

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE:

APPLICATION OF CELLCO PARTNERSHIP : DOCKET NO. 361
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 OFF :
NORFOLK ROAD (ROUTE 44), :
WINCHESTER, CONNECTICUT :

RECEIVED
JUN 20 2008
CONNECTICUT
SITING COUNCIL

JUNE 20, 2008

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

On June 3, 2008, the Connecticut Siting Council ("Council") issued Pre-Hearing Interrogatories to the Applicant, Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless ("Cellco"), relating to the above-captioned docket. Below are the Cellco's responses.

Question No. 1

Did Cellco receive return receipts for all adjacent landowners listed in Application Attachment 5? If not, describe any additional effort to serve notice.

Response

Yes.

Question No. 2

When did Cellco first establish a search area for the proposed site?

Response

The Winchester search area was established on June 30, 2004.

Question No. 3

Depict the Knights of Columbus properties, listed in Application Exhibit 9, on a topographic map.

Response

The Knights of Columbus ("KC") property is located between Marshall Street and Spencer Hill Road, to the east of the proposed Winchester Facility. The USGS topographic map included in Attachment 1 of these responses depicts the location of two of the three areas that Cellco investigated on the KC parcel. A third area, roughly between the two locations depicted, was also explored but never formally identified on a map.

Question No. 4

Would blasting be required for the construction of the proposed site? Provide estimates of cut and fill.

Response

Blasting will not be required for the construction of the proposed site. Estimates for cut and fill are as follows:

Cut: 650 cubic yards

Fill: 200 cubic yards

Net: 450 cubic yards cut

Question No. 5

Page 2 of Application Exhibit 2 describes the site as maintaining a ground elevation between 1,050 and 1,150 feet AMSL. Does this information pertain to the compound area, compound and road, or the entire property?

Response

That is a range of ground elevations across the entire property as depicted on the USGS Topographic Quadrangle Map. The Site Plan and Access Road Profile (Plan Sheets C-1 and C-1B behind Tab 1 of the Application) show, more accurately, a ground elevation near Route 44 of approximately 998 feet AMSL and a ground elevation at the tower compound of 1,145 feet AMSL.

Question No. 6

Page 7 of Application Exhibit 1 states the access road would maintain a 50-foot setback radius from a nearby wetland. Is the portion of the proposed access road referred to in this statement of new construction or does it consist of an upgraded logging road?

Response

The portion of the access road referred to is a newly constructed portion of the site access drive. The existing logging road that is generally followed from Route 44 continues northward and crosses this wetland feature. The proposed design of the access road deviates from the existing logging road in order to avoid direct wetland impacts.

Question No. 7

What is the average slope of the access road? What are the maximum slopes of cut and fill along the access road?

Response

The average slope of the access road is 16.33%. The maximum slopes of cut and fill along the access road are as follows:

Maximum slope along access road in locations of proposed swales is 1:1.

Maximum slope along access road (locations of no proposed swale locations) is 1:3.

Question No. 8

Describe the type and quantity of drainage features to be installed to control run off from the access road.

Response

The site drains from the compound (elevation approximately 1145') toward the southeast (elevation approximately 900') through a wooded area as overland or shallow concentrated flow. The proposed storm drainage system consists of three roadside drainage channels, two culverts, and three "level spreaders" that will collect a total watershed of approximately 3.25 acres. Under proposed conditions, the stormwater will flow overland through the existing wooded areas into roadside drainage channels and/or culverts, then discharge overland by means of a level spreader.

Question No. 9

Is the wetland northwest of the proposed compound upgradient or downgradient from the compound?

Response

The wetland system located northwest of the proposed compound is located downgradient and drains to the northwest, away from the proposed compound.

Question No. 10

What is Cellco's minimum signal level threshold for in-building and in-vehicle use?

Response

Cellco's coverage thresholds are -75 dBm for reliable in-building service and -85 dBm for reliable in-vehicle service.

Question No. 11

Did Cellco perform a site drive test or base line drive test for the area? If yes, please provide.

Response

No. Baseline drive data are collected on a monthly basis. The results of the drive data are illustrated on the coverage plots provided behind Tab 7 in the Application.

Question No. 12

Does Cellco currently use fuel cells as back up generators at any of its Connecticut tower sites? If yes, identify such sites.

Response

No.

Question No. 13

Does Cellco plan to use a fuel cell at the proposed site or have any plans to install a fuel cell at any existing or future sites in Connecticut?

Response

Not at this time.

Question No. 14

Has the spring habitat survey related to the Roadside Skipper been conducted? If so, what are the results? Clarify the comments in the last paragraph of page 14.

Response

An initial inspection was performed earlier this spring and a final field inspection is scheduled for later this month (June) to confirm that the plant species utilized by the Roadside

Skipper are not present in sufficient quantities to provide suitable habitat for this rare species.

The results of this investigation will not be available until after the final field inspection.

Based on VHB's initial investigation of the site to determine if suitable habitat exists for the Roadside Skipper, it was determined that it is unlikely that such habitat exists. In the December 4, 2007 letter from DEP, it was suggested that if habitat for this rare species does exist then a survey of the species should be conducted. Unless the habitat investigation currently underway identifies potential habitat for this species, a field survey for this butterfly would not be required.

Question No. 15

Does the buffer area that encompasses the site on the NDDB map contained within Application Exhibit 1 relate to the Roadside Skipper or another species?

Response

DEP is reluctant to divulge species specific information to the public due to concern over collection of listed species. It appears to be reasonable to anticipate that the buffer area is related to this butterfly species, but this fact cannot be confirmed.

Question No. 16

The environmental reports contained in Application Exhibit 11 states the site lacks soil conditions to support populations of the small whorled pogonia. Describe the field test(s) and frequency and location of such test(s) to make this determination.

Response

As part of the wetland investigation, numerous soil test pits were dug by hand using a hand auger and spade. Soil pits generally consist of 12 inch to 18 inch diameter holes dug to a depth of approximately 24 inches. Soil test pits are typically dug every 100 linear feet along the

proposed access drive and at the four corners of the proposed lease area. When wetland conditions are encountered, generally two to three test holes are dug for each wetland flag position. Based on this high intensity soil investigation, sufficient field data was collected to determine that appropriate soil conditions do not exist for this federal and state listed rare species.

Question No. 17

Did the town comment on the proposal during the municipal consultation process? If so, please provide or summarize.

Response

Cellco has not received any comments from the Town of Winchester.

Question No. 18

Provide the methodology and input parameters used to obtain the power density figure presented on page 8 of Application Exhibit 1.

Response

See Attachment 2.

Question No. 19

How was the FAA Summary Report generated?

Response

The summary reports are generated by a computer program tool entitled "Airspace" which contains a master listing of all public and private landing facilities (airports, heliports, runways) as well as navigational facilities and aids taken directly from the FAA's database. This program is updated periodically, as necessary. When the specifics of a proposed tower location are entered into the program (latitude; longitude; ground elevation; and structure height) the

program evaluates whether the proposed tower exceeds any of the established FAA aviation standards, for example:

- Proximity to airport/heliport
- Glide slope of airport/heliport runway
- In air traffic flight path
- Proximity to navigational facilities

Height restrictions in place surrounding airports/runways are also evaluated for a proposed tower structure. As indicated in the summary report included behind Tab 13 of the Application, the proposed Winchester tower does not exceed (DNE) these FAA standards. The program will also notify you if a proposed facility requires a filing with the FAA.

Question No. 20

Provide a coverage plot, using the scale and thresholds in Application Attachment 7 that depicts coverage from existing/approved Cellco sites and the proposed site at a tower height of 130 feet.

Response

Included in Attachment 3 are the plots requested at both PCS and cellular frequencies.

Question No. 21

Describe Cellco's future plans to provide wireless coverage within a six-mile radius of the proposed site. Identify Cellco's tentative schedule to site such facilities.

Response

Cellco currently maintains six operating cell sites within six mile of the proposed Winchester Facility. Not all of these sites are shown on the coverage plots included in the Application. These existing sites include, Cellco's Winchester East, Barkhamsted West,

Colebrook, Colebrook Southwest and Norfolk East cell sites, all included on the plots; and the Torrington North cell site, which is not shown on the plots. In addition to these facilities, Cellco has a need for a facility along Route 8 in the Town of Winsted that would provide coverage between its existing Winchester East and Colebrook cell sites. To the west, Cellco has issued three search areas to its real estate consultants in the Town of Norfolk that would ultimately provide coverage along portions of Route 44, west of Cellco's Norfolk East cell site, and along Route 272 south of Route 44.

Each of Cellco's existing facilities mentioned above is currently operating only at PCS frequencies only. As the Council is aware, on May 30, 2008 Cellco acquired the Alltel Communications FCC cellular license (CT-1 RSA) for Litchfield County. Each of these existing facilities will be modified so that Cellco may provide service at both PCS and cellular frequencies throughout Litchfield County and the State of Connecticut.