

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SITING COUNCIL

North Atlantic Towers, LLC and  
New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC Application : DOCKET #427  
for a Certificate of Environmental  
Compatibility and Public Need  
for a Telecommunications Facility Located :  
at 171 Short Beach Road or 82 Short Beach Road  
East Haven or Branford, Connecticut.

: August 8, 2012

**TOWN OF BRANFORD RESPONSES TO CSC PRE-HEARING QUESTIONS –  
SET TWO**

The Town of Branford hereby provides the following responses to the Council's questions:

- 1. During the Town's internal discussion regarding potential telecommunications sites for the Short Beach area, did the Town consider the two large apartment building complex parcels north of the Branford site at #43 and #61 Brairwood Lane (complexes served by Dover Court and Sunset)? If not, would the Town support the investigation/placement of a tower telecommunications facility on these parcels?**

**ANSWER:**

The Town did not specifically consider these parcels and has not had conversations with the owners of those locations. The alternatives considered included Summit Place on Rte. 1, the Branford Hill School on Jefferson Road, and Branford Hills Health Care facility, as well as the two sites in East Haven. The Town will not speculate on why the suggested sites were not explored.

Town GIS mapping shows that 43 Briarwood is at about the same 60 foot

elevation as the proposed 171 Short Beach Road site while 61 Briarwood is at about 40 feet. That location is slightly more than 1,000 feet away; and part of that 1,000 feet runs through a 75 acre Land Trust open space parcel - the Short Beach Preserve. A tower on Briarwood may still be visible from Rte. 142, and perhaps from the water looking towards shore, as well.

The Town is open to any alternative of lesser visual impact. Perhaps if any antenna array could be located on the buildings they could be made to better harmonize with the surroundings.

**2. On page 39 of the 2008 Town of Branford Conservation and Development Plan, the Community Character Plan, scenic vistas and scenic points are shown. Are these Town designated scenic resources or suggested scenic areas? Have any areas been designated scenic by the Town since 2008? If so, please provide their locations.**

**ANSWER:**

The short answer is "both". The Town Planner, Shirley Rasmussen, confirms that the map to which the Council's question refers is from the Town's POCD which was the result of considerable community input. The POCD was approved and adopted by the Planning & Zoning Commission as required by state statute and then accepted by OPM as conforming with the regional and state POCDs.

In other words, some areas are designated scenic roads or parks and other areas referred to in the maps in the Plan of Conservation and Development are simply areas which are scenic (e.g.: Stony Creek) and are therefore recognized as significantly contributing to both the quality of life and the economic welfare of Branford which has a tourism related economy and is highly regarded by residents for its scenic attributes.

The 2008 POCD currently accurately reflects the areas considered to contribute to Branford's scenic heritage.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Town of Branford,

By Keith R. Ainsworth

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