

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

APPLICATION OF NEW CINGULAR
WIRELESS PCS, LLC (AT&T) FOR A
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR
THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE
AND OPERATION OF A
TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER
FACILITY AT ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN
CHURCH AT 224 LOVELY STREET IN THE
TOWN OF AVON

DOCKET NO. 373A

JUNE 21, 2010

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY
OF
JEFFREY SHAMAS

Q1. Please provide a copy of your resume and briefly explain you credentials in the area of wetlands delineations, habitat assessments and mitigation designs related to development in such areas?

A. My resume is attached.

Q2. Have you had an opportunity to visit the Siting Council approved Option 3 tower site location ("Approved Tower Site") and the modified tower site location to the north as proposed by the Applicant ("Modified Tower Site") at 224 Lovely Street in the Town of Avon, Connecticut?

A. Yes on two occasions, June 17, 2010 and January 20, 2010.

Q3. What findings have you made in comparing wetlands impacts, if any, associated with the Approved Tower Site and Modified Tower Site locations and the Roaring Brook?

A. Upon review of the Approved and Modified tower site locations, I applied the State DEP policy: avoidance, minimization, and compensation when dealing with wetland areas. There are no direct impacts to wetlands or watercourses thus avoidance was not a factor. Recommendations were and have been made to continue to minimize potential impacts to the extent possible.

The Modified tower location is approximately fifty-feet north of the Approved location (Option #3) and slightly closer to Roaring Brook. However, the lease compound area is much smaller: 900sq.ft. (30'x30') versus the 2,500sq.ft. (50'x50') approved

location. This is a reduction of 1,600sq.ft. that is equivalent to a reduction of approximately 64% or more than 2.5 times smaller. These are important reductions in size given the proximity to the Brook when evaluating the tower site itself.

The Modified tower location in an upland area does not present a significant impact that would alter the functions and values of the wetland/watercourse habitat given the very small area of the compound compared to the relatively large watershed area of the Brook. The upper watershed of Roaring Brook extends up to Secret Lake with vast wetland habitat areas north of the Lake. The proposed compound will be insignificant in the long-term to the productivity and functioning of the brook habitat. A landscape plan we prepared does incorporate additional plantings for habitat as well as screening around the tower and access road.

Due to the proximity of the proposed access road to the Brook for either tower site location, I have recommended that an alternative access road be designed with the entrance commencing off of the church parking lot in a grassy area (near originally proposed Option #1) then immediately turning easterly toward the parsonage, then traveling along the modest hill in a northerly direction to the proposed tower site.

Utilizing the alternative access, minimizing the footprint for the compound area, and providing native landscape plantings, result in avoiding any adverse impacts to the wetlands associated with Roaring Brook along the rear of the church property.

Q4. What findings have you made in evaluating habitat for the Eastern Box Turtle in assessing the Approved Tower Site and Modified Tower Site locations?

A. The NDDDB map (attached) shows that the proposed and approved locations for the tower facility will be within the extreme northern fringe of an area documented by the DEP (circular area) as supporting populations of the Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*), a species of special concern. BL Companies was engaged to conduct a follow-up evaluation of the study area (i.e., AT&T lease area and access road).

A prior herpetology study was conducted in March 2009. The original study found that potential habitat occurs near the brook but not in the originally proposed location of the tower site (Option #1). The study cited trees shading potential nesting sites along the western bank of Roaring Brook where the soil substrate is sandy. This area can be expressed as the approved and now proposed tower site locations.

After conducting a field investigation for the Eastern box turtle we find preferred sandy soil does occur for nesting in this area of the site. However based upon the above and the following issues, we believe that the likelihood of turtle's occupying these areas are low, due to:

1. The slopes are very steep from the Brook to the rear yard of the parsonage in the location of the proposed and approved tower sites. At least two terraces occur along the bank with steep slopes that can present

obstacles for a turtle's movement to the approved or proposed tower sites.

2. There are many large trees providing shade as well as a very thick herbaceous and shrub layer shading much of the parsonage property. As indicated by the previous herpetologist report noted above, shade was a problem in providing habitat.
3. Turtles were not discovered on the parsonage property, the lease areas or within the watercourse upon a site investigation on June 17, 2010.

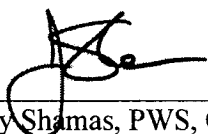
Q5. Did you prepare a landscape plan for the proposed tower site location at 224 Lovely Street in the Town of Avon?

A. Yes BL Companies completed this task and copies are on file with the Siting Council.

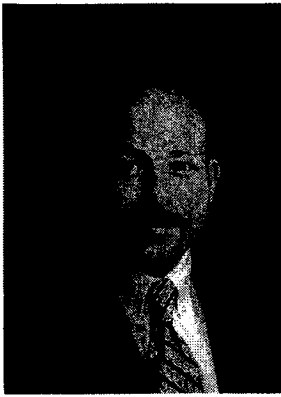
Q6. Are there any additional mitigation measures you can recommend as it relates to wetlands effects and the Eastern Box Turtle?

A. Mitigating measures to avoid and further minimize potential impacts to species include:

1. Relocate proposed access road to the Church parking lot and west of parsonage location.
2. Investigate the area of disturbance for the presence of turtle species prior to construction activities.
3. Install silt fence around the perimeter of the limits of construction (compound area and downslope of the revised access road location).
4. Restrict development activities from occurring between April and June (nesting/egg laying approximate season for Eastern box turtle).



Jeffery Shamas, PWS, CE, PSS



PROJECT ROLE
Northeast Regional Manager, Environmental Resources Group

EDUCATION
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science, University of Connecticut

PROFESSIONAL

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Mr. Shamas has 20 years of experience in Environmental Planning, Permitting and Management in the utility, energy, telecommunications, commercial, and residential market sectors. Mr. Shamas has a diverse professional background that has been built upon a foundation of understanding various federal, state and local regulatory laws, processes, and understanding the needs and objectives of clients while being fiscally responsible. Mr. Shamas has successfully managed diverse multi-million dollar projects incorporating many professional disciplines and subconsultants. Specifically, he has been involved in providing natural resource and habitat identification/management/restoration; wetland delineation and classifications, construction oversight and monitoring, soil mapping and classification, wetland functional assessments, and mitigation; stream design and monitoring; wildlife habitat inventories and assessments; pond and lake management including dredging; environmental permitting; public hearing presentations and expert testimony services. He has been involved in the preparation of and managed environmental impact statements (EIS) and environmental assessment (EA) documents in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). As the Northeast Regional Manager at BL Companies, Mr. Shamas' responsibilities include business development, growing the Environmental Resources Group through diversification, geographical expansion, and integrating with BL Companies service groups.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Waterbury-Oxford Airport (CEPA), Connecticut

Project manager responsible for completing a comprehensive draft Environmental Impact Evaluation for a 206,000 sq. ft. hangar facility and associated infrastructure improvements at the airport. The State of Connecticut Department of Transportation was the sponsoring Agency for the project. Services include completing and coordinating evaluations for natural resources, soil mapping and classification review, wildlife inventories and threatened and endangered species assessments, noise, archeology and historic resources, wetland classification, mapping and mitigation, air, water quality and other issues related to addressing the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) process.

Northeast Utility Service Company

Served as natural resources expert for state and federal permitting for the separation of two 345-kV circuits that currently share eleven transmission line structures. Services included reviewing wetland delineation and soil mapping, wetland classification, completing wetland mitigation design work (restoration, enhancement and creation), and technical report writing. The project was successfully permitting in 2010.

ExteNet Systems (DAS) Network, Various Locations (CT, RI, MA, PA, NY)

Served as client developer and Program Manager and NEPA expert for numerous Distributed Antennae System (DAS) projects with ExteNet Systems utility company. The project includes installing DAS network's throughout the northeast and mid-Atlantic region. Project responsibilities include completing NEPA/SHPO/TCNS assessments and coordinating with historical and cultural commission and Native American tribes.

Various DAS, New Tower, and Collocation Telecommunications Projects, Northeast

Served as client developer and Senior Project Manager and NEPA expert for numerous Distributed Antennae System (DAS), cellular tower projects (raw land and collocations) throughout the northeast. Project responsibilities included completing NEPA assessments and coordinating with historical and cultural commissions and Native American tribes, as well as testifying to regulatory boards.

Jeffrey Shamas, PWS, CE, PSS

El Paso Pipeline, Various Locations, Connecticut

Conducted wetland delineation's and construction monitoring along numerous sections of the pipeline Right-of-Way in Connecticut and prepare wetland permit applications for El Paso's cathode protection maintenance program.

Buckeye Pipe Line Company, Jamaica, New York

Served as client developer and Senior Project Manager and Natural Resources expert for a proposed maintenance project to repair a section of exposed pipeline along the shoreline. Project responsibilities included state and federal tidal wetland determinations, coastal consistency assessments, coordination with regulatory agencies, and prepare various permits for client.

Competitive Power Ventures Natural Gas-Fired Power Plant, Connecticut

Responsible for client development and served as Senior Project Manager and Natural Resources expert for a proposed new gas fired power plant facility. Project responsibilities included state and federal wetland delineations, wetland classification and soil mapping, and feasibility analysis.

Proposed Gas Pipeline Routing Study Connecticut & Long Island, New York

Served as client manager and Senior Project Manager conducting ecological studies along portions of the proposed Islander East Pipeline route (North Haven to Branford, CT and in the Pine Barrens area of Long Island, NY. Responsibilities included ecological statistical analysis of forest population size, age and clear cutting acreage, invasive species inventory plans for future monitoring, and wetland delineation verifications.

Wind Power Feasibility Analysis, Virginia

Served as Senior Project Manager and Natural Resources expert for a wind power company on a proposed wind farm in Virginia and NEPA analysis. Project responsibilities included conducting preliminary natural resources constraints analysis that included reviewing recorded data, onsite reconnaissance and GIS data mapping.

Exxon Mobil

Conducted wetland delineation and environmental assessments on numerous location in the northeast for a variety of project types.

SAI Communications-Telecommunications projects

Responsible for client development and projects involving natural resource identifications, landscape architectural renderings,

American Tower

Conducted NEPA/SHPO evaluations and reports as well as informal biological assessments (IBA) on various locations for new tower proposed developments.

State of Connecticut Bridge Program

Served as the Natural Resources division leader for the program under the State of Connecticut liaison program, in which bridges throughout the state are evaluated for rehabilitating. Wetland delineations and functional assessments were conducted at bridge locations where natural resources were identified as being within the proximity of proposed work.

Connecticut Service Plaza Natural Resources Services

Served as Natural Resources expert providing comprehensive wetland delineation, classification, soils mapping, threatened and endangered species reviews, wildlife habitat assessments, and technical reports on twenty-three different sites throughout the state in support of the improvements and additions occurring at each of the sites.

Cedar Brickyard Shopping Plaza Habitat Assessment

Conducted a viewshed evaluation a shopping plaza in order to improve the view from the state highway to the shopping center. Services included assessing the quantity, quality of forest and shrub community, identifying type and size of tree and shrub species to be removed, wetland delineation and classification, wildlife habitat assessment, technical report writing, public presentation, regulatory permitting, and site monitoring. The project was successfully permitted.

Cranberry Bogs, Private Location

Serving as client developer and Senior Project Manager and Natural Resources expert for a complex federal jurisdictional case under the Clean Water Act. Project responsibilities include conducting federal wetland jurisdictional determinations through an analysis of the significant nexus and plurality tests as required under the Rapanos decision by U.S. government and guidance under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Additionally, stream order analysis, evaluation of wetland functions and values, stream connection's through channelization or diffusion, water quality review, habitat identification (including wildlife habitat analysis, and upland and wetland community analysis), soil mapping and classification review and analysis, aerial photographic analysis, hydrological analysis review, wetland mitigation and stream creation review, and coordinating with client consultant team.

Reptilian, Herpetofauna and Avian Surveys, Guilford, Connecticut

Served as client developer and Senior Project Manager for a residential subdivision development that required local regulatory wetland and zoning permitting. In addition to completing soils mapping and classification, a function assessment was completed and a wildlife inventory and habitat analysis was accomplished. Threatened, endangered, and species of special concern survey's were conducted for several avian grassland listed species and a box turtle. The project was successfully permitted, while utilizing habitat mitigation measures from avoidance to restricting seasonal development activities.

Herpetofauna Surveys and Soil mapping, Madison, Connecticut

Served as client developer and Senior Project Manager for a potential commercial development on a vacant parcel in Madison, CT. Conducted soils mapping and classification services, and a vernal pool and wildlife habitat assessment on the parcel. Other services included wetland delineation and functional assessment and assisting on a feasibility study with a private engineering firm.

Redevelopment Project, Guilford, Connecticut

Served as client developer and natural resources expert and senior project manager conducting wetland delineations and classification, soils mapping, wildlife inventories, wetland functional assessments using the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Highway Methodology supplement, technical writing, regulatory permitting, and public presentations. The project was successfully permitted.

Pond Feasibility & Management Assessments, Fairfield County, Connecticut & Westchester County, New York

Served as Senior Project Manager and natural resources/ limnologist expert for the assessment of numerous ponds through Fairfield County, Connecticut and Westchester County, New York. Use of aerial photography interpretation, wetlands and soils mapping and classification, bathymetric mapping, water quality and fish sampling, pond enhancement plan designs including Best Management Practices, aeration and coordination and monitoring of contractor.

BET Investments-Lowe's Warehouse Center, North Greenbush, New York

Served as client developer conducting freshwater wetland delineations, US Army Corps of Engineers jurisdictional determinations, soils and wetland mapping and classification, various natural resource inventories, SEQR permitting, US Army Corps of Engineers permitting (post Rapanos) and wetland mitigation design.

Corporate Acres-Yorkshire & Village at Yorkshire, Farmington, Connecticut

Served as client developer and Senior Project Manager and Natural Resources expert for a proposed residential subdivision. Project responsibilities included state and federal wetland delineations, soil mapping, wetland classifications, impact and functional assessments utilizing the Hydrogeomorphic Approach (HGM) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Highway Methodology supplement, listed species surveys, mitigation design, construction monitoring and reporting, coordination with local regulators, permitting lead, provide environmental planning to the development design and provided expert testimony in court under appeal. The project was successfully permitted.

Sound Development Office Building, Trumbull, Connecticut

Served as Senior Project Manager and natural resources expert for a redevelopment of a commercial site to incorporate additional professional office space and a new multi-level parking garage. The project included filling of a portion of a detention pond and expanding the pond with an extensive habitat-planting plan. Wetland mitigation was incorporated in the development plan to offset assessed impacts to regulated freshwater wetlands/watercourses. The U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers Highway Methodology supplement was employed to assess wetland function values. Project responsibilities included state wetland delineation, wetland and ecological impact assessments, listed species surveys, mitigation design, permitting, and testimony.

Bella Vista Estates, Preston, Connecticut

Served as Senior Project Manager and natural resources expert for a proposed 100+ acre residential subdivision. Project responsibilities included state wetland delineation, ecological and wetland impact assessments utilizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Highway Methodology supplement, mitigation design, coordination with local regulators, permitting, provide environmental planning to the development design and testimony.

Trumbull Elementary School, Trumbull, Connecticut

Served as Senior Project Manager and Natural Resources expert for a proposed new elementary school on a vacant site. Project responsibilities included state and federal wetland delineations, ecological and wetland impact assessments, wetland mitigation design, coordination with federal and local regulators, permitting, provide environmental planning to the development design and testimony.

Weston Schools Campus, Weston, Connecticut

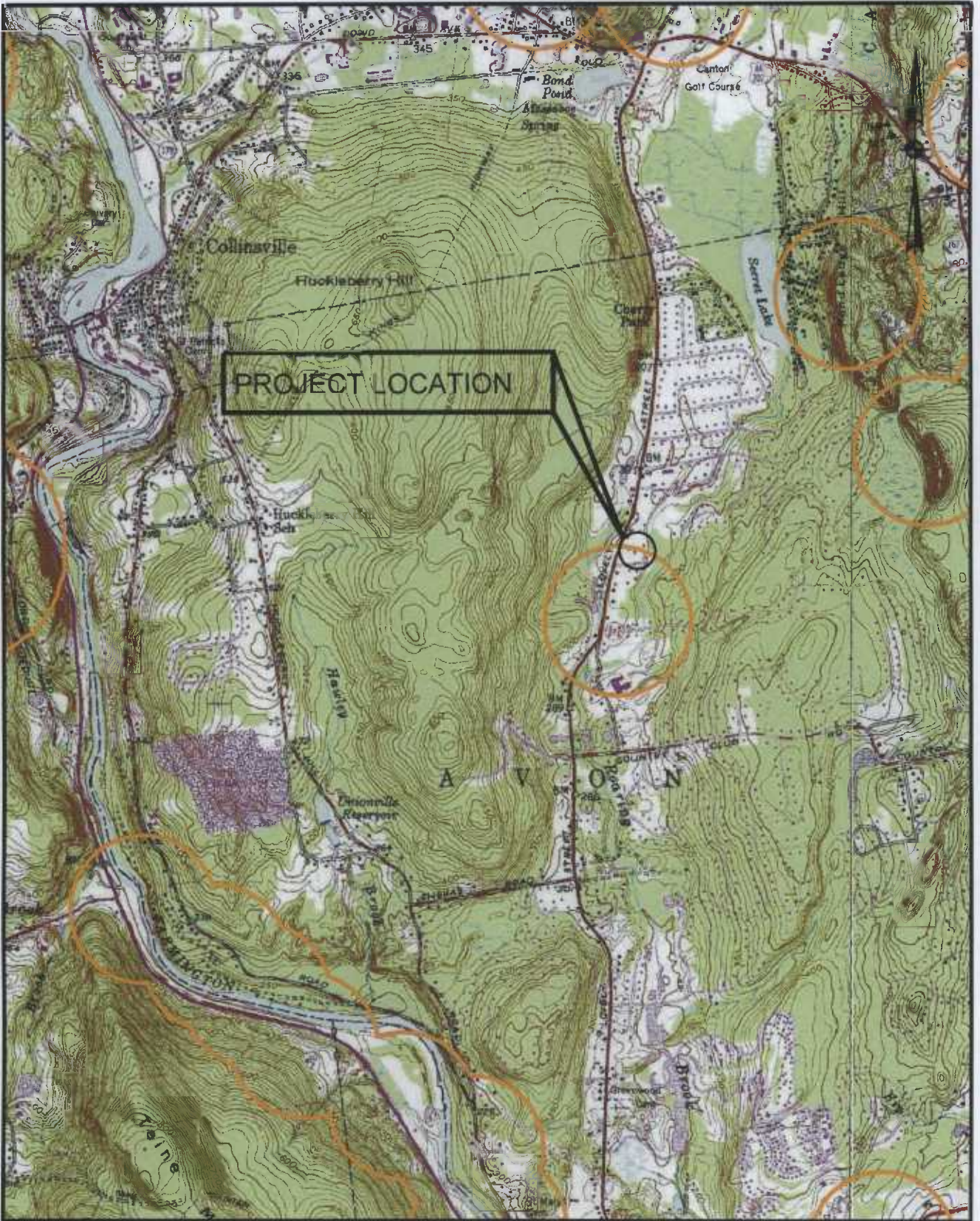
Served as Senior Project Manager and Natural Resources expert for a new proposed elementary school, additions to the Middle and High schools and new athletic fields. Project responsibilities included state and federal wetland delineations, ecological impact assessments, wetland mitigation design, listed species surveys for box turtle and salamanders, coordination with federal and local regulators, permitting, provide environmental planning to the development design and testimony.

Six to Six Magnet School, Bridgeport, Connecticut

Served as Senior Project Manager and Natural Resources expert for additions to the school and athletic field improvements. Project responsibilities included state and federal wetland delineations, ecological impact assessment, wetland mitigation design, and coordination with federal and local regulators, permitting, and provide environmental planning to the development design.

St. Joseph's High School Trumbull, Connecticut

Served as Senior Project Manager and Natural Resources expert for athletic field improvements/feasibility assessment. Project responsibilities included state and federal wetland delineations and impact assessments, providing environmental planning to the development design.



LOCATION MAP
 PROPOSED CELL TOWER
 GREENWOOD DRIVE
 AVON, CONNECTICUT

Designed
 Drawn E.L.Z.
 Checked
 Approved
 Scale 1" = 2,400'
 Project No. 10L2173
 Date 06/17/10
 CAD File LOC10L217301

FIGURE 1

Xref (s) : ; XZ10L217302