

Site Search Summary
(Thompson 2)

Section 16-50j-74(j) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies requires the submission of a statement that describes “the narrowing process by which other possible sites were considered and eliminated.” In accordance with this requirement, descriptions of the general site search process, the identification of the applicable search area and the alternative locations considered for development of the proposed telecommunications facility in Thompson are provided below.

Site Search Process

To initiate its site selection process in an area where a coverage or capacity problem has been identified, Cellco first establishes a “site search ring” or “site search area.” In any search ring or area, Cellco seeks to avoid the unnecessary proliferation of towers and to reduce the potential adverse environmental effects of the cell site, while at the same time maximizing the quality of service provided from a particular facility. These objectives are achieved by initially locating existing towers and other sufficiently tall structures within and near the site search area. If any are found, they are evaluated to determine whether they are capable of supporting Cellco's telecommunications equipment at a location and elevation that satisfies its technical requirements.

There are currently four (4) existing telecommunications facilities and one (1) recently approved telecommunications facility within approximately four (4) miles of the Thompson 2 Facility location. These existing and proposed facilities, however, cannot provide the coverage or capacity relief needed in the identified problem areas, along I-395 and portions of Routes 12, 193 and 200 in the southerly Thompson area. Cellco currently shares or intends to share three of the five sites listed below. (See Attachment 8).

	<u>OWNER/OPERATOR</u>	<u>FACILITY TYPE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CELLCO ANTENNA HEIGHT</u>
1.	Telemedia	250' Guyed Lattice	61 Lowell Davis Road Thompson, CT	237'/227'
2.	Omnipoint Communications	140' Monopole	720 Thompson Road Thompson, CT	N/A
3.	Department of Public Safety	180' Lattice	97 Mount Hill Road Thompson, CT	N/A
4.	SBA Towers	180' Monopole	154 Sayle Avenue Putnam, CT	146'

<u>OWNER/OPERATOR</u>	<u>FACILITY TYPE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CELLCO ANTENNA HEIGHT</u>
5. MCF Inc.	150' Monopole (Approved in Council Docket No. 344)	Rich Road Thompson, CT	140'

If existing towers or structures are not available or technically feasible, other locations are investigated where the construction of a new tower is required to provide adequate elevation to satisfy a carrier's specific requirements. The list of available locations may be further reduced if, after preliminary negotiations, the property owners withdraw a site from further consideration. From among the remaining locations, the proposed sites are selected by eliminating those that have greater potential for adverse environmental effects and fewer benefits to the public (i.e., those requiring taller towers, possibly with lights; those with substantial adverse impacts on densely populated residential areas; and those with limited ability to share space with other public or private telecommunications entities). It should be noted that in any given site search, the weight afforded to factors considered in the selection process will vary depending upon the availability and nature of sites within the search area.

Identification of the Thompson 2 Search Area

The purpose of the proposed Thompson 2 Facility is to provide reliable wireless coverage to a significant area currently unserved by Cellco's PCS and underserved by Cellco's cellular service along I-395, State Routes 12, 193 and 200 as well as the local roads in southern Thompson. Cellco's existing Thompson and Putnam Facilities provide limited coverage along I-395, State Routes 12, 193 and 202, near or in Cellco's Thompson 2 search area, particularly, at PCS frequencies. The significant coverage gaps referenced above were identified using best server propagation modeling tools. These tools are fine-tuned regularly through the use base-line drive data.

Sites Investigated in the Thompson 2 Area

In addition to the existing communications facilities listed above, Cellco identified and investigated several sites in the Thompson/Putnam area. These sites are described below.

Raw Land Sites Investigated

1. 347 Riverside Drive – This is the location of the Site A Facility. The tower and related compound will be located to the rear portion of the existing masonry contractor storage yard. A 140-foot tower at this location would satisfy Cellco's coverage objectives in the area.
2. 407 Riverside Drive – This is the location of the Site B Facility. The tower and related compound will be located in the southeast portion of this residential parcel. A 140-foot tower at this location would satisfy Cellco's coverage

objectives in the area.

3. Marianopolis Preparatory School – The Marianopolis School property contains approximately 282 acres and is located south of Chase Road and north of I-395. The Marianopolis School property is located within the Thompson Historic District. Both the Local Historic District Commission and the State Historic Preservation Officer expressed concerns that a tower at this location may have an adverse effect on the Town’s Historic District. This site was, therefore, rejected.
4. Thomas Hill Condominiums – MCF explored the use of a portion of Thomas Hill Condominium property to the northeast of the Site B Facility. The Condominium Association was not interested in leasing space for a tower site.
5. 129 Robbins Road – This site is located to the south of the Site A and Site B Facility locations, just west of the Route 21/Robbins Road intersection. This site is located too far south to satisfy coverage objectives in the south Thompson area and would provide redundant coverage with Cellco’s existing Putnam Facility.

Existing Structures Investigated

6. Thompson Congregational Church – Cellco explored the use of the steeple of the Thompson Congregational Church. The steeple was rejected however, because it was located too far from I-395 and at its existing height, could not satisfy Cellco’s coverage objective in the area.
7. Rachel Drive Water Tank – Early in the site search process Cellco explored the use of an existing 80-foot water tank off Rachel Drive in Thompson. This structure was too low and too far west of I-395 to satisfy coverage objectives in the south Thompson area.

