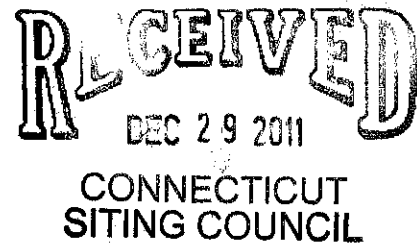


12/28/2011

FROM: Robert and Cathleen Alex
435 Bassett Road
Watertown CT 06795

TO: CT Siting Council
Ten Franklin Street
New Britain CT 06051

Re: Docket 422
North Atlantic Tower and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T)
Application for 655 Bassett Road, Watertown CT



**Intervenors Cathleen and Robert Alex
Administrative Notice**

Intervenors Robert and Cathleen Alex respectfully request that the Siting Council take administrative notice of the enclosed documents:

- 1) Letter dated 12/23/2011 from State Historic Preservation Office
- 2) Letter dated 12/21/2011 from Susan Tompkins, MA, Ed.D.
- 3) Letter dated 12/20/2011 from Edward F Nelson, 1975 Litchfield Road Watertown CT
- 4) Letter dated 10/24/2011 from CT DEEP Wildlife Division
- 5) Lease Exhibit Plan dated 01/09/2006 for Sprint prepared by Infinigy Solutions

CC:

Lucia Chiochio Esq., Cuddy and Feder LLP, 445 Hamilton Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601

Paul Jessell, Town Attorney, Slavin Stauffacher & Scott LLC, 27 Siemen Company Drive,
Watertown CT 06795



**State Historic
Preservation Office**



December 23, 2011

Ms. Deborah M. Osterhoudt
Infinify Engineering and Survey
11 Hebert Drive
Latham, NY 12110

Subject: REVISED COMMENTS
Proposed Wireless Telecommunications Facility
655 Bassett Road
Watertown, CT
Infinify Project No. 226-015

Dear Ms. Osterhoudt:

In a letter dated March 25, 2010, the State Historic Preservation Office issued a comment letter for the proposed tower and associated compound located at 655 Bassett Road, Watertown, CT. Our letter stated the "proposed undertaking will have no effect on historic, architectural, or archaeological resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places."

It has recently been brought to our attention that a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Roderick Bryan House is located at 867 Linkfield Road, is located within the Area of Potential Effect. The potential effect of the proposed telecommunications facility on this historic resource was not taken into consideration during our previous review.

During a field visit, our staff identified a National Register of Historic Places eligible Historic District which includes the residence, outbuildings and surrounding property at 655 Bassett Road. The Linkfield-Bassett Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an intact rural historic district consisting of Federal and Greek Revival style residences and vernacular farmsteads. These farmsteads include residences, barns, and associated out buildings as well as stone walls, meadows and pastures. The resources that comprise this Historic District are as follows:

533 Linkfield Road
603 Linkfield Road
706 Linkfield Road
858 Linkfield Road
867 Linkfield Road

936 Linkfield Road
405 Bassett Road
655 Bassett Road
842 Bassett Road

Based on our field visit, the information originally provided to our office, and the Application for Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the State of Connecticut, Connecticut Siting Council, it is the opinion of this office that the proposed telecommunications facility will have an adverse effect on historic, architectural, or archaeological resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

This office appreciates the opportunity to have reviewed and commented on this undertaking. This comment is provided in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and supersedes all previous correspondence regarding the proposed undertaking.

For further information please contact Laura L. Mancuso, Environmental Review Coordinator, at (860) 256-2757 or laura.mancuso@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Bahlman".

David Bahlman
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Robert Stein, Chairman, Connecticut Siting Council
Bob and Cathee Alex, 435 Bassett Road, Watertown, CT

December 21, 2011

To:

CT Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
Ref: Doc 422

From:

Susan Tomkins, M.A., Ed.D.
17 Quincy St.
Greenfield, MA 01301
Work phone: 413-772-2170
Cell phone: 646-662-1425

Due to conflicts with my work schedule for the *National Agricultural Statistics Service/USDA* and the *US Census Bureau*, I cannot appear in person at the hearing on this matter. Instead, I respectfully submit this witness statement at the request of Mr. Robert Alex. I am also available by phone for any questions you might have of me.

Mr. Alex has expressed concern about the possibility of a cell tower being erected adjacent to his farm. Although I don't know him, I share his concerns. While cell towers have definitely provided a number of conveniences to consumers, income for cash-strapped land-owners, and profits for those who manufacture and manage the technology, all of this has been done with little to no research in this country relative to the environmental impact and human health consequences of the electromagnetic energy emitted from those towers.

Since the public was told they could stand close to microwave ovens without health risks, I assumed that technology was safe. I never gave a thought to cell towers – nor had I ever heard any discussion about the safety of those – except perhaps requirements to design them to minimize the possibility of impact by flying birds. I am not an expert in either technology; nor am I an expert in fish and wildlife (flora or fauna). However, I am writing to share my observations relative to the negative impact cell towers seem to have on near-by wildlife, people; potentially on plants, and on soil organisms.

Background

My family had operated a commercial, organic berry farm (5,000 bushes) on the south side of the Blandford State Forest in Chester, MA since the 1950's. From 1990 -2007, I was the sole proprietor of this farm which sold wholesale to Whole Foods, Inc., and other major organic distributors throughout the eastern seaboard. Historically, diseases and pests (damaging insects) were not the primary causes of crop damage or loss in my fields. Because it was organic, there was a wide range of beneficial insects that controlled most pests. The primary causes of crop damage were weather – and animals. If we did not get the berries the day they were ripe, the animals would get them. Migratory birds, bears, deer, foxes, coyotes, wild turkeys, red squirrels, chipmunks and voles some years accounted for as much as 30% crop loss and bush damage despite the use of bird and animal deterrents. There is a great deal of wilderness surrounding the farm - including the Blandford State Forest. Although access to my farm – located between the river and Route 20 – was threatening to large animals, they took their chances and made continual early morning, evening or day trips to my fields. We frequently saw bears in the field

while harvesting; repaired raspberry and blackberry trellises the bears knocked over; watched deer three rows over munching on berries; witnessed the birth of a fawn in the raspberry planting. When monitoring bushes in the spring, we destroyed bird nests that did not yet have eggs in them. We laughed to watch the turkeys jumping up and down to reach the blueberries on branches high above the ground; marveled at the red squirrels who barely touched the ground all day as they cavorted and ate their way from one end of the blueberry field to the other; made lots of jam from strawberries that had one chipmunk bite out of every berry in the days harvest; always were startled by the sound of the hummingbirds whizzing by to the blueberry blossoms – a noise that stood out above the 5 acres of blueberries humming with bumblebees and other wild pollinators. Both farm workers and occasional visitors called my farm “god’s country.”

Around 2003, I became aware of a blueberry planting on the north side of the Blandford State Forest in Blandford, MA which had been abandoned for a year and had become available for rent. I needed to expand my operation and took over the operation of that field. Although also surrounded by many acres of wilderness, the location and lay-out of this planting made it more suitable than the Chester farm for a PYO operation. It had approximately 2500 bushes (about 2.5 acres) with another 3-4 acres of related open space I planned to use for other berries and was near a good, public farmer’s market. The open-space and the blueberry planting were interlaced with wild blackberries and wild raspberries, and currants. The only down-side, was that the attractiveness of the field was somewhat marred by the presence of two operating cell-towers: one in the blueberry field, and one significantly larger one located approximately 100 feet away in an adjacent field.

Observations

The first year, we started operations in mid-August. We marveled at the fact that berries – ripe since early July – were still on the bushes. We harvested the late summer berries and left the no longer marketable early and mid-season berries for the animals. No one ever ate them. Those berries withered on the bushes. The following year, we started working the field in the spring. Neither I, nor my hired crew, felt comfortable in the planting. No one could put their finger on why. I just assumed it was because the space was new – it wasn’t home. It took until summer to realize that there was an uncanny silence in this field, an eerie deadness. There were few insects humming around; there were no bird sounds or sightings in the field; we found no bird nests in the bushes that should have had bird nests; we saw no snakes, no rabbits, no squirrels, no evidence of voles, no deer or bear droppings, no evidence of turkeys; no evidence of coyotes; no evidence that animals had eaten any of the berries they love so much. Indeed, the only mammal I actually saw in this field over a period of 4 seasons was a mouse. At the end of one drought season -September/October - there was evidence of a bear having come into the field – when it was close to hibernation time. A couple of days, I did see a few birds in the bushes. It took until mid-summer for the workers to say that every time they worked in this field, they went home with headaches that lasted all evening.

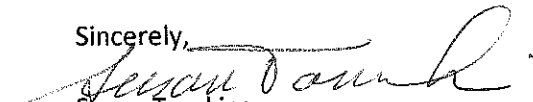
When I realized that there was a very noticeable absence of insects or animals in this field, I first contacted the cell-tower operators and shared my observations. I asked about environmental impact studies done before introducing the cell-towers to the world. The cavalier response was “...no, but would you like us to put a cell-tower in your other field?” I next contacted Alex Hoar, *Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services* in Hadley, MA. (413-253-8631) He said that to his knowledge, there had been no requirements imposed by U.S. agencies, states, or towns to do comprehensive environmental impact or health studies prior to the installation of cell towers. I told Alex about my observations. He was very interested in my observations and subsequently observed the Blandford field himself. His own

impressions of insect and animal absence in the field were congruent with mine. Alex shared some research finding done by European researchers which showed that birds avoided the "umbrella" of a cell tower, and in urban areas, would expand their territory for food and breeding by seeking shelter from cell tower emissions in the shadow of tall buildings. Based on his reading of the research, he felt that environmental impact studies should have been required prior to the installation of cell towers and the proliferation of a technology and devices consumers would be unwilling to give up. Findings from the scarce bird/cell tower research that has been done, observations such as mine, and well-being complaints of workers in this field, all point to the need for further, independent 3rd party research into the environmental and health impacts of cell towers.

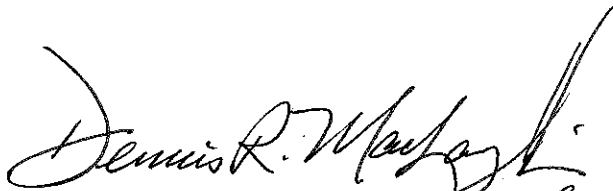
The obvious hypothesis from my observations is that the cell towers are creating *no-go zones* for insects, birds and mammals - even when the motivation to go into those zones should be extremely high. For insects, birds and mammals this would, in effect, be destroying habitat for securing food, shelter, and mates. Since plant life is also dependent upon the presence of insects, birds and other animals, it is important to ascertain if there is a cause/effect relationship between the presence of cell towers and the absence of the animals. For adult humans, *if* the *only lasting* effects are headaches, then it would be prudent to place cell towers where they could have no impact on adults. Obviously, any negative health effects on adults would likely be exacerbated in children, infants, fetuses and other small organisms such as those that keep soil alive and healthy.

Locating a tower adjacent to Mr. Alex's farm raises the possibility that such a placement could destroy his business. Mr. Alex's business is dependent upon healthy plants and soil, sufficient beneficial insects, satisfied customers, and his own good health.

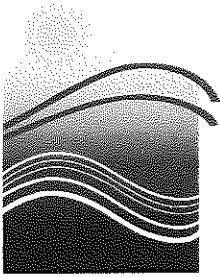
Sincerely,


Susan Tomkins

12/23/11


Notary Public
12/23/11

DENNIS R. MACLAUGHLIN
NOTARY PUBLIC, MASSACHUSETTS
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES MARCH 31, 2017



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

Bureau of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division
Natural History Survey – Natural Diversity Data Base

October 24, 2011

Robert and Cathleen Alex
Evergreen Berry Farm
435 Bassett Road
Watertown, CT 06795

Regarding: Docket No. 422, CT Siting Council, Watertown - Natural Diversity Data Base 201106632

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Alex:

In response to your request for a Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) Review of State Listed Species for Docket No. 422, CT Siting Council in Watertown, our records indicate the following extant populations of species on or within the vicinity of the site (Connecticut General Statute section 26-306):

American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) Status: Threatened Species

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) Status: Species of Special Concern

Eastern meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) Status: Species of Special Concern

These bird species inhabit grassland areas (woodland edges, open fields). Upon review of the application, the wireless communication tower facility is going to be placed in forest habitat. Therefore, the proposed project will not impact the grassland birds.

The Natural Diversity Data Base includes all information regarding critical biological resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEEP, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Consultations with the Data Base should not be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as, enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the Data Base as it becomes available. If the project is not implemented within 12 months, then another Natural Diversity Data Base review should be requested for up-to-date information.

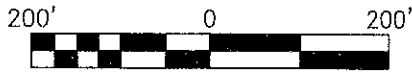
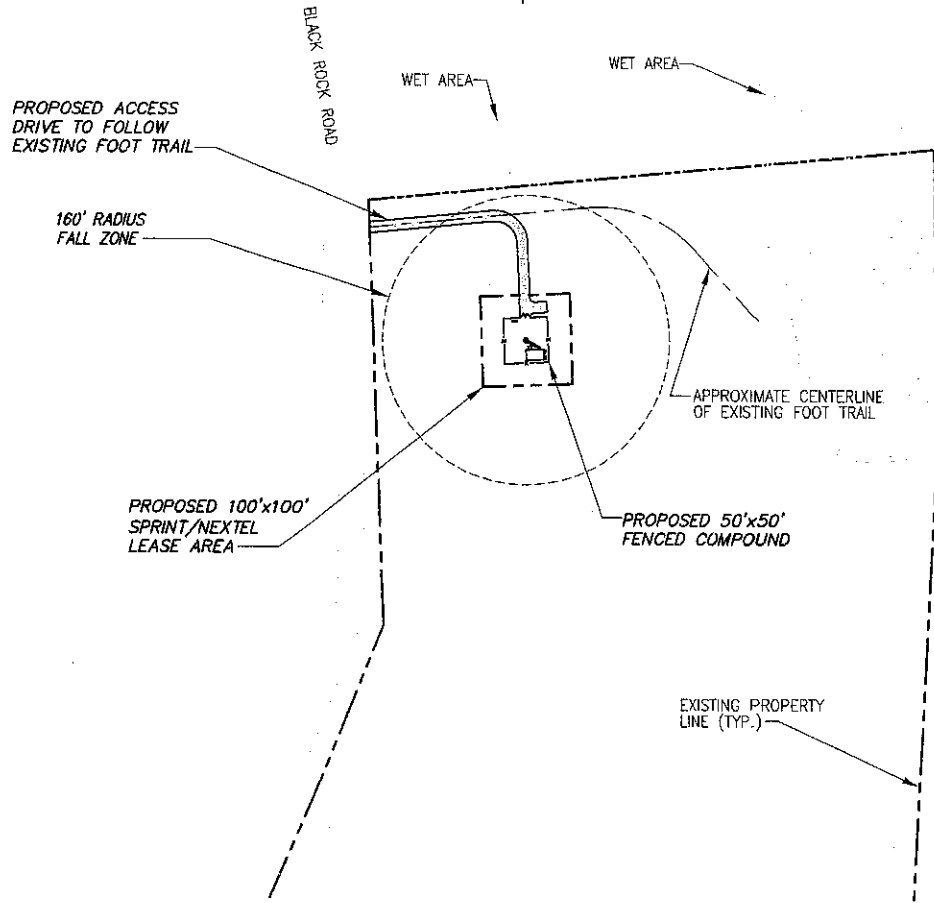
Also, acknowledging your email dated October 11, 2011: The cat is a bobcat as distinguished by its short tail and spots on the body and legs; and the plant is spotted wintergreen (*Chimaphila maculata*) which inhabits forest understories. Bobcats and spotted wintergreen are commonly observed in many of our Connecticut towns. Neither of these species are listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern. So though we are always interested in sightings of Connecticut's wild plants and animals, common species are not protected under Connecticut General Statute section 26-306 (Endangered, Threatened, and Species of Special Concern), therefore not recorded by the Natural Diversity Data Base. Though these species do not have protection status, I have passed your information along to the biologists that have management oversight of these species.

Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Data Base. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at Elaine.Hinsch@po.state.ct.us.

Sincerely,
/s/
Elaine Hinsch
Program Specialist II
Wildlife Division

cc: B. Golembiewski, DEEP Office of Planning and Program Development

N/F Dr. Richard Ayer




1 SITE PLAN

NOTE: OWNER AND CARRIER MAY, AT CARRIER'S OPTION, REPLACE THIS EXHIBIT WITH AN EXHIBIT SETTING FORTH THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY ON WHICH THE SITE IS LOCATED AND/OR AN AS-BUILT DRAWING DEPICTING THE SITE.

OWNER INITIALS:	DATE:
CARRIER INITIALS:	DATE:

PAGE 1 OF 3

PROPERTY INFORMATION: BLOCK: LOT: ZONING MAP: ZONING:	 1 INTERNATIONAL BLVD SUITE 800 MAHWAH, NJ 07495	 300 GREAT OAKS BLVD. SUITE 312 ALBANY, NY 12203 OFFICE #: (518) 860-0790 FAX #: (518) 860-0793	APPROX. SCALE AS NOTED	LEASE EXHIBIT PLAN
			DATE: 01/09/06	SITE I.D. CT33XC272
SITE ADDRESS:			BLACK ROCK ROAD WATERTOWN, CT 06795	

The CT. Sitting Council
Or Who it may concern:

12-20-2011

RE: Mountain Lion sighting

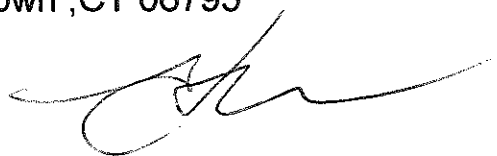
The first sighting I had of a Mountain Lion was about 28 years ago in my back yard on what was then a stone wall. I could never truly verify it and was laughed at for saying I had seen one.

The second sighting was when I was making a fuel oil delivery to the Blueberry farm (owned by the Alex family about ¼ mile from my house) on Basset Road about 10 years ago. I remember it was a Spring day and off to my right coming from a pond was a large cat that proceeded to cross directly in front of me and slowly crossing to my left completely ignoring me and my large vehicle and giving me an unobstructive view of it for a few minutes.

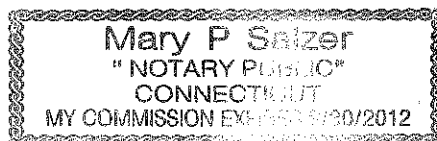
When I got to the house I told Mrs. Alex what I had seen and she told me her husband Bob would be happy that someone else had seen it as he had sighting of it also.

Recently my spouse had seen one on Litchfield Road where she said traffic stopped to look at it.

Edward F Nelson
1975 Litchfield Road
Watertown ,CT 06795



12-20-2011



Mary P Salzer