



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 12, 2014

Keith R. Ainsworth, Esq.
Evans, Feldman & Ainsworth, LLC
261 Bradley St., P.O. Box 1694
New Haven, CT 06407-1694

RE: **DOCKET NO. 445** - Homeland Towers, LLC and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC application for a 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 Ainsworth:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requests your responses to the enclosed questions from Dr. Michael W. Klemens no later than May 27, 2014. To help expedite the Council's review, please file individual responses as soon as they are available.

Please forward an original and 15 copies to this office, as well as send a copy via electronic mail. In accordance with the State Solid Waste Management Plan and in accordance with Section 16-50j-12 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies the Council is requesting that all filings be submitted on recyclable paper, primarily regular weight white office paper. Please avoid using heavy stock paper, colored paper, and metal or plastic binders and separators. Fewer copies of bulk material may be provided as appropriate.

Copies of your responses shall be provided to all parties and intervenors listed on the service list, which can be found on the Council's pending proceedings website.

Yours very truly,

Melanie Bachman
Acting Executive Director

MB/cdm

c: Parties and Intervenors

Docket 445:
Homeland Towers, LLC and New Cingular Wireless (AT&T)
Ridgefield, Connecticut
Intervenor Interrogatories, Set One

1. The Recovery Plan lists three zones of management concern for the Bog Turtle. Please identify the management zone in which the proposed tower site lies.
2. Reviewing the criteria for minimizing impact to bog turtles and their habitat within the appropriate management zone, please describe in detail how the proposed activities comply or do not comply with each criteria or recommendation of the appropriate zone within the Recovery Plan.
3. Is the Intervenor familiar with the content of the Ridgefield Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)? For the record, please attribute authorship of that NRI.
4. Please examine the account on Page 43 of the NRI and opine on what is, in your best professional judgment, the likelihood that bog turtles are still extant in the Titicus River/Mopus Brook wetlands.
5. In testimony received by the Siting Council on April 17, 2014, the Intervenor's wildlife expert, Steven Danzer, PhD, refers to an extant population of bog turtles occurring within the Hudson/Housatonic Recovery Unit. Please clarify for the record the geographical extent of that Recovery Unit. Would it not be reasonable to expect that there would be extant populations within that Recovery Unit?
6. Slimy salamander habitat is described by Dr. Danzer (Page 6 of 7 in his testimony) as: "steep, moist, rocky slopes in mature second growth deciduous or hemlock forests, rotting logs, and a thick duff layer." As the site is readily accessible as Town owned open space, has Dr. Danzer examined the area that surrounds the tower site? If so, does he find the habitat present consistent with his description?
7. Could the proposed site be characterized as mature moist second growth forest?
8. Is the duff layer thick?
9. On page 2 of his testimony, Dr. Danzer refers to the site having a southwestern exposure. Please reconcile the exposure of the site with the preferred habitat for slimy salamanders described earlier (Page 6 of 7).
10. Are there any known locations for slimy salamanders in Connecticut located on southwest facing slopes?
11. What are the specific potential hydrological impacts to off-site habitats mentioned in Dr. Danzer's remarks (Page 3 of 7). What additional specific mitigation measures could be employed to minimize these potential hydrological impacts?