



## USFWS & NDDDB Compliance Determination

May 5, 2018

Verizon Wireless  
20 Alexander Drive  
Wallingford, CT 06492

APT Project No.: CT1418180

Re: **Proposed Pomfret Center CT Facility**  
**72 Ragged Hill Road**  
**Pomfret, Connecticut**

On behalf of Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless ("Cellco"), All-Points Technology Corporation, P.C. ("APT") performed an evaluation with respect to possible federally- and state-listed, threatened, endangered or special concern species in order to determine if the proposed referenced communications facility ("Facility") would result in a potential adverse effect to listed species.

Cellco proposes the development of a wireless telecommunications facility ("Facility") on a ±627-acre undeveloped forested parcel at 72 Ragged Hill Road in Pomfret, Connecticut ("Host Property"). APT evaluated three optional locations proposed for accommodating the Facility with respect to this evaluation. The three optional locations (identified herein as Sites A, B, and C) are situated in the western portion of the Host Property, all of which can be accessed from Swedetown Road.

**USFWS** The federal consultation was completed in accordance with Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") rules implementing the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's ("USFWS") Information, Planning, and Conservation System ("IPaC"). Based on the results of the IPaC review, one federally-listed<sup>1</sup> threatened species is known to occur in the vicinity of the subject property documented as the northern long-eared bat ("NLEB"; *Myotis septentrionalis*). As a result of this preliminary finding, APT performed an evaluation to determine if the proposed referenced Facility would result in a likely adverse effect to NLEB.

The proposed Facility at either Sites A, B, or C are located within a mixed oak-eastern white pine forest that would result in minor forest clearing. Consultation with the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection ("CTDEEP") Wildlife Division Natural Diversity Data Base ("NDDDB") revealed that the proposed Facility is not within 150 feet of a known occupied maternity roost tree and is not within 0.25 mile of a known NLEB hibernaculum. The nearest NLEB habitat resource to the proposed activity is located in Granby ±35 miles to the northwest. Therefore, the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect NLEB.

APT has submitted the USFWS's Northern Long Eared Bat final 4(d) rule Streamlined Consultation Form under the consultation framework that allows federal agencies to rely upon the USFWS January 5, 2016, intra-Service Programmatic Biological Opinion ("BO") on the Final 4(d) Rule for the NLEB for section 7(a)(2) compliance. If the USFWS does not respond within 30 days from submittal of this form (August 8, 2017), one may presume that USFWS determination is informed by the best available information and that Cellco's project responsibilities under 7(a)(2) with respect to the NLEB are fulfilled through the USFWS' BO.

---

<sup>1</sup> Listing under the federal Endangered Species Act

In addition, Cellco would consider following additional recommended measures for NLEB conservation, noted below, as encouraged in the April 29, 2016 FCC Public Notice<sup>2</sup>, as the project schedule allows.

- Conduct tree removal activities outside of the NLEB pup season (June 1-July 31) and active season (April 1-October 31) to minimize impacts to pups at roosts not yet identified.
- Avoid clearing suitable spring staging and fall swarming habitat within a five-mile radius of known or assumed NLEB hibernacula during the staging and swarming seasons (April 1-May 15 and August 15-November 14, respectively). NOT APPLICABLE.
- Maintain dead trees and large trees when possible.
- Use herbicides and pesticides only if unavoidable.
- Minimize exterior lighting, opting for down-shielded, motion-sensor security lights under towers instead of constant illumination.

**NDDB** No known areas of state-listed species are currently depicted on the most recent CTDEEP NDDB Maps in the location of the proposed Cellco development at either Sites A, B, or C, although a NDDB buffer area is located within 0.25 mile to the southwest. Please refer to the enclosed NDDB Map. Although no impacts to state-listed species are anticipated with the proposed Facility, APT has consulted with the CTDEEP to confirm that no documented occurrences of State Listed Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern species occur in the vicinity of the proposed Facility. A January 18, 2018 response from the CTDEEP stated that CTDEEP does “not anticipate negative impacts to State-listed species (RCSA Sec. 26-306) resulting from your proposed activity at the site”. A copy of the CTDEEP NDDB determination letter is enclosed.

Therefore, the proposed Cellco development is not anticipated to adversely impact any federal or state threatened, endangered or species of special concern.

Sincerely,



Dean Gustafson  
Senior Environmental Scientist

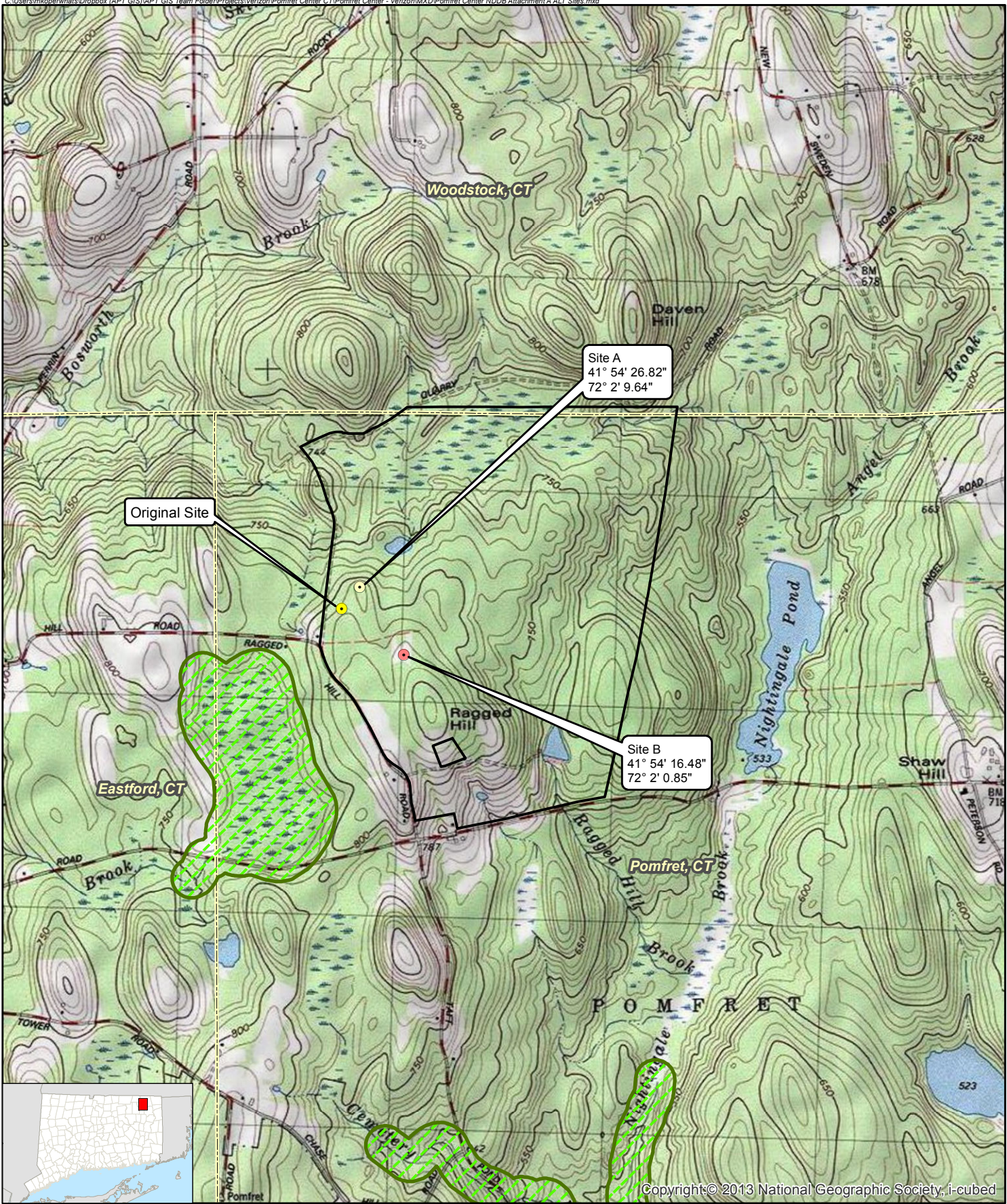
Enclosure

---

<sup>2</sup> Federal Communications Commission. *Tower Construction Guidance for Protection of Northern Long-Eared Bat Under the Endangered Species Act*. Public Notice DA 16-476. April 29, 2016.

NDDDB Map and  
January 18, 2018 CTDEEP Letter

---

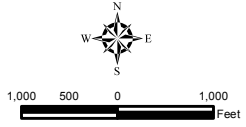


Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

**Legend**

- Original Site
- Subject Property
- Proposed Alternate Site Locations
- Natural Diversity Database (updated December 2017)
- Site A
- Municipal Boundary
- Site B

**Map Notes:**  
 Base Map Source: USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic  
 Quadrangle Map, Eastford, CT (1983)  
 Map Scale: 1:24,000  
 Map Date: December 2017



**Attachment A:  
 Overview Map**

Proposed Wireless  
 Telecommunications Facility  
 Pomfret Center CT  
 72 Ragged Hill Road  
 Pomfret Center, Connecticut





79 Elm Street • Hartford, CT 06106-5127

[www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep)

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

January 18, 2018

Dean Gustafson  
All-Points Technology Corporation, P.C.  
3 Saddlebrook Dr  
Killingworth, CT 06419  
[dgustafson@allpointstech.com](mailto:dgustafson@allpointstech.com)

Project: Verizon Wireless Construction of a Monopole at One of Three Locations on 72 Ragged Hill Rd, Site 1 of 3 (original site), Site 2 of 3 (Site A), Site 3 of 3 (Site B) in Pomfret  
NDDDB Determination No.: 201800448

Dear Dean Gustafson,

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB) maps and files regarding the area delineated on the map provided for the proposed Verizon Wireless Construction of a Monopole at One of Three Locations on 72 Ragged Hill Rd, Site 1 of 3 (original site), Site 2 of 3 (Site A), Site 3 of 3 (Site B) in Pomfret, Connecticut. I do not anticipate negative impacts to State-listed species (RCSA Sec. 26-306) resulting from your proposed activity at the site based upon the information contained within the NDDDB. The result of this review does not preclude the possibility that listed species may be encountered on site and that additional action may be necessary to remain in compliance with certain state permits. This determination is good for two years. Please re-submit a new NDDDB Request for Review if the scope of work changes or if work has not begun on this project by January 18, 2020.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biological resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEEP, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Consultations with the Data Base should not be substitutes for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as, enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the Data Base as it becomes available.

Please contact me if you have further questions at (860) 424-3592, or [dawn.mckay@ct.gov](mailto:dawn.mckay@ct.gov) . Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Data Base.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dawn M. McKay".

Dawn M. McKay  
Environmental Analyst 3