

ATTACHMENT 5

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

I. PHYSICAL IMPACT

A. WATER FLOW AND QUALITY

The subject site slopes southwest to northeast and is located on land consisting of wooded areas and pastures. The proposed compound is located in the rear of the 64 acre parcel which is currently vacant. To the south and west are undisturbed brush/wooded areas. To the north and east are pasture land, wooded areas and single family residences. To the south there are wooded areas and pasture land. To the west is a wooded area and single family residences. On-site wetlands were delineated to the southeast approximately 350' from the proposed compound and to the east approximately 17' from the proposed access drive. No direct impacts to any wetlands or watercourses are anticipated as a result of the project. As noted in the attached Wetlands Investigation report, while there is an alternate route for the proposed access drive further from the wetlands, any alternate route will result in greater impacts to the mature forested habitat than the proposed access drive. The Wetlands Investigation report indicates that the proposed gravel access drive is located near the vernal pool habitat associated with the wetland. A Vernal Pool Evaluation is being prepared to assess vernal pool habitat and appropriate protection strategies to avoid impact to vernal pool herpetofauna. Mitigation measures will likely include the isolation of the perimeter/limits of construction, inspection and maintenance of isolation structures, herpetofauna sweeps, education of contractors and sub-contractors prior to initiation of construction activities, protective measures and reporting. Short term protective measures also include installation and maintenance of erosion and sedimentation controls in accordance with 2002 Connecticut Guidelines For Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, as established by the Council of Soil and Water

Conservation. The Applicants do not anticipate an adverse impact on any wetland or water resource.

B. AIR QUALITY

Under ordinary operating conditions, the equipment that would be used at the proposed facility would emit no air pollutants of any kind. An emergency diesel fuel generator with secondary containment systems will comply with Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("CTDEEP") air standards for such facilities.

C. LAND

Modest clearing, grading and cut and fill will be required for the facility. There will be no trees removed in constructing the facility. The remaining land of the lessor would remain undisturbed by the construction and operation of the facility.

D. NOISE

The equipment to be in operation at the facility would not emit noise other than that provided by the operation of the installed heating, air-conditioning and ventilation system. Some construction related noise would be anticipated during facility construction, which is expected to take approximately four to six weeks. Temporary power outages could involve sound from the emergency generator.

E. POWER DENSITY

The cumulative worst-case calculation of power density from AT&T's operations at the facility would be 7.66% of the MPE standard. Attached is a copy of a Power Density Report for the facility.

F. VISIBILITY

The Visibility Analysis included in Attachment 8 provides an evaluation of the anticipated potential visual impact of the proposed monopole. The potential visibility was assessed within a two (2) mile radius using a computer-based, predictive view shed model and in-field reviews. As shown in the Visibility Analysis, it is anticipated that the monopole will be visible above the tree canopy year-round over approximately 50 acres, or less than 1% of the 8,042 acre study area.

The Visibility Analysis concludes, when leaves are off the trees, seasonal views through intervening tree masts and branches are expected over approximately 198 additional acres. In general, visibility is minimized by the low height of the proposed Facility and the dense mature tree canopy in the vicinity of the Parcel. No schools or commercial day care facilities are located within 250' of the Parcel.

II. SCENIC, NATURAL, HISTORIC & RECREATIONAL VALUES

Representatives of the Applicants submitted requests for review from federal and state entities including the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("CTDEEP") and the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer ("SHPO"). Based on review and screening by the Applicants' representatives, no impacts to State or Federal listed species or significant natural communities are anticipated. CTDEEP confirmation is pending. SHPO review is also pending and research by the project consultants to date indicates no potential adverse effect on any historic resources eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The site is also under evaluation in accordance with the FCC's regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 ("NEPA") and no known impacts to federally recognized environmental resources are expected.