



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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December 12, 2014

Daniel M. Laub, Esq.  
Christopher B. Fisher, Esq.  
Cuddy & Feder LLP  
445 Hamilton Avenue, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor

RE: **DOCKET NO. 445** - Homeland Towers, LLC Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at Ridgefield Town Assessor Map Parcel #D08-124, southwest of the intersection of Old Stagecoach Road and Aspen Ledges Road, Ridgefield, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Laub:

At a public meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) held on December 11, 2014, the Council considered and approved the Development and Management (D&M) Plan submitted for this project on November 26, 2014.

This approval applies only to the D&M Plan submitted on November 26, 2014. Requests for any changes to the D&M Plan shall be approved by Council staff in accordance with Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section §16-50j-77(b). Furthermore, the Certificate Holder is responsible for reporting requirements pursuant to RCSA 16-50j-77.

Please be advised that changes and deviations from this plan are enforceable under the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50u. Enclosed is a copy of the staff report on this D&M Plan, dated December 11, 2014.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Robert Stein  
Chairman

RS/CDM/cm

Enclosure: Staff Report, dated December 11, 2014

c: Parties and Intervenors  
The Honorable Rudolph P. Marconi, First Selectman, Town of Ridgefield  
Betty Brosius, Town Planner, Town of Ridgefield

**Docket 445**  
**Ridgefield – Old Stagecoach Road and Aspen Ledges Road**  
**Homeland Towers/New Cingular Wireless**  
**Development and Management Plan**  
**Staff Report**  
**December 12, 2014**

On September 4 2014, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to Homeland Towers (HT) for the construction, maintenance and operation of a wireless telecommunications facility near the intersection of Old Stagecoach Road and Aspen Ledges Road in Ridgefield, Connecticut. This certificate application was filed jointly by HT and New Cingular Wireless (AT&T), which would be the primary tenant on the tower. The Town of Ridgefield also plans to install antennas for its emergency communications network. Ridgefielders Against the Cell Tower participated in this docket as an intervenor. In its decision, the Council specified that the approved tower shall be constructed as a monopole not to exceed 150 feet in height with the overall height with the town's antennas in place not to exceed 162 feet. As conditions of its decision, the Council also required that the monopole have a two color scheme, that a turtle protection plan be submitted, and that provisions be made for the potential of a shared generator by the tower's tenants. As required in the Council's Decision and Order, HT submitted a Development and Management (D&M) Plan for this facility on November 26, 2014.

HT's site is located on a 3.2-acre property owned by Insite Towers. The property is currently undeveloped. HT would lease a 75-foot by 75-foot area within which it would develop a 62-foot by 75-foot compound to be enclosed by an eight-foot high chain link fence. HT's tower is a 150-foot monopole, which would extend to an overall height of 161.5 feet with a town omnidirectional (whip) antenna mounted at its top. The D&M plans indicate that AT&T would install 12 antennas, 21 remote radio heads, six A2 modules, and four Squid boxes on a platform mount at a centerline height of 146 feet. The Town of Ridgefield would install one omnidirectional antenna at a mounting height of 150 feet, one omnidirectional antenna at a mounting height of 70 feet, and two two-foot diameter microwave dish antennas – one mounted at 65 feet and one mounted at 80 feet. The tower would have the capacity to accommodate four additional carriers. AT&T would use an 11'5" by 16' shelter for its ground equipment, and the town would have a 10-foot by 12-foot shelter. For backup power, AT&T would install a diesel generator on the same pad as its shelter. The town would have a propane fueled generator with a 500 gallon fuel tank to the rear of its shelter. Within the compound enclosure, HT has set aside a 23-foot by 25-foot area that could be used for propane storage tanks or for a generator large enough to provide backup power to multiple tenants.

The D&M plans indicate that the monopole would be painted a light gray from its base to a height of 60 feet. The upper portion of the pole would be painted a light cyan. The turtle protection plan calls for contractor education, restrictions on the types of erosion control materials that can be installed to minimize the possibility of entrapping herpetofauna, daily sweeps of the work area, prohibitions against the use of herbicides and pesticides, spill containment measures, and environmental monitoring.

HT's D&M plans also include a geotechnical report, on which the design for the tower foundation is based, and the Structural Design Report prepared by Valmont Structures, the manufacturer of the tower, which would be engineered with a yield point to create a setback radius of 66 feet.

Vehicular access to the facility would extend from the intersection of Old Stagecoach and Aspen Ledges Roads approximately 650 feet to the compound. The steepest 260 feet of the access drive would be paved, and the rest of it would be graveled. Electric and telephone lines would extend underground from an existing utility pole at the entrance to the facility at the edge of the access road.

The plans show a number of evergreen trees to be planted along the northerly side of the compound to help screen the facility as requested by the town's Conservation Commission.

The D&M plans indicate that HT will install erosion and sedimentation controls consistent with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control* around the area that will be disturbed during construction. These measures will be kept in place during the construction period.

HT has provided notice of commencement of construction beginning subsequent to approval of the D&M plans in accordance with the Regulations of CT State Agencies Section 16-50j-77.

The D&M plans as presented conform to the Council's Decision and Order, and staff recommends approval. Council staff further recommends that approval of requested significant changes to the approved D&M Plan be delegated to Council staff in accordance with Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §16-50j-77(b). In accordance with that section, if advance written notice is impractical, the Certificate Holder shall provide verbal notice of the changes and shall submit written specifications to the Council within 48 hours after the verbal notice. All changes pursued without advance notification and approval shall be subject to a penalty, enforceable by the Attorney General pursuant to C.G.S. §16-50u.