STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE:	:	
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APPLICATION OF CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT 33 KEEGAN ROAD, PLYMOUTH, CONNECTICUT	:	DOCKET NO. 456
	:	APRIL 6, 2015

RESPONSES OF CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS TO CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL PRE-HEARING QUESTIONS

On March 25, 2015, the Connecticut Siting Council ("Council") issued Pre-Hearing Questions to Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless ("Cellco"), relating to the above-captioned docket. Below are Cellco's responses.

Question No. 1

Of the letters sent to abutting property owners, how many certified mail receipts were received? If any receipts were not returned, which owner(s) did not receive their notice(s)? Were any additional attempts made to contact those property owners?

Response

Of the nine (9) abutting landowners listed in the Application, we received seven (7) return receipts. One letter to Kevin Gallagher was returned, marked "unclaimed" and was resent to Mr. Gallagher by regular mail. Neither the notice letter nor the certified mail receipt was returned for the notice letter sent to Ryan and Jennifer Oberndorfer. On March 26, 2015, a second notice letter was sent to the Oberndorfers by regular mail.

Question No. 2

Will the proposed facility support text-to-911 service? Is additional equipment required for this purpose? Are you aware of any Public Safety Answering Points in the area of the proposed site that are able to accept text-to-911?

Response

Yes. The Plymouth West Relo facility will support text-to-911 as soon as the Public Safety Answer Point (PSAP) is capable of receiving text-to-911. No additional cell site equipment is necessary to support this service. Cellco is not aware of any PSAPs in the Plymouth area capable of receiving text-to-911 at this time.

Question No. 3

The coverage plots for 700 MHz and 2100 MHz wireless systems refer to a signal threshold of 120 dB Operational Path Loss and the 850 MHz and 1900 MHz wireless systems refer to a signal threshold of -85 dBm. Please describe the difference between the two threshold criteria and indicate if these are in-building/in-vehicle thresholds.

Response

Both the 120 dB Reverse Link Operational Path Loss ("RLOPL") and -85 dBm thresholds were established by Cellco as minimum performance standards to provide the most reliable wireless service possible in each of its operating technologies. The -85 dBm threshold relates to Cellco's CDMA technology and measures the signal strength from the tower or base station. The RLOPL threshold, use for Cellco's LTE services (700 MHz and 2100 MHz) measures the signal strength from the mobile unit back to the tower or base station.

The "in-building" and "in vehicle" distinction is not as relevant with the RLOPL threshold as it was with CDMA technology in years past. As mentioned above, RLOPL

measures the signal strength from the mobile device (SmartPhone, tablet, etc.) attempting to connect back to the tower or base station. The 120 dB RLOPL threshold establishes a minimum reliable service footprint around a particular location.

Question No. 4

Are all frequencies used to transmit voice and data? Please explain.

Response

Until recently, Cellco was generally utilizing its 850 MHz and 1900 MHz frequencies to transmit CDMA voice services and data services and its 700 MHz and 2100 MHz frequencies to transmit long-term evolution (LTE) data services only. Earlier this year, Cellco launched LTE voice services to those customers who may have purchased new equipment. Ultimately, Cellco hopes to transition all of its voice and data services to its LTE platform.

Question No. 5

In regards to Application Tab 6 - Existing Coverage Plots; two shades of black indicating coverage are used on the plots but only one is identified in the legend, please clarify.

Response

Each of the "Existing Coverage Plots" behind Tab 6 in the Application show service from each of Cellco's existing cell sites in the area around the proposed cell site at 33 Keegan Road. The darker shade of black depicts coverage from Cellco's existing Plymouth West cell site at 42 South Road. The lighter shades of black show coverage from the other existing cell sites in and around Plymouth.

Question No. 6

Numerous documents in the application refer to 55 Keegan Road. Did Cellco initially secure a lease for 55 Keegan Road? If so, provide specifics of the proposal and why the site was

abandoned. If not, is this property suitable for a telecommunications facility?

Response

Early in the site investigation and due diligence process there was some confusion about the Town's mailing addresses for the parcels owned by Cellco's landlord, Steven Westall. Mr. Westall owns several contiguous parcels off Keegan Road. After exhaustive research, it was determined that the lot number for the parcel on which Mr. Westall maintains his home is #55 Keegan Road and the parcel to the north, where the proposed tower site would be located, is #33 Kegan Road. Other than the discrepancy in street number, the proposed tower location has remained unchanged. Cellco did not, at any time during its lease negotiations with Mr. Westall, consider the use of his residential parcel at 55 Keegan Road as a potential tower site.

Question No. 7

What town documentation did Cellco use to determine the size of the 33 Keegan Road parcel?

Response

Town Assessor's records and property cards.

Question No. 8

Was a tower location considered in the northeastern portion of the 33 Keegan Road parcel?

Response

The tower location proposed in the Docket No. 456 filing is located on a ridge at the high point of the parcel. Terrain further north and east of the tower sites drops significantly. Accessing the northeast portion of the parcel would require significant grading and tree removal due to existing grades. Also, the ground elevation in the northeast portion of the site is

approximately 130 feet to 150 feet lower (676'-696' AMSL) than the proposed tower site (826' AMSL). A tower in this portion of the site would need to be significantly taller to satisfy Cellco's wireless service objectives.

Question No. 9

What is the grade of the proposed access road? (Average grade, maximum grade or range of grades is acceptable.)

Response

The average grade of the access road is 16%. The maximum grade of the access road is 22%.

Question No. 10

What is the distance/direction to the nearest residence not owned by the lessor?

Response

The nearest residence to the tower, not owned by the lessor, Steven Westall, is approximately 400 feet to the west, and is owned by Holly M. Smith at 23 Keegan Road.

Question No. 11

Are New Cingular Wireless PCS LLC and Metro PCS both relocating from Cellco's 42 South Street facility to the proposed site? If so, please describe their respective tower and ground equipment installations.

Response

Yes, both Metro PCS and New Cingular Wireless PCS LLC ("AT&T") intend to share the proposed tower site at 33 Kegan Road. Metro PCS currently shares the existing 42 South Street tower site, but AT&T does not.

Metro PCS will install six (6) antennas at the 130-foot level in the proposed tower and two equipment cabinets on a 6' x 6' concrete pad within the fenced compound. Metro PCS, as a matter of practice, does not install backup generators to power its cell sites.

AT&T has lease rights to install twelve (12) antennas on a platform at the 120-foot level on the proposed tower, a 12' x 20' shelter inside the fenced compound, and a generator located on the ground, adjacent to its shelter.

Question No. 12

If applicable, provide a revised power density analysis to account for New Cingular Wireless PCS LLC and/or Metro PCS.

Response

A cumulative General Power Density table is provided below for Cellco, Metro PCS and AT&T antennas. Information provided regarding the number of channels and ERP for AT&T and Metro PCS antennas is estimated and based on prior RF Reports prepared for both companies at similar tower sites. Actual figures will need to be provided by the individual carriers.

CARRIER	# OF CHAN.	WATTS ERP	HEIGHT	CALC. POWER DENS	FREQ.	MPE	FRACTION MPE	TOTAL
AT&T	3	431	120	0.0323	1900	1.0000	3.23%	
AT&T	5	518	120	0.0647	850	0.5667	11.41%	
AT&T	2	462	120	0.0231	2100	1.0000	2.31%	
AT&T	2	441	120	0.0220	750	0.5000	4.40%	
MetroPCS	3	727	130	0.0464	2135	1.0000	4.64%	
MetroPCS	1	1200	130	0.0255	2130	1.0000	2.55%	
Verizon	11	418	140	0.0844	1970	1.0000	8.44%	
Verizon	9	392	140	0.0647	869	0.5793	11.17%	
Verizon	1	1750	140	0.0321	2145	1.0000	3.21%	
Verizon	1	1050	140	0.0193	746	0.4973	3.87%	
								55.24 %

Question No. 13

Would the Applicant be willing to install a generator that could provide emergency power to all three carriers?

Response

Cellco certainly could install a generator in its shelter large enough to accommodate the backup power requirements of all three (3) wireless carriers intending to share the proposed tower. Cellco's preference, however, would be to attend to its own backup power needs at the proposed cell site and allow the other carriers to do the same.

Question No. 14

Regarding Application Tab 9, Visibility Analysis, please provide the following:

a) identify the existing tower in photos 1 and 22;

b) identify the residence in photos 4, 7, 22, 26, 27; and

c) estimate the number of residences with year-round views within a half-mile of the site.

Response

a) The tower shown in photos 1 and 22 is Cellco's existing 42 South Road tower.

b) The residence in photo 4 is located at 155 South Street in Plymouth.

The residence in photo 7 is located at 211 South Street in Plymouth.

The residence in photo 22 is located at 278 Todd Hollow Road in Plymouth.

The residence in photo 26 is located at 87 Keegan Road in Plymouth.

The residence in photo 27 is located at 55 Keegan Road and is owned by Cellco's landlord Steven Westall.

c) The number of residents within one-half mile, with year-round views of the tower site is estimated to be eleven (11). Six (6) residences within one-half mile are expected to have seasonal views of the tower.

Question No. 15

What is the status of the Natural Diversity Database filing with the Department Energy and Environmental Protection (Application p. 16)?

Response

A Natural Diversity Database ("NDDB") review request draft is currently being reviewed by Cellco's internal corporate regulatory department. It is anticipated that the NDDB review request will be submitted to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection within the next two weeks. NDDB's response will be forwarded to the Council upon receipt.