

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

IN RE:

APPLICATION OF OPTASITE, INC. AND
OMNIPOINT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR
THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND
OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS
FACILITY AT 940 MERIDEN ROAD IN THE
CITY OF WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT

DOCKET NO. 321

DATE: NOVEMBER 16, 2006

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL KOPERWHATS

Q1. Mr. Koperwhats, please state your name and position.

A. Michael Koperwhats and I am planner working within Vanasse Hangen
Brustlin, Inc. ("VHB"). VHB is located at 54 Tuttle Place in Middletown,
Connecticut.

Q2. Please state your qualifications.

A. I have a masters degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Hunter
College of the City University of New York. My background includes nearly
eleven years of professional planning experience, including over seven years of
experience of various telecommunications regulatory and support work. As such,
I have assisted in the permitting of more than 300 wireless telecommunications
facilities in New York and New England during the past seven years. My
responsibilities include coordination and oversight of site screenings and
environmental assessments to fulfill National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA")
requirements, visual impact analyses and regulatory permitting support.

Q3. Please describe your involvement in this matter.

A. VHB was responsible for preparing a Visual Resources Evaluation report for the proposed site at 940 Meriden Road, Waterbury (the "Site"), which is located on property owned by the Pine Grove Cemetery and operated as a cemetery. The purpose of this Visual Resources Evaluation Report was to evaluate the potential visibility of the proposed telecommunications facility ("Facility") from the surrounding areas.

VHB was also responsible for conducting a wetlands inspection of the Site and preparing a Wetlands Inspection Report. In addition, VHB was responsible for reviewing environmental resource information under the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA").

Q4. Please describe the process for conducting the Visual Resource Evaluation.

A. At the request of Optasite, VHB conducted the Visual Resource Evaluation (found at Exhibit K of the Application), which included the preparation of a computer-generated viewshed map and performing a crane test at the Site on July 6, 2006. The crane test consisted of raising a crane arm to the height of 120 feet at the Site. Once the crane arm was extended, VHB staff photographed the crane from numerous vantage points within a two-mile radius (the "Study Area") to determine the actual locations where the proposed tower will be visible. The location of each photograph was recorded using a hand-held GPS receiver and subsequently plotted on a USGS 7.5 Minute topographic quad map, utilizing

ESRI's ArcView® Spatial Analyst software, to indicate their approximate distance and relative location to the proposed Facility.

Q5. How were the representative locations chosen?

A. Several photo locations were selected prior to the in-field evaluation, utilizing a preliminary version of the viewshed map to identify areas adjacent to public roads from where the proposed Facility might be visible. Other locations were identified based on in-field observations made during the time that the photographic documentation was being conducted, including areas along public roadways where the tower may be partially visible.

Q6. Please describe how you prepared the viewshed analysis for the Visual Resources Evaluation.

A. Using ERSI's ArcView® Spatial Analyst, a computer modeling tool, the areas from which the top of the tower is expected to be visible are calculated. This is based on information entered into the computer model, such as tower height, its ground elevation, existing vegetation and surrounding topography. Data incorporated in the model includes 7.5 minute digital elevation models ("DEMs") and a digital forest layer for the project area. The forested areas within the study area are overlaid on the DEMs and then a series of constraints are applied to the computer model to achieve a realistic estimate of where the tower will be visible from within the surrounding landscape.

Also included in the viewshed model is a data layer, obtained from the Connecticut State Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP"), which

depicts various land and water resources such as state parks and forests, recreational facilities, dedicated open space and DEP boat launches. Additionally, information is gathered from the Connecticut State Department of Transportation (“DOT”) and local officials to determine if there are any state or locally designated scenic or historic roadways.

Q7. Please describe the visibility of the proposed Facility.

A. Areas from which the proposed Facility will be at least partially visible year-round comprise only 33 acres or less than ½ % of the entire study area, with much of that visibility occurring on the host property itself. The proposed Facility will be visible along portions of Meriden Road and an adjacent cemetery property. The size of the host property and the existing mature vegetation on the site serve to minimize the visual effects of the proposed Facility. We estimate approximately 8 residences will have partial views of the proposed Facility.

In addition, the proposed Facility will be at least partially visible seasonally (during “leaf off” conditions) from an additional 91 acres and approximately an additional 36 residences.

Q8. Please describe the results of the wetlands inspection conducted by VHB.

A. At the request of Optasite, VHB conducted a wetlands inspection of the property located at 940 Meriden Road, the results of which are found at Exhibit J of the Certificate Application. VHB reviewed the materials provided by Optasite concerning the location of the proposed Facility, access drive and utility

easements. VHB then conducted an in-field review of the property to determine the location of wetlands on the property and the impact of the proposed Facility on any wetlands. Based upon VHB's inspection, no wetlands or watercourses were located within 300 feet of the proposed Facility and leased area. The nearest wetland is approximately 325 feet east of the proposed leased area and consists of a manmade depression. Therefore, the proposed Facility will not directly or indirectly affect any wetlands or watercourses.

Q9. Please describe the results of the NEPA screen conducted by VHB.

A. At the request of Optasite, VHB conducted a NEPA screen to determine if the proposed Facility falls under any listed categories of Section 1.1307 under NEPA, the results of which are found at Exhibit N of the Certificate Application. Based upon VHB's review, the proposed Facility does not fall under any listed categories of Section 1.1307. In addition, VHB corresponded with numerous agencies including the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP"), the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, Historic Preservation & Museum Division, among others. Based upon the NEPA screen and agency correspondence, the Site is categorically excluded from any requirement for further environmental review by the FCC in accordance with NEPA and no permit is required by that agency prior to construction of the proposed Facility.

The statements above are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

11-16-06
Date

Michael Koperwhats
Michael Koperwhats

Subscribed and sworn before me this 16 day of November, 2006.

By: Patricia A. Loginski
Notary my commission
expires: August 31, 2010