

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE: :
 :
APPLICATION OF MESSAGE CENTER : DOCKET NO. 449
MANAGEMENT, INC. 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 :
WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS :
FACILITY AT 186 BLACK ROCK :
TURNPIKE, REDDING, CONNECTICUT : FEBRUARY 6, 2015

**COMMENTS OF INTERVENOR CELLCO PARTNERSHIP
d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS TO SHPO'S MOTION TO REOPEN**

On January 7, 2015, Daniel T. Forrest, the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer ("SHPO") filed a motion with the Connecticut Siting Council ("Council"), asking that the Council reopen the Docket No. 449 hearing. The basis for this request revolves around the SHPO's determination that the height of the proposed Message Center Management (MCM) tower at the Redding Ridge Fire Department should be limited to 120 feet. The SHPO determined that a tower of 150 feet, as proposed by MCM, "would result in an adverse effect to potential National Register of Historic Places sites." Notwithstanding the SHPO's determination, the Council approved MCM's request for a 150-foot tower.

In its motion, the SHPO acknowledges that a "draft" version of its determination letter was sent to MCM's consultant All Points Technologies Corporation and was read into the record at the Council's September 9, 2014 hearing on this docket. (7/29/14 Tr. @ 16-20). The SHPO claims, however, that because the final, signed copy of the its determination letter was not shared

with the Council, the Council did not consider that determination before approving the MCM application. In response to the SHPO's motion, the intervenor, Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless ("Cellco") offers two brief comments.

First, Cellco does not believe that the Council needs to reopen the hearing as the Docket No. 449 record contains numerous references to the SHPO's determination that the proposed MCM tower at the Redding Ridge Fire Department should be limited to 120 feet. As mentioned above, the SHPO's draft determination letter was read into the record at the Council's July 29, 2014 hearing. Several pre-hearing interrogatories to Cellco asked about the carrier's ability and willingness to install its antennas at a height of 110 feet (10 feet below AT&T antennas on a 120-foot tower). (*See* Cellco's Responses to Council Interrogatories 43 through 47). At the September 9, 2014 hearing, Cellco's RF Engineer, Ryan Ulanday, was asked specifically about the use of a shorter tower, with Cellco antennas at 110 feet, and its impact on service to the area. (9/9/14 Tr. @ 190-194). Finally, the Council affirmatively acknowledges the SHPO's determination in its Findings of Fact Nos. 133 and 134.

All of this demonstrates that the Council was well aware of the SHPO's concern for historic resources in the area and its recommendation that the height of the tower be limited to 120 feet. There is, therefore, no need to reopen the hearing as the record clearly demonstrates that the Council did consider the SHPO's determination.

Second, while Cellco appreciates the Council thoughtful deliberations on the MCM tower proposal and its approval of a 150-foot structure, such a determination is problematic for Cellco in one very significant respect. If MCM were to build a 150-foot tower at the Redding Ridge Fire Department site, as opposed to the 120-foot tower, as included in the SHPO's determination letter, Cellco would deem the MCM tower as non-compliant with Section 106 of the National

Historic Preservation Act and the Federal Communications Commission regulations. As such, Cellco would not be able to install its antennas on a 150-foot MCM tower.

Cellco appreciates the opportunity to provide the Council with comments regarding the pending Motion to Reopen the Docket No. 449 hearing. If you have any questions or need any additional information or clarifications regarding this matter please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,
CELLCO PARTNERSHIP d/b/a VERIZON
WIRELESS

By 
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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that on this 6th day of February, 2015, a copy of the foregoing was sent,
postage prepaid, to the following parties and intervenors:


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