

# CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051
Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950
E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov
www.ct.gov/csc

April 28, 2009

Christopher B. Fisher, Esq. Lucia Chiocchio, Esq. Cuddy & Feder LLP 445 Hamilton Avenue, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor White Plains, New York 10601

RE: **DOCKET NO. 366** - Optasite Towers LLC (currently known as SBA Towers II, 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 52 Stadley Rough Road in Danbury, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Fisher and Attorney Chiocchio:

By its Decision and Order dated April 23, 2009, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) granted a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 52 Stadley Rough Road in Danbury, Connecticut.

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

Very truly yours

S. Derek Phelps Executive Director

SDP/CDM/cm

Enclosures (5)





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#### **CERTIFICATE**

OF

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED DOCKET NO. 366

Pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50k, as amended, the Connecticut Siting Council hereby issues a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to SBA Towers II, LLC (formerly known as Optasite Towers LLC) for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 52 Stadley Rough Road in Danbury, 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 April 23, 2009.

By order of the Council,

April 23, 2009





#### CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051 Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950 E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov www.ct.gov/csc

April 28, 2009

TO:

Parties and Intervenors

FROM:

S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director

RE:

**DOCKET NO. 366** - Optasite Towers LLC (currently known as SBA Towers II, 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 52 Stadley Rough Road

in Danbury, Connecticut.

By its Decision and Order dated April 23, 2009, the Connecticut Siting Council granted a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 52 Stadley Rough Road in Danbury, Connecticut.

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

SDP/CMD/cm

Enclosures (4)

c: State Documents Librarian





## CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051 Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950 E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov www.ct.gov/csc

April 28, 2009

TO:

Classified/Legal Supervisor

366080729

Danbury News Times 333 Main Street Danbury, CT 06810

FROM:

Carriann Mulcahy, Secretary II

RE:

DOCKET NO. 366 - Optasite Towers LLC (currently known as SBA Towers II,

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 52 Stadley Rough Road

in Danbury, 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.

CM





# CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051 Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950 E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov www.ct.gov/csc

#### NOTICE

Pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50p (d), the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) announces that, on April 23, 2009, the Council issued Findings of Fact, an Opinion, Decision and Order, and Conclusions of Law approving an application from Optasite Towers LLC (currently known as SBA Towers II, LLC) and Omnipoint Communications, Inc. for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 52 Stadley Rough Road in Danbury, Connecticut. This application record is available for public inspection in the Council's office, Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut.



DOCKET NO. 366 - Optasite Towers LLC and Omnipoint }

Communications, Inc. application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the } Siting construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 52 Stadley Rough Road in Danbury, }

Connecticut.

April 23, 2009

# **Findings of Fact**

#### Introduction

- 1. Pursuant to Chapter 277a, Sections 16-50g et seq. of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), as amended, and Section 16-50j-1 et. seq. of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA), Optasite Towers LLC (Optasite) and Omnipoint Communications, Inc. (T-Mobile) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) on June 30, 2008 for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a telecommunications facility that would include a 140-foot steel monopole tower. The facility would be located at 52 Stadley Rough Road in the City of Danbury, Connecticut. (Applicants 1, pp. 1-2)
- 2. Optasite is a Delaware limited liability company with offices at One Research Drive, Suite 200C, Westborough, Massachusetts. It would construct and maintain the proposed facility. (Applicants 1, p. 3)
- 3. T-Mobile is a Delaware corporation with a Connecticut office at 35 Griffin Road South, Bloomfield, Connecticut. The company and its affiliated entities are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to construct and operate a personal wireless services system in Connecticut. T-Mobile does not conduct any other business in the State of Connecticut other than the provision of wireless services under FCC rules and regulations. (Applicants 1, p. 3)
- 4. The parties in this proceeding are Optasite, T-Mobile, and the City of Danbury. (Transcript, September 9, 2008, 3:05 p.m. [Tr. 1], p. 6)
- 5. If the certificate application is approved, Optasite would be the certificate holder. (Transcript, October 28, 2008, 11:00 a.m. [Tr. 3], p. 140)
- 6. Optasite has been acquired by SBA, which would succeed Optasite as the certificate holder should the application be approved. (Tr. 1, p. 67; Tr. 5, p. 117)
- 7. The proposed Facility would provide wireless service in the northeast portion of the City of Danbury, particularly north of the I-84 junction with Route 7 in an area between Candlewood Lake, the Town of Brookfield's municipal boundary, and Padanaram Road. (Applicants 1, p. 1)
- 8. Pursuant to CGS § 16-50*l*(b), notice of the applicants' intent to submit this application was published on June 24 and 26, 2008 in the Danbury News-Times. (Applicants 1, p. 4; News-Times Affidavit of Publication dated June 26, 2008)

- 9. In accordance with CGS § 16-50*l*(b), Optasite sent notices of its intent to file an application with the Council to each person appearing of record as owner of property abutting the property on which the site is located. (Applicants 1, p. 4, Attachment 11)
- 10. Optasite received return receipts from all of the abutting property owners to whom notices were sent. (Applicants 2, A1)
- 11. Pursuant to CGS § 16-50*l* (b), Optasite provided notice to all federal, state, regional, and local officials and agencies listed therein. (Applicants 1, p. 4, Attachment 9)
- 12. Optasite posted a sign informing the general public of its pending application with the Council on the premises of 52 Stadley Rough Road on August 24, 2008. The dimensions of the sign were four feet by six feet. The sign included the site and date of the initial hearing scheduled for this application and information about how to contact the Council. (Tr. 3, pp. 68-69)
- 13. Pursuant to CGS § 16-50m, the Council, after giving due notice thereof, held a public hearing on September 9, 2008, beginning at 3:05 p.m. and continuing at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Broadview Middle School, 72 Hospital Avenue in Danbury, Connecticut. (Tr. 1, p. 2 ff.)
- 14. The public hearing was continued on October 28, 2008 at the Institute of Technology and Business Development of Central Connecticut State University, 185 Main Street, New Britain, Connecticut beginning at 11:00 a.m. The hearing was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. (Tr. 3, p. 3 ff.; Tr. 3, 145)
- 15. Another session of the public hearing was convened on December 8, 2008 beginning at 11:20 a.m. in Hearing Room One of the offices of the Council at Ten Franklin Square, New Britain. The hearing was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. (Transcript, December 8, 2008 11:20 a.m. [Tr. 4] pp. 3, 229)
- 16. The public hearing was concluded on January 26, 2009. The concluding session was held at the Institute of Technology and Business Development of Central Connecticut State University. It began at 10:00 a.m. and ended at 5:40 p.m. (Transcript, January 26, 2009, 10:00 a.m. [Tr. 5], pp. 3, 335)
- 17. The Council and its staff conducted an inspection of the proposed site on September 9, 2008, beginning at 2:00 p.m. On the day of the field inspection, the applicants flew a balloon beginning at approximately 7:45 a.m. Conditions for the balloon flight were difficult throughout most of the morning due to high winds and rain. One balloon was lost at approximately 11:00 a.m. Another balloon was sent aloft about 12:00 p.m. and remained aloft the rest of the afternoon. Visibility was limited due to cloud cover. (Tr. 3, p. 69)

#### **State Agency Comments**

- 18. Pursuant to CGS § 16-50*l*, the Council solicited comments on Optasite's application from the following state departments and agencies: Department of Agriculture, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Public Health, Council on Environmental Quality, Department of Public Utility Control, Office of Policy and Management, Department of Economic and Community Development, and the Department of Transportation. The Council's letters requesting comments were sent on July 29, 2008 and January 29, 2009. (CSC Hearing Package dated July 29, 2008; Letter to State Department Heads dated January 29, 2009)
- 19. The Connecticut Department of Public Health responded to the Council's solicitation with no comments. (Connecticut Department of Public Health Memorandum, dated August 26, 2008)
- 20. The Connecticut Department of Transportation responded to the Council's solicitation with no comments. (Connecticut Department of Transportation letter, dated September 18, 2008)
- 21. Other than the comments received from the Connecticut Departments of Public Health and Transportation, the Council did not receive comments from any other state agencies. (Record)

#### **Municipal Consultation**

- 22. On January 31, 2006, Optasite submitted a letter and a technical report to the City of Danbury. The technical report included specifics about the proposed site, Optasite's plans for it, the site selection process, and the environmental effects of the proposed facility. (Applicants 1, p. 17)
- 23. On March 21, 2006, representatives of Optasite met with Danbury's Mayor, Corporation Counsel, and Associate Planner to discuss the proposed facility. At this meeting, Danbury officials suggested that Optasite present its plans to an information session of the Planning Commission. This session was held on May 3, 2006. Subsequent to this meeting, the Planning Commission provided written comments about the proposed facility in a memorandum dated May 17, 2006. The Planning Commission's comments were forwarded to the applicants' attorney in a letter from Danbury's Corporation Counsel dated May 23, 2006. (Applicants 1, pp. 17-18)
- 24. During its May 3, 2006 information session with Optasite, the Danbury Planning Commission considered concerns and recommendations about: the tower's height, the tower's proximity to an elementary school located in a nearby church, the proximity of wetlands to the proposed facility, the visual impact on the surrounding residential areas and the possible visual impact on historical properties, the proximity of the facility to residential properties, and the impact on private wells, should blasting be required for the foundation. (Applicants 1, Attachment 8)

- 25. After the May 3, 2006 meeting, the Danbury Associate Planner prepared a memorandum for the Planning Commission summarizing the concerns raised at the meeting. The memorandum included concerns over the tower's location in a residential district, which is the 6th least preferred location for a wireless facility, according to Danbury's zoning regulations; the height of the tower; the potential of the facility to impact the foundation of the church; the safety of helicopters flying close to the facility; the tower posing an attractive nuisance for neighborhood children; potential impact on wetlands and wildlife habitat; and the visual impact on surrounding residences and six historic properties located within the proposed tower's viewshed. The memorandum also listed recommendations for Optasite that included exploring alternative sites, considering a stealth treatment for the tower, and using landscaping and a stockade fence as visual buffer for the ground equipment. (Applicants 1, Attachment 8 Memorandum to Planning Commission dated May 17, 2006)
- 26. Following the public information session with the Planning Commission, Optasite investigated several alternative sites, including sites suggested by the city. Optasite also redesigned and relocated its proposed facility in response to the city's comments. Revisions included moving the facility's location 100 feet towards the southeast corner of the church property and using flush mounted antennas. Optasite also submitted a bell tower design to the church that owns the host property. After reviewing this design, the church rejected it as too visually obtrusive. (Applicants 1, p. 18; Attachment 8)
- 27. At the September 9, 2008 public hearing, the Mayor of Danbury, Mark Boughton, expressed concern over the proposed tower's location in a residential neighborhood and his belief that better, alternate sites were available. (Tr. 1, pp. 8-9)
- 28. Optasite would provide space for City of Danbury emergency services antennas free of charge should the City wish to use the proposed tower. (Applicants 1, p. 9)

#### **Public Need for Service**

- 29. The United States Congress, through adoption of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Act), recognized the important public need for high quality telecommunication services throughout the United States. The purpose of this Act, which was a comprehensive overhaul of the Communications Act of 1934, was to "provide for a competitive, deregulatory national policy framework designed to accelerate rapidly private sector deployment of advanced telecommunications and information technologies to all Americans." (Applicants 1, p. 5)
- 30. The Act prohibits local and state bodies from discriminating among providers of functionally equivalent services. (Council Administrative Notice, Telecommunications Act of 1996)

- 31. The Act 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. This Act also blocks the Council from prohibiting or acting with the effect of prohibiting the provision of personal wireless service. (Council Administrative Notice, Telecommunications Act of 1996)
- 32. In an effort to ensure the benefits of wireless technologies to all Americans, Congress enacted the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 (the 911 Act). The purpose of this legislation was to promote public safety through the deployment of a seamless, nationwide emergency communications infrastructure that includes wireless communications services. (Applicants 1, pp. 6-7)
- 33. The proposed facility would be an integral component of T-Mobile's wireless network in this area of the state, where T-Mobile experiences a gap in coverage along I-84 west of the junction with Route 7 and in the area north of I-84 and south of Candlewood Lake. (Applicants 1, p. 5)
- 34. As an outgrowth of the 911 Act, the FCC required wireless carriers to provide enhanced 911 services (E911) as part of their communications networks. These services would allow 911 public safety dispatchers to identify a wireless caller's geographical location within several hundred feet. (Applicants 1, p. 7)
- 35. T-Mobile has deployed network technologies implementing the FCC's E911 requirements, and the proposed facility would be an integral component of T-Mobile's E911 network. (Applicants 1, p. 7)
- 36. Verizon Wireless has stated that it has a need for a facility at the applicants' proposed location and that it would co-locate on the tower when budgets allow. (Applicants 1, Attachment 6)
- 37. Nextel Communications of the Mid-Atlantic, Inc. (Sprint/Nextel) executed a lease agreement with Optasite to locate antennas on the proposed tower. It has reserved an antenna centerline mounting height of 127 feet. (Applicants 1, Attachment 6; Applicants 2, A10)

#### **Site Selection**

- 38. The search for a telecommunications site in this area of Danbury was originally initiated by Sprint PCS sometime prior to the fall of 2000. Sprint applied to the Danbury Planning Commission, which had jurisdiction at the time, for approval of a site on Great Plain Road. The Planning Commission denied Sprint's application in December, 2000. (Applicants 2, A3)
- 39. Verizon Wireless has made efforts to find a site in this area of Danbury. (Applicants 2, A3)

- 40. T-Mobile initiated a search ring in this area following Sprint's denial by the Danbury Planning Commission and continued its site search efforts through early 2005. (Applicants 2, A3)
- 41. In 2005, Optasite, through its ongoing business relationships with wireless carriers, became aware that this area of Danbury was considered a "dead zone." (Applicants 2, A3)
- 42. In June of 2005, Optasite received a call from the previous owner of the property at 52 Stadley Rough Road indicating that the owner was interested in leasing a portion of the property for a wireless site. (Applicants 2, A3)
- 43. Optasite began its efforts to find a site in this area in June, 2005. Optasite used information gathered during the previous site searches by the wireless carriers to focus its own search efforts. (Applicants 2, A4)
- 44. During its site search, Optasite contacted wireless carriers licensed to provide service in Fairfield County to ask for suggestions about potential sites. (Applicants 2, A5)
- 45. Optasite identified 15 communications towers within approximately four miles of the proposed Stadley Rough Road site. T-Mobile has antennas on six of these towers. The towers are listed in the following table.

Tower Location	Ht. and Type of Tower	Tower Owner	Distance and Direction to Site
7 Stony Hill Road, Bethel	140' utility pole	CL&P	2.0 miles to southeast
2 Huckleberry Hill, Brookfield	60' flagpole	AT&T	1.9 miles to northeast
33 Carmen Hill Road, Brookfield	80' lattice tower	Charter Communications	4.2 miles to north
39 Carmen Hill Road, Brookfield	500' guyed lattice tower	Aurora of Danbury	3.8 miles to north
Park Ridge Road, Brookfield	115' utility pole (T- Mobile on at top of pole)	CL&P	1.5 miles to east
181 Clapboard, Danbury	85' flagpole (T- Mobile on at 59')	T-Mobile	3.1 miles to west
39 West Street, Danbury	70' building mount	SNET	3 miles to southwest
41 Padanarum Road, Danbury	80' wood pole (T- Mobile on at top)	T-Mobile	1.8 miles to southwest
48 Newtown Road, Danbury	100' monopole	Fifty Newtown Rd.	2.1 miles to south
50 Newtown Road, Danbury	100' guyed lattice tower	Fifty Newtown Rd.	2.3 miles to south

(see next page for continuation of table)

Tower Location	Ht. and Type of Tower	Tower Owner	Distance and Direction to Site
Boxwood Lane Ext,	100' lattice tower	WCSU	3.9 miles to
Danbury			southwest
7 West View Drive,	133' lattice tower (T-	Robert Kaufman	2.6 miles to south
Danbury	Mobile on at 50')		
302 Ball Pond Road,	175' monopole (T-	Town of New	4 miles to
New Fairfield	Mobile on at 145')	Fairfield	northwest
Dick Finn Road,	60' lattice tower	Crown Media	4.2 miles to north
New Fairfield			
6 Fairfield Drive,	163' monopole (T-	Spectrasite	3 miles to east
Newtown	Mobile on at 160')	_	

(Applicants 1, Attachment 3)

46. During its search for a facility location, Optasite and T-Mobile investigated several locations where a new tower might be feasible. The following table lists those properties that were investigated and includes a statement about their suitability to host the proposed facility.

Property Address and Size	Owner	Suitability
52 Stadley Rough Road; 5.2	Christ the Shepherd	Host property
acres	Church	
40 Stadley Rough Road; 10.5	Colonial Baptist	Owner was not interested in
acres	Church	leasing property
85 Great Plain Road; 14.3 acres	St. Gregory the Great	Optasite lease proposal was
	RC Church Corp.	rejected by diocese
Great Plain Road - Map J07,	Albert Salame	Property owner has other
Lot 72; 15.37 acres		development plans for this parcel
Great Plain Road – Map J05,	Albert Salame	All Salame-owned parcels
Lot 101; 28.6 acres		rejected for similar reasons
Great Meadows Road – Map	Albert Salame	All Salame-owned parcels
J06, Lot 081; 37 acres		rejected for similar reasons
Stadley Rough Road – Map	Albert Salame	All Salame-owned parcels
J05, Lot 102; 7 acres		rejected for similar reasons
73-79 Stadley Rough Road;	City of Danbury	This is the site of an elementary
15.9 acres		school; city not interested in
		leasing here.
14 Indian Spring Road; 3.5	Jose & Christina	Single family home on this
acres	Carvalheiro	parcel; Optasite contacted
		property owner before lot was
		developed, owner expressed no
		interest
10 Stadley Rough Road; 8.8	City of Danbury	This is the site of an elementary
acres		school; city not interested in
		leasing here.

(see next page for continuation of table)

Property Address and Size	Owner	Suitability
Sterling Woods Condominium	Sterling Woods	City of Danbury leases portion
Complex, Nabby Road	Condominiums	of this property for an 80' water
		tank; T-Mobile could not cover
		its target area from this site;
·		antennas at this location would
		create redundancy problems;
		Condominium Association will
		not lease property for wireless
		telecommunications facility.
State Department of	State of Connecticut	This location is too far south of
Transportation Garage,		target area to cover it adequately
Rockwell Road		and is at base of a plateau, which
		would cause shadowing of radio
		propagation.

(Applicants 1, Attachment 3; Applicants 13, I.D.1., I.D.2.)

- 47. Sites in the above table that Optasite investigated at the city's suggestion include the water tank at the Sterling Woods Condominium complex on Nabby Road and the state Department of Transportation garage located on Rockwell Road. (Applicants 2, A2)
- 48. Antennas at the Sterling Woods Condominiums water tank site that would be high enough to reach T-Mobile's coverage objectives would also create problems with interference and redundant coverage for existing sites along I-84. (See Figure 7) (Tr. 3, pp. 78-79)
- 49. A 140-foot tower located at the federal penitentiary would not be able to cover the area along Stadley Rough Road that would be covered from the proposed site. (Tr. 3, pp. 80-81)
- 50. In order to approximate the coverage possible from the proposed site, a tower at the State Department of Transportation garage on Rockwell Road would have to be approximately 170 feet tall. Antennas mounted at this height would create interference problems and redundant coverage. (See Figure 6) (Tr. 3, pp. 87-88)
- 51. Both Sprint/Nextel and T-Mobile indicated to Optasite that they would need antennas to be mounted at a minimum height of 127 feet above ground level (agl) at the proposed site in order to cover their respective target areas. Since the two carriers could not have their antennas at the same height, Optasite proposed a 140-foot high tower in order to be able to accommodate both carriers. (Applicants 2, A6)
- 52. T-Mobile avers that repeaters, microcell transmitters, distributed antenna systems and other types of transmitting technologies are not a practicable or feasible means to provide service within the coverage gap it is seeking to cover due to significant terrain variations and tree cover in the area, as well as other practical considerations. (Applicants 1, pp. 7-8)

#### Distributed Antenna Systems

- 53. Distributed antenna systems (DAS) consist of a centralized location—referred to as a radial hotel—where signal processing equipment is housed and numerous antenna nodes, which are connected to the central location by fiber optic cable. The antennas are installed at low heights—telephone poles are a good example of the types of structures on which antennas could be placed. DAS are generally used in densely populated, high-traffic areas, where extra capacity or very localized coverage footprints are required. Because antennas are mounted at relatively low heights, usually within the tree canopy, it is difficult to achieve much lateral coverage with these systems. (Tr. 5, pp. 88-89)
- 54. T-Mobile deploys some in-building DAS and plans to use a DAS in Newton, Massachusetts, where the system is being designed in partnership with the municipality. (Tr. 5, pp. 86-88)
- 55. T-Mobile did not consider a DAS solution to its coverage problems in its target area because of the difficult terrain in the area and because it felt the proposed tower was a more viable solution. (Tr. 5, p. 103)
- 56. For Optasite to replicate the coverage possible from its proposed tower with a DAS, it would have to install up to several dozen utility poles to host the distributed antennas. Furthermore, approximately 20 percent of the target coverage area is served by underground utilities. In these areas Optasite would have to install up to 20 new utility poles per mile to carry the fiber optic and power cables needed for a DAS. Such an installation would be more intrusive than the proposed single tower. (Applicants' Response to the City's Post Hearing Filing of the "Comi Solution," dated February 19, 2009)

#### Site Description

## Proposed Site

- 57. The applicants' proposed facility is located at 52 Stadley Rough Road in Danbury in the southwest corner of a 5-acre parcel owned by Christ the Shepherd Church. (See Figures 1 and 2) (Applicants 1, p. 2; Attachment 4)
- 58. The church property is zoned RA-40 Single Family Residential. (Applicants 1, p. 2)
- 59. Wireless telecommunications towers are permitted in any Danbury zoning district as a special exception use. (Bulk filed exhibit: Danbury Zoning Regulations)
- 60. The Danbury zoning regulations designate residential zoning districts as the least preferred location for wireless telecommunications towers. (Bulk filed exhibit: Danbury Zoning Regulations)

- The proposed facility would comply with the zoning regulations that pertain to wireless telecommunications facilities except for the setback requirement. Danbury's regulations require a setback (distance from property lines) of either the required setbacks in the underlying zoning district (RA-40) or the height of the tower plus an additional 25 feet (165 feet in this case), whichever is greater. The proposed tower would be approximately 42 feet and 78 feet from the two nearest property lines. (Applicants 1, p. 15)
- 62. On the church property, Optasite would lease a 100-foot square parcel within which it would install a 55-foot by 90-foot equipment compound and a 140-foot monopole. Antennas would be flush-mounted on the monopole tower. The compound would be enclosed by an eight-foot high chain link fence with green privacy slats. (See Figure 3) (Applicants 1, p. 2; Attachment 4)
- 63. As an alternative to the monopole tower, Optasite designed a bell tower made of RF transparent materials. The church, however, considered this design more obtrusive than a monopole with flush-mounted antennas. (Tr. 3, pp. 135-136)
- 64. The proposed tower would be located at 41° 25' 59.17" north latitude and 73° 25' 54.9" west longitude. Its ground elevation would be 545 feet above mean sea level. (Applicants 1, Attachment 4)
- 65. Moving the location of the tower 40 to 45 feet to the north and east would preserve more of the existing vegetation between the proposed compound and the adjacent property at 14 Indian Spring Road, but such a move would directly impact the nearby wetlands and would not substantially affect the view of the tower for the neighbors at 14 Indian Spring Road. (Tr. 3, pp. 127-130)
- 66. The proposed tower would be designed in accordance with the 2005 Connecticut State Building Code and the Electronic Industries Association Standard EIA/TIA-222-G, "Structural Standards for Steel Antenna Towers and Antenna Support Structures." The base of the tower would be approximately five feet in diameter. The top of the tower would be approximately one and a half feet in diameter. The tower would be engineered to accommodate the antennas of up to four carriers and the antennas of the City of Danbury's emergency services, if requested. (Applicants 1, p. 9, Attachment 4, and Attachment 5)
- 67. Optasite would require all antennas on the tower to be flush mounted. (Tr. 5, pp. 26-27)
- 68. Optasite would be willing to design the tower as a tree in order to mitigate concerns over its visibility. (Tr. 5, p. 29)
- 69. If the proposed tower were to be disguised as a tree, its overall height would increase by seven feet to 147 feet above ground level in order to achieve a realistic profile with artificial tree branches at the top. (Tr. 5, pp. 27-28)
- 70. The proposed tower would be designed with a yield point at the approximate height of 100 feet agl because of the tower's proximity to an abutting property, the closest point of which is 42 feet from the tower's proposed location. (Tr. 3, pp. 70-71)

- 71. T-Mobile would initially install three antennas at a height of 137 feet agl. T-Mobile could install up to six antennas in the future. (Tr. 3, p. 74; Applicants 1, p. 9)
- 72. T-Mobile would utilize battery back up power at the site. (Applicants 2, A13)
- 73. Landscaping would be planted along the northern and western sides of the equipment compound to provide additional screening. (Applicants 1, Attachment 4)
- 74. Developing this site would require 140 cubic yards of cut. No fill would be required. (Applicants 2, A11)
- 75. Vehicular access to the proposed facility would extend from Stadley Rough Road over an existing paved driveway along the rear of the church's premises and then along a gravel driveway that would be approximately 175 feet in length. (Applicants 1, p. 9; Attachment 4)
- 76. Utility service for the proposed facility would be extended underground from existing service on Stadley Rough Road. The utility lines would closely parallel the access drive to the compound. (Applicants 1, pp. 9-10; Attachment 4, Sheet A02)
- 77. No blasting is anticipated for the development of this site. (Applicants 2, A12)
- 78. The proposed tower's setback radius would extend approximately 98 feet onto adjacent property to the west owned by José and Christina Carvalheiro and approximately 103 feet onto property to the south owned by Colonial Hills Baptist Church. (Applicants 1, Attachment 4; Tr. 3, pp. 71-72)
- 79. The facility's compound would be located approximately 15 feet from the boundary of the Cavalheiro property and approximately 15 feet from the nearest point of the Baptist Church's property. (Applicants 1, Attachment 4, Sheet A02)
- 80. There are approximately 53 residences within 1,000 feet of the proposed tower. (Applicants 1, p. 12)
- 81. The closest residence is located 142 feet to the northwest of the proposed compound at 14 Indian Spring Lane. It is owned by José and Christina Carvalheiro. (Applicants 1, p 12; Attachment 4)
- 82. Land use in the area is a mix of single and multi-family residences. There are a number of institutional uses, churches and a school, in the vicinity as well. (Applicants 1, Attachment 4)

83. Optasite's estimated cost of construction for this facility, which does not include T-Mobile's antennas and support equipment, is:

Tower and foundation	\$112,000
Site development	66,000
Utility installation	_38,000
Total costs	\$216,000

(Applicants 1, p. 19)

84. The cost of the equipment T-Mobile would install at this facility would be between \$125,000 and \$150,000. (Applicants 2, A22)

#### Suggested Alternate Sites

- 85. At the public hearing of September 9, 2008, local area residents submitted to the Council a package of documents expressing reasons why they are opposed to the proposed facility. Among the documents was a list of eight locations that the residents suggested as possible alternate sites. (Exhibit No. 2 of the Exhibit List submitted by the City of Danbury, dated August 29, 2008)
- 86. The applicants investigated the alternate locations suggested by the residents and submitted a summary of their findings to the Council. (Applicants 6 Applicants' Submission of Supplemental Information, dated October 10, 2008)
- 87. The location of the Alternate 1 site identified by local residents appears to be the location of a 9 to 12 lot subdivision. The subdivision of this property would not allow sufficient space for a wireless telecommunications facility. (Applicants 6, p. 1)
- 88. The Alternate 2 site identified by local residents appears to be the location of a 5,400 square foot residence. A viewshed analysis of this location concludes that a tower here would have a greater visual impact than the proposed tower at 52 Stadley Rough Road. (Applicants 6, p. 2; Exhibit A)
- 89. The Alternate 3 and 4 sites are located on or near the shore of Candlewood Lake. Alternate 3 appears to be Latting Landing, a boat launching area owned by the State of Connecticut. Alternate 4 is a marina that does not have sufficient size for the placement of a wireless telecommunications facility. (Applicants 6, p. 2)
- 90. Alternate sites 5 and 6 are in an area characterized by steep slopes and dense vegetation. Significant cut and fill and vegetation removal would be required to construct a facility at either of these locations. (Applicants 6, p. 3)
- 91. Alternate site 7 identified by the residents appears to be the Johnson property, also suggested by the City of Danbury as an alternate site. This property is characterized by steep slopes and dense vegetation that would require significant cut and fill and clearing. In addition, the Johnson property is landlocked; the only access to it is through the adjacent Federal Correctional Institution. There is no recorded easement for the Johnson property to have access through the prison property. (Applicants 6, p. 3)

- 92. Alternate site 8 is the Federal Correctional Institution, which is not available for other uses. (Applicants 6, p. 4)
- 93. On October 20, 2008, Robert Kaufman, who owns property at 21 Hollandale Road in Danbury, submitted a letter in which he suggested that his property, on which a water tank is located, would be suitable as an alternative site. (City of Danbury 11: Letter from Robert Kaufman, dated October 20, 2008)
- 94. Optasite representatives investigated the Kaufman property and determined that the water tank was approximately 40 to 45 feet in height, making it an insufficient height for mounting antennas that could provide coverage to T-Mobile's target area. (See Figure 8) (Applicants 7: Applicants' Supplemental Information, dated October 24, 2008; Transcript, December 8, 2008, 11:20 a.m. [Tr. 5], pp. 192-193)
- 95. In response to a request from the City, the applicants investigated the feasibility of a city-owned property located at 35 Hayestown Road, which is the site of the Danbury Police Athletic League. (City of Danbury Third Set of Pre-Hearing Interrogatories, dated December 16, 2008; Applicants 13)
- 96. The 35 Hayestown Road property is almost completely cleared with no trees or other vegetation to help shield a tower and its compound. The property is located adjacent to numerous single family and multifamily homes to the east and west. The property is also just south of a city park next to Candlewood Lake and just north of a city recreation area. (Applicants 13, I.A.2.)
- 97. A tower at 35 Hayestown Road would not be able to provide coverage to its target area because signals from this location would be blocked to the north by a ridge line. A site at this location would also provide coverage redundant to existing sites. (See Figure 9) (Applicants 13, I.A.1.)
- 98. In response to a request by the Council, the applicants investigated property located at 82 Stadley Rough Road, which is approximately 3,000 feet north of the 52 Stadley Rough Road site, and determined that the coverage possible from this site is similar to the coverage from their proposed site. It is located on the same ridge line as the proposed site and subject to similar terrain limitations. This property comprises a single family residence and an open field. It is not suitable for a tower because it is registered under the Public Act 490 program that seeks to preserve agricultural uses and open space. (See Figure 10) (Applicants 13, II.A.1. and II.A.2.)
- 99. In response to a request by the Council, the applicants investigated a parcel east of Stadley Rough Road and just north of the Great Plain School. They determined that this property was denoted as open space on the City's tax records. Therefore, they did not consider it as a viable alternative. (Transcript, December 8, 2008 [Tr. 5], pp. 196-197; Applicants 13, II.B.)

#### **Multi-Site Solutions**

- 100. In response to a request by the Council, the applicants investigated a two-site solution that would consist of a lower tower (97 feet high) at the proposed site at 52 Stadley Rough Road and a tower of a similar height at one of two churches: St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church at 13 Pembroke Road or Northeast Baptist Church at 101 East Pembroke Road. (Applicants 8: Information Regarding a Two Site Design)
- 101. The two churches are located approximately 2.8 miles to the west of the proposed site. (Applicants 8: Information Regarding a Two Site Design)
- 102. Based upon their investigation, the applicants concluded that topography in the vicinity of the target area would prevent it from being adequately covered by two 97-foot towers, one at 52 Stadley Rough and one at either of the churches. (See Figures 11 and 12) (Applicants 8: Information Regarding a Two Site Design)
- 103. The City of Danbury proposed a multi-site solution that would consist of a monopole tower at the Police Athletic League (PAL) property at 35 Hayestown Road, antennas installed at the site of the water tower on the Kaufman property at 21 Hollandale Road, and approximately six to eight DAS nodes distributed in the northern area of Danbury. The City's solution assumes that T-Mobile antennas would be installed at a centerline height of 147 feet agl at the PAL property and at 87 feet agl at the Kaufman property. (City of Danbury's Submission of Supplemental Information, dated February 11, 2009)
- 104. According to the applicants, the multi-site solution proposed by the City would produce coverage redundant with T-Mobile's existing sites in the northwestern and southern parts of Danbury without providing sufficient coverage to the northern part of Danbury. Also, Northeast Utilities and its subsidiary companies in Connecticut do not allow the attachment of antennas at the top of distribution utility poles, which would make it difficult to deploy the DAS nodes proposed by the City. (Applicants' Response to the City's Post Hearing Filing of the "Comi Solution," dated February 19, 2009)
- 105. Approximately 20 percent of the residential areas in that part of Danbury to which T-Mobile is seeking to extend coverage do not have an above-ground utility distribution network. These areas would require the installation of new utility poles, at the rate of approximately 20 poles per mile, to support DAS nodes and their required fiber optic and power cables. (Applicants' Response to the City's Post Hearing Filing of the "Comi Solution," dated February 19, 2009)

#### **Environmental Considerations**

- 106. The proposed project would have no effect on Connecticut's archaeological heritage. (Applicants 1, Attachment 7, Letter from State Historic Preservation Officer)
- 107. There are no known extant populations of federal or state endangered, threatened, or special concern species at the site of the proposed facility. (Applicants 1, Attachment 7, Letter from Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection)

- 108. Existing vegetation in the vicinity of the proposed facility consists primarily of mature, mixed deciduous hardwood species. The average tree canopy is 65 feet in height. (Applicants 1, p. 11)
- 109. Eleven trees with diameters of six inches or greater at breast height would be removed for the proposed facility. (Applicants 1, p. 9)
- 110. There are two small pockets of inland wetlands located close to the site of the proposed facility. The closer of these two wetlands is approximately six feet from the eastern side of the proposed compound at its nearest point. The other wetland area is approximately 39 feet from the northeast corner of the proposed compound at its nearest point. (Applicants 1, p. 17; Attachment 4)
- 111. Two different inland wetlands delineations were made in the vicinity of the proposed tower location. The first of these delineations was prepared by URS. The second delineation, the one depicted in the site plans submitted with the application, was prepared by Kleinfelder. The wetland areas delineated by URS comprise 564 square feet. The areas delineated by Kleinfelder comprise 936 square feet. The larger of the two Kleinfelder delineated areas is located approximately six feet from the proposed location of the equipment compound at its nearest point. (Applicants 14, p. 2 and Drawing C02)
- 112. A portion of the larger and closer wetland area (identified by Kleinfelder) is located within the 100-foot by 100-foot lease parcel. It would, however, be outside of the fenced enclosure of the 55-foot by 90-foot base compound. (Applicants 1, Exhibit 4, Drawing A02)
- 113. The location of the proposed facility was selected to avoid disturbing these wetland areas. (Applicants 1, p. 17)
- 114. Soil erosion control measures and other construction management practices, applied in accordance with the Connecticut Soil Erosion Control Guidelines established by the Council of Soil and Water Conservation, would be deployed before and during construction to protect the integrity of the nearby wetlands. (Applicants 1, p. 17)
- 115. The Federal Aviation Administration determined that the proposed facility would not be a hazard to air navigation and would not require marking or lighting. (Applicants 1, Attachment 4, FAA-Determination of No Hazard to Air Navigation, issued April 24, 2008)
- 116. The administrator of the Danbury Municipal Airport requested that an aeronautical light be installed at the top of the tower because of the amphibious aircraft and helicopters that use nearby Lake Candlewood. (Applicants 1, Attachment 8)
- 117. The maximum power density from the radio frequency emissions of T-Mobile's proposed antennas would be 0.0272 mW/cm² or 2.72% 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, Attachment 4)

#### **Visibility**

# Visibility of Tower Proposed at 52 Stadley Rough Road

- 118. The proposed tower would be visible year-round above the tree canopy from approximately 25 acres. (Applicants 1, Attachment 5, p. 4)
- 119. The proposed tower would be seasonally visible from an additional 19 acres. Most of this acreage would be located within a 0.2 mile radius of the tower location. (Applicants 1, Attachment 5, p. 4)
- 120. Approximately 14 residences would have partial year-round views of the proposed tower. (Applicants 1, Attachment 5, p. 4)
- 121. Approximately 10 additional residences would have seasonal views of the proposed tower. (Applicants 1, Attachment, pp. 4-5)
- 122. The proposed tower at this location would not be visible from Candlewood Lake. (Applicants 1, Attachment 5, Viewshed Map)
- 123. The proposed tower would not be visible from six historic properties, mentioned in a letter from Danbury's Associate Planner, which could be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. (Tr. 3, p. 71)
- 124. The tower and the flush-mounted antennas would be painted brown to help reduce the tower's visual impact. (Applicants 1, p. 12)
- 125. The visibility of the proposed tower from different vantage points in the surrounding vicinity is summarized in the following table. (See Figure 13)

Location	<u>Visible</u> Site	Approx. Portion of (140') Tower Visible (ft.)	Approx. Distance and Direction to Tower  Site
1. – 52 Stadley Rough Road (host	Yes	90'	520 feet; W
property .			
2. – 71 Stadley Rough Road	Yes	90,	900 feet; NW
3. – 52 Stadley Rough Road (host property,	Yes	60'	740 feet; SW
from a different location)			
4. – 122 Great Plain Road	Yes	50'	3,000 feet; NE
5. – Great Plain Road at Hawley Road	Yes	50'	3,060 feet; NE
6. – Indian Spring Lane	No	n/a	690 feet; SE
7. – Corntassle Road	No	n/a	790 feet; NE
8. – Silcam Road	No	n/a	2,000 feet; N
9. – Monarch Road	No	n/a	1,320 feet; SE

(Applicants 1, Attachment 5)

## Visibility of Towers at Alternate Sites

- 126. A 140-foot tower at the alternate 1 location suggested by Danbury residents would be visible year-round from approximately 971 acres, of which approximately 97% would be on or immediately adjacent to Candlewood Lake. (Applicants 6, p. 1)
- 127. The year-round visibility of a 140-foot tower at the suggested alternate 2 location would be approximately 508 acres. A tower at this location would be visible from several residential areas, including areas within the Huckleberry School area, and from Candlewood Lake. (Applicants 6, p. 2)
- 128. Suggested alternate sites 3 and 4 are both located on or near the shore of Candlewood Lake. A tower at either location would be visible from Candlewood Lake. (Applicants 6, p. 2)
- 129. The visibility of a tower at suggested alternate site 5 or 6 would impact views from Candlewood Lake. (Applicants 6, p. 3)
- 130. A tower at suggested alternate site 7, which appears to be the Johnson property also suggested by the city, would be visible year-round from approximately 391 acres and from Candlewood Lake. (Applicants 6, p. 3)
- 131. The visual impact of the residents' suggested alternate site 8 at the Federal Correctional Institution would be comparable to a tower located on the Johnson property. (Applicants 6, p. 4)

### **Existing and Proposed Wireless Coverage**

- 132. T-Mobile is now deploying antennas that can transmit both AWS (Advance Wireless Services) and PCS (Personal Communications Service) frequencies simultaneously. (Tr. 3, p. 75)
- 133. T-Mobile acquired the right to use the AWS frequencies in a recent auction. They will be used for UMTS (Universal Mobile Telecommunications System) applications. (Tr. 3, pp. 74-75)
- 134. T-Mobile is licensed to operate at the following frequencies in the Fairfield Basic Trading Area:

PCS Transmit: 1940 to 1949.800 MHz PCS Receive: 1860 to 1869.5 MHz

AWS Transmit 1: 2140 to 2145 MHz AWS Receive 1: 1740 to 1745 MHz

AWS Transmit 2: 2110 to 2120 MHz AWS Receive 2: 1710 to 1720 MHz

(Applicants 2, A14)

- 135. T-Mobile's minimum design receive signal level threshold is -84 dBm, which is the lower limit at which T-Mobile can provide in-vehicle coverage to its network users. For reliable in-building coverage, T-Mobile requires a receive signal level strength of -76 dBm. (Applicants 2, A15)
- 136. The existing signal strength in the area T-Mobile would serve from the proposed site ranges from -85 dBm to -110 dBm. (See Figure 4) (Applicants 2, A16)
- 137. T-Mobile currently has a higher than average dropped-call rate in the area surrounding the proposed site. (Tr. 3, pp. 76-77)
- 138. The total area T-Mobile could cover from the proposed site would be 7.4 square miles. (Applicants 2, A17)
- 139. T-Mobile's antennas would cover approximately two miles along Stadley Rough Road, which would achieve its coverage objective for this street. (Tr. 3, pp. 75-76)
- 140. The sites with which T-Mobile's antennas at the proposed site would hand off signals are identified in the following table:

Site Address	Structure Height (AGL)	T-Mobile Ant. Ht. (AGL)	Structure Type
41 Padanaram Road, Danbury	80 feet	80 feet	Wood pole
457 Main Street, Danbury	42 feet	46 feet	Rooftop
94 Hospital Avenue, Danbury	134 feet	155 feet	Rooftop
78 Federal Road Danbury	78 feet	81 feet	Billboard
20 Vale Road (Tower #10247), Danbury	115 feet	130 feet	Utility Pole

(Applicants 2, A19)

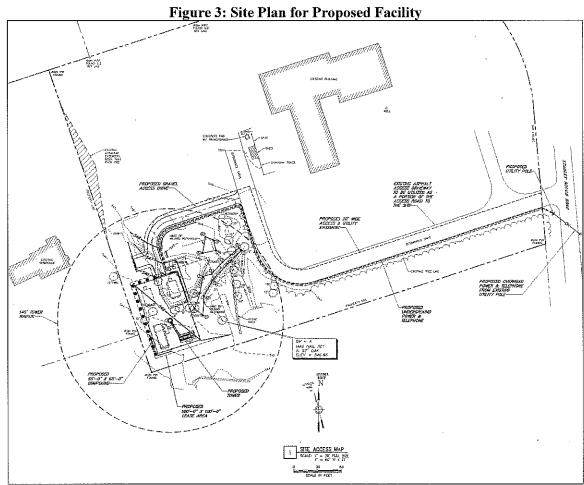
- 141. The minimum height at which T-Mobile's antennas could achieve the coverage objectives is 127 feet agl. (Applicants 2, A20)
- 142. None of the sites suggested by the Danbury residents would provide coverage to T-Mobile's target areas that would equal the coverage possible from the proposed site. (Tr. 3, p. 86 ff.)

(Applicants 1, Attachment 4)

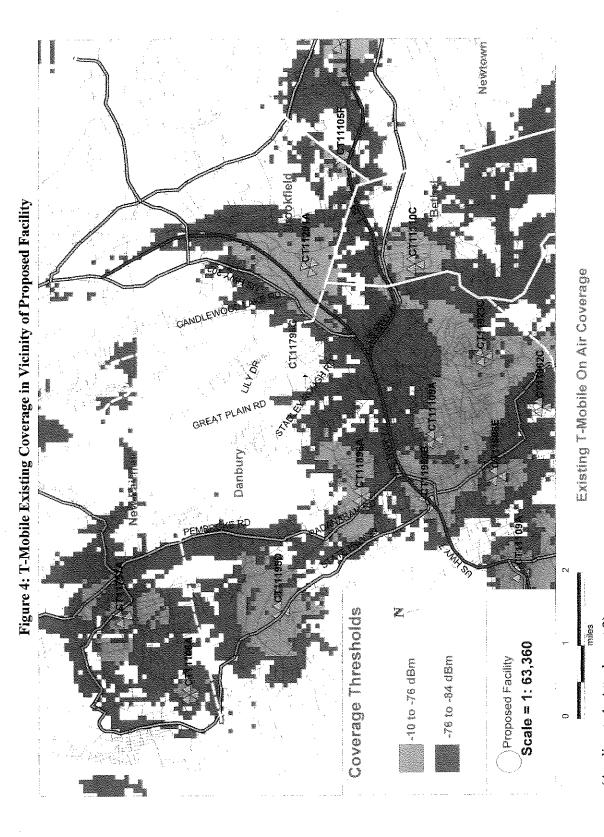
Figure 1: Location Map Candlewood Pines Snug Harbor PROJECT LOCATION a'Agan Point THREURY ssant Acres Wildmans Darbury Landing Town Park

Figure 2: Aerial Photograph of Proposed Site

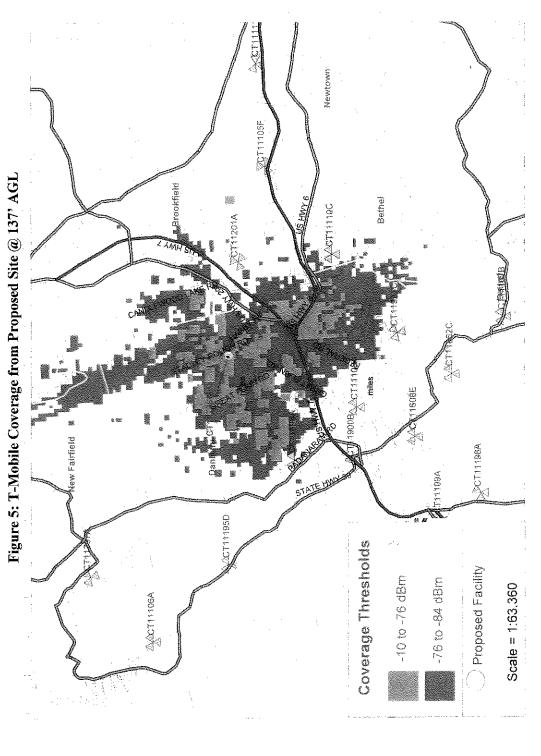




(Applicants 1, Attachment 4, Sheet Number A02)

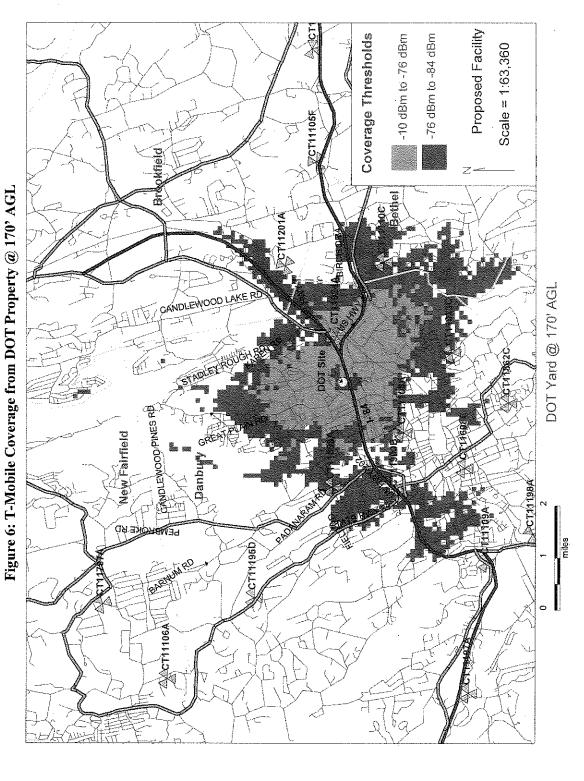


(Applicants 1, Attachment 2)

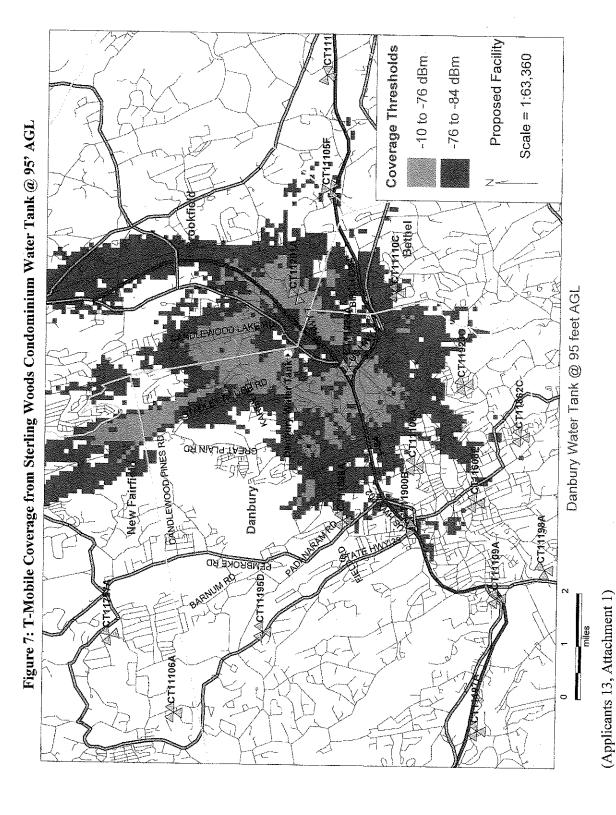


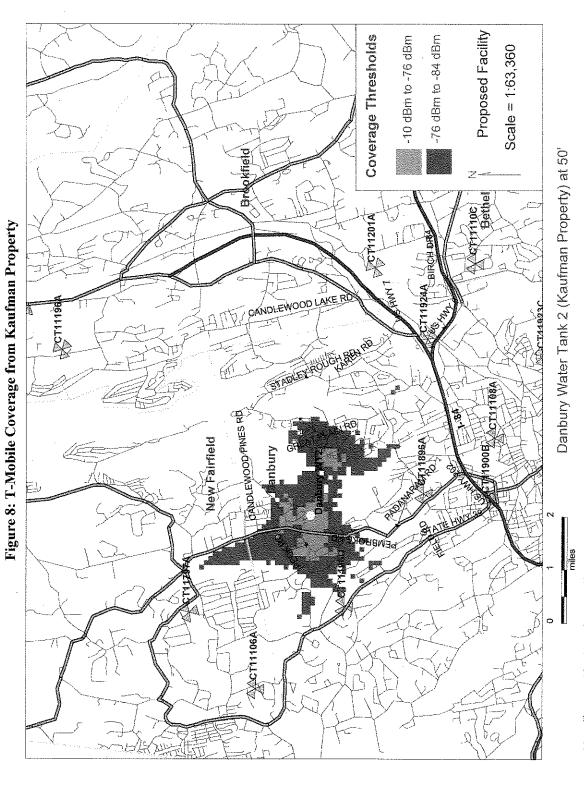
T.Mobile Proposed CT11796G @ 137' AGL

(Applicants 1, Attachment 2)

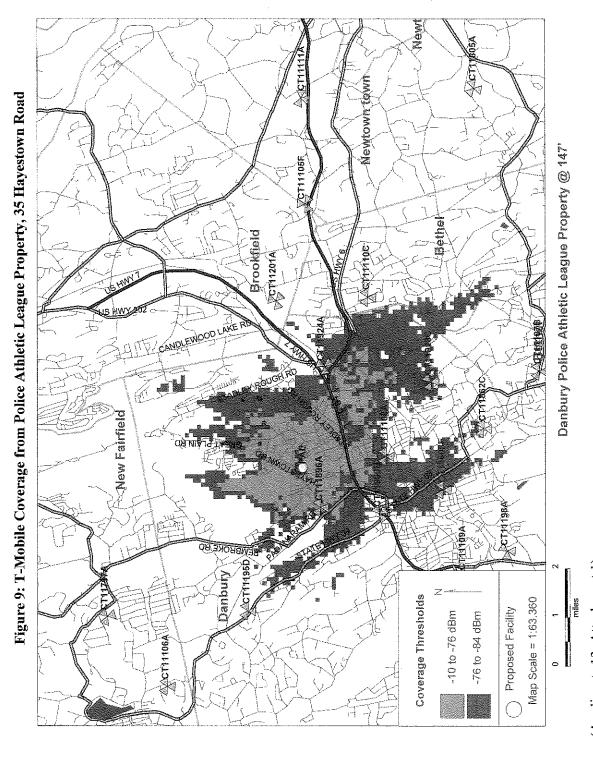


(Applicants 13, Attachment 1)

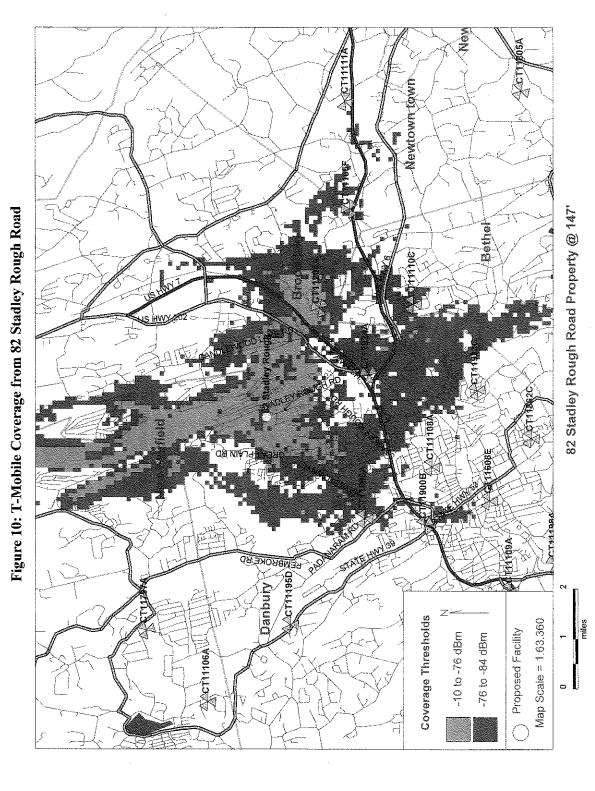




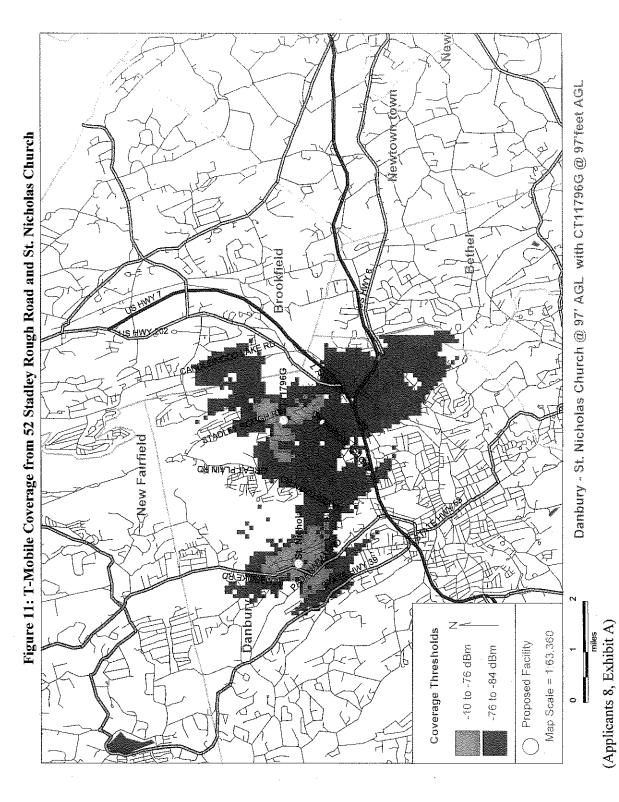
(Applicants 13, Attachment 1)

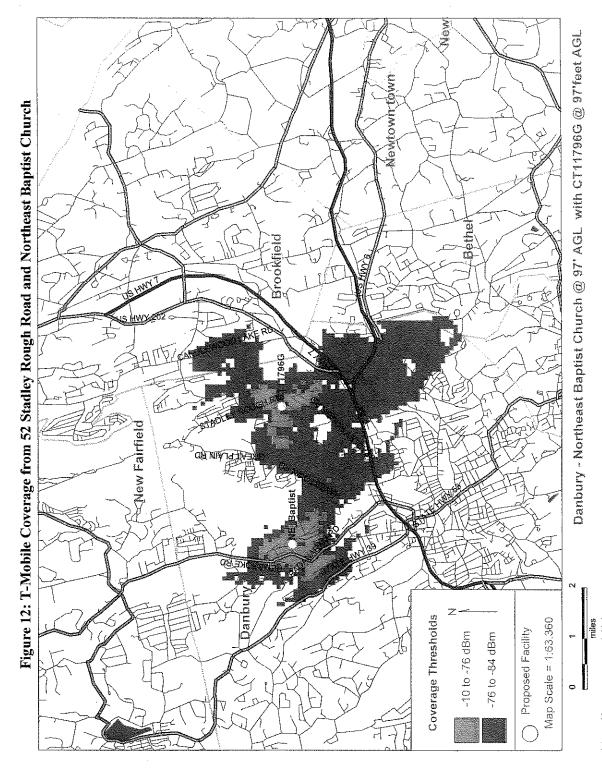


(Applicants 13, Attachment 1)

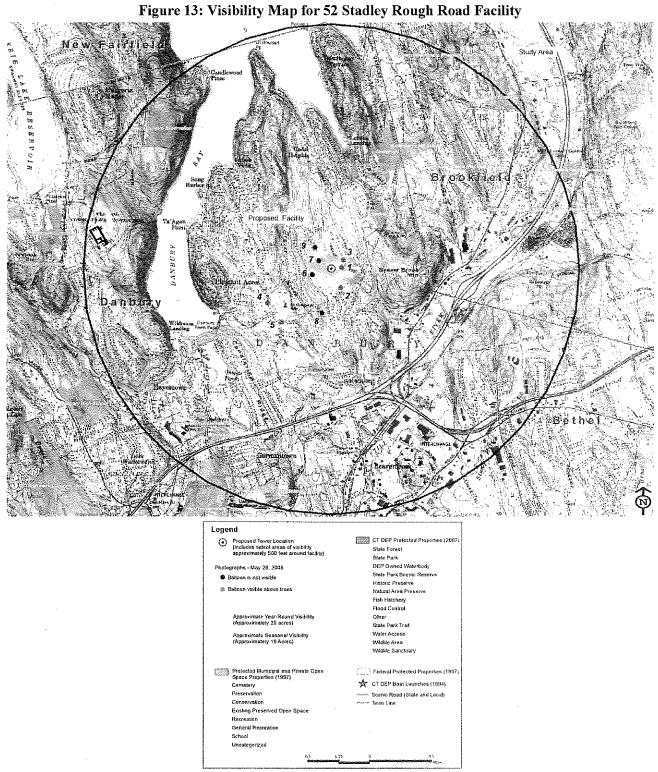


(Applicants 13, Attachment 3)





(Applicants 8, Exhibit A)



(Applicants 1, Attachment 5)

<b>DOCKET NO. 366</b> - Optasite Towers LLC and Omnipoint }	Connecticut
Communications, Inc. application for a Certificate of	
Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the }	Siting
construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications	
facility located at 52 Stadley Rough Road in Danbury, }	Council
Connecticut.	
	April 23, 2009

### Conclusions of Law Re Motion for Protective Order to Not Disclose the Exact Monthly Rent in Lease Agreement

# 1. The plain language of C.G.S. §16-50o(c) requires disclosure of the rent amount contained in telecommunication tower lease agreements.

C.G.S. §16-50o(c) states: "The applicant shall submit into the record the *full text* of the terms of any agreement, and a statement of any consideration therefor, if not contained in such agreement, entered into by the applicant and any party to the certification proceeding, or any third party, in connection with the construction or operation of the facility. This provision shall not require the public disclosure of proprietary information or trade secrets." (Emphasis added).

In its motion for protective order and at a public hearing on October 28, 2008, Optasite Towers, LLC (Optasite) argued that C.G.S. §16-50o(c) requires a general statement as to the rent paid rather than the exact amount. However, in a 2004 application for the construction and operation of a proposed telecommunications tower in Litchfield, Sprint Spectrum, L.P. (Sprint), in accordance with C.G.S. §16-50o(c), "produced an unredacted copy of its lease agreement with the property owner and records relating to the compensation between the property owner and various carriers." In its objection, the City of Danbury (Danbury) argued that the statute clearly means disclosure of the exact rent amount without limitations. In support of its position, Danbury cites to a redevelopment statute pertaining to the taking of property at fair market value which requires "a statement of compensation... setting forth the amount ..." However, C.G.S. §16-50o(c) pertains to the record of a Siting Council (Council) hearing rather than a compensation mandate.

When interpreting a statute, the starting point is the statute's plain meaning. C.G.S. §1-2z provides in relevant part, "The meaning of a statute shall, in the first instance, be ascertained from the text of the statute itself and its relationship to other statutes." For interpretive guidance, courts will also look to the legislative history. In

<sup>3</sup> CONN. GEN. STAT. §1-2z (2009).

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Rosa v. Conn. Siting Council, 2007 Conn. Super. LEXIS 590, \*20 (Conn. Super. 2007).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> CONN. GEN. STAT. §8-129(a)(3) (2009) ("The redevelopment agency shall file a statement of compensation... setting forth the *amount* of such compensation...") (Emphasis added).

determining common usage, courts often look to the dictionary definition of a term. The American Heritage Dictionary defines "text" as "the wording or words of something written or printed." Optasite has a written lease with Christ the Shepherd Church (Church). Black's Law Dictionary defines "consideration" as "something of value (such as an act, a forbearance or a return promise) received by a promisor from a promisee" and "statement" as "a formal and exact presentation of facts. Taken together, the phrase "statement of consideration" may be interpreted as an exact presentation of the value to be received by Optasite from the Church. According to the plain language of C.G.S. §16-500(c), the applicant is required to submit the entire lease agreement including the exact rent amount.

C.G.S. §16-50o(c) is directly related to C.G.S. §16-50p. The applicant argues that the rent amount in the lease agreement is not relevant to the Council's statutory criteria under C.G.S. §16-50p. However, under C.G.S. §16-50p(b)(1), the Council must examine the economic feasibility at fair market rates of the shared use of the facility. The applicant also argues that C.G.S. §16-50p(g) prohibits the Council from considering an applicant's interest in property proposed for a telecommunications tower. However, as Danbury points out in its objection, the Council is permitted to consider the likelihood of an applicant securing a proposed site. Therefore, according to the statutory criteria, the exact rent amount paid for an applicant's interest in property proposed for a tower is a factor for consideration at the Council's discretion.

In its motion for a protective order, Optasite states that C.G.S. §16-50o(c) was adopted by the legislature in an effort to address Cross Sound Cable's private agreements with oystermen related to their opposition to the proposed project in Docket 208 and that C.G.S. §16-50o(c) was amended on the floor to exclude the disclosure of confidential, proprietary information in those agreements. According to Optasite, the legislation requires disclosure of how the landowner will be paid rather than the precise rent amount. According to Danbury, the legislation requires public disclosure of the precise rent amount. Public Act 04-246 moved the language of present C.G.S. §16-50o(c) from C.G.S. §16-50p(a) to facilitate its application to proposed telecommunications towers, as well as transmission lines. Therefore, the legislature clearly intended the language of C.G.S. §16-50o(c) to apply to the public disclosure of "the full text of the terms" contained in lease agreements between an applicant and a third party, and a "statement of consideration therefor... in connection with the construction and operation of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> THE AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY 1332 (Houghton Mifflin Co. 1976).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>BLACK'S LAW DICTIONARY 300 (7<sup>th</sup> ed. 1999).

<sup>6</sup> Id. at 1416.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> CONN. GEN. STAT. §16-50p(b)(1) (2009).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> CONN. GEN. STAT. §16-50p(g) (2009) ("In making its decision as to whether or not to issue a certificate, the council shall in no way be limited by the fact that the applicant may already have acquired land or an interest therein for the purpose of constructing the facility which is the subject of its application.")

<sup>9</sup> Corcoran v. Conn. Siting Council, 50 Conn. Supp. 443, 452 (Conn. Super. 2006), affirmed by 284 Conn.

<sup>455 (2007) (&</sup>quot;the language of 16-50p(g) is that of an enlargement of the council's discretion, not a limitation...")

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> H.B. 6954, 2001 Sen. Reg. Sess. (2001).

facility." However, the statute specifically exempts proprietary information or trade secrets from public disclosure.

# 2. The rent amount contained in telecommunication tower lease agreements meets the definition of "proprietary information" and "trade secret."

In its motion for a protective order, Optasite states that the rent amount is proprietary information. Danbury suggests that rent amounts may be "low hanging fruit" that create a disincentive for applicants to explore alternative sites. The city also argues that proprietary information is narrowly defined and typically includes scientific and technical data. However, at a public hearing on December 8, 2008, Danbury and Optasite agreed to the release of the rent amount under a protective order.

"Proprietary information" is defined in Black's Law Dictionary as "information in which the owner has a protectable interest." DPUC defines "proprietary information" as information that may be exempt from public disclosure pursuant to C.G.S. §1-210(b). The Connecticut Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) defines "trade secret" as:

"information, including formulas, patterns, compilations, programs, devices, methods, techniques, processes, drawings, cost data, customer lists, film or television scripts or detailed production budgets that (i) derive independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means, by, other persons who can obtain economic value from their disclosure or use, and (ii) are the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain secrecy..." (Emphasis added). 12

The Connecticut Supreme Court defined "trade secret" as consisting of any "... compilation of information which is used in one's business, and which gives him an opportunity to obtain an advantage over competitors who do not know or use it." The Court set out several factors to be considered in determining whether given information qualifies as a trade secret, which are: 1) the extent to which the information is known outside of the business; 2) the extent to which it is known by others involved in the business; 3) the extent of measures taken to guard the secrecy of the information; 4) the value of the information to the business and competitors; 5) the amount of effort expended in developing the information; and 6) the ease or difficulty with which the information could be properly acquired or duplicated by others." 14

<sup>14</sup> *Id.* 

<sup>11</sup> BLACK'S LAW DICTIONARY 1235 (7th ed. 1999).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> CONN. GEN. STAT. §1-210(b)(5)(A) (2009).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Dept. of Public Utilities of the City of Norwich v. Freedom of Information Commission, 55 Conn. App. 527, 530 (Conn. App. 1999), citing Town & Country House & Homes Service, Inc. v. Evans, 150 Conn. 314, 318-19 (1963).

Applying the criteria to this docket, it is found that: 1) the applicant, as well as telecommunications industry representatives responding to the Council's request for comment, view the information as confidential; 2) persons in the business with knowledge of the exact rent amount in the lease agreement are Charles Regulbuto, Optasite's Director of Northeast Development, who negotiated the lease, James H. Ross, III, Optasite's President and COO, who executed the lease, and Christopher Fisher, Optasite's counsel, who submitted a redacted version of the lease to the Council; 3) Optasite's counsel filed a Notice of Lease on the City of Danbury Land Records that complied with the recording requirements under C.G.S. §47-19 and submitted a redacted version of the lease to the Council as part of Optasite's application; <sup>15</sup> 4) the rent amount in the lease agreement has independent economic value that, if generally known, would be a disadvantage to the applicant and would be an advantage to market competitors and future site hosts; 5) Optasite incurred transaction costs in Charles Regulbuto's negotiations and execution of the lease agreement; and 6) the exact rent amount is not contained or required in the Notice of Lease that is recorded on the City of Danbury Land Records.

Based on the criteria, the exact rent amount in the lease agreement between Optasite and the Church qualifies as a trade secret.

As such, pursuant to C.G.S. §16-50o(c), the exact rent amount in the subject lease agreement shall be disclosed to the Council under a protective order.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> CONN. GEN. STAT. §47-19 (2009) ("No lease of any... land... for a term exceeding one year... shall be effectual against any persons other than the lessor and the lessee and their respective heirs, successors, administrators and executors, unless it is in writing, executed, attested, acknowledged and recorded in the same manner as a deed of land, provided a notice of lease in writing, executed, attested, acknowledged and recorded in the same manner as a deed of land and containing (1) the names and addresses, if any are set forth in the lease, of the parties to the lease, (2) a reference to the lease, with its date of execution, (3) the term of the lease with the date of commencement and the date of termination of such term, (4) a description of the property contained in the lease, (5) a notation if a right of extension or renewal is exercisable, (6) if there is an option to purchase, a notation of the date by which such option must be exercised, and (7) a reference to a place where the lease is to be on file shall be sufficient").

DOCKET NO. 366 - 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 52 Stadley Rough Road in Danbury, }

Connecticut.

April 23, 2009

#### Opinion

On June 30, 2008, Optasite Towers LLC (Optasite) (now SBA Towers II, LLC) and Omnipoint Communications, Inc. (T-Mobile) 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 at 52 Stadley Rough Road in Danbury, Connecticut. Optasite and T-Mobile are seeking to develop a facility on a five-acre parcel owned by Christ the Shepherd Church. T-Mobile's objective in locating on this facility is to provide wireless service in the northeast portion of the City of Danbury, particularly north of the I-84 junction with Route 7 in an area between Candlewood Lake, the Town of Brookfield's municipal boundary, and Padanaram Road. The City of Danbury participated as a party in this proceeding in order to express the municipality's opposition to the proposed facility.

Optasite proposes to construct a 140-foot steel monopole within a 55-foot by 90-foot fenced compound in a wooded area in the southwesterly portion of the church property. Vehicular access to the facility would be over an existing paved driveway along the church's southerly boundary and then over a new gravel drive that would be installed for an approximate distance of 175 feet. The new gravel drive would be curved to avoid disturbing two small existing wetland areas that are proximate to the proposed compound. Utility service for the proposed facility would be extended underground from Stadley Rough Road and would run adjacent to the access ways. The tower would be designed to accommodate up to four commercial antenna placements plus City of Danbury public safety antennas. Optasite would require antennas to be flush-mounted on the tower. In addition to T-Mobile, Nextel Communications of the Mid-Atlantic, Inc. (Sprint/Nextel) has executed a lease with Optasite to place antennas at a centerline height of 127 feet above ground level.

The proposed tower's setback would extend approximately 98 feet onto an adjacent residential property to the west and approximately 103 feet onto an adjacent property to the south, which is owned and utilized by another church. Optasite has proposed designing a yield point into the tower in order to reduce the likelihood that a tower collapse would encroach on the neighboring properties. The yield point would occur approximately 40 feet below the top of the tower.

The proposed tower would be at least partially visible year-round, above the tree canopy, from approximately 25 acres within a two-mile radius of the site. It would also be seasonally visible from an additional 19 acres. Most of this acreage is located within one-quarter mile of the tower location. Approximately 14 residences would have partial year round views of the proposed tower, and 10 additional residences would have seasonal views of the proposed tower.

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The proposed facility is located in a wooded area characterized by mature, mixed deciduous hardwood species. There are two small wetland areas a short distance east of the compound. The closer of these areas is approximately six feet from where the compound's easterly fence would be. There was some discussion during the proceeding about relocating the facility about 40 or 45 feet to the north and east of its proposed location in order to preserve more vegetation between the compound and the adjacent properties to the west and south. Such a move, however, would require the disturbance of the wetland areas.

There are no state or federally listed species or significant natural communities located at or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed facility.

The City of Danbury raised concerns about the proposed facility's potential impact on six historic properties whose view sheds encompass the 52 Stadley Rough Road location. Based on a visual impact analysis performed for Optasite, these historic properties would not have views of the tower.

The search for a telecommunications site in this area of Danbury was originally initiated by Sprint PCS sometime prior to the fall of 2000. Sprint applied to the Danbury Planning Commission, which had jurisdiction at the time, for approval of a site on Great Plain Road. The Planning Commission denied Sprint's application in December, 2000.

Between 2000 and 2005, Verizon and T-Mobile continued to search for a suitable telecommunications site in this area. In June, 2005, Optasite began its investigation, in consultation with the wireless carriers, of locations where a new tower might be feasible. In the course of its investigation, Optasite identified the property at 52 Stadley Rough Road as an available and feasible location that would be able to provide acceptable coverage.

During this extensive proceeding, many other potential alternate locations were investigated. Some locations were suggested by local residents. Others were suggested by the City of Danbury or the Council. Some suggested locations were on properties either being planned for residential development by their owners or designated as open space. These locations, therefore, could not be developed as a wireless telecommunications facility. Many of the sites investigated were either unable to provide the necessary coverage or were owned by persons or entities, including the City of Danbury, which were unwilling to lease space for a telecommunications site.

The difficult topography in the target area was a factor limiting the feasibility of several of the suggested alternate locations. To provide coverage comparable to the coverage from the proposed site, towers at some of these alternate sites, such as the State Department of Transportation yard, would have to be much higher than the proposed 140-foot tower. Other locations, such as the water tower at the Sterling Woods condominium complex, would create coverage redundant to T-Mobile's nearest existing sites, which would lead to network problems for T-Mobile. Towers at many of the suggested alternate locations would be visible from more acreage and from more residential properties than the tower at 52 Stadley Rough Road.

The applicants also explored potential multi-site solutions that would enable T-Mobile to cover its target area with two or more lower towers instead of the one 140-foot tower proposed. However, none of the multi-site solutions were able to provide coverage equivalent to the coverage from the proposed site. A multi-site solution that would consist of two 90-foot towers—one at the proposed site and one at one of two churches in the Pembroke Road area—would not achieve satisfactory coverage in T-Mobile's target area. The solution proposed by the

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City of Danbury would require a taller tower in conjunction with a distributed antennas system (DAS). The taller tower would be more visible from surrounding neighborhoods and from Candlewood Lake compared to the tower proposed by the applicant. DAS would require the installation of numerous utility poles which would be incompatible in an area that currently has underground utility service.

The Council recognizes the difficulty of locating a facility in this part of Danbury. The topography severely limits the number of sites feasible. The area is suburban and residential. The few properties large enough to accommodate a telecommunications facility are restricted either by pre-existing City land-use policies or by property-owners' plans for further housing developments. The long history of industry attempts to locate a facility in this area testifies to the difficulty of securing a suitable site; the same history, however, supports the need for coverage in this area. Should the Council not approve this proposed facility, the Council may be consigning this section of Danbury to inadequate or non-existent coverage contrary to the Telecommunications Act.

Nevertheless, the Council acknowledges the neighborhoods concerns and would not have approved the facility without conditions. The Council would like to see Optasite provide substantial landscaped screening to mitigate the compound's visual impact on its nearest neighbors. The Council would also like the applicant to give its compound an architectural treatment to make it more palatable to the neighborhood. Further, the Council would recommend that Optasite attempt to move its compound, to the extent feasible, within its lease area to preserve as much as possible the existing vegetation along the boundaries of the properties to the west and south. Thus the Council shall order the applicant to address these concerns in the Development and Management Plan.

It is the Council's policy to strongly encourage collocation for future carriers in the area, in accordance with CGS § 16-50aa. The proposed tower would afford full opportunity for collocation. While Council-issued Certificates for electric power and fuel transmission lines permit the transmission company Certificate Holder the ability to exercise the right of eminent domain, Certificate Holders for telecommunications towers do not acquire such rights. While the Council is not limited by any lease, or the terms of such lease, or the acquisition of any other interest in land by an applicant (and has no authority to adjudicate conflicts over leases or other interests in land), the Council may consider the availability or non-availability of a site in deciding whether to consider alternative sites to those proposed by the applicant. Thus, the Council cannot force a landowner to accept a telecommunications facility, no matter how desirable the site.

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 2.72% 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.

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Opinion Page 4

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 the proposed site, 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 telecommunications facility that includes a 140-foot steel monopole at 52 Stadley Rough Road, Danbury, Connecticut.

DOCKET NO.	366	- Optasit	e Towers	LLC	and	Omnip	oint	}	Connecticut
Communications	-								
Environmental	Comp	atibility	and Pul	blic	Need	for	the	}	Siting
construction, mai	intenai	nce and o	peration of	a tele	comm	unicat	ions		
facility located	at 5	52 Stadle	y Rough	Roa	d in	Danb	ury,	}	Council
Connecticut.									April 23, 2009
									April 25, 2009

#### **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 Optasite Towers LLC, hereinafter referred to as the Certificate Holder, for a telecommunications facility at 52 Stadley Rough Road, Danbury, 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 Omnipoint Communications, Inc. and other entities, both public and private, but such tower shall not exceed a height of 140 feet above ground level. All antennas attached to the monopole shall be flush-mounted.
- 2. The Certificate Holder shall shift, to the extent feasible, the compound to the north and east to help retain the existing vegetative buffer.
- 3. The Certificate Holder shall incorporate an architectural treatment for the fence of the facility compound and any equipment shelters therein that is consistent with and amenable to adjacent land uses.
- 4. The Certificate Holder 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 City of Danbury 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:

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- 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 that will provide additional vegetative buffering for the adjacent properties; 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.
- 5. The Certificate Holder 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 Holder 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.
- 6. 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.
- 7. The Certificate Holder shall permit public or private entities to share space on the proposed tower for fair consideration, or shall provide any requesting entity with specific legal, technical, environmental, or economic reasons precluding such tower sharing.
- 8. The Certificate Holder shall provide reasonable space on the tower for no compensation for any City of Danbury public safety services (police, fire and medical services), provided such use can be accommodated and is compatible with the structural integrity of the tower.
- 9. 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 Holder 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.
- 10. Any request for extension of the time period referred to in Condition 9 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 City of Danbury. Any proposed modifications to this Decision and Order shall likewise be so served.
- 11. If the facility ceases to provide wireless services for a period of one year, this Decision and Order shall be void, and the Certificate Holder 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.

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- 12. The Certificate Holder shall remove any nonfunctioning antenna, and associated antenna mounting equipment, within 60 days of the date the antenna ceased to function.
- 13. In accordance with Section 16-50j-77 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Certificate Holder shall provide the Council with written notice two weeks prior to the commencement of site construction activities. In addition, the Certificate Holder 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 <u>Danbury News-Times</u>.

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**

Optasite Towers LLC and Omnipoint Communications, Inc. One Research Drive, Suite 200C Westborough, MA 01581

City of Danbury

#### ITS REPRESENTATIVE

Christopher B. Fisher, Esq. Lucia Chiocchio, Esq. Cuddy & Feder LLP 445 Hamilton Avenue, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor White Plains, New York 10601

Laszlo L. Pinter, Esq. Robin Edwards, Esq. City of Danbury 155 Deer Hill Avenue Danbury, CT 06810

### **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. 366** - Optasite Towers LLC (currently known as SBA Towers II, 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 52 Stadley Rough Road in Danbury, Connecticut, and voted as follows to approve the proposed telecommunications facility located at 52 Stadley Rough Road in Danbury, Connecticut:

Council Members	Vote Cast
Daniel F. Caruso, Chairman	Yes
Colin C. Tait, Vice Chairman	No
Commissioner Donald W. Downes Designee: Gerald J. Hefferman	Yes
Commissioner Gina McCarthy Designee: Brian Golembiewski	No
Philip T. Ashton	Yes
Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.	No
James/J/Myrphy/ Jr.	Yes
Barbara Currier Bell Dr. Barbara Currier Bell	Yes
Edward S. Wilensky  Edward S. Wilensky	Yes

Dated at New Britain, Connecticut, April 23, 2009.

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, Decision and Order, and Conclusions of Law issued by the Connecticut Siting Council, State of Connecticut.

ATTEST:

Executive Director Connecticut Siting Council

I certify that a copy of the Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order in Docket No. 366 has been forwarded by Certified First Class Return Receipt Requested mail, on April 28, 2009, to all parties and intervenors of record as listed on the attached service list, dated September 3, 2008.

ATTEST:

Carriann Mulcahy
Secretary II

Connecticut Siting Council

# LIST OF PARTIES AND INTERVENORS $\underline{SERVICE\ LIST}$

C. C. C.	Status Holder	Representative
Status Granted	(name, address & phone number)	(name, address & phone number)
Applicant	Optasite Towers LLC and Omnipoint Communications, Inc.	Christopher B. Fisher, Esq. Lucia Chiocchio, Esq. Cuddy & Feder LLP 445 Hamilton Avenue, 14 <sup>th</sup> Floor White Plains, New York 10601 914-761-1300 cfisher@cuddyfeder.com lchiocchio@cfwlaw.com
Party (Approved on August 28, 2008)	City of Danbury	Laszlo L. Pinter, Esq. Robin Edwards, Esq. Deputy Corporation Counsel City of Danbury 155 Deer Hill Avenue Danbury, CT 06810 203-797-4518 203-796-8043 l.pinter@ci.danbury.ct.us