

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE: :
 :
APPLICATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC : DOCKET NO. 427
TOWERS, LLC AND NEW CINGULAR :
WIRELESS, PCS LLC (AT&T) FOR A :
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL :
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR :
THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND :
OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS :
FACILITY AT EITHER 171 SHORT BEACH :
ROAD, BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT OR 82 :
SHORT BEACH ROAD, EAST HAVEN, :
CONNECTICUT : NOVEMBER 1, 2012

**POST-HEARING BRIEF OF INTERVENOR
CELLCO PARTNERSHIP d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS**

On April 24, 2012, North Atlantic Towers , LLC (“NAT”) and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (“AT&T”) (collectively the “Applicant”) submitted an application (“Application”) to the Connecticut Siting Council (“Council”) for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need (“Certificate”) for the construction, maintenance and operation of a wireless telecommunication facility at one of two locations. The first alternative location presented is a 0.87 acre parcel at 171 Short Beach Road in Branford, Connecticut. At this location NAT would construct of a 120-foot monopole tower inside a 50’ x 50’ fenced compound (the “Branford Alternate Site”). The second alternative location is a 0.91 acre parcel at 82 Short Beach Road in East Haven, Connecticut. At this location, NAT would construct a 103’ monopole tower inside a 2,500 square-foot facility compound (the “East Haven Alternate Site”). (Applicant’s Exhibit (“Exh.”) 1.)

Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Cellco”) has identified a need for wireless service along portions of State Route 142 and local roads in the area and in certain shoreline recreational areas between its existing East Haven, Cosey Beach, Branford, Branford West and Branford Southwest cell sites. (Cellco Exh. 1, Resp. 1). Cellco’s Radio Frequency (RF) engineer determined that either of the proposed alternative facilities proposed in the Docket No. 427 Application could help satisfy its coverage objective in the area. (8/15/12 Transcript (“Tr.”), p. 111). Consequently, on April 25, 2012, Cellco filed a petition to intervene in the Docket No. 427 Application and hearing process (“Petition”). On May 10, 2012, the Council granted Cellco intervenor status.

The Council conducted an evidentiary and public hearing on the Application on July 10, 2012. (7/10/12 Tr. (Afternoon), p. 3). The hearing was continued to August 15, 2012, September 11, 2012 and October 2, 2012. This post-hearing brief is filed on behalf of Cellco pursuant to Section 16-50j-31 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (“R.C.S.A.”) and the Council’s directives. (10/2/12 Tr., p. 55).

Cellco’s Need and Installation

Cellco’s network in East Haven and Branford currently experiences gaps in service along portions of Route 142 and local roads in the area as well as certain shoreline recreational areas in portions of southwest Branford and southeast East Haven. Service from Cellco’s existing East Haven, Cosey Beach, Branford, Branford West and Branford Southwest cell sites cannot provide service to these areas. (Cellco Exh. 1, Resp. 1 and 5). The Docket No. 427 record contains ample written evidence and testimony that Cellco’s antennas at the 100-foot level at the Branford Alternate Site and at the 90-foot level at the East Haven Alternate Site, would provide quality wireless service and satisfy a significant portion of Cellco’s coverage needs in the area. (Cellco

Exh. 1, Resp. 5, Tab 2).

At either alternative cell site location, Cellco would install fifteen (15) antennas (five antennas per sector) on a low-profile antenna mounting platform. (Cellco 1, Resp. 3; 8/15/12 Tr., p. 110). Cellco's radio equipment and a natural gas fired back-up generator would be located inside a 12' x 30' shelter located near the base of the tower. (Cellco Exh. 1, Resp. 4 and 7).

Alternative Tower Designs

During the course of the hearing, the Council explored alternative antenna configurations and tower options in an effort to address concerns for visual impact of both the Branford and East Haven Alternate Site towers. Cellco's proposed horizontal antenna mounting configuration (all antennas mounted on the same antenna platform) could be accommodated at either the Branford Alternate Site or East Haven Alternate Site within the branching pattern of a "tree tower" as discussed at the hearing. (8/14/12 Tr., pp. 111-112 and 117).

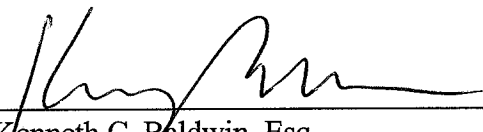
Cellco would, however, experience several significant technological problems if the Council were to mandate the use of a unipole design. (8/15/12 Tr., pp. 112-114). Under this scenario, Cellco would be required to occupy at least two and possibly three antenna mounting locations resulting in a need to increase the overall structure height. (8/15/12 Tr., p. 112; 10/2/12 Tr., pp. 17-18). A unipole design, like those discussed at the hearing, also present Cellco with certain technological challenges that will limit its ability to provide high quality wireless service in portions of Branford and East Haven as proposed (Cellco Exh. 1). Unipole-type installations for example, would impact Cellco's ability to optimize cell site operations, which impacts the reliability of Cellco's network. (8/15/12 Tr., pp. 112-114, 117-118). In addition, physical space limitations inside a unipole tower at either the Branford Alternate Site or East Haven Alternate Site, would result in the top portion of the pole maintaining a minimum diameter of 60 inches

(NAT/AT&T Exh. 18; 10/2/12 Tr., pp. 27-40).

Conclusion

The evidence in the Docket No. 427 record supports Cellco's need for a new facility in southwest Branford and southeast East Haven area. The installation of Cellco antennas on the proposed NAT tower at either the Branford Alternate Site or East Haven Alternate Site will satisfy Cellco's coverage objectives. The significant benefits realized in satisfying the needs for service in this area outweighs the minimal additional environmental impact associated with the proposed tower. Cellco, therefore, respectfully requests that the Council approve the Docket No. 427 Application, and issue a Certificate for this Facility accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,
CELLCO PARTNERSHIP d/b/a VERIZON
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By 
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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that on this 1st day of November, 2012, a copy of the foregoing was sent,
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