### STATE OF CONNECTICUT CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE:

TORRINGTON

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 933 STILLWATER POND ROAD IN THE CITY OF

January 20, 2010

DOCKET NO. 394

# PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF MARIE R. BURBANK

#### 1.Q. Ms. Burbank, please summarize your professional background and role for AT&T.

A. I am a consultant for SAI, a company hired by AT&T to acquire wireless telecommunications sites. My current responsibilities include identifying and selecting sites for AT&T in the areas where AT&T has gaps in coverage. I handle lease negotiations, siting issues and coordinate the various technical professional services to secure sites for AT&T to improve and enhance its service. My resume is attached which details my qualifications and experience.

#### 2.Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A. The purpose of this testimony is to provide additional information relating to the Application of New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC ("AT&T") to the Connecticut Siting Council for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the proposed facility in Torrington. Specifically, I am providing additional information regarding AT&T's site search and communications with the City of Torrington regarding the proposed Facility.

#### 3.Q. Please describe AT&T's search for a site and its selection of the proposed Facility.

A. AT&T identified a site search area, or an area where the installation of a wireless facility would address an identified coverage need, along Route 272 in the north-central portion of the City of Torrington. To address AT&T's coverage needs, on behalf of AT&T and in conjunction with AT&T's RF Engineers, I began by searching for any tall existing structures or existing tower sites in the search ring area and its vicinity. After

analysis of the area in conjunction with AT&T's RF Engineers, it was determined that none would provide adequate coverage to the area where service is needed. Once it was determined that there are no existing facilities that would meet AT&T's coverage needs, I began a search for sites that might host a new tower facility.

When searching for appropriate locations for the siting of a new tower facility, I review the search area, determine zoning designations, consider existing land uses and generally look for the existence of large parcels of land. This area of Torrington is characterized by State Park properties and the Torrington Water Company (TWC) owns several large parcels in this area used for water supply purposes. Having been aware from AT&T's Newtown Docket that State Park and Forest lands are not available for tower siting, I started with the Torrington Water Company properties and investigated TWC parcels with a TWC representative. The TWC properties are located outside of the search ring area. I was advised by AT&T's counsel that the Torrington Water Company properties in this area that are classified as Class I Watershed parcels are not available for the siting of wireless facilities per State Statute. The other TWC properties that were investigated were not selected for several reasons, including the presence of steep grades, access issues and insufficient elevation for providing needed service.

I also investigated other large parcels in the search area. As detailed in Attachment 3 of the Application, based on extensive investigations in conjunction with AT&T's RF engineers, all but one of these parcels was determined available and would meet AT&T's technical requirements for providing service in this area of the City.

#### 4.Q. Did you speak with municipal officials in Torrington about the proposed Facility?

A. Yes. After submitting the Technical Report to Mayor Bingham, a meeting was held with the Mayor and representatives of AT&T to discuss the proposed facility. AT&T's representatives also spoke with the City Planner who indicated that the City may be interested in locating emergency communications on the proposed facility. AT&T indicated that space on the facility would be provided for municipal equipment free of charge. Additional copies of the Technical Report were given to the Planner for distribution to other municipal officials. The City had no other comments or preferences.

## 5.Q. Did AT&T post a sign giving notice of the Siting Council hearing scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup>?

A. Yes. On January 9<sup>th</sup> a sign was posted at the driveway entrance to 933 Stillwater Pond Road. The sign indicated that an application for a telecommunications facility had been submitted and provided that on January 26<sup>th</sup> a public hearing would be held on the application at Torrington High School located at 50 Major Besse Drive.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this day, an original and twenty copies of the foregoing pre-filed testimony were served on the Connecticut Siting Council electronically via email and by overnight mail.

Dated: January 20, 2010

Lucia Chiocchio

cc: Michele Briggs, AT&T

John Blevins, AT&T

Anthony Wells, C Squared

Marie Burbank, SAI

Rodney Bascom, P.E., CHA

Christopher Fisher, Esq.