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CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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July 25, 2008

TO: Council Members

FROM: S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director 

RE: **DOCKET NO. 365** - Optasite Towers LLC and Omnipoint Communications, Inc. application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 39 Maennerchor Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut.

I. Introduction

The application is from Optasite Towers LLC and Omnipoint Communications, Inc. for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility and associated equipment in the Taftville section of the City of Norwich, Connecticut.

The applicants' proposed facility is located on a 7 acre property at 39 Maennerchor Avenue. At this location, the applicants would erect a 120-foot steel monopole within a 65-foot by 65-foot compound. Omnipoint would install antennas at a centerline height of 117 feet.

II. Technical

The application includes relevant maps, a description of the proposed site, costs, a description of the environmental effects of the proposed construction, and health and safety information. The application meets statutory technical requirements for processing the application. Council staff believes additional information can be obtained through pre-hearing interrogatories. This project would not require an outside consultant.

III. Administrative Review

The applicant has stated that all service and filing requirements pursuant to General Statutes § 16-501 (b) have been fulfilled. The applicant stated that notice to the general public was published in the New London Day and the Norwich Bulletin.

IV. Procedural

The Council must schedule a hearing for the proceeding between 30 and 150 days after receipt of an application. The Council must also appoint a custodian of the docket and designate a place for the deposition of the transcript. Staff recommends designating Jessica Brito as custodian of the docket, holding the public hearing in the City of Norwich on Thursday, August 21, 2008, and depositing the transcript in the Norwich City Hall.

V. Proposed Schedule

Application received	06/11/08
Completeness review	07/24/08
Subcommittee meeting	07/24/08
Pre-hearing Questions	
• Set-One Filed	07/25/08
• Set-One responses due	08/08/08
• Set-Two Filed	08/08/08
• Set-Two responses due	08/14/08
Pre-hearing conference (10:00 a.m.)	08/07/08
Pre-filed testimony due	08/14/08
Deadline to request Party/Intervenor status	08/14/08
Field review (2:00 p.m.)	08/21/08
Hearing (3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.)	08/21/08
Close of Record	09/22/08
Draft Findings of Fact	10/16/08
Draft Findings of Fact, Opinion & Decision & Order	10/30/08
Deadline for Decision	12/08/08
180-day extension date	06/06/09

Siting Analyst: David Martin