

**TOWN OF EAST HADDAM**  
**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**  
**TOWN OFFICE BUILDING - P. O. BOX K**  
**EAST HADDAM, CONN. 06423**  
HOURS: Mon., Weds. & Thurs. - 9AM - 4PM; Tues. - 9AM - 7PM; Fri. - 9AM - Noon  
(860) 873-5031 - Fax (860) 873-5042

February 3, 2010

Attorney Christopher B. Fisher  
Cuddy & Feder, LLP  
445 Hamilton Avenue, 14th Floor  
White Plains, New York 10601

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ORIGINAL

RECEIVED  
FEB - 5 2010

CONNECTICUT  
SITING COUNCIL

RE: AT&T Proposed Wireless Telecommunication Tower Facilities in East Haddam.  
Ed Williams Road Assessor's Map 43, Lot 12 – Andrew Tarpill property  
Hopyard Road Assessor's Map 61, Lot 003 - East Haddam Fish and Game  
property

Dear Attorney Fisher,

The Town of East Haddam has been given written notice that the Connecticut Siting Council will conduct a public hearing on Thursday, March 4, 2010 to hear information and testimony on the application for a Certification of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of two telecommunication facilities located off of Haywardville Road and Ed Williams Road. As part of the municipal sixty-day consultation period last year, the East Haddam Planning and Zoning Commission received your technical reports for proposed telecommunication towers in East Haddam around May 11, 2009. AT&T conducted a balloon test at each proposed site on June 13, 2009. The East Haddam Planning and Zoning Commission then held a public hearing on June 23, 2009 in which you and David Vivian from AT&T were in attendance.

For background information, the Connecticut Siting Council should know that this area is an area of special concern to the residents of East Haddam and surrounding towns. The two proposed locations are on the eastern third of the town which is part of the Eightmile River Watershed and has the lowest residential density of the Town and is dominated by large tracts of designated open space including Devil's Hopyard State Park (800 acres), Burnham Brook Preserve (1200 acres), East Haddam Fish and Game parcels (2200 acres), and several other preserved properties under conservation easements or owned by the Town or the East Haddam Land Trust. The Town, the State of Connecticut, the Nature Conservancy, and the East Haddam Land Trust have considered this watershed as a priority section of the Town to preserve and protect and have aggressively pursued open space acquisitions to accomplish these goals. In fact, on June 29, 2009, the town overwhelmingly approved the acquisition of an additional 340 acres of land in the watershed as open space parcels. The area also has limited development potential due to steep slopes, ledge, and wetlands.

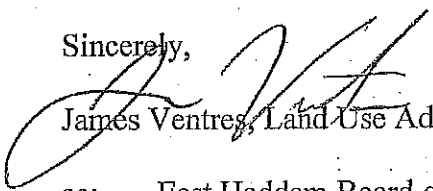
The Eightmile River Watershed was designated as a Wild & Scenic River in May of 2008 through a bill signed by President George Bush. The Eightmile River Watershed is the 9<sup>th</sup> New England River to receive designation as one of the nation's Wild and Scenic Rivers. With over 150 miles of pristine rivers and streams flowing through relatively undeveloped rural land, the Eightmile River Watershed is an exceptional natural and cultural resource. Large areas of un-fragmented habitat, an array of rare and diverse wildlife, scenic vistas, high water quality, unimpeded stream flow, and significant cultural features typify the watershed. A locally led campaign to seek Wild & Scenic Designation is complete and a Watershed Management Plan has been published. Additional information can be found on the web at [www.eightmileriver.org](http://www.eightmileriver.org).

The Town of East Haddam's Plan of Conservation and Development, which was amended in August of 2008, specifically looks for methods to preserve the scenic value of the Town and the open spaces, protect the rural character, and to "Promote the Town's natural recreational resources to enhance public awareness of the Town as a tourism destination." Any placement of a facility that would impact the scenic value of Devil's Hopyard State Park would be considered a loss of scenic value and cause adverse economic impact to the Town.

At the public hearing held on June 23, 2009, public and the Commission expressed legitimate concerns with two of the original three sites proposed. While they felt the East Haddam Fish and Game site offered a minimal impact to the scenic rural character of the Town, they were as equally opposed to the Haywardville Road site and the Jones Hill Road site due to visual impacts to Devil's Hopyard State Park. At that time you said AT&T would investigate alternatives identified by the Commission. One such site is the Andrew Tarpill property - Ed Williams Road site which is now also before us. The Commission has reviewed this alternative, and believes that it offers the least amount of impact while still providing coverage of the area and is a far better site than the previously considered Jones Hill and the Haywardville Road sites.

The East Haddam Planning and Zoning Commission would like to thank you and your staff, and the staff of AT&T for the opportunity to participate in a positive process in which the Commission and the public spoke and their concerns were not only heard, but acted on. While no site will be suitable for everyone, we believe the locations chosen were the best available sites considering the topography and availability of sites not already encumbered with restrictions.

Sincerely,

  
James Ventres, Land Use Administrator - Town of East Haddam

cc: East Haddam Board of Selectmen  
East Haddam Planning & Zoning Commission  
East Haddam Economic Development Commission  
East Haddam Historical Commission

East Haddam Open Space Committee

East Haddam Conservation Commission

Anthony Irving - Eightmile River Watershed Committee

✓ S. Derek Phelps - Connecticut Siting Council

Brian Golembiewski - Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

Tammy Talbot - Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

Eric Thomas - Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection