

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE:

APPLICATION 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 TOWER FACILITY

DOCKET NO. 442

December 12, 2013

AT A STATE OF CONNECTICUT ARMORY SITE LOCATED
AT 284 NEW CANAAN AVENUE (STATE ROUTE 123) NEAR
THE MERRITT PARKWAY IN THE CITY OF NORWALK
ALONG THE BORDER WITH THE TOWN OF NEW CANAAN

APPLICANT'S PRE-FILED STATEMENT OF FACTS IN LIEU OF DIRECT TESTIMONY

- The need for reliable wireless service in the area of northern Norwalk and southern New Canaan is well known and well documented.
- AT&T requires a new wireless facility in the area of northern Norwalk and southern New Canaan to address the lack of reliable in-vehicle and in-building coverage. AT&T has investigated potential solutions for wireless services to be provided to the area around Route 123 and the Merritt Parkway since 1999.
- As part of its search in the area, AT&T pursued an existing water tank on Flower Lane in Norwalk and met with City planning and zoning officials in 1999 regarding same. Negotiations to use the water tank were discontinued due to public opposition and zoning regulations prohibiting use of the structure as a wireless facility.
- Subsequent to the investigation of the water tank, the state-owned Norwalk Armory was identified by the City as one possible alternative location for construction of a new tower.
- From approximately 2000 to 2003, AT&T Wireless engaged State entities in leasing efforts for up to a 180' monopole tower at the Norwalk Armory.

- In 2003, AT&T consulted with Norwalk planning and zoning officials and the State Historic Preservation Officer (“SHPO”) for a planned 150’ AGL monopole facility at the Norwalk Armory. SHPO subsequently determined that a 150’ monopole tower would have an adverse effect on the Merritt Parkway, a resource on the National Register of Historic Places.
- In 2004, AT&T Wireless placed the project on hold for business reasons as the company commenced a merger process with Cingular. The project was subsequently reactivated by AT&T with leasing efforts recommencing with the State in earnest in January of 2010.
- In 2010 and 2011, AT&T again consulted with SHPO on a revised project and redesign of the tower structure in an effort to obtain a no effect letter for NEPA purposes. Based on a two-tower design utilizing brown “unipoles” at 140’ AGL, SHPO issued a no effect letter in the Spring of 2011.
- In 2011, the State authorized AT&T to file technical reports with the City of Norwalk and Town of New Canaan. Technical reports were filed in July 2011.
- From July of 2011 through September of 2011, AT&T consulted with municipal officials at several meetings and a public information session. No specific objections, preferences, alternative sites or site design modifications were recommended.
- During the period of 2010 through the summer of 2013, AT&T representatives negotiated with State officials and ultimately a license agreement was approved by numerous agencies including State Office of Personnel and Management, the State Properties Review Board, the Office of the Attorney General, the State Military Department, Department of Public Works.
- In September of 2013, AT&T filed its Application for a Certificate with the State Siting Council.
- The proposed two brown unipole tower facility was specifically designed to accommodate AT&T as well as other federally licensed carriers.

- No significant adverse environmental impacts have been identified by the Applicants as part of federal, state and local reviews to date and visibility mitigated to the greatest extent possible including a design that has undergone extensive SHPO review.