

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

**RE: APPLICATION OF SBA TOWERS II LLC DOCKET NO. 396
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR
THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND
OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS
FACILITY AT 49 BRAINERD ROAD,
NIANTIC (EAST LYME), CONNECTICUT Date: February 16, 2010**

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF ERNEST LACACSSE

Q1. Mr. Lacasse, please summarize your professional background in telecommunications.

A. I am the project director for the northeast region for SBA Towers II, LLC (“SBA”) where I am in charge of site development and site acquisition activities. My responsibilities include site selection and design, municipal and community relations associated with SBA’s efforts to develop new tower sites in Connecticut and Massachusetts, and coordination and support during the approval process. I have been part of the telecommunications industry for two years and have been involved in all aspects of the development of telecommunications facilities. Prior to working for SBA, I worked for Centerline Communications, LLC. I have also worked at Unison Site Management.

Q2. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A. My testimony provides background information relating to SBA’s application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the proposed East Lyme (Niantic) facility at 49 Brainerd Road in East Lyme. In addition, I will address the specific site search resulting in the proposed site as well SBA’s activities prior to initiation of this application.

Q3. How does SBA conduct a site search?

A. SBA maintains close relationships with the licensed wireless carriers in Connecticut, follows the development activities of others and has an in-depth understanding of the fluctuating market conditions. When a wireless carrier contacts SBA regarding the need for a new facility, SBA conducts an extensive review of the area. The first activity after assignment of a search ring to site acquisition personnel is a review of the area for suitable existing structures, such as existing telecommunications facilities, transmission lines available for co-location and other, existing tall structures. Only once SBA exhausts its search for existing structures on which to locate, does it then begin to study the area for suitable locations to construct a new facility. When looking for a suitable location for a new facility, SBA first studies the area to determine whether industrial, commercial areas or town-owned parcels which have appropriate environmental and land use characteristics are present. In addition, SBA focuses its search on larger parcels of property that provide screening of the potential facility from nearby properties. Potential locations are studied by radio frequency engineers to determine whether the locations will meet the technical requirements for a site in the area. The list of potential locations is then further refined based on the willingness of property owners to make their property available.

Q4. Please describe SBA's search for the proposed East Lyme wireless facility.

A. SBA commenced a search for a site in this area of East Lyme in April, 2009. At that time, SBA was aware of the lack of wireless coverage in this area, particularly for New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC ("AT&T"). When SBA commenced its site search, it found no existing towers within the search area. The nearest tower(s) suitable for use as

a wireless communications facility are located outside of the search area, and are not useable due to existing terrain in the area. In addition, SBA identified no other existing tall structures which were suitable for use.

Turning to locations for a new tower proposal, SBA found that site selection in the area was limited by the largely residential nature of the search area. Therefore, SBA focused its site search of larger tracts of residential property those properties that, while residentially zoned, are used for non-residential purposes. These included several parcels Old Black Point Road and Brainerd Road. The proposed Site is uniquely suited for the development of a telecommunications facility given its size (51 acres) and existence of natural screening on the Site.

Q5. Has SBA consulted with municipal officials with regard to their plans?

A. Yes. In compliance with Section 16-50/(e), consultation with municipal officials was undertaken by SBA. On September 9, 2009, SBA provided its technical report to the First Selectman of East Lyme. In follow-up, SBA and its representative met with First Selectman Paul Formica, Deputy Fire Marshal Chris Taylor and Brooks Gianakos, the town's emergency services consultant. In follow-up on the September 9, 2009 meeting, SBA and its representatives attended a public informational meeting in front of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen on November 18, 2009.

Q6. Has SBA offered co-location to the Town of East Lyme so it can locate its emergency service equipment at this Site?

A. As is its customary practice, SBA will make space available for the Town's emergency service equipment, free of charge and has already offered to do so. To date, SBA has discussed possible uses of the tower with the town's emergency services

representatives, but has not received a specific request from the town to place equipment on the tower.

Q7. Pursuant to statutory requirements, did SBA post a sign giving the public notice of the hearing on this Application?

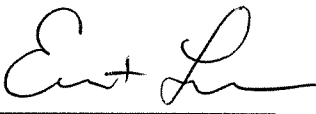
A. Yes, on February 8, 2010, SBA posted a sign at the Site giving the public notice of the hearing on this Application. Photographs of the hearing sign are attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

Q8. Since the filing of this application, has SBA investigated additional parcels since the filing of this application?

A. Yes. Based on correspondence received from intervenor Pondcliff Condominium Association, SBA investigated 97 West Main Street in East Lyme. SBA determined that this site was too far out of the search area to provide coverage to the target area and was also too close to an existing tower location on Roxbury Road. In addition, SBA investigated property located at 138 Bridebrook Road, sent in as a potential alternative from the owner, Nebelung Farms, LLC. This site, too, was deemed to be too far out of the search area as it is almost two (2) miles from the proposed Site.

The statements above are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

2/11/10
Date


Ernest Lacasse

Subscribed and sworn before me this ___ day of February, 2010.

By: _____
Commissioner of the Superior Court

ACTIVE/72517.66/CLARSON/2011250v1

EXHIBIT 1

PUBLIC NOTICE

SBA Towers II, LLC has

filed an application with the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for construction of a telecommunications facility on this site. The maximum height of said facility shall not exceed 170 ft. The council will hold a public hearing on February 23, 2010 at the Camp Rell Nell Hall, Smith St, East Lyme at 3 & 7 pm.

A copy of the application can be reviewed at the town hall or at the Council offices in New Britain Ct. For more information, please contact the Council by telephone at 860-827-2935, electronically at www.ct.gov/csc, or by mail at 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, Ct 06051.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SBA Towers II, LLC has

filed an application with the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for construction of a telecommunications facility on this site. The maximum height of said facility shall not exceed 170ft. The council will hold a public hearing on February 23, 2010 at the Camp Reil Nell Hall, Smith St, East Lyme at 3 & 7 pm.

A copy of the application can be reviewed at the town hall or at the Council offices in New Britain Ct. For more information, please contact the Council by telephone at 860-827-2935, electronically at www.ct.gov/csc, or by mail at 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, Ct 06051.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Board of Directors of the...
has approved the...
for the...
of the...
of the...
of the...
of the...

**NO
KEEP
OUT**

