



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

January 15, 2021

Christopher B. Fisher, Esq.
Cuddy & Feder
445 Hamilton Avenue, 14th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601

RE: **DOCKET NO. 451** - InSite Towers Development, LLC Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at the Cheshire Wastewater Treatment Plant, 1325 Cheshire Street, Cheshire, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Fisher:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of the request for an extension of construction time in the above-referenced matter dated January 13, 2021. Pursuant to Condition No. 6 of the Certificate issued January 8, 2015 and due to the circumstances described in the request for an extension of construction time, the Council hereby grants an extension of time to complete the construction until July 14, 2021.

Please be advised that on October 23, 2020, the Council approved the shared use of this facility by Verizon Wireless. The Council's shared use order requires Verizon Wireless to complete its equipment installation at the 1325 Cheshire Street facility by October 23, 2021.

Please also be advised that pursuant to Condition No. 7 of the Certificate, any request for an extension to fully construct this telecommunications facility with at least one fully operational wireless telecommunications carrier shall be filed with the Council not later than 60 days prior to the expiration of this Certificate and shall be served on all parties and intervenors, as listed on the current service list and the Town.

This extension is granted with the understanding that the Council will be notified should the Certificate Holder decide not to proceed with construction.

Sincerely,

s/Melanie A. Bachman

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/FOC/lm

c: Service List dated December 17, 2019
Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq., Robinson & Cole, LLP



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Christopher B. Fisher
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January 13, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Melanie A. Bachman, Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: DOCKET NO. 451 – InSite Towers Development, LLC
Town of Cheshire Wastewater Treatment Plant
Request for Extension of Time on AT&T In Service Date

Dear Ms. Bachman:

I am writing to you on behalf of New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T) with respect to the above referenced Docket. This tower site is located at the Town of Cheshire's Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Certificate is maintained by Insite Towers Development, LLC. The tower facility is currently a critical part of the Town's public safety communications network.

As noted in our March 30, 2020 correspondence, AT&T added this project to its Connecticut capital build plan for 2020 with an anticipated in service date prior to January 14, 2021. AT&T thereafter secured an amended lease with the current tower owner, Insite Towers Development LLC. AT&T further initiated the procurement process with site civil engineering professionals and contractors.

AT&T applied for and obtained a Town building permit in the Fall of 2020. Construction of AT&T's collocation and shared use of the tower site commenced in November 2020. By December, the antennas had been mounted to the tower, equipment deployed to the AT&T leased area in the compound, and Eversource energized the facility. Copies of the building permit from the Town and some date stamped photographs of the AT&T constructed facility are included in Exhibit 1.

We are advised that there is one singular issue holding up this AT&T site from providing commercial wireless service to the public – fiber backhaul. We are advised that the Town's public safety communications services at the tower site do not rely on fiber and that there is no fiber availability at the street from any provider. An approximately 10,000 foot run of new over-lashed fiber on utility pole lines in the street is required at substantial added cost and construction



timelines over typical. This has delayed extending fiber broadband to the tower site.

AT&T is pleased to advise the Council that it has secured a fiber broadband provider, Cox Communications, to deploy fiber on the existing utility pole lines in the street and ultimately through conduit already laid at the site by AT&T to the tower site compound. This work is scheduled to commence on an expedited basis and within an approximately 60 day timeframe. Once deployed, the fiber will serve not just AT&T, but also be available to all potential co-locators at this existing tower site. Email correspondence between AT&T and Cox is included in Exhibit 2.

In light of the foregoing facts which are beyond AT&T's control, we are writing to request an extension of time to make the AT&T facility fully operational. We are advised that completion of the fiber work and making the AT&T service commercially available should be completed no later than the end of March 2021. As such, we are requesting a 90 day extension of time. In further support of AT&T's request we submit the following additional considerations below.

AT&T has been working diligently and in good faith to resolve the issue of backhaul and only learned of the full magnitude of the fiber delay in the past few weeks. AT&T also explored alternatives, such as a microwave hop, and concluded that it was not a viable option due to the lack of an adequate donor site and that any such solution would still not allow AT&T to make the site fully operational by January 14, 2021. It is simply not possible to get the site in service by the Council's current deadline due to the lack of any fiber broadband interconnection to the switched network at the site.

Upon our learning of this issue on Monday, we called your office that same day to discuss the need to file an extension request and we thank you for your time. As we noted on our call, it was procedurally impossible for AT&T to submit a request for an extension of time within the typical 60 day timeframe requested by the Council given that the fiber procurement delays affecting the in service date were not known as of November 2020. We also submit that the public interest will be best served by allowing AT&T to procure fiber to the site for it and other future tenants and permit the Town to continue operating its public safety communications system from the tower.

Given all of the foregoing, on behalf of AT&T we respectfully request your consideration of a 90 day extension of time and thank you for your understanding of the exigency associated therewith.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris B. Fisher", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher B. Fisher

cc: AT&T

Parties & Intervenors