

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SITING COUNCIL

\* \* \* \* \*  
 NORTH ATLANTIC TOWERS, LLC \* JANUARY 10, 2012  
 AND NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS, PCS LLC \* (7:05 p.m.)  
 \*  
 APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF \*  
 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND \*  
 PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, \* DOCKET NO. 423  
 MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF A \*  
 TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY \*  
 LOCATED OFF OF ROUTE 198, \*  
 WOODSTOCK, CONNECTICUT \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*

BEFORE: ROBIN STEIN, CHAIRMAN

BOARD MEMBERS: Larry P. Levesque, DPUC Designee  
 Brian Golembiewski, DEP Designee  
 Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.  
 Philip T. Ashton  
 James J. Murphy, Jr.  
 Dr. Barbara Currier Bell

STAFF MEMBERS: Linda Roberts, Executive Director  
 Christina Walsh, Siting Analyst  
 Melanie Bachman, Staff Attorney

APPEARANCES:

FOR THE APPLICANTS, NORTH ATLANTIC TOWERS, LLC  
 AND NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS, LLC:

CUDDY & FEDER LLP  
 445 Hamilton Avenue, 14th Floor  
 White Plains, New York 10601  
 BY: LUCIA CHIOCCHIO, ATTORNEY  
 CHRISTOPHER B. FISHER, ESQUIRE

HEARING RE: NORTH ATLANTIC TOWERS/NEW CINGULAR  
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1 . . .Verbatim proceedings of a hearing  
2 before the State of Connecticut Siting Council in the  
3 matter of an application by North Atlantic Towers, LLC,  
4 and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC, held at the Woodstock  
5 Town Hall, 415 Route 169, Woodstock, Connecticut, on  
6 January 10, 2012 at 7:05 p.m., at which time the parties  
7 were represented as hereinbefore set forth . . .

8  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN ROBIN STEIN: Good evening,  
11 ladies and gentlemen and young people. This is a meeting  
12 of the Connecticut Siting Council, dated this Tuesday,  
13 January 10, 2012, at approximately 7:05.

14 My name is Robin Stein. I'm the Chairman  
15 of the Connecticut Siting Council. Other members of the  
16 Council present are Mr. Golembiewski, who is the designee  
17 from the Department of Energy and Environmental  
18 Protection; Mr. Levesque, the designee from the Public  
19 Utilities Regulatory Agency; Mr. Ashton; Senator Murphy;  
20 Dr. Bell; and Mr. Lynch.

21 Members of the staff who are present are  
22 Linda Roberts, Executive Director; Melanie Bachman, staff  
23 attorney; Christina Walsh, Siting Analyst. Gail  
24 Gregoriades, who is the court reporter; and Aaron

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1 DeMarest, who is our audio technician.

2 This is a continuation of a hearing that  
3 began at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon. Copies of the hearing  
4 program are available for members of the public. I think  
5 they're located near the podium there.

6 This hearing is held pursuant to the  
7 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General  
8 Statutes and of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act  
9 upon an application from North Atlantic Towers, LLC, and  
10 New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC, for a Certificate of  
11 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the  
12 construction, maintenance, and operation of a  
13 telecommunications facility located off of Route 198 in  
14 Woodstock, Connecticut. The application was received by  
15 the Council on October 20, 2011.

16 Notice of the location and size of the  
17 proposed facility was published in The Woodstock Villager  
18 on September 30, 2011 and on October 7, 2011, indicating  
19 the application was -- was to be filed with the Council.  
20 On December 9, 2011, a legal notice was published in The  
21 Woodstock Villager, and on October -- I'm sorry -- on  
22 December 8, 2011, a legal notice was published in the  
23 Norwich Bulletin announcing the date, time, and place of  
24 this hearing.

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1                   Upon this Council's request, the Applicant  
2 erected a sign at the proposed property entrance so as to  
3 inform the public of the name of the applicant, type of  
4 facility, hearing date and location, and contact  
5 information for the Council.

6                   Also upon this Council's request, the  
7 Applicant flew a balloon at the site between the hours of  
8 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to simulate the height of the  
9 proposed facility. Our understanding is the -- several  
10 balloons had to be flown because of the wind and the  
11 trees in the area. But they -- they made the attempt  
12 during those hours to have the balloon.

13                   And this afternoon a number of members of  
14 the Council and staff personally conducted a field review  
15 of the site where the Applicant seeks to develop the  
16 proposed facility in order to observe firsthand the  
17 potential effects of the proposal.

18                   This application is also governed by the  
19 Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, which is  
20 administered by the Federal Communications Commission,  
21 which prohibits the Council from considering the health  
22 effects of radio frequency emissions on human health and  
23 wildlife to the extent the emissions from towers are  
24 within the federal acceptable safe limit standards, which

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1 by the way is also a standard to be followed by the State  
2 Department of Public Health. The federal act also  
3 prohibits this Council from discriminating between and  
4 amongst providers of functionally equivalent services.  
5 So that if one carrier already provides services for an  
6 area, other carriers have the right to compete and  
7 provide services in the same area.

8 This hearing tonight has been reserved for  
9 the public to make short statements into the record.  
10 These public statements are not subject to questions from  
11 parties or the Council, and members of the public making  
12 statements may not ask questions of the parties. These  
13 statements will become part of the record for Council  
14 consideration.

15 A sign-up sheet is available again on the  
16 podium -- and I have several names here -- for those who  
17 would like to participate. And I'd just like to mention  
18 the issue of questions, again you cannot ask directly,  
19 but if you have questions, let us know and we'll -- we'll  
20 take note. And at the end of the hearing, we'll try to  
21 elicit answers to those questions.

22 Also the Council itself does not select  
23 properties, resolve property disputes, nor take private  
24 property for a cell tower. Council consideration of

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1 alternative sites is limited to a willing landlord and  
2 the provision of cell phone service at that location.

3 Now the decisions the Council needs to  
4 make include, but are not limited to whether the  
5 Applicant has met its burden of proof that there is a gap  
6 in cell phone service. If there is a gap in service, the  
7 Council must examine whether it can be resolved by  
8 installing antennas on an existing tower or other  
9 structure. If such a gap in service cannot be resolved  
10 by installing antennas on an existing tower or other  
11 structure, the Council must examine whether the proposed  
12 tower will resolve the gap in service, as well as the  
13 environmental effects of the proposed tower.

14 As a reminder to all, off-the-record  
15 communication with any members of the Council or Council  
16 staff upon the merits of this application are prohibited  
17 by law.

18 I also wish to note for those who are here  
19 and also for the benefit of your friends and neighbors  
20 who are unable to join us for the public comment session,  
21 that you or they may send written statements to the  
22 Council within 30 days hereof; and such written  
23 statements will be given the same weight as if spoken at  
24 the hearing.

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1                   And in all probability, the hearing that  
2 was held at 3:00 p.m. will be continued to some date to  
3 be determined in the future.

4                   We ask each person making a public  
5 statement in the proceedings to confine your statements  
6 to the subject matter before the Council and avoid  
7 unnecessary or repetition so we may hear all the concerns  
8 you and your neighbors may have. We would like, if  
9 possible, if you could keep your comments to under three  
10 minutes. A number of you have submitted letters or e-  
11 mails in writing. We have those and they are made part  
12 of the record. You can make reference to them, but  
13 there's no need to repeat what -- what you've submitted.

14                   Again, we will attempt to elicit answers  
15 after everybody has had a chance to speak. If you have  
16 any specific questions, we'll ask the Applicant  
17 directly.

18                   Finally, a verbatim transcript will be  
19 made of the hearing and deposited at the Town Clerk's  
20 Office in Woodstock for your convenience.

21                   And before I call on the members of the  
22 public to make statements, I'd like to request the  
23 Applicant to make a brief presentation to the public --  
24 to you describing where the facility is proposed to be

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1 located, why it's necessary, and the alternatives that  
2 were investigated.

3 MS. LUCIA CHIOCCHIO: Thank you, Chairman.  
4 I'll ask John Stevens to make that presentation.

5 MR. JOHN STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman

6 --

7 A VOICE: You need a microphone.

8 MR. STEVENS: Is this on? Okay. Alright,  
9 I'll -- I'll be as brief as possible. The location of  
10 the proposed facility, as mentioned by the Chairman, is  
11 on Route 198 in Woodstock. The number of the house  
12 location is -- approximately 505 I think is the actual  
13 street address.

14 The proposed facility gains access off of  
15 198 of an existing driveway that services the existing  
16 house. The first 400 feet of the proposed access road  
17 are on the property of which the house is part of. The  
18 folks who own the house also own a second piece of  
19 property, so --o the first piece of property is 22 acres,  
20 the back piece is 128. They own both pieces. The back  
21 piece is landlocked. We're proposing to put the access  
22 road once it leaves the first parcel approximately forty-  
23 two hundred linear feet back through the property to  
24 roughly the top of the hill. Most of the road of the



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1 access driveway is on an old existing woods road.

2           Once we get back to the facility itself,  
3 it's a -- it's a 75-by-75 foot fenced compound that has  
4 gravel inside. The utilities that service this site are  
5 underground -- we've agreed to do underground utilities,  
6 which are power and teleco, brought back to the site.

7           Within the compound -- within the 75-by-75  
8 foot compound is the proposed 150-foot monopole tower. A  
9 monopole is simply a single stick, you know, a single  
10 shaft of a tower. The antennas are mounted on top. So a  
11 150-foot tower -- let me flip back to the compound here -  
12 - it's a chain link compound. The tower is located in  
13 the center. And then -- currently we have AT&T as a co-  
14 applicant. We'll put their equipment shelter inside the  
15 fence compound. And their equipment itself goes inside  
16 and the antennas themselves go on top of the tower.  
17 That's -- that's about it.

18           CHAIRMAN STEIN: Okay, thank you. We'll  
19 now go to the public of those who have signed -- signed  
20 up. The first speaker on the list is Cliff Moon. And  
21 when you come up -- although I guess not in this case --  
22 but anyway, spell your last name and also give us your  
23 address if you -- if you would. Mr. Moon?

24           A VOICE: (Indiscernible) --

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1 CHAIRMAN STEIN: I guess -- I guess not.  
2 Then we'll go to Jean McClellan.

3 MS. JEAN MCCLELLAN: My name is Jean  
4 McClellan and I'm Vice Chair of the Woodstock Historic  
5 Properties Commission. I probably should spell  
6 McClellan. It's M-c-C-l-e-l-l-a, n as in Nancy.

7 This afternoon I really appreciated  
8 listening in on the hearing. And I remember a section in  
9 which there was some discussion about the heritage  
10 corridor and resources in the heritage corridor. And  
11 there seemed to be a little bit of vagueness in the  
12 response at first; maybe, none that I remember, and then  
13 maybe there was a greenway, but it didn't have any  
14 trails. Well I would like to read to you from the Last  
15 Green Valley Visitor's Guide. The Last Green Valley is  
16 the popular name for the -- and I always have to read it  
17 -- the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National  
18 Heritage Corridor, which is why we call it The Last Green  
19 Valley. I'll read three sentences, don't worry. Here  
20 goes: The natural beauty of The Last Green Valley is a  
21 nearby yet unexpected rural island in the midst of the  
22 most densely populated area of the United States. It  
23 remains more than 78 percent forest and farmland and its  
24 ancient neighborhoods are among the oldest in the

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1 country. And then I skip a few sentences. The region is  
2 formed by interrelated systems of forests, streams,  
3 wetlands, active farms, small cities, villages, and open  
4 space. I think this gives a pretty clear catalogue of  
5 the resources that are considered important to the  
6 heritage corridor.

7           And I'd like to speak as part of the  
8 Historic Properties Commission to the historic resources.  
9 I have written a letter -- The Historic Properties  
10 Commission sent a letter on March 31st, which you should  
11 all have and I won't go over that, nor will I go over a  
12 January 6th letter which I wrote too late for your  
13 deadline of January 3rd, so you probably won't have seen  
14 it yet, but I hope you will read it, but I won't go over  
15 what is in there. But what I do want to do is bring your  
16 attention to something that you can't see in the letter,  
17 and that is the Woodstock Historic Properties composite  
18 map. And I'll leave this up here. Not everyone can see  
19 it during the meeting, but afterwards you might be  
20 interested. And if you go to Woodstock Valley, you will  
21 see that there is a triangle of fairly dense  
22 concentration of historic properties -- that we consider  
23 historic properties.

24           Now I maybe should make a distinction

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1 between designated local historic properties and -- and  
2 ones that are on the Woodstock map. The Woodstock map  
3 includes things that are old enough to be considered  
4 perhaps eligible for national register or state register  
5 designation, but they are not designated local historic  
6 properties in the way that you have a designated local  
7 historic district that are overseen by -- in that case it  
8 would be the Historic Properties Commission on which I  
9 sit. So there's a little bit of confusion. And you will  
10 see in the report from Infinigy in December that there  
11 was a comment that there were no historic properties in  
12 this area because there were only two in town. Well I  
13 think anybody who knows -- who drives through Woodstock  
14 knows that there are a few more than two historic  
15 properties in the Town of Woodstock. It's just that  
16 those are designated historic properties.

17 So with that said, the area that you've  
18 all become familiar with, Shaw Road, Barber Road -- which  
19 is by the way a local designated scenic road -- Shaw  
20 Road, Barber Road, Route 171 and Route 198, fanning out  
21 from a triangle there is the -- that is the heart of the  
22 historic Woodstock Valley settlement, the Woodstock  
23 Valley Village. And it is considered -- we're very proud  
24 of our history in Woodstock and we're proud of our

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1 villages. This book put together by the historical  
2 society this year goes village by village through the  
3 town. We have larger villages, we have smaller villages,  
4 we're all fiercely local to our historic villages in  
5 Woodstock. And these -- the area of Shaw Road, Barber  
6 Road, Route 171 and Route 198 would be significantly  
7 impacted by a 150-foot monopole.

8 I read the report from the December  
9 balloon float. There was discussion about a few trees  
10 south of Stoggy Hollow -- Stoggy Hollow being the center  
11 of the first shoe industry probably in the State of  
12 Connecticut -- that a few trees there would protect its  
13 view of the monopole. We've learned this year a few  
14 trees doesn't do it. But I won't go more because that --  
15 that piece is in my letter.

16 And I think maybe I will stop there, but I  
17 certainly urge this Siting Council, which is clearly  
18 being very careful in its review, to appreciate that  
19 there is material of significant historic importance to  
20 the town that would be impacted by this monopole. Thank  
21 you.

22 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you very much. The  
23 next speaker is -- is it Bette Zimmerman?

24 MS. ELIZABETH ZIMMERMAN: Hi. Elizabeth

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1 Zimmerman, 15 Shaw Road, Woodstock Valley, Connecticut.  
2 I'm a certified environmental professional. I submitted  
3 an electronic copy of a letter to the Siting Council and  
4 I have a hard copy here that I will leave with you. I  
5 just wanted to highlight my main concerns.

6 I own an historic property directly across  
7 from the hill where this tower will be located. And I  
8 just want to say that I have excellent cell phone  
9 coverage in the area that's supposed to be covered by  
10 this. It's with Verizon, it's four bars. But whatever  
11 Verizon is doing, their locations must be adequate to  
12 serve this area.

13 My main concern is that I don't believe  
14 that the tower is needed. And I found it very surprising  
15 when I went on-line to AT&T's coverage maps and they  
16 showed no gaps in coverage in this area. So I don't -- I  
17 don't understand why the tower is needed. I think their  
18 maps in their application were out of date. There are 15  
19 other towers in the area that served -- that would be  
20 served by this tower. I don't think that they've  
21 seriously considered alternative technologies. They  
22 didn't evaluate the impact of the coverage that they  
23 would achieve from a 110-foot tower, which would be much  
24 less visible from some of the historic properties in the

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1 area. They didn't offer to camouflage the tower. They  
2 didn't offer any measures to reduce noise pollution. And  
3 I don't think they adequately evaluated the wildlife  
4 impacts in the area. In my letter I did mention -- did  
5 not mention the Atlantic Cedar Swamps, but I did look at  
6 the maps that are available and they are on the  
7 property.

8 So, I have a lot of concerns about this.  
9 I hope the Siting Council will deny the application. I  
10 think there are many alternatives that are available,  
11 including utilizing all the other existing towers in the  
12 area. And I'll just drop off a copy of my letter.

13 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you.

14 MS. ZIMMERMAN: And I have one for the DEP  
15 too --

16 CHAIRMAN STEIN: One for who?

17 MS. ZIMMERMAN: The DEP --

18 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Oh, okay --

19 MS. ZIMMERMAN: -- or the DEEP.

20 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. The next  
21 person on the list is Susan Connor.

22 MS. SUSAN CONNOR: Well my name is Susan  
23 Connor, 252 Route 198, Woodstock Valley, Connecticut.  
24 It's about a half-mile from the proposed site.

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1                   We moved our family here 12 years ago, to  
2 start a family in this area because of the historic  
3 nature, the beauty. We do have cell phones. We have  
4 just excellent service in the area. And I think that the  
5 cell tower going up takes away from the draw of  
6 Woodstock, what makes Woodstock special. I think that  
7 as Beth said there are a number of other towers in town,  
8 the service is good throughout the town. So I'd like  
9 this tower not to go up and maybe the other towers be  
10 utilized to improve AT&T's service if it is needed.  
11 Thank you.

12                   CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Those are all  
13 the people that signed up. Is there someone else who  
14 would like to -- this gentleman -- please come to the  
15 podium.

16                   MR. PATRICK SMITH: My name is Patrick  
17 Smith. I live on Senexet Road in Woodstock --

18                   A VOICE: Spell -- spell your last name  
19 please.

20                   MR. SMITH: S-m-i-t-h. Not Senexet Road  
21 though? I don't need to spell -- I live in Woodstock,  
22 which is nowhere near this site. But when Mr. Stevens  
23 was up here pointing at the map, I have a question. I  
24 think there were two lots. One was I think about 20



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1 acres and one was approximately 120 acres, or something  
2 like that. And the tower is proposed for the larger  
3 parcel, but it's landlocked. And my question is is  
4 landlocked a legal definition? So that there is no  
5 access to that land now, but once that road goes in for  
6 that tower and then the tower falls into disuse, does  
7 that access road end the prohibition that it is  
8 landlocked? Am I being clear?

9 CHAIRMAN STEIN: You're being clear. I  
10 think -- I -- I'll give it shot. Landlocked is I think a  
11 zoning term. And the -- well why don't we -- I'll --  
12 I'll try to get an answer. We have another speaker, so -  
13 -

14 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Sir, did you want to  
16 speak also?

17 MR. EDWIN VONDERHEIDE: My name is Edwin  
18 Vonderheide. E-d-w-i-n, V-o-n-d-e-r-h-e-i-d-e. Just  
19 like Mickey Mouse.

20 And I have a couple of general questions.  
21 First, is it true that the -- that the State trumps any  
22 opposition to building a cell tower anywhere in the  
23 state, is that true or not?

24 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Again, I'll -- I'm

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1 cataloguing your questions and after you've raised all  
2 your questions and assuming or when the last speaker --  
3 and which you may be -- we will -- we will attempt to get  
4 answers to that question and any other questions --

5 MS. VONDERHEIDE: Okay --

6 CHAIRMAN STEIN: -- so keep going.

7 MR. VONDERHEIDE: I'd like to ask as well  
8 if this tower is put up, what will be the future of that  
9 tower? I have seen cell towers in many different places  
10 around the state here and some of them are just -- look -  
11 - get to look like a monument of some kind because new  
12 antennae, or whatever you call them, are added and added  
13 and added and some of them look really gruesome. And I -  
14 - I wonder as to whether there's any control as far as  
15 the appearance of the tower and what -- what the future  
16 is.

17 I also wonder about competition. When --  
18 when one company is allowed to do this, is -- is another  
19 company discriminated against and not allowed to do it or  
20 is it one comes, two can come, or three can come; as long  
21 as the door is open, you walk in.

22 I've been on the conservation commission  
23 here and I've also been on planning and zoning. And I'm  
24 wondering what the appearance of this particular access

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1 road will look like. Who will maintain it? The driveway  
2 that we saw this afternoon was a positive disgrace as far  
3 as environment is concerned. You could hardly get a car  
4 up there now. I don't see how these people use it. And  
5 maintaining a proper grade on a road is extremely  
6 important as to what it does to the surrounding land and  
7 the valley of the surrounding land. So those are a few  
8 questions.

9 The final question I want to ask is who  
10 profits from this as far as the appearance of this tower?  
11 Does the town get any money out of this or any rental  
12 value or does it go to the owner of the property? Who --  
13 who does finally profit? Thank you very much.

14 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. We have a  
15 good list of questions, but I guess we have another  
16 speaker. Yes, sir.

17 MR. DAVID HOSMER: My name is David  
18 Hosmer, H-o-s-m-e-r. I live at 365 Route 198, down in  
19 the valley.

20 I'd just like to have the Council be aware  
21 that this is the exact same location that 10 years ago  
22 someone else proposed a cell tower and the townspeople  
23 voted it down.

24 The second thing I have is how large was

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1 the balloon? Was the balloon the same size as the  
2 antenna array that's going to be on the mast? Also, that  
3 antenna -- that balloon and the antenna location is 2,000  
4 feet to the west, northwest of my kitchen window and  
5 sitting on the top of a ridgeline. If that balloon is  
6 smaller than the antenna array, I'm going to have a big  
7 blob sitting above the ridgeline because there's a  
8 tremendous gap between where that balloon was and the top  
9 of the trees.

10 Also this afternoon it was mentioned that  
11 had the people considered the state property over in the  
12 -- over in the valley for possible revenue. The Town of  
13 Woodstock owns a piece of property right adjacent to the  
14 salt shed over there at -- on Harkins Road. And I'm sure  
15 we would consider that as a location so that we could get  
16 the income.

17 And the other -- the other comment that I  
18 have is the alternative entrance-way to the -- to the  
19 site, it's a much better place. It has recently been  
20 logged. There's an excellent logging road going right up  
21 to that site. And if the person who owns that property  
22 is willing to take and have the road moved in there, I'm  
23 sure they would be willing to have the tower moved  
24 approximately five to six hundred feet to the south and

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1 it would be on his property and it would be set a little  
2 bit further down from the ridgeline, and possibly the  
3 tower would be not as visible. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Any  
5 additional speakers? Yes, ma'am.

6 MS. JOYCE SAMPSON: Hi. My name is Joyce  
7 Sampson and I live at 424 Route 198. The tower is  
8 suggested to go in in the back of my backyard. The  
9 houses that are around my house have been built in the  
10 1800's. There are probably well over 10 houses that have  
11 been built before 1880. There are very few houses in the  
12 area that have been built in the 1900's. I hope you take  
13 this into consideration as far as the integrity of the  
14 historical value that we have in our neighborhood. Thank  
15 you.

16 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. Additional  
17 speakers?

18 COURT REPORTER: One moment please.

19 (pause - tape change)

20 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Anybody else? If not,  
21 I'll take -- I'll take a shot -- oh -- is that hand being  
22 raised? For what? Oh, okay, another speaker.

23 MR. ALEXANDER MOTOVALOV: Good evening.  
24 My name is Alexander Motovalov. I am a previously

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1 elected planning and zoning commissioner in the Town of  
2 Woodstock and I participated in the meetings on the  
3 siting of the tower some 10 odd years ago -- 10 or 12  
4 years ago. In the meantime I've spent the last five  
5 years in France.

6           It appears to me that the -- that the  
7 discussions on the proposal tonight are approximately the  
8 same or very similar to the issues that were raised -- in  
9 fact, the questions seems to be to -- they seem to be  
10 relatively the same as the ones that we discussed as part  
11 of the zoning at least some 10 to 8 -- 9 to 10 years ago.  
12 I must say that I found the arguments that were cited by  
13 the officials and individuals of the Town of Woodstock  
14 reflected the same positions that we had many years ago.  
15 And I support them.

16           I find particularly pertinent is the fact  
17 that apparently there would be other facilities available  
18 or could be made available to meet the requirements if  
19 those requirements exist. And I don't find that the  
20 argument that they are required to be convincing.

21           Perhaps I will terminate my comments by  
22 saying -- raising the following question; what part of no  
23 don't you understand? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24           CHAIRMAN STEIN: Any additional comments

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1 from the public?

2           Alright, we have a number of -- a number  
3 of questions have been raised. I'll take a shot at a few  
4 of them and then ask the relevant people to -- there was  
5 a question about landlocked and access. Landlocked is a  
6 legal term. Putting in an access and an access drive  
7 really is -- is -- it depends on the local zoning. In  
8 most communities that would not, quote/unquote, "unlock"  
9 the property, but that's -- that's up to the local  
10 zoning. And in this case, apparently the owners own both  
11 properties, so they could consolidate and it would no  
12 longer presumably be landlocked. But it's -- it's a  
13 legal question and there's nothing that this application  
14 to my knowledge or any decision that the Siting Council  
15 will make that would have any impact on -- on that.

16           The -- I read the introductory remarks  
17 that the Siting Council is governed by both state and  
18 federal law, and obviously there's court decisions to  
19 interpret that. I don't know the exact date, but at some  
20 point the state legislation gave the Siting Council  
21 powers relative to the siting of telecommunication  
22 facilities. The reason we're holding this hearing today  
23 and why we take evidence and information is that we do  
24 listen to both local citizens and to the extent we

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1 receive material from local bodies, first selectmen,  
2 whether it's planning and zoning, conservation  
3 commissions, is to get input. But ultimately, subject to  
4 all the rules that govern this, both federal and state,  
5 the Siting Council does -- does make a decision.

6 Also a question related was competition  
7 between companies. As I tried to explain in my opening  
8 comments, the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996  
9 prohibits this Council from discriminating between one or  
10 another carrier. So just the fact that one carrier does  
11 have service in an area, does not prohibit another  
12 carrier from also wanting to have service. And again,  
13 that's federal law. That's not a decision we make.  
14 State law, and the attorney here can correct me if I'm  
15 sorry, also encourages co-location of facilities on  
16 towers so we don't have any unnecessary expansion of  
17 towers.

18 The -- as far as profits, again that's not  
19 something that is determined by the Siting Council.  
20 Obviously, the applicant makes whatever arrangement they  
21 make with the party that's going to provide the land for  
22 the cell tower. In some cases it is a public -- either a  
23 municipality or state and in other case it's -- it's  
24 private individuals. Again, the Siting Council does not



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1 determine that. We do request, and we've requested it  
2 here, that the Applicant look at all potential  
3 alternatives, both as far as the feasibility from what  
4 the Applicant is trying to do as far as providing service  
5 in the area, as well as of course a willing -- a willing  
6 owner of land. Again as I stated previously, the Council  
7 cannot force a property owner or even a state or local  
8 entity to house the tower, but we do encourage -- and if  
9 you were here at 3:00 o'clock, you saw that we asked  
10 questions relative to that -- to that issue.

11 At this point there's some questions that  
12 I'll ask the Applicant. A basic question as to -- could  
13 you briefly explain the need for this tower? Why this  
14 tower is needed as opposed to utilizing other existing  
15 facilities?

16 MR. SCOTT POLLISTER: Sure. I can address  
17 that now?

18 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Yes, please.

19 MR. POLLISTER: Okay. Scott Pollister  
20 again.

21 As we talked about earlier as part of this  
22 proceeding, we are utilizing a number if not most of the  
23 existing towers in this area. You know, if you look at  
24 the list of -- well let me -- let me back up one step

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1 first. The need for the site is to provide reliable  
2 coverage to the south -- to the southwestern part of  
3 Woodstock. Route 198, 171, and the other neighborhood  
4 roads currently have a significant coverage gap. With  
5 this proposed site we're covering over six square miles  
6 of area, as well as close to 800 proposed -- potential  
7 population.

8 To do that, we did look at a number of the  
9 existing facilities. Again as you look at the list that  
10 we generated of the existing facilities and you rank them  
11 by distance from the proposed location, AT&T is currently  
12 located on four of the top six. Anything after six is  
13 over five miles away from the proposed facility.

14 And the two that AT&T is currently not  
15 located on, one is Perrin Road, which is a very short  
16 tower, and that's the closest one and it's two miles  
17 basically east along 171. And that's -- because that's  
18 only -- it's so short and again it's two miles away from  
19 this proposed facility and it doesn't cover into the area  
20 we need. So we did do an analysis on that. And then the  
21 only other one of those top six again that we're not on -  
22 - that AT&T is not currently located on is the 71 Ashford  
23 Road in Eastford. And again we did look at that. And  
24 because of the terrain and because of its distance, it's

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1 over three miles away from the proposed facility to the  
2 southwest, it also doesn't provide sufficient coverage  
3 into the area.

4 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. There was  
5 also a question about noise that would be generated by  
6 the facility.

7 MR. STEVENS: John Stevens, Infinigy. The  
8 noise from the facility would be from two sources. The  
9 first source would be on the AT&T building. It would  
10 have two air-conditioning units that would operate, not  
11 together but just kind of toggle back and forth. Those  
12 are not very loud. They're an air-conditioning unit.  
13 They're bigger than a house air-conditioning unit, but  
14 they're -- they're -- I don't have the exact decibel  
15 rating for them, but they're just not very loud.

16 The louder thing that most people are  
17 concerned about would be the generator. The generator  
18 when it kicks on would be -- would be louder than  
19 anything else on the site. It's around 65 db. In this  
20 application you're -- you're roughly probably half a mile  
21 from the closest house. And I think one of the -- one of  
22 the speakers mentioned it's about 2,000 feet from his  
23 kitchen window. The facility is on the ground, you're  
24 going through half a mile of woods, or a little less than

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1 half a mile of woods, it's -- it's just not going to be  
2 an issue. It's not going to be -- you're not going to be  
3 hearing the generator. That's not going to be a problem  
4 on the site.

5 CHAIRMAN STEIN: I guess this is -- a  
6 question relating to the future of the tower and what  
7 controls. I'll start, but then let perhaps the staff  
8 attorney or the Applicant. My understanding is that if -  
9 - and I'm stating if -- if the -- if this application in  
10 some form or another is approved, it's approved  
11 specifically as far as the design and what will be placed  
12 on it and how it will be -- how it will be constructed,  
13 which also gets into -- I guess the related issue is --  
14 although the Applicant has proposed a monopole, for those  
15 who weren't here and even if you were during the  
16 afternoon session, the Council members did raise  
17 questions about the feasibility of using other types of  
18 design, and that's, you know, still an open question.  
19 Any changes in the future would have to come back to the  
20 Siting Council for review.

21 (pause)

22 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Okay. Also as part of --  
23 again I'm prefacing all of this with if -- if it's  
24 approved, it's approved with -- or any tower, so

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1 generically with a set of conditions, which also include  
2 conditions requiring the maintenance of the tower. And  
3 if the tower is no longer in use or is not properly  
4 maintained, the tower has to be taken -- taken down. Now  
5 there are some older towers that predate the Siting  
6 Council and therefore we don't have jurisdiction over  
7 them.

8                   Is there anything the Applicant wants to  
9 add to that or --

10                   MS. CHIOCCHIO: No.

11                   A VOICE: I have another question --

12                   CHAIRMAN STEIN: Let me -- let -- let me  
13 finish. I'll -- I'll give you a chance, but let -- is it  
14 related specifically to this or is that something  
15 different -- just let me go through the list first if  
16 that's okay --

17                   A VOICE: Go ahead.

18                   CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. The -- the  
19 construction and maintenance of the access-way road and  
20 whoever raised the question, for those of us who walked  
21 it, you could not drive -- well I guess you could in a  
22 bulldozer or something, but you can't drive up there. So  
23 the -- again, there will be specifications, and that will  
24 be part of any decision as to the construction, including

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1 -- since there are wetlands that have to be crossed,  
2 there would detailed construction subject not only to the  
3 Siting Council but to the State Department of Energy and  
4 Environmental Protection I believe --

5 A VOICE: The Army Corps --

6 CHAIRMAN STEIN: -- and the Army Corps of  
7 Engineers. So there are a lot of additional permitting  
8 and controls regarding this access drive. In addition,  
9 it would be the responsibility of the Applicant to  
10 maintain it. Obviously, it's in their interest to  
11 maintain it because they need to have access to the  
12 facility in order to maintain the facility.

13 Again, does the Applicant have anything to  
14 add on relative to that?

15 Although I think I know, I'll ask the  
16 Applicant to tell us about the size of the balloon.

17 MR. JOHN FAVREAU: Yes. John Favreau with  
18 Infinigy Engineering.

19 The size of the balloon was three feet in  
20 diameter.

21 CHAIRMAN STEIN: And how would that  
22 compare with the width of an array at roughly that  
23 height?

24 MR. STEVENS: It -- it isn't as wide. The

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1 current design, and we discussed it quite a bit, shows a  
2 full array, which is roughly 10 feet in diameter across  
3 the top. The tower itself at the top would be about two  
4 feet in diameter. So the antenna array at the top right  
5 now would be 10 feet in diameter compared to the three-  
6 foot balloon --

7 A VOICE: Width --

8 MR. STEVENS: -- width -- correct, width.

9 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Also related to looking  
10 at alternate sites, did the Applicant consider public  
11 sites, either municipal or state owned? And if so, what  
12 was your analysis?

13 MR. JOHN MARKUS-PINARD: Yes, we -- we  
14 did. We spoke earlier about the DOT location that we're  
15 going to run. And if it works, we're going to submit a  
16 letter through you to the Department of Transportation.

17 Regarding the Parker Road side -- excuse  
18 me, site -- that was not included in the alternative site  
19 analysis. I cannot find the road on the map, but as soon  
20 as I do, we can run that. And we can also submit  
21 coverage plots showing if that works or if that doesn't  
22 work to the board.

23 CHAIRMAN STEIN: So the answer is that  
24 both the Siting Council has already asked at the 3:00

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1 o'clock hearing for them to look. And also we're going  
2 to elicit that the State Department of Transportation  
3 site -- they were unable to get a definitive answer as to  
4 whether or not that would be available. They also have  
5 to run their analysis. And the site that was just  
6 brought to our attention, you know, that's part of this  
7 process, and they will look into that site as well. I  
8 think it's obviously that no decision is going to be made  
9 tonight. We're still in the process of collecting  
10 information.

11 (pause)

12 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Sir, you had an  
13 additional question?

14 MR. VONDERHEIDE: (Indiscernible) --

15 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Please go to the podium.

16 MR. VONDERHEIDE: From you I have gained  
17 the impression that the state has eminent domain when it  
18 comes to this decision-making as to whether a site is  
19 going to be approved or not approved. Is that right?

20 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Eminent domain is not the  
21 right -- we have no power of eminent domain. But I don't  
22 think that was your question. If I understand it  
23 properly, it's whether the Siting Council does have  
24 exclusive jurisdiction. I think that's what you're



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1 asking.

2 MR. VONDERHEIDE: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN STEIN: And the answer is yes,  
4 subject to the laws of both the State of Connecticut and  
5 the Federal Law.

6 MR. VONDERHEIDE: Okay, then an additional  
7 question is about this access road. That access road  
8 right now is really not accessible at all. And if it's  
9 going to be meet the standards of our town, it's going to  
10 have to be a road that has the proper grade, that does  
11 not interfere with the wetlands that are on the way up,  
12 and those considerations are going to take money as far  
13 as where the -- how the road is drained and so on and so  
14 forth. So that kind of information should be supplied to  
15 the person who is -- or the company that is going to  
16 build the road because Woodstock does enforce its  
17 regulations. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Okay, this is -- at some  
19 point -- go ahead ma'am and then sir, but --

20 MS. ZIMMERMAN: I'll be quick --  
21 (indiscernible) --

22 COURT REPORTER: Introduce yourself again  
23 please --

24 MS. ZIMMERMAN: Elizabeth Zimmerman. I'm

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1 confused about who actually owns the property. In the  
2 town's database it's listed as a company in Florida. I -  
3 - I -- I didn't hear any kind of response about what the  
4 coverage would be for a tower at 110 feet. And also why  
5 the AT&T coverage maps on-line showed that there are no  
6 gaps in coverage in the area that would be served by the  
7 proposed tower? And I have to respectfully disagree with  
8 Mr. Stevens. A generator in that area, the sound carries  
9 far greater than a half a mile because of the terrain.  
10 It reverberates through the valley. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN STEIN: I'll ask the Applicant --  
12 I hope you catalogued those first three questions, so  
13 hopefully you can attempt to answer as to the issues  
14 relating to the maps and AT&T, the height at 110 feet,  
15 the rationale for going higher than 110 feet -- and what  
16 was the third one -- and there was --

17 A VOICE: (Indiscernible) -- the generator  
18 --

19 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Well she just disagreed  
20 with the sounds of a generator. That's --

21 A VOICE: Okay --

22 CHAIRMAN STEIN: -- I mean --

23 MR. STEVENS: I'll -- I'll answer the  
24 other two questions. John Stevens.

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1           The owner of the property right now is  
2 listed with the town as Woodstock Tower Partners of  
3 Kennedy Drive, Putnam, Connecticut.

4           So the group that leased the property is  
5 North Atlantic Towers. We have a leasehold interest to  
6 put this proposed tower on the -- on the subject parcel.  
7 And that's based in Florida.

8           The issue on the generator, I might  
9 suggest what I'll do is an engineering calculation of  
10 exactly what the sound levels will be at the property  
11 lines or to the closest home and I will submit that as  
12 supplemental information.

13           MR. LARRY LEVESQUE: (Indiscernible) --

14           AUDIO TECHNICIAN: A microphone, sir.

15           COURT REPORTER: A microphone please.

16           MR. LEVESQUE: There's -- there are three  
17 property lines right near the lease -- proposed leased  
18 site, and they -- you know, while there's not a house  
19 there, I'm sure they're interested in their families and  
20 the youth and enjoyment of the property for the future.  
21 What could you do about muffling the sound of the  
22 generator with a cabinet or better muffling on the  
23 motors?

24           MR. STEVENS: A couple of things. First

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1 off, I will do a calculation on the property line and  
2 the closest home just so we have that piece of  
3 information.

4 MR. LEVESQUE: Mmm-hmm.

5 MR. STEVENS: In terms of muffling, you  
6 can put -- I mean you can put an enclosure around it.  
7 You know, we've used a wood stockade fence. As simple as  
8 that sounds, it's actually very effective. That might be  
9 one of the first things I would suggest.

10 You know, some sort of additional buffer  
11 between those adjacent property lines and the generator.  
12 Maybe plant a row of Arborvitae or -- well the deer eat  
13 the Arborvitae and that's really a bad idea. You know,  
14 some sort of buffer. I can suggest a couple of them and  
15 do the calculations to show what that net effect would  
16 have of improving or decreasing the sound.

17 MR. LEVESQUE: Do the manufacturers  
18 provide like an insulated cabinet?

19 MR. STEVENS: Yes, they do. That is an  
20 option.

21 MR. LEVESQUE: Okay, thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Just a minute, we still  
23 have questions. I'm trying to keep this from getting  
24 totally out of hand.

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1           The issue of the diversions between maps  
2           and what you're proposing? And also the question  
3           relating to the 110 versus 150 feet?

4           MR. POLLISTER: Sure. I'll answer the two  
5           questions, the 110 feet and the -- the website maps that  
6           AT&T -- that's on AT&T's website.

7           First -- so let me first address the 110  
8           feet or the analysis at 110 feet. AT&T's optimal  
9           configuration is obviously a 150-foot pole where they'd  
10          put their antennas at the top, that's so they'd cover the  
11          largest area and reach the most people and population in  
12          this area, so 147 feet centerline, antenna centerline, or  
13          a 150-foot pole. The proposed facility covers just over  
14          six square miles. And when you lower that height to put  
15          AT&T -- it's the absolute minimum -- again there's a  
16          compromise in doing that, but, you know, we understand  
17          that there is, you know, some challenges here. So -- but  
18          reducing that height to a 110 feet pole and a 107-foot  
19          centerline, you lose -- that area of coverage drops down  
20          to 3.65 square miles. So you're basically losing 36  
21          percent or almost 37 percent of your coverage area by  
22          dropping down there. You also lose just over -- you lose  
23          28 percent of the predicted population by dropping down  
24          to that lower height. The benefit to keeping it at least

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1 at that level and definitely not any lower -- and again  
2 it's not the preferred, but it's potentially a compromise  
3 -- is anything lower than that and you start to open up  
4 gaps along some of the major roads in that area. So  
5 along 198 there's a gap that starts to open up anything  
6 lower than 110 feet. So that's -- that's how that  
7 minimum height was derived. That's really sort of the  
8 tipping or breaking point that -- and how we derived it.  
9 Again, it's still a compromise going from 150 to 110, but  
10 the absolute minimum is the 110.

11 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Just to follow up on  
12 that, would 110 allow any other carrier to co-locate?

13 MR. POLLISTER: Our analysis is definitely  
14 limited to AT&T's network. Unfortunately, we didn't do  
15 any analysis for other carriers, so it's difficult to say  
16 one way or another if anything lower than that would  
17 allow the other potential co-locaters coming in if that  
18 facility could still be utilized. I think you'd have to  
19 address that directly with them. Our analysis shows that  
20 at that level you're getting really close to the tree  
21 level and it's starting to block coverage to the main  
22 roads.

23 Okay, so the second question I just wanted  
24 to answer about the website. I think if you go on there

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1 and you look at it, the -- it does differ than our  
2 coverage maps, but I think there's a clear disclaimer on  
3 the website that -- that map is really -- it's a -- it's  
4 a marketing map and it's really -- the disclaimer  
5 basically says actual -- coverage area may differ  
6 substantially from actual coverage area. It's really  
7 just used to -- as a first -- a first attempt to qualify  
8 customers that say they potentially want -- they want  
9 service. So that's the first place they go to. It's a  
10 very simplified non-technical map to be able to show that  
11 type of information.

12 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Okay, we have -- I guess  
13 we have -- we're going to have to close this fairly soon,  
14 so please this is your last shot. If you have a  
15 question, this is -- this is it, because this is really -  
16 - normally we don't -- we don't allow this sort of  
17 continual roll of questions. So, ma'am.

18 MS. MCCLELLAN: Jean McClellan and I'll be  
19 very brief. I'm puzzled. If people who live in the area  
20 are saying they get good cell phone service now -- and I  
21 suspect they use Verizon, but I'm not sure -- if they get  
22 good service now, if co-location is considered good  
23 practice, if there is a tower -- a Verizon tower nearby  
24 at Sherman Road, which I haven't heard discussed as one

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1 of the nearby towers, and it's probably -- I would  
2 imagine closer than the one in Eastford, but I'm not sure  
3 -- but where is that good service coming from? Can AT&T  
4 co-locate? That's my question.

5 CHAIRMAN STEIN: As -- as you just heard  
6 in the description of 110 versus 150, it may be, and I  
7 will let them answer the question, but just because  
8 Verizon has their own specification that works for them,  
9 it may not work for somebody else to co-locate,  
10 particularly if they have different standards. But I'll  
11 let -- I'll let the Applicant do a better job.

12 MR. POLLISTER: I wanted to specifically  
13 address the question about the Sherman Road site. That  
14 site is 2 point -- just over 2 point -- it's 2.78 miles  
15 north, almost due north, a little bit northwest. That is  
16 a Verizon -- a Verizon facility. AT&T is actually  
17 located on that facility. I think that site just went  
18 on-line at the end of -- at the end of last year. Even  
19 with that facility on-line, there's still a need for this  
20 location. Verizon has expressed interest in the proposed  
21 facility. They're also on -- obviously they're on their  
22 tower at 40 Sherman Road. So again, I -- I can't speak  
23 to the details of their network. All I know is they  
24 expressed interest in this facility as well as being on



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1 the Sherman Road site.

2 CHAIRMAN STEIN: So I think that partially  
3 answers the question.

4 Again -- okay, this -- sir, no, he -- he  
5 had his hand up -- sorry, I couldn't see you, but I'm  
6 going to let this gentleman and this woman and that's --  
7 and then we're going to close the hearing.

8 MR. HOSMER: David Hosmer. I just have  
9 one request, and that is that the Siting Council require  
10 the Applicant to fly -- to fly a balloon the size of the  
11 antenna array so we can get a true perspective of what  
12 we're going to be looking at. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Okay, ma'am.

14 MS. LISA DAVIDSON: My name is Lisa  
15 Davidson. I live in Woodstock on Senexet Road. But as  
16 with regards to this proposal, if the people in the  
17 surrounding area there seem to have good cell phone  
18 service, then is this something that would then be  
19 considered to apply to people who are traveling in their  
20 cars having spotty cell phone service, because I know  
21 that -- I've heard recently of a setup -- an AT&T 3G  
22 booster device at a home where there was no cell phone  
23 service and it -- it worked just fine. So, I'm -- I'm  
24 just wondering if that's not a better alternative if some

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1 people living in the area are not getting good service,  
2 although it seems like there is good service, as an  
3 alternative.

4 CHAIRMAN STEIN: I'll ask the Applicant to  
5 answer that.

6 MS. DAVIDSON: Thank you.

7 MR. POLLISTER: Not knowing the details of  
8 the booster device, my guess is you're talking about one  
9 of their -- or their cell extenders that -- they're  
10 called -- they're commercial cell extenders essentially.  
11 They're very limited in their -- in their functionality.  
12 And since they are designed specifically to cover the  
13 home that they're installed in, they have at most a 50-  
14 foot radius.

15 There are also a lot of other limitations.  
16 You require -- the extender cells require a broadband to  
17 your home, so you're using that broadband internet  
18 connection to your home. It's -- it's currently only  
19 limited to 3G technologies. It's not -- it's not  
20 available in 4G and doesn't support 2G. It's also only  
21 limited to I want to say three or four simultaneous phone  
22 calls.

23 So there are a lot of limitations to cell  
24 extenders or boosters. I'm not sure -- my guess is it's

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1 a cell extender. And that doesn't cover -- again that's  
2 clearly not going to cover the roads and the larger area  
3 of town that we want to fill in with the proposed  
4 facility.

5 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Okay, thank you. I'm  
6 going to declare this portion of the public hearing  
7 closed. I want to thank you all for coming. We will be  
8 having a continuation of the public and evidentiary  
9 hearing at a date to be disclosed. So obviously, you  
10 will be so informed. As I think you've gathered, both  
11 the Council, for those who were here at 3:00 and also  
12 those of you who spoke, raised a number of important  
13 issues, and so one of the reasons that we're going to  
14 continue this to another date is to hopefully get the  
15 answers to those issues.

16 So I want to thank you all for coming.  
17 And for those of you who don't have to drive far, drive  
18 safely. And for the rest of us, also drive safely.

19  
20 (Whereupon, the hearing adjourned at 8:10  
21 p.m.)

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