



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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Docket No. 261 85 Quaker Farms Road, Oxford

T-Mobile Request to Reopen and Modify the Decision and Order

**Staff Report
May 20, 2021**

Introduction

On December 22, 2003, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) to AT&T Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T Wireless (AT&T) for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility at 85 Quaker Farms Road, Oxford, Connecticut.

The Council's Docket No. 261 Decision and Order (D&O), Condition No. 1 specified, in part, that "Antennas installed on the monopole shall be flush mounted."

On April 30, 2021, Crown Castle, current owner of the telecommunications facility, on behalf of T-Mobile, submitted a Request to Reopen and Modify D&O Condition No. 1 to allow for the use of platform mounting systems at this facility.

Background Site Information

On April 15, 2004, the Council approved a Development and Management (D&M) Plan for this facility that included a 150-foot monopole. The D&M Plan included AT&T's installation consisting of three flush-mounted panel antennas at a centerline height of 150 feet above ground level (agl).

The Council approved Exempt Modification requests from T-Mobile on January 22, 2007, March 12, 2015 and September 14, 2020. Currently, T-Mobile maintains 6 flush-mounted panel antennas at the 131-foot level of the tower. In addition to AT&T and T-Mobile, Verizon and the Town of Seymour are located at the 120-foot and 80-foot level of the tower, respectively.

T-Mobile Exempt Modification Request

On December 4, 2020, Crown Castle, on behalf of T-Mobile, submitted a Notice of Exempt Modification to install 9 new antennas and 9 remote radio heads on a platform antenna mount at a centerline height of 129 feet agl. On January 6, 2021, the Council issued correspondence to Crown Castle indicating the filing was incomplete as it did not conform to Condition No. 1 of the Council's D&O for this facility that limited panel antennas to a flush mount configuration.

Other improvements include ground equipment modifications within the existing compound, and the expansion of an existing concrete pad by 38.5 square feet. The modifications include equipment that is both 4G and 5G capable.

The Notice of Exempt Modification included certification from a Structural Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut that the structure is capable of supporting the proposed loading.

The facility would have a cumulative worst-case power density of 20.8 % of the applicable limit using a -10 dB off-beam adjustment for broadcast panel antennas and a -20 dB off-beam adjustment for highly focused parabolic antennas (i.e. 2500 MHz).

The Notice of Exempt Modification was provided to the Town of Oxford and the property owner.

Request to Reopen and Modify

In response to the Council's January 6, 2021 correspondence regarding the incomplete Notice of Exempt Modification, the Request to Reopen and Modify the D&O seeks to allow the use of platform mounting systems to promote tower sharing and to enhance existing wireless service, as detailed below:

- The flush mount design cannot meet T-Mobile's current capacity and coverage demands which have evolved due to improvements in network design and technology since the approval of the tower in 2003;
- Restricting antenna installations on the tower to flush mounts has the potential to limit services of other wireless carriers that would otherwise deploy new technologies to better serve their customers; and
- The visual effect of the platform mount system is not significant, as demonstrated in photo-simulations included in the Motion to Reopen and Modify.

On April 30, 2021, Crown Castle, on behalf of T-Mobile notified the Town of Oxford, the property owner and abutting property owners of the Request to Reopen and Modify the D&O.

On April 30, 2021, the Council notified Parties and Intervenors of the Request to Reopen and Modify the D&O and requested that any submission of comments or statements with respect to whether the Request to Reopen and Modify the D&O should be granted or denied including any request for a hearing be submitted to the Council by close of business on May 13, 2021. No comments were received.

Site



Existing and Proposed Antenna Configuration

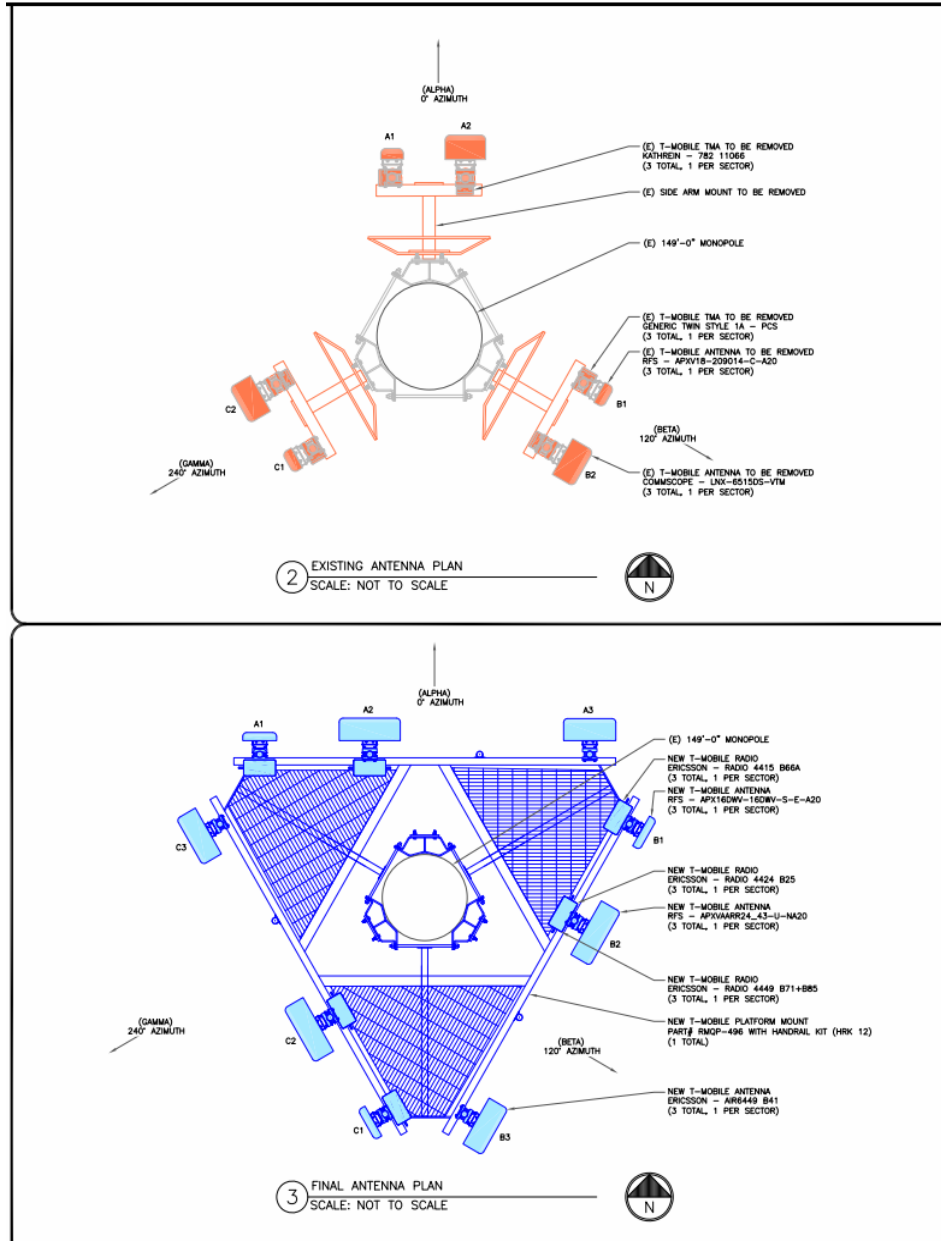


Photo-simulation of Proposed Installation

