

April 30, 2012

**BY ELECTRONIC MAIL & OVERNIGHT MAIL**

Hon. Robert Stein, Chairman  
and Members of the Connecticut Siting Council  
10 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Docket No. 422  
North Atlantic Towers LLC and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T)  
Application for Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need  
655 Bassett Road, Watertown, Connecticut  
Draft Findings of Fact

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Dear Chairman Stein and Members of the Council:

On behalf of North Atlantic Towers and AT&T, we respectfully submit the following comments regarding the Council's Draft Findings of Fact in Docket No. 422 dated April 10, 2012.

**Introduction**

- Draft Finding of Fact No. 13: The applicants conducted another *noticed* balloon float on November 3, 2011... (Applicants' Notice of Balloon Float dated November 1, 2011).
- Draft Finding of Fact No. 14: The applicants conducted an additional *noticed* balloon float on November 9, 2011... (Applicants' Notice of Balloon Float dated November 8, 2011).

**State Agency Comments**

- Draft Finding of Fact No. 19: *Operation of the facility will not require the servicing of machinery or the refueling of vehicles. The emergency generator will be placed on an impervious surface and the generator fuel tank will be lined with a bladder for secondary containment.* (Applicants Exhibit 2, Response No. 23; Applicants' Exhibit 11)

**Public Need for Service**

- Draft Finding of Fact No. 35: The Telecommunications Act of 1996 prohibits any state or local entity from regulating telecommunications towers on the basis of the environmental effects, which include human health effects *and effects on wildlife*, of radio frequency emissions...

**Site Selection**

- Draft Finding of Fact No. 54.g: This existing 122-foot high water tank would not enable AT&T to provide its desired coverage from this location. *Due to the distance of this location to the area where coverage is needed, a new tower facility at this location would not provide coverage.* (Applicants' Exhibit 11).

**Facility Description****Updated Location**

- Draft Finding of Fact No. 78: *NAT relocated the proposed facility, as shown in the December 23, 2011 supplemental, to increase the distance of the facility from the abutting property to the north while maintaining adequate service.* (Applicants Exhibit 11).
- Draft Finding of Fact No. 79: The applicants submitted additional supplemental information on February 27, 2012 in which it was stated that the tower at the updated location would be designed to be a 130-foot monopine *to satisfy SHPO requirements.* (Applicants' Exhibit 13).
- Draft Finding of Fact No. 84: *The access drive for the updated location includes upgrades to the existing unimproved Town right-of-way, which includes a 6" minimum gravel surface and the maintenance of the existing road grades.* The access drive for the facility's updated location was designed after consultation with the Watertown Town Engineer. (Applicants' Exhibit 11).

**Environmental Considerations****Application Site**

- Proposed Finding of Fact: The property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Roderick Bryan House located at 867 Linkfield Road in Watertown is located approximately 0.75 miles from the proposed tower location, outside the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for visual effects as defined by the FCC's National Programmatic Agreement for Review of Effects on Historic Properties. (Applicants' Exhibit 10, pp. 7-8).

**Visibility****Updated Location**

- Proposed Finding of Fact: Year-round visibility of the upper portion of the 150' tall tower at the updated location is expected from a total of ten (10) residences: 409 Bassett Road; 489 Bassett Road; 655 Bassett Road; 870 Bassett Road; 875 Bassett Road; 884 Bassett Road; 887 Bassett Road; a residence immediately to the east of the driveway for 887 Bassett Road; 890 Linkfield Road and 936 Linkfield Road. (Applicants Exhibit 10, pp.12).
- Proposed Finding of Fact: Approximately 15-20 feet of the top portion of a 150' tall tower at the updated location is expected to be visible from 465 Bassett Road. Approximately 5-10 feet of the top portion of a 150' tall tower at the updated location is expected to be visible from 489 Bassett Road. Approximately 10-20' of the top portion of a 150' tall tower at the updated location is expected to be visible from Route 109 near the north end of the reservoir. (Applicants Exhibit 10, pp. 10-11).
- Draft Finding of Fact No. 106: The *130' tall monopine* tower at the updated location would not be visible...

- Draft Finding of Fact No. 107: Approximately 10 to 20 feet of the top of the *130' tall* monopine tower...
- Draft Finding of Fact No. 108: *A 150' tall* tower at the updated location would not be visible from...
- Draft Finding of Fact No. 109: *A 150' tall* tower at the updated location would be expected to be visible from...
- Draft Finding of Fact No. 110: *A 150' tall* tower at the updated location would not be expected to be visible from the residence at 867 Linkfield Road...
- Draft Finding of Fact No. 111: *A 150' tower* at the updated location might be visible *with the assistance of binoculars*, from the dry dam at Black Rock Lake, *located approximately 2,250 feet from the updated tower location.* (Tr. 3, pp. 144-145).

Thank you for your consideration of this information.

Very truly yours,



Lucia Chiochio

cc: David Martin, Siting Analyst  
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