tr. 1, p. 3; Transcript 2 – 7:00 p.m. [Tr. 2], p. 3)
7. The Council and its staff conducted an inspection of the proposed sites on June 10, 2008, beginning at 2:00 p.m. The Applicants flew a double red balloon at proposed Site A and a single red balloon at proposed Site B to simulate the height of the proposed towers. Balloons at both proposed sites were raised at 8:00 a.m. and remained aloft until 5:00 p.m. From 8:00 a.m. until approximately 11:00 a.m., weather conditions allowed the balloons to fly vertically. After 11:00 a.m. and throughout the afternoon weather conditions were breezy. (Tr. 1, p. 20)
8. The Applicants posted a sign at the front of the proposed Site A property and Site B property on May 19, 2008 to notify the public of the Council’s hearing regarding the proposed project. (Applicants 6)

9. Pursuant to CGS § 16-50I (b), public notice of the application was published in the Norwich Bulletin on February 18 and 19, 2008. (Applicants 1, p. 6; Applicants 2, Affidavit of Publication)
10. Pursuant to CGS § 16-50I(b), notice of the application was provided to all abutting property owners by certified mail. The Applicants received return receipts from all adjacent landowners to the proposed Site A property. The Applicants did not receive return receipts from five landowners adjacent to the Site B property, all of which are condominium owners in the Thompson Hills West complex. Those landowners were sent notification of the proposed project via regular mail. (Applicants 1, p. 6, Tab 6; Applicants 4, R. 1; Tr. 1, p. 21)
11. Pursuant to CGS § 16-50I (b), the Applicants provided notice to all federal, state and local officials and agencies listed therein. (Applicants 1, p. 6, Tab 4)

State Agency Comment

12. Pursuant to CGS § 16-50j (h), on April 25, 2008 and June 12, 2008, the following State agencies were solicited by the Council to submit written comments regarding the proposed facility; Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Department of Public Health (DPH), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC), Office of Policy and Management (OPM), Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), and the Department of Transportation (DOT). (Record)
13. The Council received a letter from the DOT on June 3, 2008 stating the agency has “no comment” on the proposed project. (DOT comment letter received June 3, 2008)
14. The following agencies did not respond with comment on the application: CEQ, DPUC, OPM, DPH, DEP, and the DECD. (Record)

Municipal Consultation

15. On December 7, 2007, the Applicants provided a copy of the technical report for the proposed sites to the Thompson First Selectman, Lawrence Groh, Jr. (Applicants 1, p. 21)
16. On March 24, 2008, MCF and Cellco appeared before the Town of Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission (Commission) at a public meeting. The Commission prefers Site A for the construction of the proposed facility due to existing commercial zoning and existing commercial/industrial uses surrounding the property. (Applicants 3, Town of Thompson P&Z comments; Tr. 1, pp. 70, 71)
17. MCF would provide space on the proposed tower for the installation of the town’s public safety entities. (Applicants 1, p. 12)

Public Need for Service

18. In 1996, the United States Congress recognized a nationwide need for high quality wireless telecommunications services, including cellular telephone service. Through the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress seeks to promote competition, encourage technical innovations, and foster lower prices for telecommunications services. (Council Administrative Notice Item No. 7)

19. In issuing cellular licenses, the federal government has preempted the determination of public need for cellular service by the states, and has established design standards to ensure technical integrity and nationwide compatibility among all systems. (Council Administrative Notice Item No. 7)
20. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 prohibits local and state entities from discriminating among providers of functionally equivalent services. (Council Administrative Notice Item No. 7)
21. The Telecommunications Act of 1996, a federal law passed by the United States Congress, prohibits any state or local entity from regulating telecommunications towers on the basis of the environmental effects of radio frequency emissions to the extent that such towers and equipment comply with FCC's regulations concerning such emissions. This Act also blocks the Council from prohibiting or acting with the effect of prohibiting the provision of personal wireless service. (Council Administrative Notice Item No. 7)
22. Public safety was enhanced by the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999, which made 911 the universal emergency assistance number, furthered the deployment of wireless 911 capabilities and related functions and encouraged construction and operation of seamless, ubiquitous and reliable networks for wireless services. (Applicants 4, R. 2)
23. The Enhanced 911 (E911) Act of 2004 was passed to facilitate the reallocation of spectrum from the government to commercial users, enhance public safety and emergency response capabilities. As part of the E911 Act, carriers have to provide Public Safety Answering Point with precise information, including latitude and longitude of the caller. The FCC requires E911 technology to meet accuracy standards, development of new technologies supporting E911 services and coordination among public safety agencies, wireless carriers, technology vendors, equipment manufacturers and wireline carriers. (Applicants 4, R. 2)
24. Proposed Site A or Site B would comply with the E911 Act. (Applicants 4, R. 2)

Site Selection

25. MCF began searching for a site in this section of Thompson in 2000. MCF was working with Nextel Communications to develop a site to provide coverage to the area. The Thompson Hills West Condominium property was one of the potential properties investigated by MCF for the establishment of a facility, in addition to Site A and Site B. (Applicants 7, p. 1)
26. MCF signed a lease with the Thompson Hills West Condominium Association in October of 2000, which allowed three years for MCF to obtain all necessary permits and construct a tower on the property. Shortly after signing the lease, Nextel Communications informed MCF that it was no longer interested in a site in this section of Thompson. (Applicants 7, pp. 1, 2)
27. In late 2003, MCF inquired with Deborah Kirkconnell, a representative of the management company contracted by the Association to maintain the property, regarding an extension of the lease agreement with the Association. MCF was informed that the Association was not interested in extending the lease. At that time MCF also maintained leases for sites on the proposed Site A and Site B facilities, but no wireless carriers were interested in either site. (Applicants 7, p. 2)
28. Cellco established a search ring for the target service area on June 30, 2005. The search ring was an approximately 1.1 mile diameter circular area located in the southern section of Thompson. The search area encompasses a portion of I-395 from its intersection with Route 193 to its intersection with Route 200. The proposed sites are on the western edge of the search ring. (Applicants 4, R. 3, 4)

29. There are four existing telecommunications facilities and one recently approved telecommunications facility within a four-mile radius of the proposed sites. These sites include:

Location	Height in feet/Type	Cellco Antenna Height
61 Lowell Davis Road, Thompson	250-ft/guyed lattice	237-ft/227-ft
720 Thompson Road, Thompson	140-ft/monopole	N/A
97 Mount Hill Road, Thompson	180-ft/lattice	N/A
154 Sayle Avenue, Putnam	180-ft/monopole	146-ft
Rich Road, Thompson (Docket 344 - approved on 01/10/08)	150-ft/monopole	140-ft

(Applicants 1, Tab 10)

30. Prior to selecting the proposed sites, Cellco considered two existing structures. The Thompson Congregational Church was considered and rejected because it was too far from I-395 and would not satisfy Cellco's coverage objectives at its existing height. A water tank on Rachel Drive was considered and rejected because the existing structure was too short and too far west of I-395 to satisfy Cellco's coverage objectives. (Applicants 1, Tab 10)
31. After determining that no existing structures would provide Cellco with adequate coverage, Cellco investigated potential properties for construction of a new tower. Cellco investigated five sites, including the two proposed. The three rejected sites, and reasons for rejection, include:
- a. Marianopolis Preparatory School – The local Historic District Commission and the state Historic Preservation Officer were concerned that a tower at this site might have an adverse effect on the town's Historic District.
 - b. Thompson Hills West Condominiums – Per MCF conversations with a representative of Thompson Hills West in late 2003, the Association was not interested in leasing space for a telecommunications facility.
 - c. 129 Robbins Road – this property is located too far south to provide adequate coverage and would be redundant with Cellco's existing Putnam Facility.
- (Applicants 1, Tab 10; Applicants 7, p. 2)
32. On behalf of Thompson Hills West Condominium Association, the intervenor, Mr. Thunberg, stated that the condominium owners currently want their property considered by the Council as an alternative site to the proposed Site A and Site B. Mr. Thunberg also stated the Association's position that, if the condominium property is not chosen as an alternative site, it prefers the Council approve proposed Site A rather than Site B. (Tr. 1, pp. 74, 75)
33. A Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) transmission line runs near the proposed sites, on 40-foot to 60-foot wood poles. Use of a CL&P pole for the installation of Cellco antennas might be able to satisfy Cellco's coverage objectives for the area; however, the pole would have to be replaced with a steel structure approximately double the height of the existing ones. (Applicants 4, R. 29)
34. Microcells and repeaters are not viable technological alternatives for providing coverage to the identified coverage gap due to the large size of the area that needs to be covered along I-395, Route 12, Route 200 and Route 193. (Applicants 4, R. 5)

Proposed Site A

35. Proposed Site A is located on an approximately two-acre parcel at 347 Riverside Drive in Thompson. The parcel is owned by Rene B. and Mary V. Santerre, Trustees and currently is used by D&R Tire & Masonry Supply Co. for an office location and storage yard. The Site A location is depicted in Figure 1 of this document. (Applicants 1, Tab 1)
36. The proposed Site A parcel is located in the Commercial zoning district. The Town of Thompson's Zoning Regulations include five siting preferences for telecommunications facilities, including:
 - a. An alternative facility on an existing or approved tower;
 - b. An alternative facility on an existing non-residential building, water tank or other similar structure;
 - c. A new tower on a parcel already occupied by existing towers;
 - d. A new tower in a commercial or industrial zone; and
 - e. A new tower in a residential zone.(Applicants 1, p. 19)
37. The town's Zoning Regulations also include requirements such as:
 - a. property boundary setbacks for towers equal to the setback in the zone or the height of the tower, whichever is greater;
 - b. the use of a monopole design in residential zones; and
 - c. the applicant to accommodate tower sharing.(Applicants 1, p. 19)
38. The proposed Site A facility would be located in the central portion of the host property at a ground elevation of approximately 327 feet above mean sea level (amsl). (Applicants 1, p. 2, Tab 1)
39. The Site A facility would consist of a 140-foot monopole within a 100-foot by 100-foot leased area. The monopole would be approximately 42 inches at the base tapering to approximately 26 inches at the top. The tower would be designed to support the antennas of Cellco and three additional carriers with a ten-foot center-to-center vertical separation. Construction of the proposed tower would be in accordance with the American National Standards Institute TIA/EIA-222-F "Structural Standards for Steel Antenna Towers and Antenna Support Structures." (Applicants 1, Tab 1)
40. Cellco would install twelve antennas at a centerline height of 137 feet above ground level (agl). Cellco's proposed antennas would extend to a height of 140 feet agl. (Applicants 1, Tab 1)
41. The proposed tower would be located within a 70-foot by 70-foot equipment compound enclosed by an eight-foot tall chain-link fence. The tower and equipment compound would be designed to accommodate the equipment of three additional carriers as well as the town's public safety entities, if needed. Cellco proposes to install equipment within a 12-foot by 30-foot equipment shelter, which would be installed on the ground near the base of the tower. (Applicants 1, pp. 2, 12, Tab 1)
42. The equipment compound could be reduced to a 50-foot by 50-foot compound and still have enough room for the equipment of all wireless carriers that currently hold licenses in the area, if ordered by the Council. (Applicants 4, R. 34; Tr. 1, p. 48)
43. Cellco would install a back-up generator within the proposed equipment building for use during power outages. It would operate periodically for maintenance purposes. (Applicants 1, p. 4)

44. The fuel storage tank associated with the back-up generator would be located beneath the generator. The tank would consist of a double-walled tank with built-in leak detection alarms that are monitored remotely at the Cellco Mobile Telephone Switching Office. The floor of the generator room is designed to contain 120% of the capacity of all generator fluids. (Applicants 4, R. 27)
45. Cellco would not be willing to install a fuel cell to provide back-up power to Proposed Site A, nor does Cellco have plans to install fuel cells at any existing sites or future sites within Connecticut. (Applicants 4, R. 38, 39)
46. Since the filing of the application, the owner of the proposed Site A property has excavated material from the slope in the area of the proposed site. (Applicants 4, R. 6; Tr. 1, p. 14)
47. Access to the proposed Site A facility would extend southeast from Riverside Drive along an existing gravel driveway for approximately 205 feet, then over a new gravel driveway for an additional approximately 20 feet. (Applicants 1, p. 2, Tab 1)
48. Utilities would extend underground to the site from an existing overhead pole within the southern portion of the parcel. One new 40-foot utility pole would be installed south of the proposed Site A compound to allow installation of underground utilities. (Applicants 1, Tab 1; Applicants 4, R. 9)
49. The Applicants could install utilities underground from the existing utility pole northwest of proposed Site A. (Tr. 1, p. 39)
50. Development of proposed Site A is not expected to require blasting. (Applicants 4, R. 14)
51. The tower setback radius would extend onto adjacent properties to the north (owned by Suzanne L. St. Onge), by approximately 32 feet, and south (owned by Donna M. Esposito), by approximately 32 feet. The tower setback radius would also include the northern portion of the Liberty Glass & Metal building that is located on an adjacent property south of the proposed site. (Applicants 1, Tab 1)
52. The Site A host property also contains a two-story brick building that would be almost completely within the tower setback radius. The nearest point of the building is approximately 36 feet from the proposed tower location. Two propane tanks are located approximately 104 feet from the proposed tower. (Applicants 1, Tab 1)
53. MCF would design the proposed tower with a yield point at approximately 80 feet agl to allow the tower to remain on the host property in the event of a tower failure. (Applicants 4, R. 7)
54. There are nine residences within 1,000 feet of the proposed tower. The nearest residence is approximately 188 feet northwest of the proposed Site A facility. (Applicants 1, p. 14)
55. Land use in the surrounding area is predominately commercial/industrial to the south and west; a railroad right-of-way is located to the east; and residential areas exist north of proposed Site A. (Applicants 1, Tab 1)

56. The estimated construction cost of the proposed Site A facility, including antennas and radio equipment, is:
- | | |
|---|---------------|
| Cell site radio equipment | \$ 450,000 |
| Tower, coax and antennas | 150,000 |
| Power systems | 20,000 |
| Equipment building | 50,000 |
| <u>Miscellaneous (incl. preparation and installation)</u> | <u>75,000</u> |
| Total | \$ 745,000 |
- (Applicants 1, pp. 22, 23)

Proposed Site B

57. Proposed Site B is located on an approximately 3-acre parcel at 407 Riverside Drive in Thompson. The parcel is owned by David F. Rogers and is used as a residential property. The Site B location is depicted in Figure 2 of this document. (Applicants 1, Tab 2)
58. The proposed Site B parcel is located in a Residential (R-20) zoning district. The Town of Thompson's Zoning Regulations include five siting preferences for telecommunications facilities including:
- An alternative facility on an existing or approved tower;
 - An alternative facility on an existing non-residential building, water tank or other similar structure;
 - A new tower on a parcel already occupied by existing towers;
 - A new tower in a commercial or industrial zone; and
 - A new tower in a residential zone.
- (Applicants 1, p. 19)
59. The town's Zoning Regulations also include requirements such as:
- property boundary setbacks for towers equal to the setback in the zone or the height of the tower, whichever is greater;
 - the use of a monopole design in residential zones; and
 - the applicant to accommodate tower sharing.
- (Applicants 1, p. 19)
60. The proposed Site B facility would be located in the eastern portion of the host property at a ground elevation of approximately 370 feet amsl. (Applicants 1, p. 3, Tab 2)
61. The Site B facility would consist of a 140-foot monopole within a 100-foot by 100-foot leased area. The monopole would be approximately 42 inches at the base tapering to approximately 26 inches at the top. The tower would be designed to support the antennas of Cellco and three additional carriers with a ten-foot center-to-center vertical separation. Construction of the proposed tower would be in accordance with the American National Standards Institute TIA/EIA-222-F "Structural Standards for Steel Antenna Towers and Antenna Support Structures." (Applicants 1, Tab 2)
62. Cellco would install twelve antennas at a centerline height of 137 feet agl. Cellco's proposed antennas would extend to a height of 140 feet agl. (Applicants 1, Tab 2)
63. The proposed tower would be located within a 70-foot by 70-foot equipment compound enclosed by an eight-foot tall chain-link fence. The tower and equipment compound would be designed to accommodate the equipment of three additional carriers as well as the town's public safety entities, if needed. Cellco proposes to install equipment within a 12-foot by 30-foot equipment shelter, which would be installed on the ground near the base of the tower. (Applicants 1, pp. 3, 12, Tab 2)

64. The equipment compound could be constructed as a 50-foot by 50-foot compound and still have enough room for the equipment of all wireless carriers that currently hold licenses in the area, if ordered by the Council. (Applicants 4, R. 34; Tr. 1, p. 48)
65. Cellco would install a back-up generator within the proposed equipment building for use during power outages. It would operate periodically for maintenance purposes. (Applicants 1, p. 4)
66. The fuel storage tank associated with the back-up generator would be located beneath the generator. The tank would consist of a double-walled tank with built-in leak detection alarms that are monitored remotely at the Cellco Mobile Telephone Switching Office. The floor of the generator room is designed to contain 120% of the capacity of all generator fluids. (Applicants 4, R. 27)
67. Cellco would not be willing to install a fuel cell to provide back-up power to Proposed Site B, nor does Cellco have plans to install fuel cells at any existing sites or future sites within Connecticut. (Applicants 4, R. 38, 39)
68. Construction of the proposed Site B compound and access road would require grading. (Applicants 1, Tab 2)
69. Access to the proposed Site B facility would extend east from Riverside Drive along an existing gravel driveway for approximately 230 feet, then over a new gravel driveway for an additional approximately 235 feet. (Applicants 1, p. 3, Tab 2)
70. Utilities would extend partially overhead and partially underground to the site from an existing overhead pole along Riverside Drive. Two new 40-foot utility poles would be installed for a distance of approximately 30 feet. The underground portion of the utility installation would be along the proposed access road for a distance of approximately 230 feet. (Applicants 1, Tab 2; Applicants 4, R. 10, 11)
71. The Applicants could install utilities underground along the access road to the site. (Tr. 1, p. 41)
72. Development of proposed Site B is not expected to require blasting. (Applicants 4, R. 14)
73. The tower setback radius would remain on the proposed Site B host property. (Applicants 1, Tab 2)
74. There are 25 residences within 1,000 feet of the proposed tower. The nearest off-site residence is approximately 216 feet southwest of the proposed Site B facility. The Site B property owner's residence is located 170 feet west of the site. (Applicants 1, p. 15, Tab 11; Applicants 4, R. 20)
75. The Thompson Hills West Condominium property is located north and northeast of the proposed site. The nearest building on the adjacent condominium property is located 264 feet north. (Applicants 1, p. 15, Tab 2)
76. Land use in the surrounding area predominately consists of residential condominiums to the east and north, with undeveloped property on the condominium property to the south. Residential property exists along Riverside Drive west of the proposed site. A medical building operated by Day Kimball Hospital is located north of the site. (Applicants 1, Tab 2)

77. The estimated construction cost of the proposed Site B facility, including antennas and radio equipment, is:
- | | |
|---|----------------|
| Cell site radio equipment | \$ 450,000 |
| Tower, coax and antennas | 150,000 |
| Power systems | 20,000 |
| Equipment building | 50,000 |
| <u>Miscellaneous (incl. preparation and installation)</u> | <u>110,000</u> |
| Total | \$ 780,000 |
- (Applicants 1, p. 23)

Environmental Considerations

78. The proposed facilities would have no effect upon historic, architectural or archeological resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (Applicants 1, p. 22)
79. The proposed facilities would not adversely affect federally listed or proposed species. No federally listed endangered or threatened species are known to occur in Windham County. (Applicants 1, pp. 21, 22, Tab 12)
80. The proposed sites are not within state-listed species or significant natural community areas. (Applicants 1, Tab 12; Applicants 4, R. 12)
81. Vegetation near proposed Site A consists of 50 to 60-foot deciduous trees; however, the property on which the Site A facility would be located contains little or no vegetation. The property of proposed Site B predominately consists of 50-foot to 60-foot deciduous and coniferous trees. Vegetation type in the area of both proposed Site A and Site B includes a mix of pine, oak, maple and hickory. (Applicants 4, R. 16, 17)
82. No trees with diameters of six inches or greater would have to be removed for the construction of the proposed Site A facility. Construction of the proposed Site B facility would require the removal of four trees with diameters of six inches or greater. (Applicants 4, R. 15)
83. The Thompson Inland Wetland and Watercourses Regulations regulate activity both within a wetland or watercourse and within 200 feet of an identified wetland or watercourse. (Applicants 1, pp. 19, 20)
84. There are no wetlands or watercourses within 200 feet of the proposed Site A facility. The nearest wetlands to Site A are associated with the French River, northwest of the site across Riverside Road. (Applicants 1, p. 20)
85. The nearest wetland to the proposed Site B facility is located approximately 122 feet southwest of the proposed compound, within the existing CL&P right-of-way. (Applicants 1, p. 20)
86. MCF would install appropriate erosion and sedimentation control measures at either proposed Site A or Site B, and maintain these throughout the construction process. (Applicants 1, p. 20)
87. Both proposed Site A and Site B would be located within the Federal Emergency Management Agency flood zone designated C, which is an area of minimal flooding. (Applicants 1, p. 20; Applicants 4, R. 30)
88. The nearest public airfield to proposed Site A and Site B is located in the Town of Danielson, Connecticut approximately eight miles south of both sites. Obstruction lighting and marking of the proposed Site A or Site B towers would not be required. (Applicants 1, p. 21; Applicants 4, R. 19)

89. The maximum power density from the radio frequency emissions of Cellco's antennas at either proposed site would be 8.33% of the standard for Maximum Permissible Exposure, as adopted by the FCC, at the base of the proposed tower. This calculation was based on methodology prescribed by the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology Bulletin No. 65E, Edition 97-01 (August 1997) that assumes all antennas would be pointed at the base of the tower and all channels would be operating simultaneously. (Applicants 1, p. 16)

Visibility

90. The proposed Site A tower would be visible year-round from approximately 22.5 acres within a two-mile radius of the site (refer to Figure 3 of this document). The Site A tower would be seasonally visible from an additional 5.6 acres within two miles of the site. (Applicants 1, p. 14, Tab 11)
91. The proposed Site B tower would be visible year-round from approximately 33 acres within a two-mile radius of the site (refer to Figure 4 of this document). In addition, the Site B tower would be seasonally visible from an additional six acres within a two-mile radius of the site. (Applicants 1, p. 14, Tab 11)
92. Proposed Site A is located on an open area of the parcel with a wooded area to the east that would create a visual buffer to adjacent properties in that direction. The proposed Site B parcel is predominately wooded, which would create a visual buffer to all adjacent properties. (Applicants 1, Tab 11)
93. There are three historical sites, three parks/recreational areas, one school, three cemeteries/churches and three hiking trails within a two-mile radius of both of the proposed sites. None of these areas would have a view of either proposed tower. (Applicants 1, Tab 11; Applicants 4, R. 18)
94. Visibility of the proposed Site A tower from specific locations within a two-mile radius of the site is presented in the table below:

Location	Visible	Approx. Portion of Tower Visible	Approx. Distance from Tower
1. Westside Drive	No	-	2,165 feet northeast
2. Westside Drive	No	-	2,270 feet north northeast
3. 430 Riverside Drive	No	-	1,940 feet north
4. 353 Riverside Drive	Yes	Whole tower	430 feet north
5. Riverside Drive	No	-	4,300 feet southwest
6. Historic George Nichols Pickering House	No	-	2,100 feet south
7. Thompson Hill Historic District	No	-	6,000 feet northeast
8. Quinntisset Country Club	No	-	7,650 feet southeast
9. West Thompson Recreational Area	No	-	3,200 feet northwest
10. 91 Church Street	No	-	8,150 feet southwest
11. Tourtellotte Memorial High School	No	-	9,900 feet northwest
12. North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District	No	-	12,500 feet northwest
13. St. Joseph Cemetery	No	-	10,700 feet northwest
14. Swiss Cemetery	No	-	10,900 feet northwest
15. Riverside Drive	No	-	1,700 feet north

(Applicants 1, Tab 11)

95. Visibility of the proposed Site B tower from specific locations within a two-mile radius of the site is presented in the table below:

Location	Visible	Approx. Portion of Tower Visible	Approx. Distance from Tower
1. Westside Drive	Yes	10 feet above trees	540 feet northeast
2. Westside Drive	Yes	40 feet above trees	640 feet north
3. 430 Riverside Drive	Yes	120 feet above trees	900 feet northwest
4. 353 Riverside Drive	No	-	1,450 feet southwest
5. Riverside Drive	No	-	6,000 feet southwest
6. Historic George Nichols Pickering House	No	-	3,700 feet south
7. Thompson Hill Historic District	No	-	5,000 feet east
8. Quinntisset Country Club	No	-	8,500 feet southeast
9. West Thompson Recreational Area	No	-	3,900 feet west
10. 91 Church Street	No	-	9,800 feet southwest
11. Tourtellotte Memorial High School	No	-	8,900 feet northwest
12. North Grosvenordale Mill Historic District	No	-	11,400 feet northwest
13. St. Joseph Cemetery	No	-	9,800 feet northwest
14. Swiss Cemetery	No	-	9,800 feet northwest
15. Riverside Drive	Yes	Upper portion – through trees	580 feet west

(Applicants 1, Tab 11)

96. The proposed site A tower is expected to be visible year-round from three residences along Riverside Drive and seasonally from an additional five residences on Riverside Drive. The proposed Site B tower is expected to be visible year-round from 13 residences along Riverside Drive and three residences along West Side Drive. The Site B tower would be seasonally visible from one additional residence on Riverside Drive and two additional residences on West Side Drive. (Applicants 1, Tab 11)
97. The Thompson Hills West Condominium complex consists of 42 units, 28 of which would have year-round views of the proposed Site B tower. An additional six units would have seasonal views of the proposed Site B tower and the remaining eight units are not expected to have a view of the proposed tower. (Tr. 1, p. 15)
98. None of the units at the Thompson Hills West Condominium complex would have a view of the proposed Site A tower. However, a portion of a driveway to one section of the condominium complex affords a view of the proposed Site A tower along the CL&P transmission line right-of-way. (Tr. 1, p. 16; Tr. 2, p. 4)

Existing and Proposed Wireless Coverage – Cellco

99. Cellco operates in the 850 MHz (cellular) and 1900 MHz (PCS) frequency bands. Cellco’s minimum signal level is -85 dBm, which is adequate for in-vehicle coverage. The in-building signal level is -75 dBm. (Applicants 1, Tab 7, Tab 8; Applicants 4, R. 22, 23)
100. The existing signal level in the area of the proposed sites ranges from -86 dBm to -104 dBm at cellular frequencies to -86 dBm to -112 dBm at PCS frequencies. (Applicants 4, R. 23)

101. There are significant gaps in Cellco's cellular and PCS coverage in the southern portion of Thompson. Cellco has antennas at the 237 and 227-foot level of a tower located at 61 Lowell Davis Road in Thompson, 2.42 miles northeast of Site A and 1.99 miles northeast of Site B; at the 146-foot level of a tower located at 154 Sayle Avenue in Putnam, 1.63 miles south of Site A and 2.08 miles south of Site B; and at the 267 foot level of a tower located at 1375 North Road in Killingly, 6.55 miles southeast of Site A and 6.82 miles southeast of Site B. (Applicants 1, p. 2; Applicants 4, R. 24)
102. Cellco would provide coverage from the proposed sites along nearby roadways shown in the following table (distance in linear miles).

Road	Site A – Cellular	Site A – PCS	Site B – Cellular	Site B - PCS
I-395	2.86	2.66	3.12	2.75
Route 200	1.51	1.2	1.0	0.89
Route 193	0.85	0.6	1.2	0.8
Route 12	3.28	2.65	3.3	2.88

(Applicants 1, pp. 3, 4)

103. From proposed Site A, Cellco would provide an overall cellular coverage footprint of 7.3 square miles and a PCS coverage footprint of 3.0 square miles. From proposed Site B, Cellco would provide an overall cellular coverage footprint of 7.0 square miles and a PCS coverage footprint of 3.1 square miles. (Applicants 1, pp. 3, 4)
104. A 140-foot tower located at the condominium property would provide similar coverage to that provided by the proposed Site B facility. (Tr. 1, p. 21)
105. Cellco estimates that available cellular spectrum in this area would be exhausted by the end of 2009. When cellular spectrum is exhausted, Cellco would have to put voice-transmitting capabilities on the PCS spectrum. (Applicants 4, R. 35)
106. Cellco's search for potential future sites in the area of the proposed project include: a site on a water tank along Route 131; a site southeast of the proposed Thompson facility in Putnam, along Route 44; and a raw land site in Woodstock along Route 197. The potential future site on a water tank along Route 131 would interact with the proposed facility; the other sites would not. (Tr. 1, pp. 21-24)
107. Cellco has filed an application (Docket 362) with the Council for a site in Putnam, along Route 44, southeast of the proposed Thompson facility. (Tr. 1, p. 22)

\\ctm\midat\projects\41240.47\graphics\figures\Thompson A and B aerial_map.pdf



**Proposed Verizon Wireless
Thompson 98 Site A & B
Riverside Drive
North Grosvenordale, Connecticut**

Figure 1. Aerial photograph of proposed Site A and Site B and surrounding area. (Applicants 5)

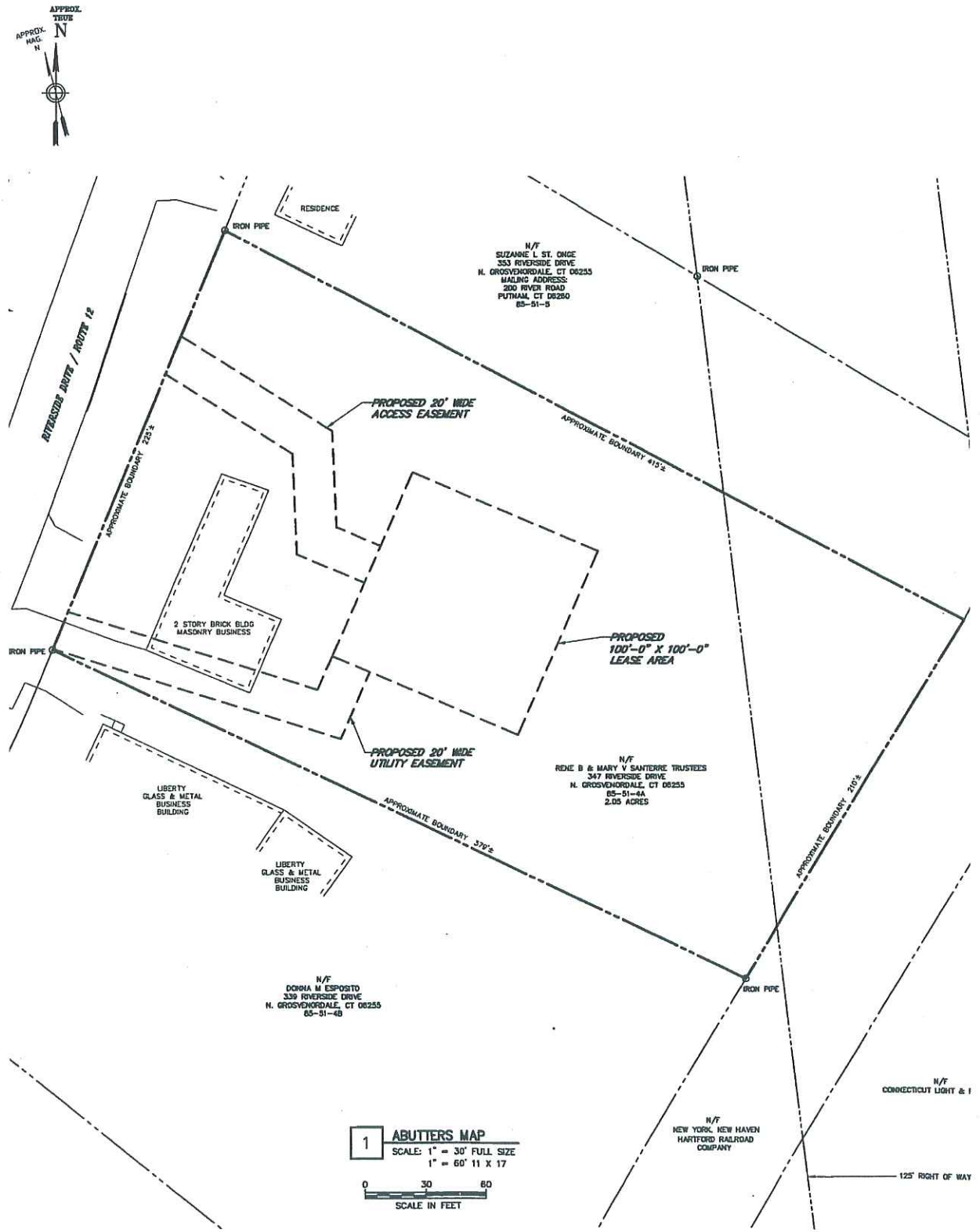


Figure 2. Property map of proposed Site A. (Applicants 1, Tab 1)

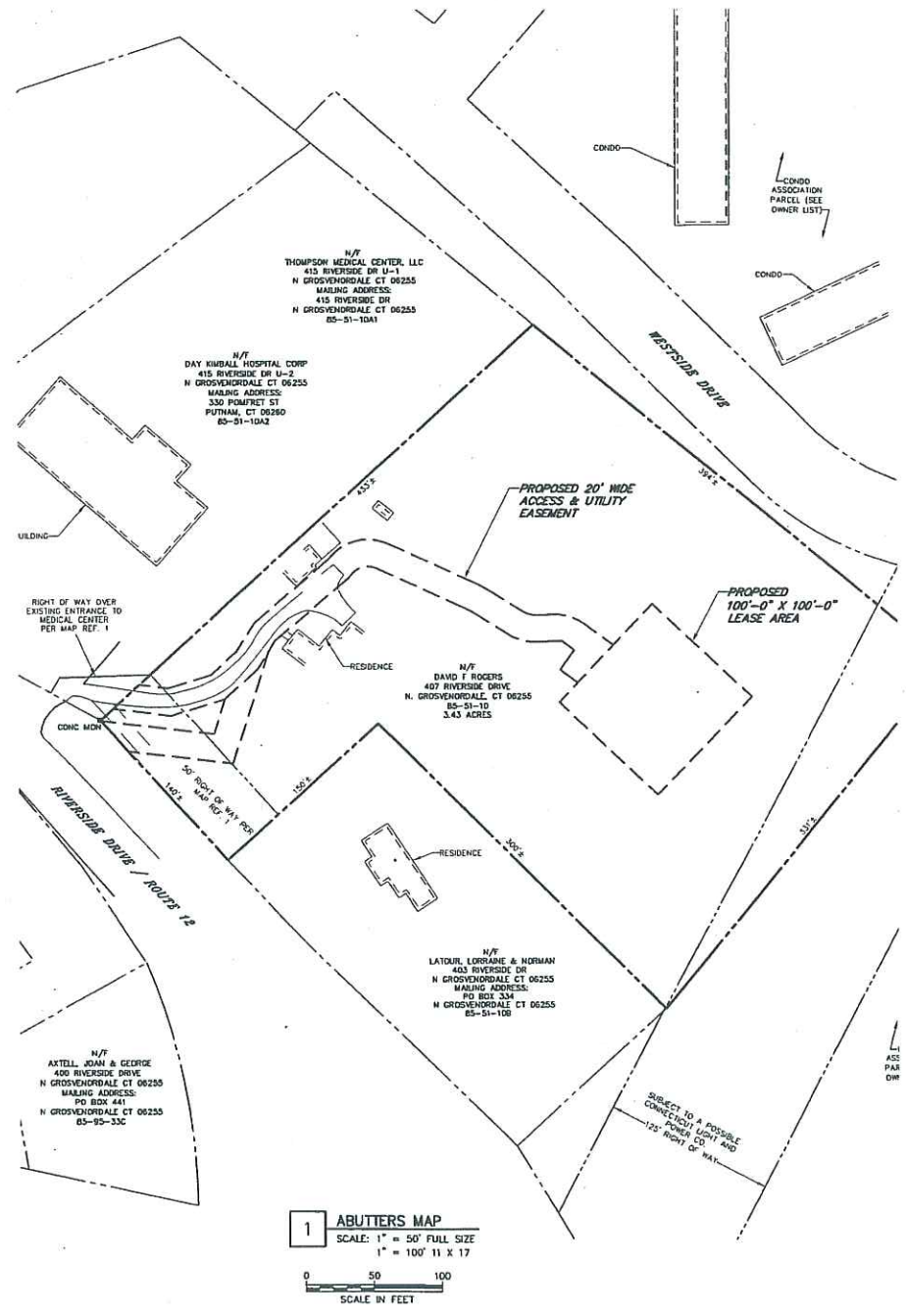


Figure 3. Property map of proposed Site B. (Applicants 1, Tab 2)

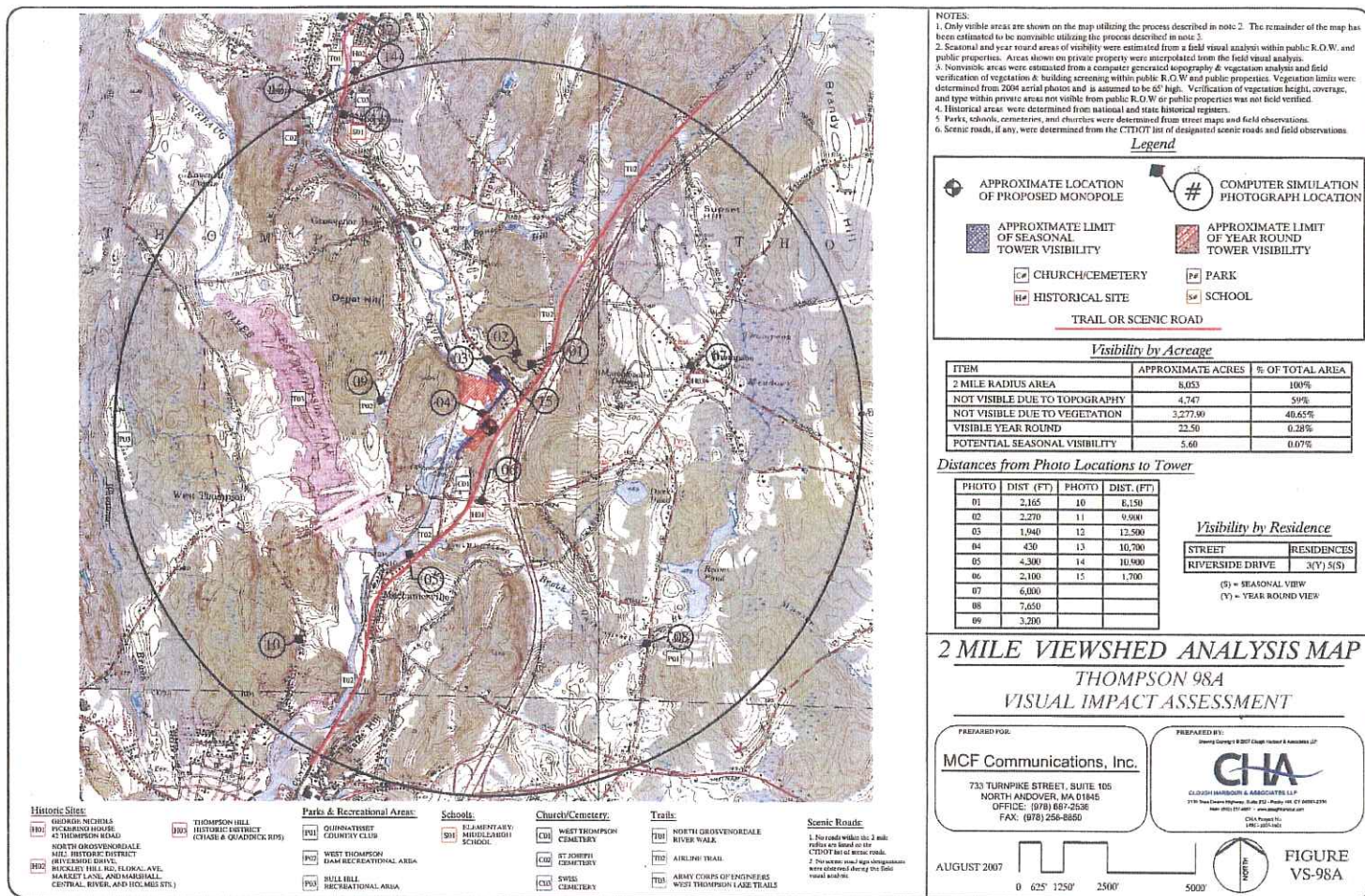


Figure 4. Viewshed analysis of a 140-foot tower at proposed Site A. (Applicants 1, Tab 11)

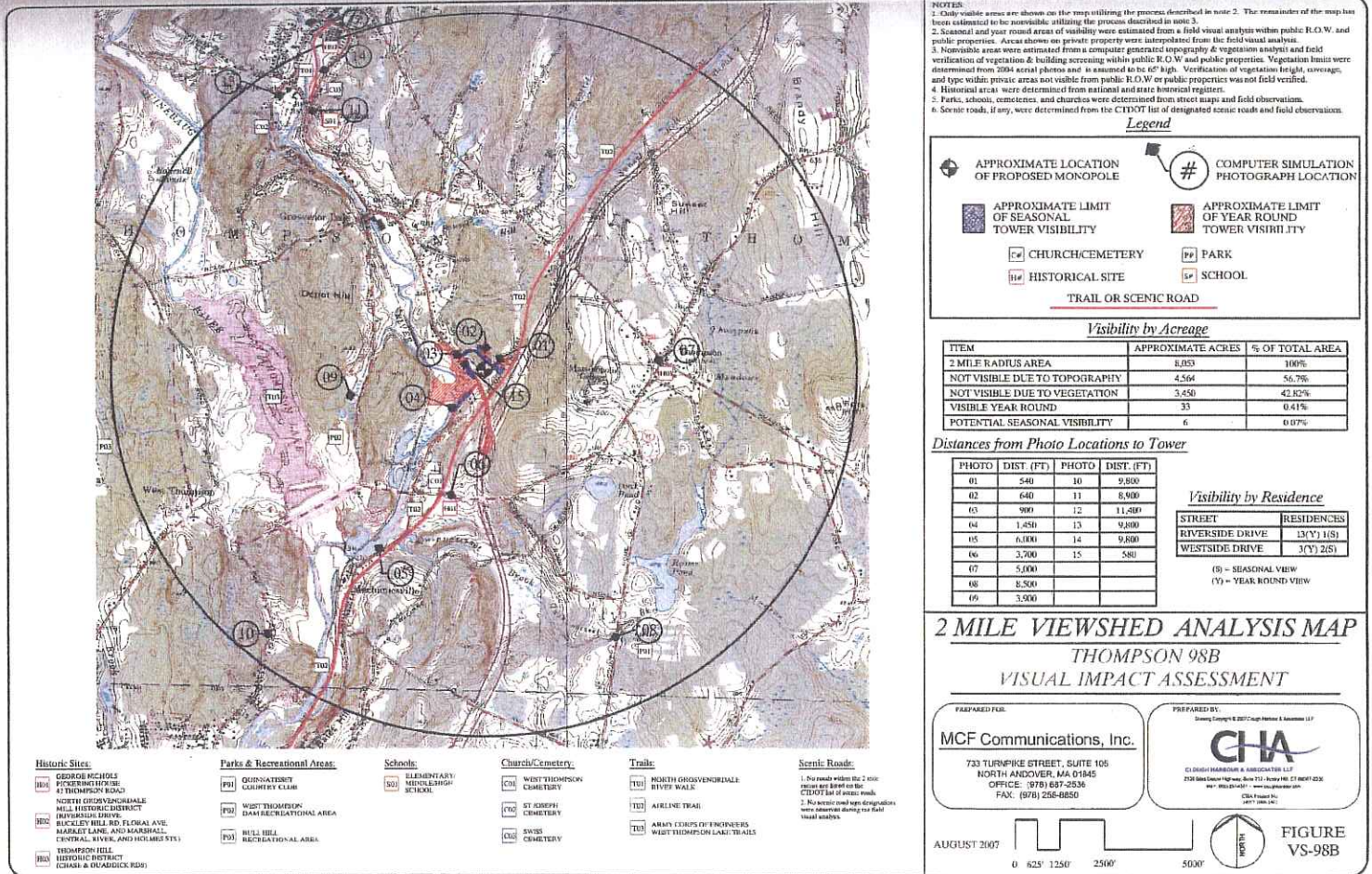


Figure 5. Viewshed analysis of a 140-foot tower at proposed Site B. (Applicants 1, Tab 11)

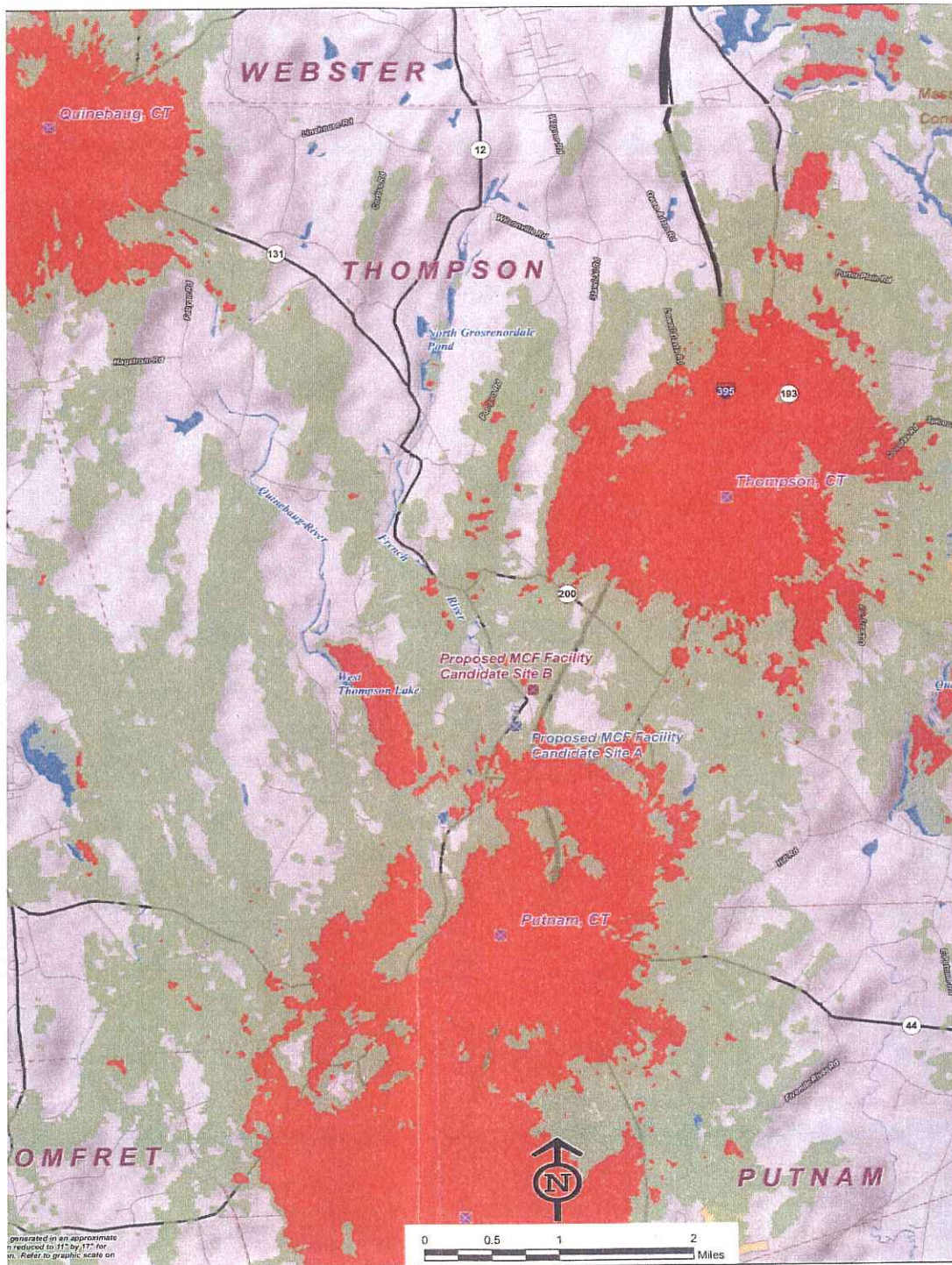


Figure 6. Existing Cellco cellular coverage near the proposed sites. (Applicants 1, Tab 8)

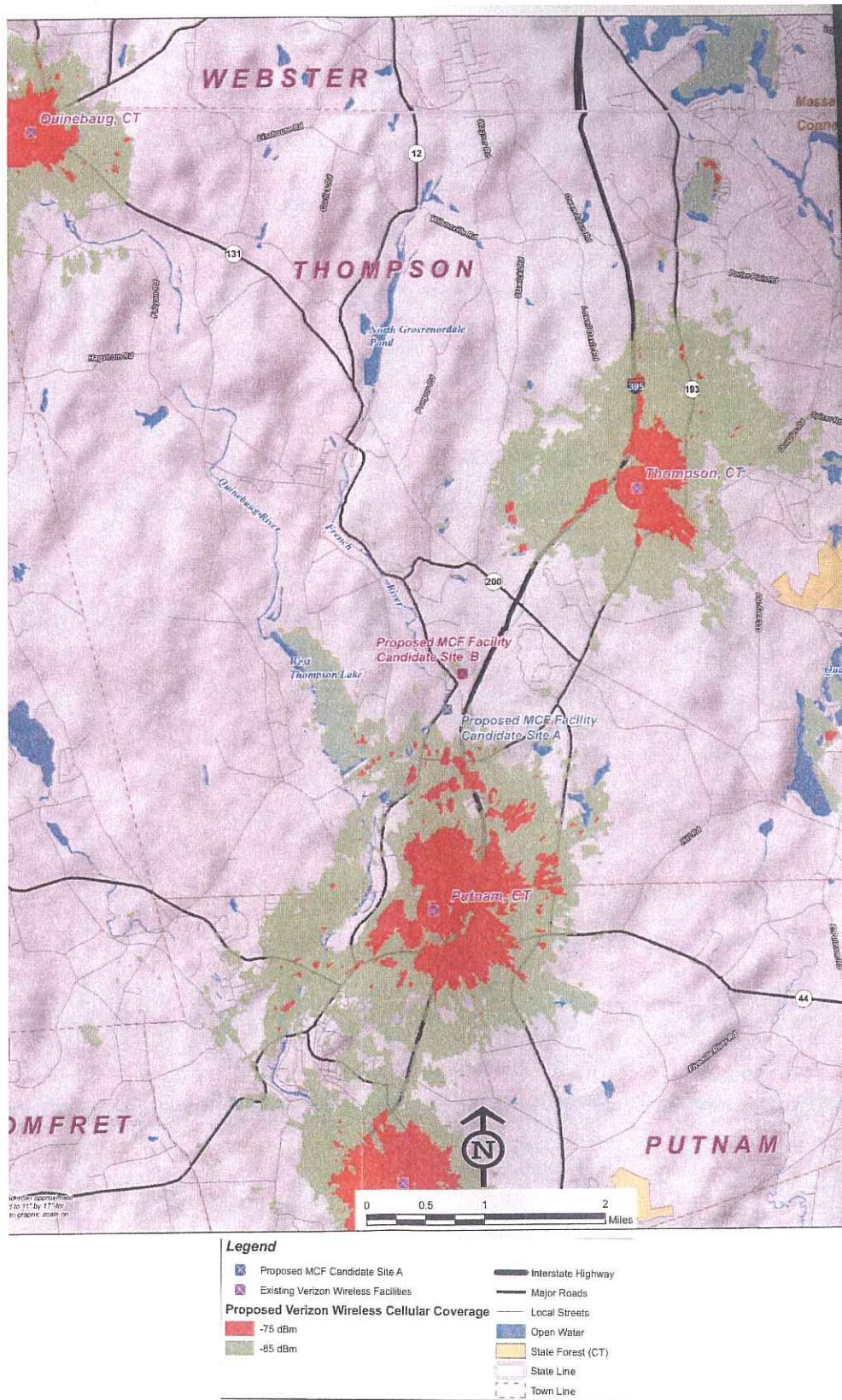


Figure 7. Existing Cellco PCS coverage near the proposed sites. (Applicants 1, Tab 8)

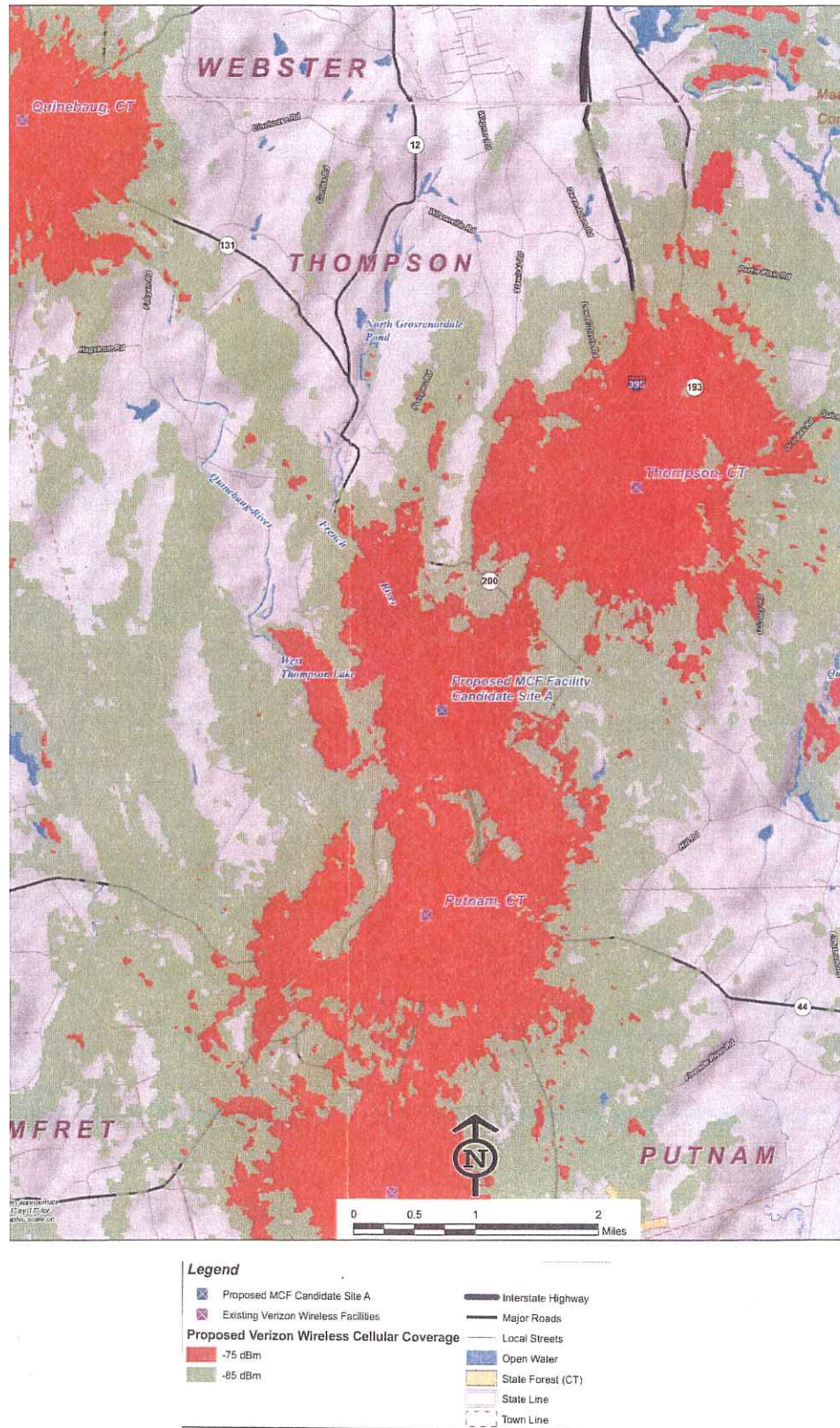


Figure 8. Cellco's existing and proposed cellular coverage from Site A at 140 feet agl. (Applicants 1, Tab 8)

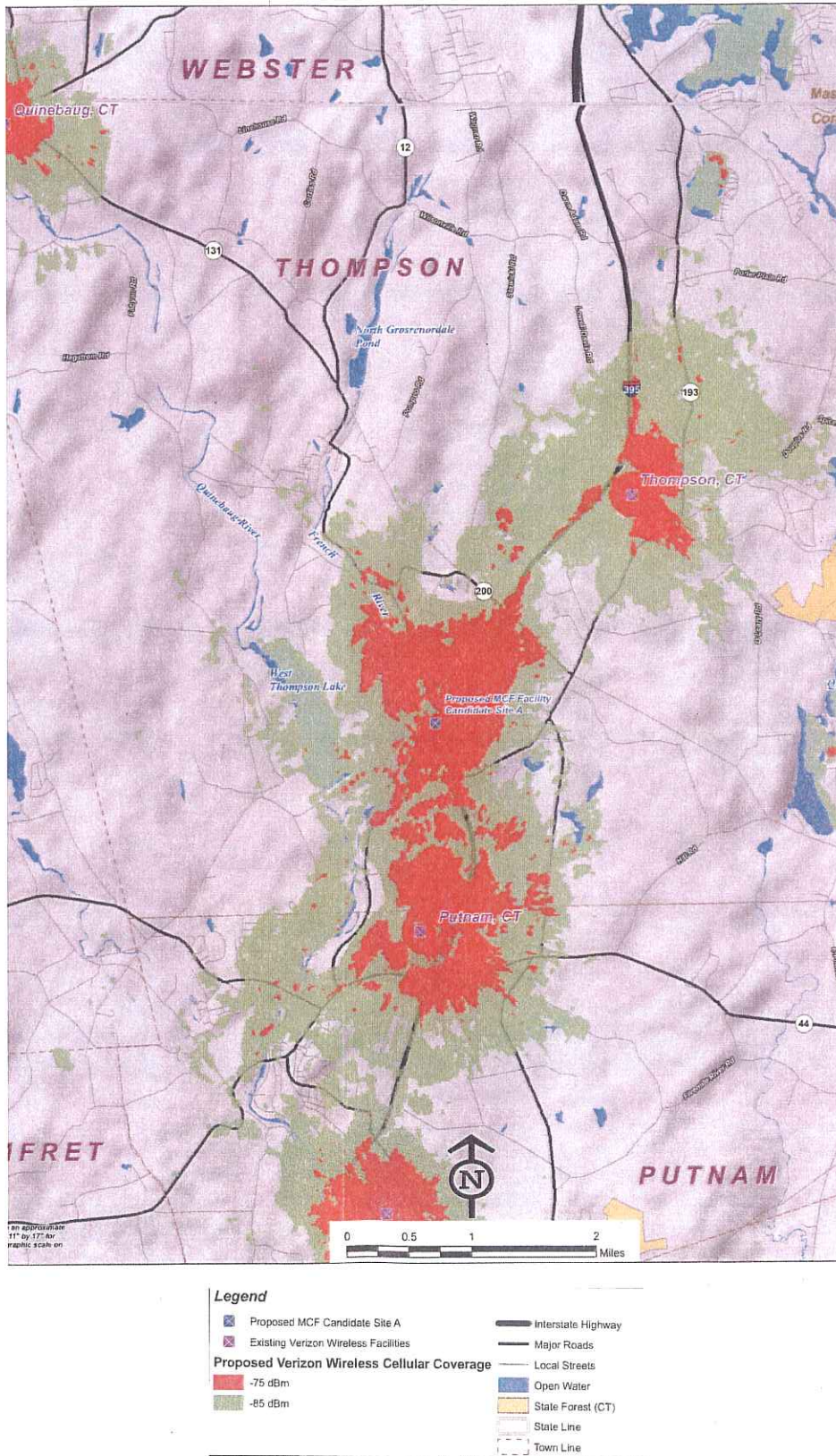


Figure 9. Cellco's existing and proposed PCS coverage from Site A at 140 feet agl. (Applicants 1, Tab 8)

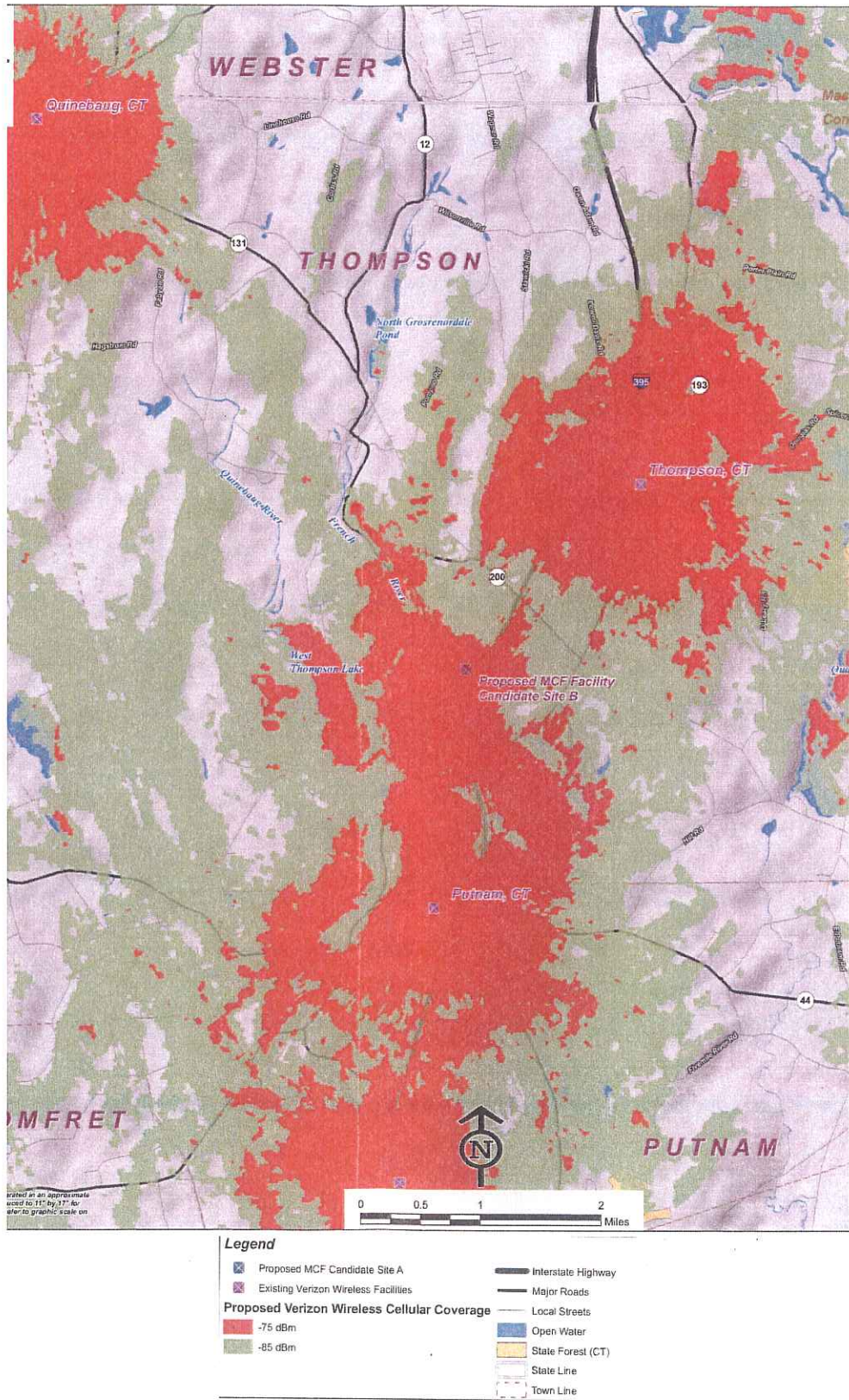


Figure 10. Cellco's existing and proposed cellular coverage from Site B at 140 feet agl. (Applicants 1, Tab 8)

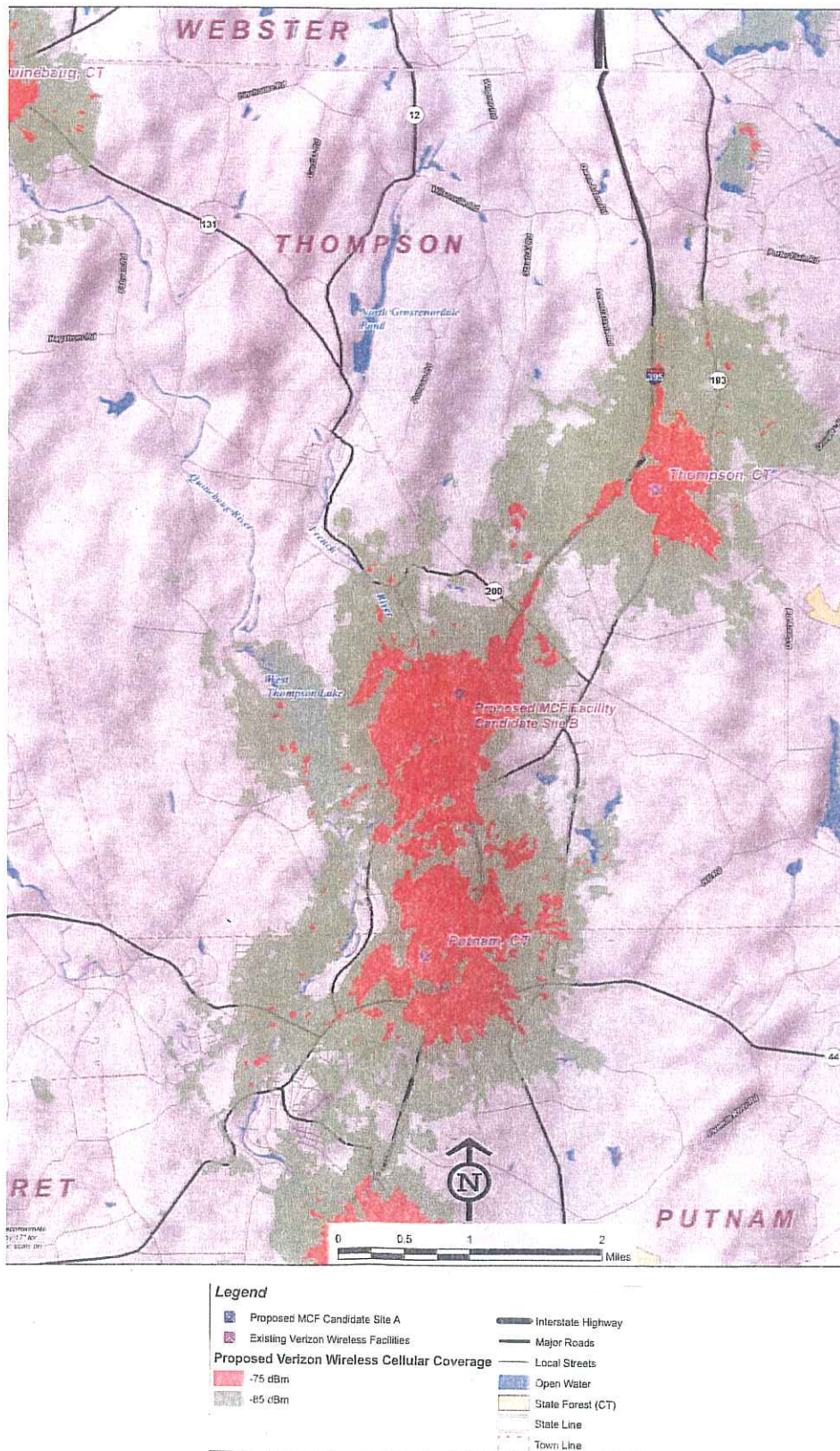


Figure 11. Cellco's existing and proposed PCS coverage from site B at 140 feet agl. (Applicants 1, Tab 8)

<p>DOCKET NO. 358 – MCF Communications bg, Inc. and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility at one of two locations located at 347 Riverside Drive (Route 12)- Site A, and 407 Riverside Drive (Route 12)- Site B, Thompson, Connecticut.</p>	<p>} Connecticut } Siting } Council</p>
	<p>August 7, 2008</p>

Opinion

On February 25, 2008, MCF Communications bg, Inc. (MCF) and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Cellco) collectively referred to as the “Applicants,” applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) for the construction, maintenance and operation of a wireless telecommunications facility to be located in the Town of Thompson, Connecticut. Site A is proposed at 347 Riverside Drive (Route 12) and Site B is proposed at 407 Riverside Drive (Route 12).

The intervenor in this proceeding is Thompson Hills West Condominium Association (Association). The Association argued that a third site should be considered on its property.

The proposed facility would be used to provide cellular and personal communication services coverage along Interstate 395, Route 200, Route 193 and Route 12, as well as local roads in the southern portion of Thompson.

At either site, MCF would construct a 140-foot monopole within a 70-foot by 70-foot compound. Cellco would locate antennas at the 137-foot level of the tower and install equipment within a 12-foot by 30-foot shelter located at the base of the tower within the compound. The tower and equipment compound would be designed to accommodate the antennas and equipment of three additional carriers and the town’s public safety entities.

Proposed Site A is located in the central portion of a commercially zoned, two-acre parcel that is currently used by D&R Tire & Masonry Supply Co. for an office location and storage yard. Development of the proposed facility would not require grading. Access to the site would extend southeast from Riverside Drive along an existing gravel driveway for approximately 205 feet then over a new gravel driveway for an additional approximately 20 feet. Utilities would extend underground to the site from an existing overhead pole within the southern portion of the parcel. One new 40-foot utility pole would be installed south of the proposed Site A compound to allow installation of underground utilities. The Applicants could install utilities underground from the existing utility pole northwest of proposed Site A.

The tower setback radius of the proposed Site A tower would extend onto adjacent properties to the north and south by approximately 32 feet. The tower setback radius would also include the northern portion of the Liberty Glass & Metal building that is located on an adjacent property south of the proposed site and most of the two-story building that is on the host property.

MCF would design the proposed Site A tower with a yield point at approximately 80 feet above ground level to allow the tower to remain on the host property in the event of a tower failure.

Proposed Site B is located in the eastern portion of a residentially zoned, three acre parcel that is currently used as a residential property. Development of the proposed site and access road would require grading. Access to the site would extend east from Riverside Drive along an existing gravel driveway for approximately 230 feet, then over a new gravel driveway for an additional approximately 235 feet. MCF

proposes to install utilities partially overhead and partially underground to the site from an existing overhead pole along Riverside Drive. Two new 40-foot utility poles would be installed for a distance of approximately 30 feet. The underground portion of the utility installation would be along the proposed access road for a distance of approximately 230 feet. However, utilities could be installed underground along the access road to the site.

The tower setback radius would remain within the Site B host property.

The proposed Site A tower would be visible year-round from approximately 22.5 acres and seasonally visible from an additional approximately 5.6 acres within a two-mile radius of the site. The tower is expected to be visible year-round from three residences along Riverside Drive and seasonally from an additional five residences on Riverside Drive.

None of the units at the Thompson Hills West Condominium complex would have a view of the proposed Site A tower. However, a portion of a driveway to one section of the condominium complex affords a view of the proposed Site A tower along the CL&P transmission line right-of-way.

The proposed Site B tower would be visible year-round from approximately 33 acres and seasonally visible from an additional six acres within a two-mile radius of the site. The tower is expected to be visible year-round from 13 residences along Riverside Drive and three residences along West Side Drive. The tower would be seasonally visible from one additional residence on Riverside Drive and two additional residences on West Side Drive.

The Thompson Hill West Condominium complex is adjacent to the proposed Site B facility and 28 of the 42 units located at the complex would have a view of the tower. An additional six units would have a seasonal view of the proposed tower.

Nine residences are located within 1,000 feet of the proposed Site A tower, the nearest of which is approximately 188 feet northwest of the site. There are 25 residences within 1,000 feet of the proposed Site B tower. The nearest off-site residence to the Site B facility is approximately 216 feet to the southwest.

Vegetation in the general area where both sites are located consists of 50-foot to 60-foot deciduous/coniferous trees; however, the Site A host property contains little or no vegetation. Construction of the Site A facility would not require the removal of trees, while four trees would be removed for the construction of the Site B facility.

Neither proposed site would result in impact to wetland areas. The nearest wetland to Site A is associated with the French River, located northwest of the site across Riverside Road. The nearest wetland to Site B is located approximately 122 feet southwest of the proposed compound, within the existing CL&P right-of-way. MCF would install appropriate erosion and sedimentation controls to be maintained throughout the construction process.

Neither proposed facility would have an effect on historic, architectural or archeological resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

No federally listed endangered or threatened species are known to occur in Windham County. Neither proposed site is within the state-listed species or significant natural community areas.

We find that roads in the vicinity of the proposed sites, Interstate 395, Route 200, Route 193, Route 12, and surrounding areas lack wireless telecommunications coverage, resulting in a need for a tower in

southern Thompson. The construction and operation of a tower at either proposed Site A or Site B would enable carriers to provide coverage to this area, as coverage from both sites is comparable.

Based upon all the evidence presented, we find Site A to be superior. Site A is within a commercially zoned district, with significantly fewer residential properties in the surrounding area. Visibility of the Site A tower would impact a smaller area and fewer residential properties than a tower at Site B. A tower located at Site B would have a greater visual impact on the Thompson Hills West Condominium complex. Also, Site A requires no grading or tree-clearing compared to Site B, which would require such activities. Finally, the Town of Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission has expressed a preference for the construction of a tower at Site A, rather than Site B, due to existing commercial zoning and existing commercial/industrial uses surrounding the property.

According to a methodology prescribed by the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology Bulletin No. 65E, Edition 97-01 (August 1997), the combined radio frequency power density levels of the antennas proposed to be installed on the tower have been calculated by Council staff to amount to 8.3% of the FCC's Maximum Permissible Exposure, as measured at the base of the tower. This percentage is well below federal and state standards established for the frequencies used by wireless companies. If federal or state standards change, the Council will require that the tower be brought into compliance with such standards. The Council will require that the power densities be recalculated in the event other carriers add antennas to the tower. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 prohibits any state or local agency from regulating telecommunications towers on the basis of the environmental effects of radio frequency emissions to the extent that such towers and equipment comply with FCC's regulations concerning such emissions.

Based on the record in this proceeding, the Council finds that the effects associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the telecommunications facility at proposed Site A, including effects on the natural environment; ecological integrity and balance; public health and safety; scenic, historic, and recreational values; forests and parks; air and water purity; and fish and wildlife are not disproportionate either alone or cumulatively with other effects when compared to need, are not in conflict with policies of the State concerning such effects, and are not sufficient reason to deny this application. Therefore, the Council will issue a Certificate for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a 140-foot monopole telecommunications facility at Site A, 347 Riverside Drive (Route 12), Thompson, Connecticut, and deny the certification of Site B.

<p>DOCKET NO. 358 – MCF Communications bg, Inc. and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility at one of two locations located at 347 Riverside Drive (Route 12)- Site A, and 407 Riverside Drive (Route 12)- Site B, Thompson, Connecticut</p>	<p>} Connecticut } Siting } Council } August 7, 2008</p>
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Decision and Order

Pursuant to the foregoing Findings of Fact and Opinion, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) finds that the effects associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of a telecommunications facility, including effects on the natural environment; ecological integrity and balance; public health and safety; scenic, historic, and recreational values; forests and parks; air and water purity; and fish and wildlife are not disproportionate, either alone or cumulatively with other effects, when compared to need, are not in conflict with the policies of the State concerning such effects, and are not sufficient reason to deny the application, and therefore directs that a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need, as provided by General Statutes § 16-50k, be issued to MCF Communications bg, Inc. and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Cellco), hereinafter referred to as the Certificate Holders, for a telecommunications facility at Site A, located at 347 Riverside Drive, Thompson, Connecticut. The Council denies certification of Site B, located at 407 Riverside Drive, Thompson, Connecticut.

The facility shall be constructed, operated, and maintained substantially as specified in the Council’s record in this matter, and subject to the following conditions:

1. The tower shall be constructed as a monopole, no taller than necessary to provide the proposed telecommunications services, sufficient to accommodate the antennas of Cellco and other entities, both public and private, but such tower shall not exceed a height of 140 feet above ground level. The height at the top of the antennas shall not exceed 140 feet above ground level.
2. The Certificate Holders shall prepare a Development and Management (D&M) Plan for this site in compliance with Sections 16-50j-75 through 16-50j-77 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The D&M Plan shall be served on the Town of Thompson for comment, and all parties and intervenors as listed in the service list, and submitted to and approved by the Council prior to the commencement of facility construction and shall include:
 - a) a final site plan(s) of site development to include specifications for the tower, tower foundation, antennas, equipment compound, radio equipment, access road, utility line, and landscaping; and
 - b) construction plans for site clearing, grading, landscaping, water drainage, and erosion and sedimentation controls consistent with the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, as amended.
3. The Certificate Holders shall, prior to the commencement of operation, provide the Council worst-case modeling of the electromagnetic radio frequency power density of all proposed entities’ antennas at the closest point of uncontrolled access to the tower base, consistent with Federal Communications Commission, Office of Engineering and Technology, Bulletin No. 65, August 1997. The Certificate Holders shall ensure a recalculated report of the electromagnetic radio frequency power density be submitted to the Council if and when circumstances in operation cause a change in power density above the levels calculated and provided pursuant to this Decision and Order.

4. Upon the establishment of any new State or federal radio frequency standards applicable to frequencies of this facility, the facility granted herein shall be brought into compliance with such standards.
5. The Certificate Holders shall permit public or private entities to share space on the tower for fair consideration, or shall provide any requesting entity with specific legal, technical, environmental, or economic reasons precluding such tower sharing.
6. The Certificate Holders shall provide reasonable space on the tower for no compensation for any Town of Thompson public safety services (police, fire and medical services), provided such use can be accommodated and is compatible with the structural integrity of the tower.
7. Unless otherwise approved by the Council, if the facility authorized herein is not fully constructed and providing wireless services within eighteen months from the date of the mailing of the Council's Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order (collectively called "Final Decision"), this Decision and Order shall be void, and the Certificate Holders shall dismantle the tower and remove all associated equipment or reapply for any continued or new use to the Council before any such use is made. The time between the filing and resolution of any appeals of the Council's Final Decision shall not be counted in calculating this deadline.
8. Any request for extension of the time period referred to in Condition 7 shall be filed with the Council not later than 60 days prior to the expiration date of this Certificate and shall be served on all parties and intervenors, as listed in the service list, and the Town of Thompson. Any proposed modifications to this Decision and Order shall likewise be so served.
9. If the facility ceases to provide wireless services for a period of one year, this Decision and Order shall be void, and the Certificate Holders shall dismantle the tower and remove all associated equipment or reapply for any continued or new use to the Council before any such use is made.
10. The Certificate Holders shall remove any nonfunctioning antenna, and associated antenna equipment, within 60 days of the date the antenna ceased to function.
11. In accordance with Section 16-50j-77 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Certificate Holders shall provide the Council with written notice two weeks prior to the commencement of site construction activities. In addition, the Certificate Holders shall provide the Council with written notice of the completion of site construction and the commencement of site operation.

Pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50p, the Council hereby directs that a copy of the Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order be served on each person listed below, and notice of issuance shall be published in the Norwich Bulletin.

By this Decision and Order, the Council disposes of the legal rights, duties, and privileges of each party named or admitted to the proceeding in accordance with Section 16-50j-17 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

The parties and intervenors to this proceeding are:

Applicant

MCF Communications bg, Inc. and Cellco Partnership d/b/a
Verizon Wireless

Representatives

Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq.
Robinson & Cole LLP
280 Trumbull Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3597
(860) 275-8200
kbaldwin@rc.com

Brad Gannon
MCF Communications bg, Inc.
733 Turnpike Street, Suite 105
North Andover, MA 01845

Sandy Carter, Regulatory Manager
Verizon Wireless
99 East River Drive
East Hartford, CT 06108
alexandria.carter@verizonwireless.com

Intervenor

Thompson Hills West Condominium Association

Representative

Richard W. Thunberg Jr.
Board President
Thompson Hills West Condominium
Association
Board of Trustee's
13 Westside Drive, Suite 92
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255
(860) 923-1919
WThunberg@aol.com

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned members of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) hereby certify that they have heard this case, or read the record thereof, in **DOCKET NO. 358** – MCF Communications bg, Inc. and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility at one of two locations located at 347 Riverside Drive (Route 12)- Site A, and 407 Riverside Drive (Route 12)- Site B, Thompson, Connecticut; and voted as follows to approve the proposed Site A, located at 347 Riverside Drive (Route 12), Thompson, Connecticut, and deny certification of the proposed Site B located at 407 Riverside Drive (Route 12), Thompson Connecticut:

Council Members

Vote Cast




Daniel F. Caruso, Chairman

Y



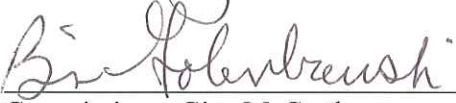
Colin C. Tait, Vice Chairman

Y



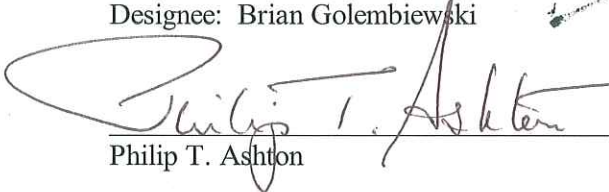
Commissioner Donald W. Downes
Designee: Gerald J. Heffernan

Y



Commissioner Gina McCarthy
Designee: Brian Golembiewski

Y

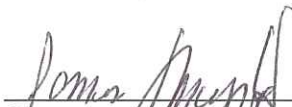


Philip T. Ashton

Y

Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.

Absent



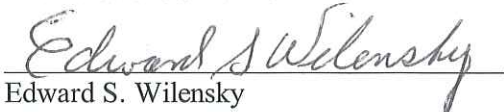
James J. Murphy, Jr.

Y



Dr. Barbara Currier Bell

Y



Edward S. Wilensky

Y

Dated at New Britain, Connecticut, August 7, 2008.

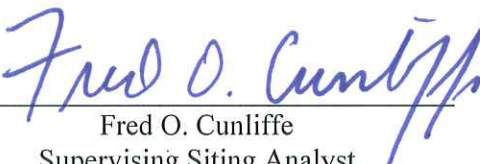
STATE OF CONNECTICUT)

ss. New Britain, Connecticut :

COUNTY OF HARTFORD)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order issued by the Connecticut Siting Council, State of Connecticut.

ATTEST:



Fred O. Cunliffe
Supervising Siting Analyst
Connecticut Siting Council

I certify that a copy of the Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order in Docket No. 358 has been forwarded by Certified First Class Return Receipt Requested mail on August 11, 2008, to all parties and intervenors of record as listed on the attached service list, dated May 22, 2008.

ATTEST:



Lisa Fontaine
Fiscal Administrative Officer
Connecticut Siting Council

LIST OF PARTIES AND INTERVENORS
SERVICE LIST

Status Granted	Status Holder (name, address & phone number)	Representative (name, address & phone number)
Applicant	MCF Communications bg, Inc. and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless	<p>Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq. Robinson & Cole LLP 280 Trumbull Street Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3597 (860) 275-8200 kbalwin@rc.com</p> <p>Brad Gannon MCF Communications bg, Inc. 733 Turnpike Street, Suite 105 North Andover, MA 01845</p> <p>Sandy Carter, Regulatory Manager Verizon Wireless 99 East River Drive East Hartford, CT 06108 alexandria.carter@verizonwireless.com</p>
Intervenor (Approved on 04/24/08)	Thompson Hills West Condominium Association	<p>Richard W. Thunberg Jr. Board President Thompson Hills West Condominium Association Board of Trustee's 13 Westside Drive, Suite 92 North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 (860) 923-1919 WThunberg@aol.com</p>



Daniel F. Caruso
Chairman

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

Internet: ct.gov/csc

August 11, 2008

Brad Gannon
MCF Communications bg, Inc.
733 Turnpike Street, Suite 105
North Andover, MA 01845

RE: **DOCKET NO. 358** – MCF Communications bg, Inc. and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility at one of two locations located at 347 Riverside Drive (Route 12)- Site A, and 407 Riverside Drive (Route 12)- Site B, Thompson, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Gannon:

By its Decision and Order dated August 7, 2008, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) granted a Certificate for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 347 Riverside Drive (Route 12)- Site A, Thompson, Connecticut.

Enclosed are the Council's Certificate, Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order.

Very truly yours,

S. Derek Phelps
Executive Director

SDP/CML/jb

Enclosures (4)

c: Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq., Robinson & Cole
Sandy Carter, Regulatory Manager, Verizon



Daniel F. Caruso
Chairman

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

Internet: ct.gov/csc

**CERTIFICATE
OF
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED
DOCKET NO. 358**

Pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50k, as amended, the Connecticut Siting Council hereby issues a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to MCF Communications bg, Inc. for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 347 Riverside Drive (Route 12)- Site A, Thompson, Connecticut.

This Certificate is issued in accordance with and subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Decision and Order of the Council on August 7, 2008.

By order of the Council,


Daniel F. Caruso, Chairman

August 7, 2008



Daniel F. Caruso
Chairman

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

Internet: ct.gov/csc

August 11, 2008

TO: Classified/Legal Supervisor
358080610
Norwich Bulletin (Daily)
66 Franklin Street
Norwich, CT 06360

FROM: Jessica Brito, Office Assistant

RE: **DOCKET NO. 358** – MCF Communications bg, Inc. and Cellco Partnership
d/b/a Verizon Wireless application for a Certificate of Environmental
Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation
of a telecommunications facility at one of two locations located at 347 Riverside
Drive (Route 12)- Site A, and 407 Riverside Drive (Route 12)- Site B,
Thompson, Connecticut.

Please publish the attached notice as soon as possible, but not on Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday.

Please send an affidavit of publication and invoice to my attention.

Thank you.

JB



Daniel F. Caruso
Chairman

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

Internet: ct.gov/csc

NOTICE

Pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50p (d), the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) announces that, on August 7, 2008, the Council issued Findings of Fact, an Opinion, and a Decision and Order approving an application from MCF Communications 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 telecommunications facility located at 347 Riverside Drive (Route 12)- Site A, Thompson, Connecticut.

This application record is available for public inspection in the Council's office, Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut.