

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE: :  
 :  
 APPLICATION OF TARPON TOWERS II, LLC : DOCKET NO. 486  
 FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL :  
 COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR :  
 THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND :  
 OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS :  
 FACILITY LOCATED AT 796 WOODIN :  
 STREET, HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT : SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

**RESPONSES OF CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS  
TO CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL INTERROGATORIES, SET ONE**

On August 19, 2019, the Connecticut Siting Council (“Council”) issued Interrogatories to Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Cellco”), relating to Docket No. 486, the proposed installation of the Hamden facility. Below are Cellco’s responses.

Question No. 1

Application p. 2 states network service provided by Cellco's existing West Rock Ridge facility is interfering with service provided by several surrounding Cellco facilities. What surrounding sites are experiencing such interference and at what network frequencies?

Response

The surrounding sites experiencing interference include Cellco’s Hamden 4 CT (rooftop at 1732 Dixwell Avenue), Hamden 2 CT (guyed tower at 265 Benham Street), and New Haven North 2 CT (rooftop at 1204 Whitney Ave, Hamden) cell sites. The interference occurs at Cellco’s 700 MHz, 850 MHz and 2100 MHz frequencies.

Question No. 2

Are all frequencies that would be installed at the proposed facility used to transmit voice and data?

Response

All of Cellco's licensed frequencies (700 MHz, 850 MHz, 1900 MHz and 2100 MHz) are LTE capable and are used to transmit voice and data services.

Question No. 3

Referring to Application p. 7, what is the size of the existing coverage gaps that are not served by the existing West Rock Ridge facility?

Response

The primary objective of the proposed Hamden Relo site is to increase network capacity in the area. The Hamden Relo site will also provide coverage to an approximately 0.1 gap in service inside the Heroes Tunnel along Route 15. This is a small gap but significant one, due to the amount of traffic that is traveling through the tunnel and along Route 15 on a daily basis. Small gaps also exist along Route 15 and local roads in the area in Cellco's higher frequency bands.

Question No. 4

Referring to Application p. 7, the size of service area for various network frequencies is provided in square miles. Are these coverage footprint values based on coverage modeling from the site in isolation or do these coverage footprint values include existing on-air Cellco sites in the surrounding area that may overlap with the proposed coverage footprint?

Response

The coverage footprint included on page 7 is for the proposed cell site in isolation.

Question No. 5

Application p. 16 states the proposed Cellco facility would provide capacity relief to adjacent sites. What nearby wireless facilities (or sectors) are nearing capacity limits? At what frequencies? Please include a projected exhaustion date for each of these sectors. Would the deployment of Cellco's proposed facility be sufficient to address these capacity concerns or would an additional facility be required in the near term to off-load traffic?

Response

The Hamden Relo site will provide capacity relief to the adjacent New Haven 3 cell site at 345 Fitch Road in Hamden. None of the antenna sectors at New Haven 3 are currently in "capacity exhaust". The only adjacent cell site currently in "capacity exhaust" is the Hamden cell site, beta sector antennas. Cellco is currently evaluating the need for an additional cell site in the area to the east of the Hamden Relo cell site but has not identified a particular location for the new facility.

Question No. 6

Application p. 17 states Cellco conducted their own site search. What was the general area of the site search? What properties were examined and why were they rejected?

Response

Cellco's search focused, generally, on the area along CT Route 15, to the north and east of West Rock Ridge. Prior to the issuance of the more recent search area, Cellco intervened in Council Docket No. 310, an application by Omnipoint Communications for a new tower off Wintergreen Avenue in Hamden. This site is identified as Site No. 3 on the Tarpon Site Search Summary Map. This application was ultimately withdrawn by Omnipoint Communications.

In the Spring of 2015, Cellco reinitiated its site search efforts in the area and preliminarily

identified four (4) parcel that might be suitable for a cell site. Those sites included:

1. Hamden Plain Cemetery, 248 Circular Avenue, Hamden, CT
2. Blessed Sacrament Church (Steeple), 325 Circular Avenue, Hamden, CT
3. Clear Channel (tower) 495 Benham Street, Hamden, CT
4. 546 Circular Avenue, Hamden, CT

Soon after Cellco reactivated its site search in the area, Tarpon Towers reached out to Cellco regarding its interest in the property site at 796 Woodin Street. At that point, Cellco suspended its site search and agreed to participate in the Tarpon Towers application.

#### Question No. 7

Application p. 21 states Cellco's facility would have a power density value of 48.6 percent whereas Application Attachment J has a power density value of 24.7 percent. Please clarify.

#### Response

The worst case power density calculation provided in Attachment J of the application is correct.

#### Question No. 8

What is the estimated run time for the emergency power generator before it would need to be refueled, assuming it is running at under normal loading conditions? How long could the battery backup alone supply power to the facility in the event that the generator fails to start?

#### Response

Under normal loading conditions, the proposed 30 kW propane generator could operate for approximately 114 hours (4.75 days) before refueling of the 500-gallon propane fuel tank would be necessary. This run time is based on 75% of the rated electrical load of the generator. If the generator were to fail, the backup battery system is designed to keep the cell site operating

for up to four (4) hours.

Question No. 9

Would the proposed emergency generator run periodically for maintenance purposes? If so, at what frequency and duration? Could such testing be scheduled for daytime hours?


Response

Yes. Cellco cycles its generators, for maintenance purposes, generally once every two weeks, for approximately 30 minutes. Unless directed otherwise by the Council, the generator would be cycled during daytime hours.

**CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September 2019, a copy of the foregoing was sent via electronic mail, to the following:

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