



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
*CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL*

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov)

Web Site: [portal.ct.gov/esc](http://portal.ct.gov/esc)

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL & CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

October 2, 2024

Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq.  
Robinson & Cole LLP  
One State Street  
Hartford, CT 06103  
[kbaldwin@rc.com](mailto:kbaldwin@rc.com)

RE: **DOCKET NO. 414** – Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 36 Ritch Avenue, Greenwich, Connecticut. **Enforcement Action.**

Dear Attorney Baldwin:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of additional email correspondence, dated September 30, 2024 from Greenwich resident, Alan Meilinggaard, the owner of property at 52 Ritch Avenue West, concerning the lack of vegetative maintenance associated with the above-referenced Council-certificated telecommunications facility site.

Mr. Meilinggaard initially submitted email correspondence to the Council regarding this issue on July 10, 2024. The Council copied Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Cellco), the Certificate Holder of record for this facility, and American Tower Corporation (ATC), the management company engaged by Cellco for this facility, on its July 11, 2024 response to Mr. Meilinggaard as notification of the lack of vegetative maintenance at the facility site.

Please be advised that under Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) §16-50u, “If the council finds that any person... has failed to comply with any certificate..., the council shall fine such person, order such person to pay restitution or order such person to pay a combination of a fine and restitution. The council may assess civil penalties in an amount not less than one thousand dollars per day for each day of... operation in material violation of... any certificate...”

Pursuant to CGS §16-50u, the Council hereby provides notice of a reason to believe that a violation of Condition No. 14 of the Council’s July 14, 2011 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) for this facility has occurred.

Condition No. 14 of the Council’s July 14, 2011 Certificate states: “The **Certificate Holder** shall maintain the facility and associated equipment, including but not limited to, the tower, tower foundation, antennas, equipment compound, radio equipment, access road, utility line and **landscaping** in a reasonable physical and operational condition that is consistent with this Decision and Order and a Development and Management Plan to be approved by the Council.” (Emphasis added).

Cellco provided notice of commencement of construction of the facility on March 1, 2012. During construction, Council staff conducted several inspections of the site. Cellco provided notice of

completion of construction of the facility on July 9, 2013. Council staff conducted a post-construction site review on October 3, 2014 and issued a Post-Construction Report for the facility on October 7, 2014, which may be accessed at this link: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/csc/postconstructionreports/414postconstructionreport100714pdf.pdf>

The photographs and captions on page 4 of the October 7, 2014 Post-Construction Report clearly identify “weed growth.” This certificated facility site has not been in compliance and is currently not in compliance with Condition No. 14 of the Council’s July 14, 2011 Certificate.

In accordance with CGS §16-50u, the Council shall fine the Certificate Holder \$1,000/day commencing with the date of this notice letter.

Please be advised that pursuant to CGS §16-50u, the Certificate Holder shall have **20 days** from the date of receipt of this notice to submit a written application for a hearing or a written request for modification of this notice to the Council.

Thank you for your attention in this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Executive Director

Enclosures: Meilinggaard Correspondence dated July 10, 2024 and August 7, 2024

c: Gregory Mercier, Esq., American Tower Corporation, [greg.mercier@americantower.com](mailto:greg.mercier@americantower.com)  
Brigitte Spillane, American Tower Corporation, [Brigitte.spillane@americantower.com](mailto:Brigitte.spillane@americantower.com)  
Jason Hastie, Sales Account Manager, American Tower Corporation,  
[Jason.hastie@americantower.com](mailto:Jason.hastie@americantower.com)  
Alan Meilinggaard, [Alanmeil@verizon.net](mailto:Alanmeil@verizon.net)  
Council Members

MAB/RDM/laf

**From:** d <alanmeil@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2024 7:40 PM  
**To:** Brigitte.Spillane@americantower.com; Greg Mercier <Greg.Mercier@AmericanTower.com>; Fontaine, Lisa <Lisa.Fontaine@ct.gov>  
**Cc:** CSC-DL Siting Council <Siting.Council@ct.gov>; Kenneth C. Baldwin <kbaldwin@rc.com>; Rachel Mayo <rmayo@rc.com>; Arguello, Karina I. <KArguello@rc.com>  
**Subject:** RE: DO414 - Overgrown Foilage in Yard 36 Ritch Ave West Public Comment Response

You don't often get email from [alanmeil@verizon.net](mailto:alanmeil@verizon.net). [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

May I get an update on the foliage issue at 36 RITCH AVE WEST 06830.

Its been a month since we communicated. You had someone on site the next day taking pictures As of today, the foliage and the trees keep growing. (My wife facetiously said, maybe they're waiting for the leaves to fall so they only have to clean up once.)

Trust that is not so! Would you please share your time line with me.

Thank You

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

On Thu, Jul 11, 2024 at 4:18 PM, Brigitte Spillane

<[Brigitte.Spillane@americantower.com](mailto:Brigitte.Spillane@americantower.com)> wrote:

Absolutely – I just reached out to the On-Site Lead and will provide an update once I hear back from him.

Thanks,  
Brigitte

**Brigitte Spillane** (She, Her, Hers)

*Attorney – US Tower, Zoning*

**American Tower Corporation**

10 Presidential Way

Woburn, MA 01801

(781) 926-4716 (office)

[Brigitte.spillane@americantower.com](mailto:Brigitte.spillane@americantower.com)

**From:** Greg Mercier <[Greg.Mercier@AmericanTower.com](mailto:Greg.Mercier@AmericanTower.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 11, 2024 3:48 PM

**To:** Fontaine, Lisa <[Lisa.Fontaine@ct.gov](mailto:Lisa.Fontaine@ct.gov)>; d <[alanmeil@verizon.net](mailto:alanmeil@verizon.net)>; Brigitte Spillane <[Brigitte.Spillane@americantower.com](mailto:Brigitte.Spillane@americantower.com)>

**Cc:** CSC-DL Siting Council <[Siting.Council@ct.gov](mailto:Siting.Council@ct.gov)>; Kenneth C. Baldwin <[kbaldwin@rc.com](mailto:kbaldwin@rc.com)>; Rachel Mayo <[rmayo@rc.com](mailto:rmayo@rc.com)>; Arguello, Karina I. <[KArguello@rc.com](mailto:KArguello@rc.com)>

**Subject:** RE: DO414 - Overgrown Foilage in Yard 36 Ritch Ave West Public Comment Response

Hi Lisa: Thanks for bringing this to my attention. I'm including our regional attorney here (Brigitte Spillane) as she can work to address the vegetation issue.

Brigitte: Can you please look into the vegetation issue mentioned below and in the attached?

Thank you very much,

---

**Gregory Mercier (he/him)**

*Managing Attorney*

**American Tower Corporation**

10 Presidential Way

Woburn, MA 01801

Office: 781.926.4712

Mobile: 978.807.7615

[greg.mercier@americantower.com](mailto:greg.mercier@americantower.com)

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**Go Green! Please think about our environment before printing this email.**

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**From:** Fontaine, Lisa <[Lisa.Fontaine@ct.gov](mailto:Lisa.Fontaine@ct.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 11, 2024 3:01 PM

**To:** d <[alanmeil@verizon.net](mailto:alanmeil@verizon.net)>

**Cc:** CSC-DL Siting Council <[Siting.Council@ct.gov](mailto:Siting.Council@ct.gov)>; Kenneth C. Baldwin <[kbaldwin@rc.com](mailto:kbaldwin@rc.com)>;

Rachel Mayo <[rmayo@rc.com](mailto:rmayo@rc.com)>; Arguello, Karina I. <[KArguello@rc.com](mailto:KArguello@rc.com)>; Greg Mercier

<[Greg.Mercier@AmericanTower.com](mailto:Greg.Mercier@AmericanTower.com)>

**Subject:** DO414 - Overgrown Foilage in Yard 36 Ritch Ave West Public Comment Response

Good Afternoon,

Please see the attached correspondence.

Thank you.

**From:** d <[alanmeil@verizon.net](mailto:alanmeil@verizon.net)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 10, 2024 1:14 PM

**To:** CSC-DL Siting Council <[Siting.Council@ct.gov](mailto:Siting.Council@ct.gov)>

**Subject:** Fw: Overgrown Foilage in Yard 36 Ritch Ave West

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [alanmeil@verizon.net](mailto:alanmeil@verizon.net).  
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[Sent from AOL on](#)

Dear Staff.

I was referred to you by the Zoning Dept of Greenwich CT.

My concern is the overgrown vegetation on the adjacent property to mine. 36 Ritch Ave West. It houses a cell tower. Verizon Tower 468044/Amer Tower 414240.

My research indicates that as a Condition of the Site Approval continued maintenance of the property was clearly stated. As the attached photos show, that is NOT happening. Will you intercede to insure this requirement is enforced.

A larger issue is the site itself.

Further research on my part determine that the Tower was constructed to close to my property. (In the approval letter it was noted that this Tower was the closest to a resident of any in the state)

No pictures were submitted of the site. Only on file land records were submitted. The proximity measurements submitted were diagonal to the corner of the property not directed toward existing structures. The approved placement of the Tower was subsequently moved closer to existing structures. The approved height level has been compromised. The communication with the neighbors during the approval process was incomplete.

My first priority is to get the property vegetation under control as it is unsightly and a breeding ground for rodents. Can you assist me in this effort.

Second, I would like to speak with a council member to better understand how the site garnered approval when my research indicated there were some Red Flags in the Site Approval process.

Awaiting your reply

Thank You

Regards

ALAN MEILINGGAARD

52 Ritch Ave West

410 627 2001

[Alanmeil@verizon.net](mailto:Alanmeil@verizon.net)

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** "d" <[alanmeil@verizon.net](mailto:alanmeil@verizon.net)>

**To:** "[NuisanceAbatement@greenwichct.org](mailto:NuisanceAbatement@greenwichct.org)" <[NuisanceAbatement@greenwichct.org](mailto:NuisanceAbatement@greenwichct.org)>

**Cc:**

**Sent:** Sun, Jun 16, 2024 at 12:10 PM

**Subject:** Overgrown Foilage in Yard





The pictures above are of 36 Ritch Ave West,(Byram) the property adjacent to mine....52 Ritch Ave West.

The property was Zoned commercial so Cell Tower could be erected. BTW. Which also in violation of code

I called the property owner and he said maintenance responsibility for the property was Verizon, in turn American Towers.

As you can see, it is completely overgrown and my attempts to have it rectified have proved fruitless. Other than overgrowth, it is also a breeding ground for rodents

My contact info is below, please reply so we can discuss a resolve.

Regards,

Alan Meilinggaard

(C) 410 627 2001

[alanmeil@verizon.net](mailto:alanmeil@verizon.net)

Thank You

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

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ALAN MEILINGGAARD  
52 Ritch Ave West  
410 627 2001  
[Alanmeil@verizon.net](mailto:Alanmeil@verizon.net)

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[alanmeil@verizon.net](mailto:alanmeil@verizon.net)

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