In The Matter Of:

Application from American Towers LLC, and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC for a Certificate

Public Hearing Docket No. 463 December 15, 2015

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1	STATE OF CONNECTICUT
2	CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
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4	Docket No. 463
5	Application from American Towers LLC, and New
6	Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC for a Certificate
7	of Environmental Compatibility and Public
8	Need Is for the Construction, Maintenance,
9	and Operation of a Telecommunications
10	Facility Located At 351A Boston Post Road,
11	East Lyme, Connecticut
12	
13	Public Hearing held at the East Lyme
14	Town Hall, Upper Meeting Room, 108
15	Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, Connecticut,
16	Tuesday, December 15, 2015, beginning at 7:00
17	p.m.
18	
19	Held Before:
20	ROBIN STEIN, Chairman
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1	Appearances:
2	Council Members:
3	JAMES J. MURPHY, JR.,
4	Vice Chairperson
5	
6	ROBERT HANNON,
7	DEEP Designee
8	
9	LARRY LEVESQUE, ESQ.
10	PURA Designee
11	
12	PHILIP T. ASHTON
13	DANIEL P. LYNCH, JR.
14	
15	Council Staff:
16	MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.,
17	Executive Director and
18	Staff Attorney
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20	ROBERT MERCIER
21	Siting Analyst
22	
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24	
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Appearances:(cont'd)
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    For AMERICAN TOWER CORPORATION & NEW
 4
         CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS, LLC:
        CUDDY & FEDER, LLP.
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 6
         445 Hamilton Avenue, 14th Floor
 7
        White Plains, New York 10601
8
              By: CHRISTOPHER B. FISHER, ESQ.
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1 THE CHAIRMAN: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to call to 2 order this public hearing of the Connecticut 3 Siting Council today, Tuesday December 15, 4 5 2015, approximately -- well, now it is 7 p.m. My name is Robin Stein. 6 7 Chairman of the Connecticut Siting Council. Other members of the Council at the moment 8 are standing because we're going to have a 9 10 brief presentation on the side -- but who are present are Senator Murphy, our Vice 11 12 Chairman; Mr. Hannon, designee from the 13 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Mr. Levesque, designee from the 14 15 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority; 16 Mr. Lynch. Members of the staff, Attorney 17 18 Melanie Bachman who's our Executive Director, and Mr. Mercier who's our citing analyst from 19 staff. 20 This is a continuation of a 21 22 public hearing that began at 3 p.m. this afternoon. Copies of the hearing program and 23

the Council's Citizen Guide to Siting Council

Procedures are available for members of the

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public. I think they're over there where that gentleman is. And in addition, I think

4 This hearing is held pursuant

there's a sign-up sheet over there also.

5 to the provisions of Title 16 of the

6 Connecticut General Statutes and of the

7 Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, upon an

Application from American Towers, LLC, and

9 New Cingular wireless PCS, LLC, for a

10 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility

11 and Public Need for the Construction,

12 Maintenance and Operation of a

Telecommunications Facility Located at 351A

Boston Post Road, East Lyme, Connecticut.

15 This application was received by the Council

16 on October 6, 2015.

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This application is also

18 governed by the Telecommunications Act of

19 1996 which is administered by the Federal

20 Communications Commission. This act

21 prohibits the Council from considering the

22 health effects of radiofrequency emissions on

23 human health and wildlife to the extent the

emissions from towers are within the federal

25 acceptable safe-limit standards, which

standard is also followed by the State
Department of Public Health.

The federal act also prohibits this Council from discriminating amongst and between providers of functionally equivalent services. This means that if one carrier already provides service for an area, other carriers have the equal right to compete and provide service in the same area.

The applicant published notice of the filing of the application to the Council in the New London Day on September 23rd, and September 30th of this year, 2015. The Council's legal notice of the date and time of this hearing was published in the New London Day on November 17, 2015.

Upon the Council's request, the applicant erected a sign at the proposed site so as to inform the public of the name of the applicant, type of facility, hearing date and location and contact information for the Council. This afternoon members of the Council staff and public personally conducted a field review of the proposed site in order

to observe firsthand the potential effects of the proposals.

This hearing session tonight has been reserved first for the public to make short statements into the record. These public statements are not subject to questions from parties or the Council, and members of the public making statements may not ask questions of the parties or Council. These statements will become part of the record for the Council's consideration. As I mentioned, there is a sign-up sheet in the back.

As a reminder to all, off-the-record communication with a member of the Council or a member of the Council's staff upon the merits of this application is prohibited by law.

I further wish to note that parties and intervenors, including their representatives and witnesses are not allowed to participate in the public comment session. They were represented in the hearing that we had this afternoon and there will be, I believe, a continuation of that hearing on a

subsequent date.

I also wish to note for those who are here and for the benefit of your friends and neighbors who are unable to join us for the public comment session, that you or they may send written statements to the Council within 30 days of the date hereof and such written statements will be given the same weight as if spoken at a hearing.

We ask each person making a public statement in the proceedings to confine his or her statements to the subject matter before the Council and to avoid unreasonable repetition so that we may hear all of your concerns and the concerns of your neighbors. Please be advised that we cannot, members of the Council, answer questions from the public at this forum.

A verbatim transcript will be made of this hearing and also of the hearing we held this afternoon, and deposited at the East Lyme Town Clerk's office for the convenience of the public.

We generally -- I don't know how many people are planning to speak. If

possible, we ask you to confine your comments to roughly three minutes. We do have a mechanism for giving warning, which we don't like to use, but if, you know, if necessary we'll try to urge you to, you know, to be succinct with your remarks. And it goes faster if we don't hear excessive applause and other types of manifestations. That just makes everything go faster.

Before starting with hearing from the public, we ask the applicant to make a brief presentation. I believe they are prepared to do that.

MR. FISHER: Hi. Good
evening. My name is Attorney Chris Fisher.
I represent the applicants. We do have a
presentation this evening. And for some of
you who were here in July when we had a
public information session, some of this is
the same material in slightly abbreviated
fashion.

This is just a slide of the project professionals that are representing American Tower, AT&T and T-Mobile, which are involved in this particular project to

relocate an existing tower facility. They're
the individuals that the Chairman was
referencing earlier in the day who gave
testimony to the Council on evidentiary
facts.

This is just a slide of the existing tower site for folks in the community. You all understand it's in the Orchards Development at the top of the hill at the end of Plum Hill Road. You can see some of the ongoing construction and development of future phases of that development. That site has been in operation just under 30 years. It was approved by the Council in the 1980s as one of the early cellular tower facilities and it's a 150-foot monopole.

This slide shows you existing coverage in dark green from existing sites. If you look to the right of the map that's I-95. If you look in the areas where it's light green, that's actually Route 1. The areas in dark green are existing AT&T sites. So for example, the one that's just to the center right of the screen is a site in

1 Flanders on the high-tension power lines.

The existing cell site is shown central to the map and the light green area is service that is currently provided by AT&T's network that it deems reliable for purposes of voice and data calls in it's existing network.

The objective for this particular application is to replace as much of that existing coverage as possible, if not even provide greater coverage. Because of terrain there are some challenges which are really technical in nature. This particular slide is intended to show you some of the sites that AT&T evaluated.

outlined in red, one is in close proximity to the existing tower. The other is in an area where Ancient Highway actually extends to the top of that hill and before you get down the other side which is the Gateway Development, so really the two areas where AT&T was focusing. It also looked at a number of sites in and around the area beyond those areas which were technically derived in terms of finding an optimal place to replace the

1 tower site.

These are some aerial maps to show you the proposed location. The address is 351A Boston Post Road. It's just across the street from Naomi, and just before you actually get to Plum Hill if you're traveling west.

The area on the right shows you the existing tower location. The proposed tower location is on a parcel that's slightly larger than seven acres just down the hill closer to Route 1.

This is an elevation of the monopole itself -- I'm sorry, that's -- actually, you're right. The gentleman in the back is having a hard time seeing. It's because the lights are on. It's a 194-foot monopole. It would look very similar to the existing tower site. It's designed for use by more than just AT&T and T-Mobile and future carriers. You're seeing there four different antenna platforms, which would be different carriers in the marketplace in addition to AT&T and T-Mobile.

This is showing what coverage

will actually be replicated from the proposed site. Because we're lower in elevation in this particular location there is some loss in coverage.

Primarily from this proposed site, its area is on the other side of hill, so the top of the developments that is the Orchards as you kind of go north on the other side. And that's that light green area shown on the map that you're losing from this location over the existing location.

This is a slide to simply demonstrate that the site will fully comply with FCC's public health and safety standards.

I'm going to move through these fairly quickly. There are detailed photographs online on the Council's website, both with leaf-on and leaf-off conditions that you can go through. You just have to go to the Council's website. These are intended to show potential visibility and visual changes.

Some of the areas we were asked to identify, East Lyme High School,

actually the new tower site will not be visible from that location.

This is Chesterfield Road.

It's actually a little hard to pick up, but

it will be visible just above the treeline in

the center of that photo. These are some

additional shots from that location area.

This is Maplewood Drive, and if you look in the center of the photo to the right of that tree, that little notch, you'll see the tower with the two antenna platforms right in the middle.

This is MacKinnon Place at
Morris Lane, and this is an area where you'll
see more of the tower itself and the antennas
as well. That distance is a little over a
third of a mile.

This is Parker Drive, which is over half a mile. And there will be year-round visibility above the treeline here. You'll see the tower in the central part of the photo.

This is upper Pattagansett

Road. In this particular photo it's hard to

make out just because of the visibility, but

on the right part is the existing tower. 1 can see it there. And actually, I don't see 2 in this photo, but actually the tower will be 3 just to the left there. I don't have the simulation, I apologize for that. But if you 5 go online you'll be able to see a number of 6 7 different locations and photos of the tower 8 site. 9 So thank you, Chairman. 10 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm going to apologize in advance if I mispronounce your 11 12 names, and some people have easier 13 handwriting than others to read, but we'll do our best. 14 15 Evelyn Perry is the first, and 16 the podium is there. Please, it would probably be a good idea if you spell your 17 18 last name just so we have it, the stenographer has it. 19 20 EVELYN PERRY: P-e-r-r-y. 21 THE CHAIRMAN: I know I can't 22 see you and you can't see me, but that's 23 fine. The other members are much more 24 photogenic than I am, anyways.

EVELYN PERRY: As I've already

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indicated, my name is Evelyn Perry. I live at 351B Boston Post Road. My property abuts that of Jim and Bonnie DeCosta and additionally I share a driveway with the DeCostas.

I just want to say that the photos that were just projected do not even come close to approximating the view that we get of the woodland, and also some of my neighbors in the Plum Hill area. I'll show those to you in just a moment.

I am very, very opposed to the placement of this cell tower. I understand the motivation of the DeCostas. They are being offered a goodly sum of money for the placement of this tower. I don't begrudge them the money, however I can't support this cell tower placement because it will come at expense to me.

My husband and I purchased this property in 2010 and since then we have invested a lot of time and money to upgrade our home and to clear the property. We purchased the property primarily for the location. It's isolated, it's quiet and at

this point it offers a very panoramic view of the surrounding land. With the placement of a 194-foot tower only 354 feet from my house, which by the way is the closest residential site to the tower, I suspect that the views are going to be substantially diminished.

I have several photos that I took this morning from various locations on my property. This was at the time that the balloon was being floated. I'm sure that you will not be able to see any of these, but this is from my front yard and here is the balloon. And this was not taken with a telephoto lens. It's just a regular camera lens.

THE CHAIRMAN: And if you want you can submit them, those photos to the Council and we'll include them as part of the record.

EVELYN PERRY: Well, I have a second set of photos that I would be happy to provide you with. They are labeled as to the location on my property that I actually took these photos.

Again, a front yard photo, the

- 1 balloon is very evident and today's weather
- 2 conditions were rather poor. I mean, the
- 3 wind was whipping the balloon around.
- 4 Whether it actually obtained the proper
- 5 height or not I certainly could not tell
- 6 that.
- 7 More photos clearly showing
- 8 the balloon. I have photos from our pool
- 9 area. I have photos from my front porch and
- 10 photos from the upstairs sunroom at my home.
- 11 Do you want to pass these and look at them.
- 12 I'm happy to do so.
- 13 Additionally, one of my
- 14 neighbors in Plum Hill also provided me with
- 15 some photos. Half of the photos were taken
- 16 by the wireless company on the 7th of
- 17 December and the other half were taken by the
- 18 property owner. I just want to point out one
- 19 in particular to you.
- This was the photo taken by
- 21 the wireless company, and you can see the
- 22 balloon is barely visible in the trees.
- 23 Okay. This was at 21 Plum Hill Road.
- 24 This photo was taken by a
- 25 resident of Plum Hill and you can see that

depending on where you are in location to
this house, the balloon is rather evident.

So contrary to some of the comments that were
made during the site visit this afternoon,

Plum Hill residents and I will have a very
enhanced view of this cell tower. It's not
hidden at all.

Would you like to see these as well?

If I ever choose to sell my
house I expect that I will never be able to
recoup the investments that I've made in my
home and in my property. On the other hand,
I have no reasonable expectations that my
property taxes are going to go down. Okay.

As I already mentioned, I share a driveway with Jim and Bonnie DeCosta. I have a question I know you cannot answer at this point, but it's regarding the tower company's response to the East Lyme Land Use Regulation, Number 31.2.13. It's concerning driveway standards.

Specifically it states that the driveway must accommodate 60,000 pound vehicles, the grade is not to exceed 8

percent and it must have a minimum vertical
clearance of 12 feet. The response from the
tower company was, and I quote, a standard
gravel compacted driveway is proposed for
access to the tower site location.

I believe what they are referring to is the private drive that Jim DeCosta has created. It does not address the approximately 280 feet of shared asphalt driveway, nor does it address the 30 to 45 percent grade of that portion of the driveway.

Additionally, regulation

31.2.5 concerns the 1x tower setback height.

That is not being met, and I believe that the tower company actually responded that it was not going to meet that regulation. The tower location is only a hundred feet from my property. If it falls and falls in my direction, being that it's 194 feet tall, at least 94 feet of it are going to be on my property.

Lastly, I'm aware that the Siting Council will not take health concerns into consideration, but I am an eight-year

1 cancer survivor, so I take the health risks very seriously. 2

I thank you for your time and I respectfully request that you consider alternative sites for this cell tower, ones that will not have such a residential impact as this one.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Tom Gardner.

10 TOM GARDNER: Tom Gardner,

G-a-r-d-n-e-r. Mr. Chairman, thank you for 11

12 holding this public hearing tonight. I think

it's very valuable for the residents as well

as the Council. 14

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Let me start off with saying that I've been a resident of East Lyme for about 40 years, most recently 33 years at 24 Sunrise Trail which is about 700 feet from my property line to the proposed tower.

We bought our property, like many other residents have, because of certain reasons like the treeline and the serenity in the back. There used to be an apple orchard of several hundred acres to our north, the beautiful horse farm to our west that we

enjoy watching. We even installed additional windows in our backyard so we could see the deer going through our property and the foxes running through. It was quite enjoyable.

ago I thought I could continue to enjoy those views, those scenic views from where we have our property. Putting a tower in at that location, as we saw from the balloon today and as Evelyn mentioned earlier, there's no way in the world that we're not going to see that tower. It's going to be very visible and very present, especially in the wintertime when we're looking at the snowfall, looking out there and seeing that massive tower. It's not what we bought into.

Going back a little bit in history, when the original tower was installed about 30 years ago, there was about several hundred acres of apple orchards up there. As time went on the owner of the apple orchards felt it was time to move on and decided to sell the property to developers to build homes on it, which is fine. I mean, change happens. We have to

1 accept change. We're not opposed to change.

They built a beautiful community up there. What's happening out there now is they're taking the cell tower, which the lease is running out, and moving it down from the western portion -- excuse me, I think it's the northeastern portion of that property down into the eastern -- southern edge of the current orchards. So we're moving it from a heavily populated area to another heavily populated area, and I'm not sure that it makes any business sense.

As we move forward in time,
you know, I think that the rationale has to
be, does it make sense for everybody
concerned? Does it make sense for AT&T?

Does it make sense for the residents of East
Lyme, and especially those in close
proximity?

I think there has to be some consideration given to the concerns that are generally involved in tower site selections and approvals. I think that one of the things I'd like to make the property values -- as Evelyn mentioned, I don't think,

you know, that there's any way in the world that, you know, it's going to stay the same. They're going to go down, and we understand that. We understand your mission, or your charge, you can't use that in your decision making process. It is what it is, I guess.

Regarding the

Telecommunication Act of 1996, I think it was meant at that time to do some value, to expand the telecommunications industry, but I think times have changed. The data for the act, some of the medical data was in 1985. Here we are 30 years later and they're still using that same standard.

I doubt very much that Pfizer, one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world, a corporate headquarters in New London, would use 30-year-old data to make intelligent management decisions on the medical side of the house.

One of the other things I
think is important to recognize is that in
1941 to 1945 our tobacco manufacturers gave
cigarettes to our armed servicemembers going
overseas. I think today we can understand

the strategy behind that, to be addictive.

Twenty years later the United States came out

and said that smoking is hazardous to your

health.

I'd like to submit that today not knowing the dangers of cell towers, but in 20 years from today -- we need to protect our children and the people growing up in the neighborhoods, and those people in close proximity, I think, based upon reading in the studies from Israel and Germany, are at risk.

Are we willing to take that chance and put a tower in a densely populated area? I come from a technology company. I retired from a multinational worldwide of 156,000 employees, and one of the things we were most concerned about were our customers, that we not hurt our customers. And then we looked at our brand and our image to ensure that we were protecting them.

In this case here I just don't see how they're doing anybody any good by considering this location. What I would like to suggest, there were alternate locations, one specifically is Stones Ranch. The

elevation above sea level is 300 feet. In
this documentation that AT&T offered, the
State pays to build a 199-foot tower on that
particular site to get access.

And I'm talking there's two sites now on Stones Ranch. There's a lower one by the airstrip and then there's one deep in the woods, and there's no houses within a mile of that particular location. There's two or three others which I think are relevant as well as one of the 30 acres on top of Marion Lane, which has not been considered.

So I think there are alternatives and I say, I do embrace technology. We have to today. But I think the deployment methodology here is flawed and it needs to have a new fresh look of what we can do to change it.

So I would, in closing, say
two things. One is that we need to protect
our children. And the recent issue at the
Ancient Highway, we protected the ceremonial
grounds that was 2 to 3 hundred years old.
But we should protect our children, today's

1 children and tomorrow's children in today's

2 location and not worry about something that

3 happened 2 to 3 hundred years ago to protect

4 them.

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I have one document, which

6 I'll submit, is the site with the longitude

and latitude of the Stones Ranch location for

8 the commission to consider.

9 And thank you very much for

10 your time.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

12 Heather, is it Tooker?

13 HEATHER TOOKER: That's

14 T-o-o-k-e-r. I don't have a rehearsed

15 speech. I'm just a concerned citizen. We

16 own two properties. We live at 342 Boston

17 Post Road and we also own the property across

the street, 345 Boston Post Road. So we have

two properties that would be affected by this

20 tower.

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I have some pictures from the

22 balloon test today that shows the view from

23 my front door, two of them. And I also have

a view from down the street just a bit where

25 it would be right across the street.

1 I'm concerned about the views, concerned about property values, all things 2 that have already been said here tonight. 3 And we have two young daughters, ten and six, 4 5 critically concerned about them, too. I am a technology user. 6 Мy daughters are technology users, so we 7 understand the need for something like this 8 especially in our community, however to have 9 it that close. One of my houses is within 10 500 feet and the other is within 750 feet of 11 12 this tower. It's just too close. I understand there's 13 alternative sites -- I'm sorry. I'm so 14 15 nervous -- that should be considered and I 16 would appreciate that, if you would do that. 17 I thank you very much for your 18 time. 19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. This one I don't think I'll 20 even get close. Vaishali, is that the first 21 22 name? And I apologize for not even

attempting our last name, but please spell

it. Well, enlighten me and also spell it,

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please.

1 VAISHALI SAHASRABUDHE: All right. Are you ready? It's really long. 2 It's Sahasrabudhe, S, as in Sam, A-H-A-S-R-A, 3 B as in boy, U, D as in David, H-E. Got it? 4 5 So good evening, everyone. I'm Vaishali Sahasrabudhe and I live at 19 6 7 Plum Hill Road, and that's within the Orchard 8 subdivision. And I'm here to also oppose the 9 proposal to build a cell tower at the 10 proposed location, mainly for three reasons. I think you've heard most of them, so I'll 11 12 reiterate. The first one being the 13 Orchard subdivision is a beautiful place. 14 15 You know, all of us who bought houses love the view. The serenity, it's -- and with 16 this cell tower at 351 Boston Post Road, you 17 18 know, several of the houses have a clear view of this tower. 19 20 Secondly, we don't know what this is going to do to our property values. 21 22 I suspect that the property values would go down were we to try to sell the property. 23 24 And then lastly, the issue

about what affects this might have on health.

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1 And even though I think this is something

2 that is not considered, I would also submit

3 that, you know, the information related to

4 this is inconclusive and there isn't

5 sufficient long-term data available to

6 actually make that call on whether there's an

7 impact or not.

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So based on all these three reasons and in addition to that, the alternative sites that have been mentioned I would strongly urge the Council to take these into consideration.

13 Thank you.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

15 Daniel Czikowsky.

16 DANIEL CZIKOWSKY: Hello.

17 Yeah, that it Czikowsky, C as in cat, Z as in

18 zebra, I-K-O-W-S-K-Y. I am a resident of 11

19 Heritage Road, in striking distance of the

tower. And we just moved to this, this area

21 about a year and a half ago.

My wife and I were taking a cruise with the convertible looking for the right place to start our family. And we said one day once we had the opportunity to move

- 1 to East Lyme, that it was going to happen.
- 2 And lo and behold, while driving we turned
- 3 down Heritage Road and went through that
- 4 neighborhood.
- 5 And that neighborhood had such
- 6 a feel, a good energy about the people.
- 7 There were picnics going on. It was a
- 8 lakeside community. The houses weren't on
- 9 top of each other. Everybody waved and we
- 10 said, this is it. This is it. Even the hair
- 11 on my arms now stands up when I think about
- 12 that day we hit that road.
- Lo and behold, a year later
- 14 goes by and we were able to purchase a house
- 15 and get skin in the game in that
- 16 neighborhood, and it kind of looks like this
- 17 picture right here. So we could all agree
- 18 that it would look ridiculous to paint a big
- 19 huge cell tower in the middle of this, or
- 20 looking at that.
- We were able to have our son.
- 22 He's seven months old -- and my brother is a
- 23 scientist in Brazil. He forwarded me the
- 24 data he researched in Brazil on the effects.
- 25 And you know, I would like for people to take

into account the data that has been researched and considered, especially in Brazil and Australia. Because they, there are people that are spearheading this kind of research and this data and the effects on the communities that it does have and the death rates as a direct result.

And it's hard to look at your children and just keep wondering and worrying on a daily basis. And we can talk about the money and the property values and all that stuff going down. It's almost a given. You know, it's a given. It's guaranteed. The only thing that isn't guaranteed yet is the effects of this on the health of our families.

And we're in this for the long run. The haul. We're in this for the long run. The bank gave us 30 years to pay the note back so we planned on being there for the long run. And then, you know, a year later goes by, we invest a lot of blood, sweat and tears in renovations into a property that, you know, and this becomes apparent.

So you know, we just, as a

community, as a neighborhood, as a bunch of families, as a bunch of parents of kids that you just want a good place. You know the kids can't be here to speak for themselves and we just -- we really beg of you to reconsider the aforementioned locations to give us another option and keep our way of

8 life.
9 Because I can guarantee you if
10 we were to turn down to Heritage Road and we

would have seen this huge monstrosity, we

wouldn't have gotten the feeling. The hair

on your arms wouldn't have stood up and you
would have definitely looked for another
place to bring a family up.

So thank you.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Frank, is it

18 Termini?

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FRANK TERMINI: It's Frank
Termini, T-e-r-m-i-n-i. I'm representing
myself and I'm representing my wife. And I
thank you for the opportunity to speak to you
directly. I live on Plum Hill Road and my
property abuts the Perrys. So I don't have
to go much further to tell you the proximity

1 that I am to that tower.

I'm in technology. I've been
a general manager and a director of
information technology, so I know the ins and
outs of technology. I know how to read
documents.

I have concerns over my
property value. Personally, I don't think
any cell phone tower belongs this close to
anybody's home, let alone a residential
neighborhood. But I understand it's got to
go someplace and this is a process that we're
going through.

My home is a very large part of my finances and I fully expect that if this tower goes in, that at some point in time I will pay for that in terms of my personal investments being hurt.

I've heard estimates. I've read estimates. I've listened to people talk of estimates of being impacted between 5 and 20 percent in terms of their property values. Those 20 percent numbers that I read always came with an asterisk saying, this is for those people who are closer to the tower than

the people who are further away. Well, I'm
one of those people who are closer to that
tower, and I expect it to be the higher
value. And I'm very emotional about it.

I moved to that community because I searched for a place that I could love as I got older towards my retirement, and now that's being somewhat taken away from me. I have seasonal views of that, but the fact is when I sit on my back deck and look at -- and put my feet up, I'm going to be looking at that tower.

The one thing that I can't get over is, yes, I'm a member of the Orchards community and, yes, there was a tower there. When I bought that home I had a choice. I could have walked away. I knew with the paperwork that I signed that there was a tower there.

I could have walked away. I decided that the community, the views, everything about it screamed at me and I purchased it. Now I'm having a tower put closer to me and I don't have a choice. It's unacceptable to me -- but I have no choice

and that is something I'm having a very difficult time with.

Other sites, it has come up a couple of times here. Other sites, are there other sites? I've read documents. I've read Docket 463 which talks about the other sites. I've heard about the Stones Ranch and what I read was it was ruled out. I know of people who the tower company went to the door and said, can we consider your property for the site? They said, no. They moved on.

With an existing site there is no construction cost. There's no roads to build. There's no power lines to power this unit. The site exists. I do not know if this Council accepted the no from the Stones Ranch on face value. I would like to know who said no. On what grounds?

Is it a part of the public record? Can we talk to those people?

They're public servants. They work for us.

They work for us. They're not a private company. Can I just talk to them and find out why they said no? Is that an option? I don't know. I just see, no, rejected. No

reason why that I'm aware of. There may be a reason that may be part of the public record.

I could not find it.

I've heard of the Marion Drive site. Again, I don't see any reasons that make it any different for me. I don't have a technical reason for it. No one has said, this is why. Is it too close to a previous site? I would like to be part of a solution to this problem. I would rather not work against anybody here.

If there was something I could do I would do it. So I became part of the group in Plum Hill to work against this site, but to work for a solution. In that vein, we have a letter here, I have a letter here. I believe the Council has it. This is from the agent of the association of the Orchards.

And basically it's a letter extending the lease for one more year to help vet all the other sites that we think are worth looking at. It's our way of being part of the solution here and giving everybody time to get those answers from those other sites, those other towers, the other

1 properties that are out there.

I just -- in my heart I don't
think if I didn't come up here and say, I
want to be part of the solution, I don't
think I would have given myself and everybody
in here an honest chance at getting this

7 thing looked at in another light.

So I have this letter. I

don't know if it's -- it says it was

addressed to you, but I don't know if you

have received it. But this is a copy and I

don't mind leaving it.

THE CHAIRMAN: If you could provide us with that copy that would be appreciated.

FRANK TERMINI: The last thing
I'd like to say is -- and I'm not
representing anybody else's view here except
my own. I think the way we got here is
despicable.

One of the things that I was told is when you look at another site, if you're going to be part of the solution do not pick a site that affects other people's residences, and yet that's exactly what

1 happened with the Ancient Highway. There was

2 a reason that that site was withdrawn. I

3 know it's -- the Council didn't do it. The

4 application was withdrawn. My understanding

5 is that it was withdrawn.

Now I'm getting emotional. I

7 apologize.

The application was withdrawn because of litigation. The litigation was -- the owner of the property talked to me as part of a group over the phone and said the litigation was never resolved.

That open litigation appears to me that the cell phone tower company -- and I'm putting words in somebody's mouth here -- but they chose to go after a softer target, which is where I live. Because I am not the Mohegan Sun and I don't have the attorneys the Mohegan Sun has and I don't have diplomatic immunity, or whatever you want to call it. We never got an answer for why the people turned -- the tower company turned their sights on our location.

We are a very small community.

We were given very little notice. I got a

letter in the mail from the Town and I thank
the Town for that, but only a handful of us
got that letter -- mailed to me. Now if my
sin here is I don't subscribe to the Day,

5 well then, you know, that is really a

6 terrible thing to be accused of.

And it's nothing against the Day. It's just that you mentioned several dates and there was never -- for a property owner so close not to be notified, to me is wrong. How we got here is wrong.

of the solution and I'm going to walk away now, but there is one thing. I heard somebody mentioned a safe-limit standard and I don't know if I'm quoting -- I think that's what you called it. It was part of an act that you were working under, and I just don't know the age of that act. And I would like to have that in the public record at some point. Because we're working in 2015 and I would think that the acts that we're working under are current as well.

That's all I've got to say.

25 Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody else

2 who signed up?

I will just repeat what I said. It's the Telecommunications Act of 1996. It's a federal law that's passed by Congress. It can be changed and updated, but Congress has to do it.

There have been court cases where states or other localities have tried to use -- you might want to call them updated or different standards, and in each case they've lost and the courts have just -- I'm just telling you there is a means, but it's a federal statute.

There was a woman -- this is going to get a little chaotic, but I would hope that people had signed up, but we will allow additional people. So apparently there was a woman who raised her hand first. So if you want to speak?

KATE FIEDLER: My name is Kate Fiedler. I live on Heritage Road and I found out about this, the tower on December 1st.

There was a flyer that was put in my mailbox and when I heard that there was absolutely no

way that health or wealth could be considered, and these are probably the two things that people are most interested in, is their health and their wealth.

I thought I'd like to get involved in a group that's going to find out more about this, and I now know more about cell towers than I ever wanted to learn based on congressional testimony that's been going on in a fight about cell towers with a woman who's very active, who's been involved in this for about 26 years.

But I wanted to speak today respectfully to the Siting Council, but also to the public to just give an overview of the 1996 health congressional act and some of the health dangers, so forgive me. I'm going to be reading it.

The safety of cell phone towers is the subject of extensive scientific debate. There's a growing body of scientific evidence that the electromagnetic radiation they emit even at low levels is dangerous to human health. The industry has set what they say are safe levels of radiation exposure,

but there's a growing number of doctors,
physicists and health officials who strongly

3 disagree.

The current Federal

Communications Commission, the FCC safe

standards that are based on 1985 research,

failed to consider more recent research that

found brain cancer, memory impairment, DNA

breakdown, neurological problems with

radiofrequencies at much lower levels.

The earlier studies considered only the thermal or heating effects of radiation. In other words, the level at which radiation would heat tissue or cook a person in the same manner as a microwave oven works. The FCC levels assure we'll not be cooked. Isn't that nice? But failed to address long-term chronic exposures.

Citing just one international cell conference in our world -- so different from the United States -- this occurred in Salzburg in the year 2000. They set safety limits for the public at thousands of times lower than United States' standards. The resolution set international levels 10,000

1 times a stricter than those of the current

2 U.S. standard. This limit takes into account

3 the growing evidence for non-thermal, in

4 other words, non-cooking radiofrequency

5 bio-effects.

Cell phone towers expose the public to involuntary chronic, cumulative radiofrequency radiation. Low levels of RFs have been shown to be associated with changes in cell proliferation and DNA damage. Some scientific studies show adverse health effects at levels hundreds, indeed thousands of times lower than the United States' standards. These harmful low levels of radiation can reach as far as a mile away from cell tower location.

Reported health problems
include headaches, sleep disorders, memory
impairment, nosebleeds, increase in seizures,
blood brain barrier leakage problems,
increased heart rates, lower sperm counts,
impaired nervous systems.

Those at risk, who are most at risk are children whose cranial bones are very thin. So therefore I wonder why the

increase in autism, attention deficit, things
of this nature? Women are at particular
risk. Some of the European studies have
shown that for women with breast cancer risk,
ours increases tenfold.

According to the former Deputy
Director of the U.S. Department of Health,
Elizabeth Jacobson stated the safety of RF
has not been established, nor has the
necessary research been conducted to test it.

According to Dr. Robert Becker author of the Body Electric; and Cross
Currents, the Perils of Electropollution, at present are the greatest polluting element in the earth's environment and this proliferation of electromagnetic fields radiation once considered safe is well correlated with increases in birth defects, depression, Alzheimer's disease, learning disabilities chronic fatigue syndrome and cancer.

The incidence of brain cancer is up 25 percent since the seventies. Brain tumors are the second leading cause of cancer death for children and young adults. Yet,

the United States had a de facto policy of

post-sales surveillance with respect to RF

radiation. Only after years of exposure will

there be studies to characterize the health

consequences. Some show up immediately, and

can often take three to ten years for the

longer-term effects of radio frequency

illness such as cancer to appear.

Finally, many researchers and public health officials and citizens believe consumers should not be forced to act as guinea pigs in an experiment that results in an extensive health crisis. Quite justifiably, the public, and I believe this neighborhood, this community remains skeptical of attempts by governments and industry officials to reassure them that all is well, particularly given the unethical way in which they often operate symbiotically to promote their own interests.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. And make sure you spell your last name, say it and spell it, please?

KATE FIEDLER: F like Freddy,

- 1 I-E-D-L-E-R.
- LEWIS MOSTOWY: Good evening.
- 3 My name is Lou Mostowy. I'm here also with
- 4 my wife Cynthia. We live at 335 Boston Post
- 5 Road which is just to the northeast,
- 6 four acres, four and a half acres to the
- 7 northeast of the parcel.
- 8 I've lived off and on in this
- 9 town all my life. I grew up here on Mostowy
- 10 Road at the north end of town. My father was
- 11 born in the town somewhere in a farmhouse 86
- 12 years ago. So we've been around a while.
- 13 I've been living in the house
- 14 we live in now since 2006. Got married to
- 15 Cynthia in 2007, and some of you have been
- 16 around long enough -- this is
- 17 Dr. Morrison's -- used to be a vet's office
- 18 in the seventies. My wife bought the
- 19 property from him when unfortunately his wife
- 20 died of cancer, or something, and his plans
- 21 completely changed.
- 4.65 acres and I remember
- 23 looking at it and going, there's an awful lot
- 24 of land back there. And we have the ability
- 25 to split the land and sell it, first cut. We

were going to do it in 2008. We actually
started with a local surveyor to draw up the
plans, and we stopped. We put it all on hold
simply because the market in 2008 crashed.

So we've had it on hold for a while. We have considered putting the land back on the market, splitting off a flag lot. We do have a logger coming to take all the high-value lumber off the property.

walked up into the woods. It's approximately 137 feet from the property line. Let's call it 140, make the math easy. So if the tower falls -- which I'm a professional engineer. I know it's improbable that that's going to happen, but 55 feet of that would be on my property. And where that comes into play is if you want to build a house up there I'm sure the Town of East Lyme might have a problem with it now.

So this, this is truly going to cost me money in terms of I cannot sell that property. It's three acres, almost, of land in the town of East Lyme, a mile and a half from the four corners. That is

essentially going to be useless for me to be

able to sell. That land has been back

there -- you say, well, you say you should

have moved on it sooner. Well, the

probability of somebody plunking a cell phone

tower right next door is pretty low.

Now I did send a letter to
Attorney Fisher and I did ask why I wasn't
considered for the cell phone tower. And the
main reason was they asked all my neighbors.
And I'm like, is there something wrong if I
want to sell this property? Did you find out
something about it that I don't know about?
Watershed, frogs, whatever, that I was just
kind of curious. Because if you might know
something that I don't know, if I try to sell
this property -- because we didn't finish the
survey.

I agree with Evelyn and Tom.

It was a little surreal walking up there today and looking at the balloon, which from my property line, I had to crook back to see it but it just looks so unnatural to imagine this steel monopole in the middle of just serenity up there.

So from the bottom line, I've 1 got to put three kids through college. 2 really wanted to use some of the funds from 3 selling that property. We had also 4 considered building a house up there 5 ourselves and selling the land, the property 6 7 we live on now. And we're the only ones that 8 have the ability to split property and sell 9 off anywhere around here, anywhere around the 10 proposed site. 11 So I ask that the Council reconsider, especially like Tom said, the 12 Stones Ranch sites. And I know there are 13 other sites around here sitting in the middle 14 15 of nowhere on farmland that would just seem 16 much more appropriate and have a lot less impact on residents. 17 18 Thank you. THE CHAIRMAN: 19 Is that Duke University? 20 21 MICHAEL RITZ: Yes. 22 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. All 23 right. I don't have a problem with Duke. Ιf

it was another university I might have a

problem, but go ahead.

24

25

1 MICHAEL RITZ: Well, she did her undergraduate at UConn, so she's at Duke 2 Graduate School. Name is Ritz, R-i-t-z, like 3 the hotels, but I didn't get any of that 4 5 money. My name is Michael Ritz. I've been in East Lyme for over 20 years. And I've 6 7 lived in the Orchards for about two years. 8 This cell tower would actually 9 get farther away from my house. So I'm not here because I have to look at the cell 10 I look at it now. I discussed with 11 tower. 12 Mr. Carrier the fact that we get 30,000 bucks 13 a year from the cell tower people to have it on our property and it goes against our 14 15 association dues. And he said that the cell 16 tower had to go. 17 And I said, why? You know, we 18 can make it look like a lighthouse. But why does the cell tower have to go? 19 20 And Mr. Carrier said, nobody will want to buy a house next to a cell 21 tower. Now Mr. Carrier also, I believe, with 22 the letter you just have, has said that he's 23 24 willing to extend the lease. He's not going

So he is

to build houses there next year.

25

1 willing to give us another, at least another

2 year to come up with a really good solution

3 to this.

4 I have AT&T. I love AT&T and

5 I'm a big, you know, cell phone user, but I

6 really believe that East Lyme is a very, very

7 special place. We're getting ready to do

some really big things in this town with the

Cosco and some other things. Let's not screw

10 this up.

8

9

14

24

That area in Plum Hill road

12 and Boston Post Road is charming, absolutely

13 charming. There must be another place where

this cell tower can serve this community and

15 not have the impact that it does.

16 Thank you.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

18 Red shirt first, and that's

19 the first one I saw.

20 CHAD FIEDLER: My name is Jack

21 Fiedler, foxtrot, India, echo, delta, Lima,

22 echo, Roger. I live at 18 Heritage Road. I

23 had not intended to speak tonight. My wife

spoke about health. I speak in opposition to

25 the tower.

Three minutes, no questions, no applause, no health considerations. Were I able to ask a question I would ask the Council members whether any of them were ever faced with having a cell tower within a half a mile of their own personal home.

I realize that this tower has to go up someplace. I wrote down some considerations that I would hope could be applied to this decision. If we do in fact have a valid letter that extends the time in which a decision was to be made in favor of a particular site, I would hope that gives the Council sufficient leeway, in fact, to do that, to leave this door open to consider other possibilities.

I realize full well that

putting a tower adjacent to any neighborhood

is going to draw the ire of the people that

live in that neighborhood. It seems to me

the simplest solution to that is find a site

that's publicly owned and doesn't have any

neighbors. That's not rocket science. I

believe the Stones Ranch property meets that

criterion.

The Stones Ranch -- I wrote down a series of little points here. With regard to the height of the tower, a 194-foot pole in the middle of a residential area is bound to have an economic affect. It may well also have a health affect that is yet as unrecognized by the United States, and therefore unrecognized by you folks as a parameter in your decision making.

As to the height of the tower itself, 195 feet -- 194 feet, forgive me, is two thirds the length of a football field which is a long haul even for Tom Brady. It's a big pole. I'm not an expert on Connecticut flora and fauna, but I don't think I have any 150-feet trees around me, and I have a lot of big old oaks. So this thing is going to loom over all of us that are near to it.

I would hope that ultimately you're able to find a site that first of all does not affect any personal property, any private property, either socially or economically. And although you may not be able to consider it directly, I'm sure it

would weigh on your thinking indirectly in terms of the health of those people, particularly women and children that have to live under or adjacent to it.

I would hope you could find a piece of land that's owned by the State or the Town that they would be willing to have AT&T consider, or in the case of Stones Ranch, reconsider.

I would hope that you would find something that would have a high enough elevation so that it would pass RF test muster. I would hope it would be, as I said, a sufficient distance from a populated area that it would pose no obvious threat like the tower falling into your swimming pool, or a less obvious threat, the health of our children.

It seems to me the Stones
Ranch site meets all of these criteria if you
would accept them as valid criteria. As I
understand it, the Stones Ranch site was
rejected because the state police objected to
it. There was no mention in a document that
I saw of any RF objection to it, certainly

not on the basis of elevation that's over

300 feet, and that's one of the highest
points in the whole list of places that were
initially targeted.

That particular site has several other advantages. It has a significant economic advantage. There's already a tower there. There's already access there. There's already power there. The capital cost of improving the site and making it ready for an AT&T tower should be significantly less and I would think would obviously offset the already sunk costs in whatever they've got in flying balloons over our property.

In closing, I would simply ask that that time be recognized as available time, that you as an appointed group could make use of in considering what you've heard here, that you would make use of it, and that you pay particular attention to the several sites that aren't on public -- that aren't on private land and wouldn't suffer from all the agonies that the current site selection puts us through.

Thank you.

JOHN DRABIK: John Drabik, D as in dog, R as in rabbit, A as in animal, B as in boy, I as in an incompetent, K as in corn.

I own the Ancient Highway site that AT&T kind of bagged it on because of some vague references to a stone landscape by the Mohegan Indian tribe. I say vague because they've been asked through the court system and asked directly to identify what, and where they found it.

They have yet to do that.

They refuse to do that. Now they might have sovereignty, maybe, but they're affecting private property rights. The judge is going to be deciding on this hopefully within the next two or three weeks. So before you folks go and dedicate anything to Plum Hill, or anywhere else, I think if they can buy some time with the tower up on a hill you should do so.

If you can put a temporary tower up, I'll volunteer my piece. I've got three or four pieces in town. I've got a

- 1 hundred acres in town on a golf course.
- 2 You're welcome to use any of that to buy
- 3 these folks some time for a fair and
- 4 equitable interview, so to speak, of a good
- 5 property.
- Now my 14-acre piece that was
- 7 turned down by AT&T because of this alleged
- 8 stone landscape has been developed all around
- 9 it as fully as it can be and only on one
- 10 side, the northern, northwestern side. The
- 11 rest of it is open space. Not much more can
- 12 happen here. It's 14 acres as opposed to the
- 13 7 acres. The tower is going to fall, nobody
- 14 is going to hear it, like a tree in the
- woods.
- 16 There's also a 20-acre piece I
- 17 own, 250 yards to the south that's also at
- 18 the same elevation, maybe a little higher.
- 19 How come you're not considering that?
- 20 There's nothing around it. The Town's open
- 21 space piece of 30 acres abuts that. So now
- 22 you've got 50 acres to play with. Come on.
- 23 AT&T, grow a set of balls.
- 24 Ask the Indians what they're hiding, because
- 25 they're hiding. My bet is they have nothing,

just using sovereign immunity to give
somebody -- do somebody a favor who didn't
want it in their backyard.

In the meantime, they're allowing these folks up in Plum Hill to get screwed while they're laughing. That's not fair. That's not what this is all about. You guys have the tough job of putting a tower where nobody wants it.

Well, I've asked for a tower on my golf course a few hundred feet away from my house. I've got a contract on it.

I've got one up on the Ancient Highway that's probably not going to happen. And then I also have the 20 acres a little bit to the east. Tell AT&T to stretch another cable out there, put it on my 20-acre piece.

There's alternatives if they want to look for it. Will they have to compromise? Yeah, but they're not going to affect all these people.

I think I've said enough for tonight. Have a good night. Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We're 25 going to close the public comment session.

I'd like to announce that the evidentiary 1 portion of the hearing which started this 2 afternoon will be continued on Tuesday 3 January 26, 2016, 11 a.m. in New Britain. 4 number of these issues that were raised this 5 evening will be considered at that time. 6 7 I'd also like to note that 8 anyone who has not become a party or 9 intervener, but who desires to make his or her views known to the Council, you may file 10 written statements with the Council until the 11 record closes. 12 Copies of the transcript of 13 this hearing will be filed at the East Lyme 14 15 Town Clerk's office, and all the files are available on the Siting Council website so 16 you can look through them at your leisure. 17 18 And I hereby declare this portion of the hearing adjourned. And thank 19 20 you, all for your participation. 21 (Whereupon, the above 22 proceedings were concluded at 8:12 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE I hereby certify that the foregoing 60 2 pages are a complete and accurate 3 computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the Siting Council Public Hearing in Re: Docket No. 463, 4 APPLICATION FROM AMERICAN TOWERS LLC, AND NEW 5 CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS, LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC 6 NEED IS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS 7 FACILITY LOCATED AT 351A BOSTON POST ROAD, EAST LYME, CONNECTICUT, which was held before 8 ROBIN STEIN, Chairman, at East Lyme Town Hall, Upper Meeting Room, 108 Pennsylvania 9 Avenue, Niantic, Connecticut, on December 15, 2015. 10 11 12 13 14 15 Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M 857 Notary Public 16 BCT Reporting, LLC 17 18 PO Box 1774 19 Bristol, Connecticut 06011 20 21 My Commission Expires: 6/30/2020 22 23 24 25