

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Message Center Management application for a  
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and  
Public Need for the construction, maintenance,  
and operation of a replacement telecommunications  
facility located at 4 Dittmar Road, Redding, Connecticut

Docket No. 425

March 20, 2012

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF SEAN MCNAMARA, DEPUTY TREE WARDEN  
TOWN OF REDDING, CONNECTICUT

Q1. Please state your name, position, and place of employment.

A1. My name is Sean McNamara. I work at Redding Nursery, my family's business, and I am Deputy Tree Warden for the Town of Redding, Connecticut, a volunteer position that I have held for approximately ten years.

Q2. What are your qualifications and relevant experience?

A2. I am a licensed arborist with the State of Connecticut. I am a member of the Connecticut Tree Protection Association and the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association. I have spent most of my life working at our family business doing tree care for our customers throughout Fairfield County. I also serve on the Redding Land Trust board as Treasurer. I graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1991 with a degree in Marketing from the School of Business.

Q3. Please describe your involvement in this matter.

1 A3. In my capacity as Deputy Tree Warden, I was asked by the neighbors of the cell tower at  
2 4 Dittmar Road in Redding to discuss and recommend options to screen their properties from the  
3 cell tower.

4  
5 Q4. What was your general advice to these neighbors?

6 A4. The major challenge for these locations is shade. There is too much shade for most  
7 evergreen trees to thrive and provide good screening. The only good option is hemlock trees,  
8 and even those will struggle if they are placed too deep in the woods under the deciduous  
9 canopy. Because the neighbors desire immediate results and hemlocks are slow growing trees,  
10 especially in shaded areas, I recommended installing large specimens and pruning up the existing  
11 deciduous tree canopy to allow as much light in to the hemlocks as possible.

12  
13 Q5. Please describe the property-specific advice you gave to the neighbors.

14 A5. For the Coffee property, I recommended the use of hemlock trees. I also recommended  
15 installing a fence to screen the lower portion of the view. We also discussed moving some  
16 existing hemlocks. I did not know if such a move would be successful, but I referred Mr. Coffee  
17 to New England Tree Movers, a company that deals in moving large trees. For the Ignatenko  
18 property, I recommended a combination of hemlock trees where shade was an issue and spruce  
19 trees where more sun was available. We also discussed installing fencing on the Friedman  
20 property to block the lower view of the tower compound. For the Friedman property, in addition  
21 to discussing the same fencing option, we discussed removing a line of deciduous trees to push  
22 back the wooded portion of the property. I again recommended hemlocks as the best screening  
23 option due to the shade issues.

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2 Q6. Why did you discuss fencing?

3 A6. Depending upon the specific situation, fencing can be an effective complement to  
4 vegetative screening. This is particularly true in shade-heavy situations such as this, where the  
5 lower portions of the evergreen trees will become thinner over time due to the effects of the  
6 shade.

7

8 Q7. Did you recommend specific heights of the trees?

9 A7. No. As I mentioned previously, I recommended installing large specimens because of the  
10 specifics of this project. But as far as actual heights of the trees they plant, that is up to the  
11 neighbors themselves.

12

13 Q8. Do you have any comments on the proposals the neighbors have received from New  
14 England Tree Movers and Bartlett Tree Experts?

15 A8. No. I recommended both companies, but again, I leave the specifics of the proposals up  
16 to the neighbors.

17

18 Q9. What is your opinion of Message Center Management's proposal to shield the cell tower  
19 compound with arborvitae?


20 A9. Arborvitae is very susceptible to deer damage. In a very short period the plant will be  
21 bare from the ground up to the deer's browsing height. Consequently, I recommend against  
22 using arborvitae. A better choice would be Colorado Spruce as it is a much more deer-resistant  
23 species.

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

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5   
6 Sean McNamara

March 20, 2012

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