



Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

REVISED
September 6, 2006

Ref: 40999.07

Mr. Keith Coppins
Optasite, Inc.
One Research Drive, Suite 200C
Westborough, MA 01581

Re: NEPA Compliance Documentation
First Assembly of God Church of Meriden
651 Paddock Avenue
Meriden, CT

Dear Mr. Coppins,

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) has been retained by Optasite, Inc. (Optasite) to review environmental resource information outlined in 47 CFR Ch.1 § 1.1307 sections (a) and (b) for environmental consequences pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC or Commission") requirements. Optasite is proposing to construct a new wireless telecommunications facility on portions of the First Assembly of God Church of Meriden property located at 651 Paddock Avenue in Meriden, Connecticut. Optasite plans to install a ±120-foot tall monopole to be painted dark brown. Carrier antennae will be attached onto the monopole and associated ground equipment will be installed at the base of the monopole within a proposed ±50-foot by 90-foot chain-link fenced enclosed gravel lease compound area. Access to the facility will be provided via the existing asphalt-paved driveway extending in a westerly direction off of Paddock Avenue. Specifically, VHB reviewed source information outlined below to determine if the proposed facility will be located in an environmentally sensitive area.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements

As a licensing agency, the FCC complies with NEPA by requiring its licensees to review their proposed actions for environmental consequences. Rules implementing NEPA are found at Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1, Subpart I, rule sections 1.1301 to 1.1319.

Section 1.1305 of these rules, state that the Commission "has found no common pattern which would enable it to specify" any particular Commission action as a "major action" under NEPA. Thus, section 1.1306 of the Rules "categorically excluded from environmental processing" all Commission actions except for those specifically identified in section 1.1307. If a licensee's proposed action falls within one of the categories of 1.1307, section 1.1308(a) requires the licensee to consider the potential environmental effects from its construction of antenna facilities or structures, and disclose those effects in an environmental assessment (EA) which is filed with the Commission for review.

54 Tuttle Place
Middletown, Connecticut 06457-1847
860.632.1500 ■ FAX 860.632.7879
email: info@vhb.com
www.vhb.com

VHB has reviewed the following source information for identification, location, and impacts to environmentally sensitive areas:

1. **Officially designated wilderness areas** - State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) Geographic Information System (GIS) data layers, CTDEP Natural Resources Center and Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB). See attached NEPA screen map prepared by VHB, Inc. and letter from CTDEP.
2. **Officially designated wildlife preserve** – CTDEP GIS data layers, CTDEP Natural Resources Center and NDDB. See attached NEPA screen map and letter from CTDEP.
3. **Threatened or Endangered Species or designated critical habitats** – CTDEP GIS data, CTDEP's Natural Resources Center and NDDB, and United States Department of Interior – Fish and Wildlife Service, (USFWS) New England Field Office. See attached NEPA screen map and letters from USFWS and CTDEP.
4. **National Register of Historic Places** – State of Connecticut Commission on Cultural & Tourism, Historic Preservation & Museum Division, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO); National Register and Reported Archeological Sites Connecticut Geographic Information System data layer provided by Heritage Consultants, LLC; and public notice. See attached NEPA screen map prepared by VHB, Inc., letter SHPO, and a copy of the public notice published in the Record Journal on May 18, 2006.
5. **Indian Religious Sites** - State of Connecticut, Connecticut Commission on Cultural & Tourism, Historic Preservation & Museum Division SHPO, National Register and Reported Archeological Sites Connecticut Geographic Information System data layer provided by Heritage Consultants, LLC, and all interested Native American Tribes (NAT) and/or Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHO) identified on FCC's online Tower Construction Notification System (TCNS). As identified via TCNS, VHB has consulted with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and the Narragansett Indian Tribe. See attached SHPO letter and letter from the above listed NATs. Please note that in the unlikely event that tribal artifacts or human remains are encountered during construction activities, excavation is required to be halted immediately and the appropriate NATs and SHPO are to be contacted as pursuant to Title 47 CFR Sec. 1.1312 of the Commission's rules.
6. **Flood Plain** – Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Federal Insurance Administration, Office of Risk Assessment 50 C Street, SW Washington, DC 20472; CTDEP GIS data layer. See attached NEPA screen map prepared by VHB, Inc.
7. **Significant change in surface features** – URS Corporation (URS) has field surveyed wetlands on the subject property. Based on URS's field observations, the proposed project activity by Optasite does not appear to involve a significant change in surface features or result in wetland fill, deforestation or water diversion. See attached Site Plans prepared by URS dated February 27, 2006, which depicts the limits of inland wetlands on the subject property.
8. **High Intensity white lights located in residential neighborhoods** – No lighting information was provided to VHB. However, we understand that no lighting is required on this facility.



Mr. Keith Coppins
Optasite, Inc.
Page 3

Based on the information currently available, VHB has found **that the proposed facility does not fall under any of the listed categories of Section 1.1307 under the NPA.** The NEPA checklist and NEPA screen map, which outlines the location of the site and the location of the environmental resources, agency correspondence, and a copy of the current Site Plans are attached to this letter.

Very truly yours,

VANASSE HANGEN BRUSTLIN, INC.



Nicole Dentamaro
Environmental Scientist

Attachments

cc: Christine Scanlon, Optasite (2 copies)
Julie D. Kohler, Esq., Cohen and Wolf, PPC. (4 copies)



Contact Name: Keith Coppins	Site type (choose one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raw land <input type="checkbox"/> Tower colo* <input type="checkbox"/> Other colo*	Optasite Cascade ID #: N/A	Site Name & Address: First Assembly of God Church of Meriden 651 Paddock Avenue Meriden, CT
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NEPA Land Use Screening Checklist

FCC NEPA Category	Consulting Agency to Contact	SSEO Document Reference	Check appropriate box(es) below			
			No Adverse Impact	Potential Adverse Impact	Exempt from Review*	CNPA Applies**
1. Designated Wilderness Areas	National Park Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), CTDEP GIS data layers and Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB)	Section 3.4.1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Designated Wildlife Preserves	National Park Service, US Forest Service, BLM, CTDEP GIS data layers and NDDDB	Section 3.4.1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Threatened or Endangered Species & Critical Habitats	CTDEP NDDDB, US Fish & Wildlife Service - Field Office (USF&WS)	Section 3.4.2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Historic Places	State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO); Public Notice	Section 3.4.3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Indian Religious Sites	SHPO, Tower Construction Notification System (TCNS) website - Native American Tribes (NATs), and/or Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)	Section 3.4.4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Floodplain	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Section 3.4.5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Wetlands & Surface Waterways	US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)	Section 3.4.6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. High Intensity White Lights in Residential Neighborhoods	Lighting information, if applicable, to be provide by client via FAA form or other relevant lighting documentation - N/A	Section 3.4.7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*For collocation projects that are not subject to exemption under the CNPA, NEPA Land Use Screening Categories 4 and 5 are only required. The remaining categories are categorically excluded.

**Based on the CNPA the collocation project is exempt from Section 106 review.

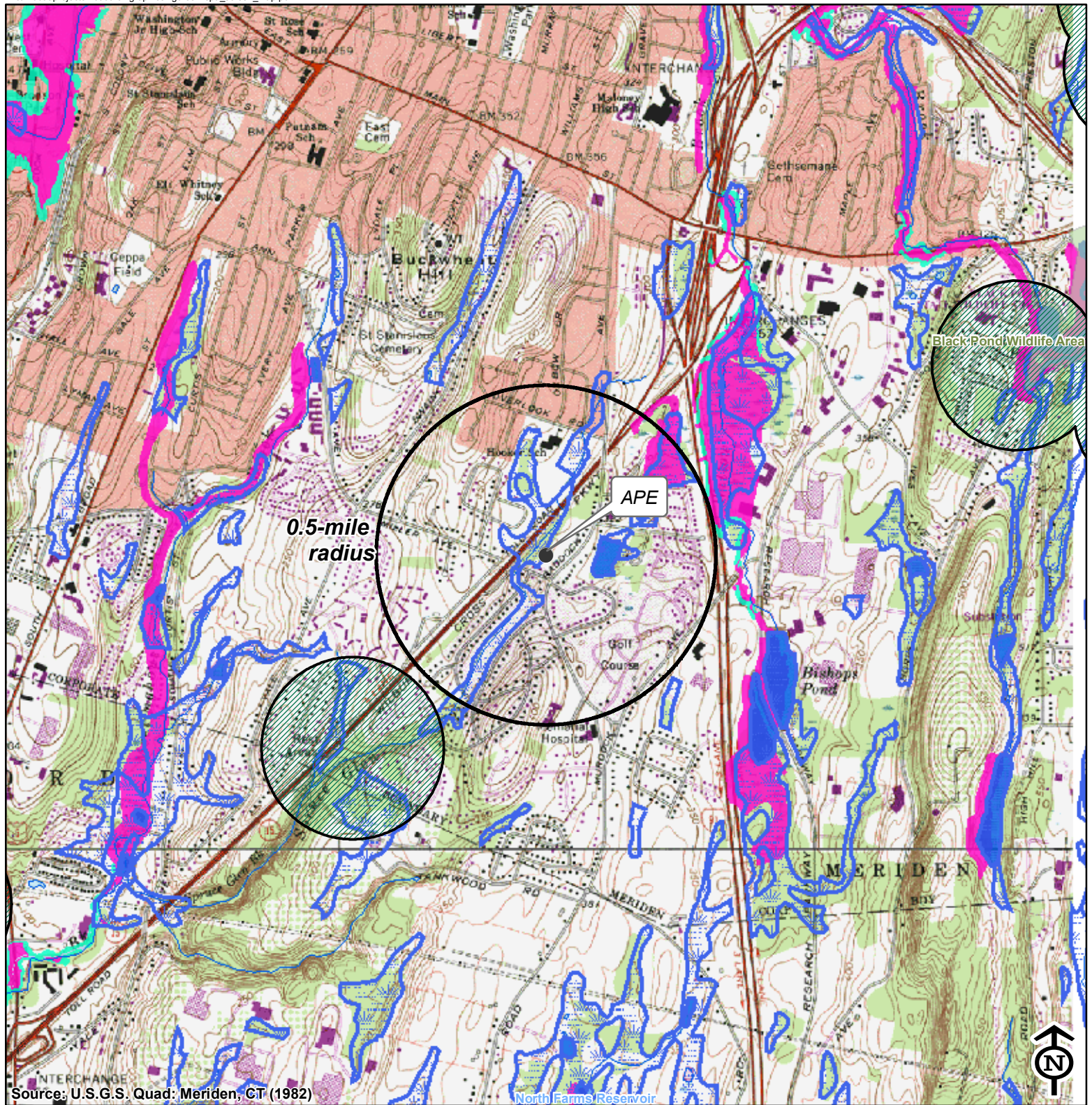
Prepared By: Nicole Dentamaro
(print name): Nicole Dentamaro

Company: Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.
Date: September 6, 2006

The undersigned has reviewed and approved this Checklist prior to commencement of site construction.

By: _____
Site Development Manager or Director

Date: _____



- Area of Potential Effect (APE) within 0.5-mile radius
- Natural Diversity Database Threatened and Endangered Species (updated June 2005, buffered)
- National Register Historic Sites*
- National Register Historic Districts*
- Reported Archaeological Sites (buffered)*
- Open Water
- Wetlands
- Floodplains**
- 100 Year Floodplain
- 500 Year Floodplain
- Floodway

- Protected Properties (CT DEP; 2006)**
- State Forest
- State Park
- DEP Owned Waterbody
- State Park Scenic Reserve
- Historic Preserve
- Natural Area Preserve
- Fish Hatchery
- Flood Control
- Other
- State Park Trail
- Water Access
- Wildlife Area
- Wildlife Sanctuary
- Protected Properties (Federal; 2002)

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

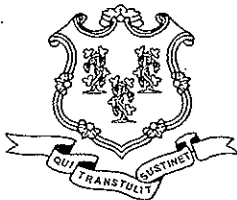
NEPA Screen Map
Lat: 41 30 45 Long: 72 46 45
First Assembly of God
Church of Meriden
651 Paddock Avenue
Meriden, Connecticut

July 18, 2006

1,000 500 0 1,000
 Feet

Optasite

*no National Register Historic Resources or Archeological Resources located within 1/2 mile of APE



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



June 5, 2006

Ms. Nicole Dentamaro
Environmental Scientist
Transportation Land Development
Environmental Services
54 Tuttle Place
Middletown, CT 06457

Re: Wireless Telecommunications
Facility, First Assembly of God, Meriden

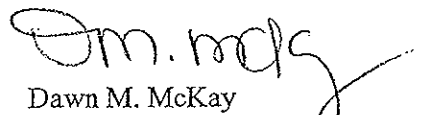
Dear Ms. Dentamaro:

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files regarding the area delineated on the map you provided for the proposed wireless telecommunications facility located on the property of First Assembly of God, 651 Paddock Avenue in Meriden. According to our information there are no known extant populations of Federal or State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern Species that occur at the site in question.

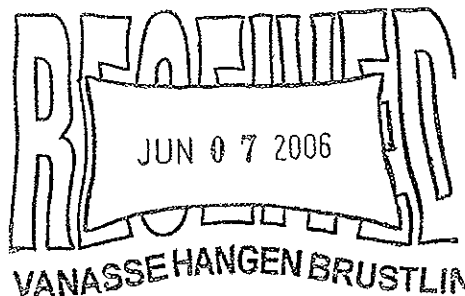
Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biological resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Natural Resources Center's Geological and Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEP, 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 424-3592. Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Data Base. Also be advised that this is a preliminary review and not a final determination. A more detailed review may be conducted as part of any subsequent environmental permit applications submitted to DEP for the proposed site.

Sincerely,


Dawn M. McKay
Biologist/Environmental Analyst

DMM/blm





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087



June 15, 2006

Reference: Project
Tower

Location
Meriden, CT, Ref. 40999.07

Nicole Dentamaro
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.
54 Tuttle Place
Middletown, CT 06457-1847

Dear Ms. Dentamaro:

This responds to your recent correspondence requesting information on the presence of federally-listed and/or proposed endangered or threatened species in relation to the proposed activity(ies) referenced above.

Based on information currently available to us, no federally-listed or proposed, threatened or endangered species or critical habitat under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are known to occur in the project area(s). Preparation of a Biological Assessment or further consultation with us under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required.

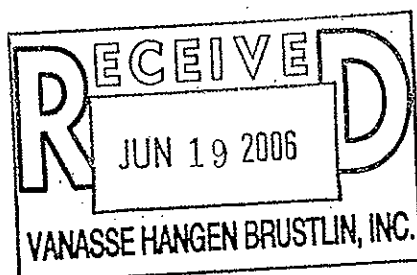
This concludes our review of listed species and critical habitat in the project location(s) and environs referenced above. No further Endangered Species Act coordination of this type is necessary for a period of one year from the date of this letter, unless additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available.

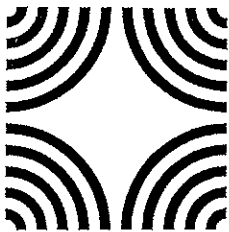
Thank you for your coordination. Please contact us at 603-223-2541 if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Michael J. Amaral

Michael J. Amaral
Endangered Species Specialist
New England Field Office





Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

June 21, 2006

Historic Preservation
& Museum Division

Ms. Nicole Dentamaro
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin Inc.
54 Tuttle Place
Middletown, CT 06457-1847

59 South Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut
06106

Subject: Telecommunications Facilities
First Assembly of God Church of Meriden
651 Paddock Avenue
Meriden, CT

(v) 860.566.3005
(f) 860.566.5078

Dear Ms. Dentamaro:

The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the above-named project. This office expects that the proposed undertaking will have no effect on historic, architectural, or archaeological resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

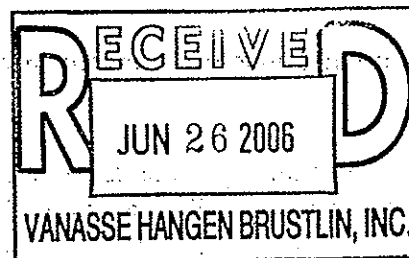
This office appreciates the opportunity to have reviewed and commented upon the proposed undertaking.

This comment is provided in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act.

For further information please contact Dr. David A. Poirier, Staff Archaeologist.

Sincerely,

J. Paul Loether
Division Director and Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer



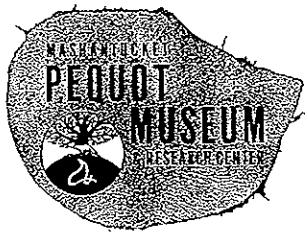
MERIDEN

LEGAL NOTICE

Optasite Inc. is proposing to install a new wireless telecommunication facility consisting of a 120-foot tall monopole tower, antenna and associated ground equipment, at 651 Paddock Avenue in Meriden, Connecticut. This facility will provide improved wireless coverage to areas of Meriden.

Parties interested in submitting comments regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on historic properties may do so by sending comments to Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., 54 Tuttle Place, Middletown, CT 06457, to the attention of Nicole Dentamaro. Questions about this proposed project may be submitted via regular mail, email to ndentamaro@vnb.com, or by calling (860) 632-1500 ext. 2317.

VHB will be accepting comments and/or questions within 30 days of the date of this publication. Therefore, all comments or questions regarding this matter should be postmarked/submitted by no later than June 17, 2006.



7-15-06

Ms. Nicole Dentamaro,
Environmental Scientist
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.
54 Tuttle Place
Middletown, CT. 06457-1847

Re: PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF A PROPOSED
TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER LOCATED AT 651 PADDOCK AVENUE IN
MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT TCNS # 15547

Dear Ms. Dentamaro,

This is in response to the letter you sent June 20, 2006, I have been away on travel for a couple of weeks and just returned to the office this past week.

I have reviewed the Preliminary Archaeological Assessment entitled "PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF A PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER LOCATED AT 651 PADDOCK AVENUE IN MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT" submitted by Heritage Consultants, LLC.

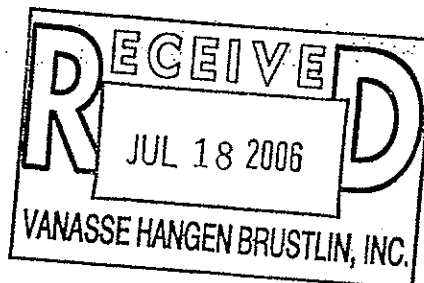
The research design and testing strategy meets acceptable professional standards, and agree with the recommendations and conclusions.

Please keep me informed of any further developments with respect to this project.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Knowles

Kathleen Knowles,
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Mashantucket Pequot Tribe



MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT MUSEUM
& RESEARCH CENTER

110 Pequot Trail, PO Box 3180
Mashantucket, CT 06338
Phone: 860 396 6800
Fax: 860 396 6850
www.pequotmuseum.org



Federal Communications Commission
Washington DC 20554

Proposed Construction of Communications Facilities
Notification of Final Contacts

OPTASITE
NICOLE DENTAMARO
54 TUTTLE PLACE
MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457



Date: 08/17/2006
Reference Number: 0520665

Dear Applicant:

This letter addresses the proposed communications facilities listed below that you have referred to the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) for purposes of contacting federally recognized Indian Tribes, including Alaska Native Villages (collectively Indian Tribes), and Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs), as specified by Section IV.G of the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement (NPA). Consistent with the procedures outlined in the Commission's recent Declaratory Ruling,¹ we have contacted the Indian Tribes or NHOs identified in the attached Table for the projects listed in the attached Table. You referred these projects to us between 08/10/2006 and 08/17/2006. Our contact with these Indian Tribes or NHOs was sent on 08/17/2006.

Thus, as described in the Declaratory Ruling,² if you or Commission staff do not receive a statement of interest regarding a particular project from any Tribe or NHO within 20 calendar days of 08/17/2006, your obligations under Section IV of the NPA with respect to these Indian Tribes or NHOs are complete.³ If an Indian Tribe or NHO responds that it is interested in participating within the 20 calendar day period, the Applicant must involve it in the review as set forth in the NPA, and may not begin construction until the process set forth in the NPA is completed.

You are reminded that Section IX of the NPA imposes independent obligations on an Applicant when a previously unidentified site that may be a historic property, including an archeological property, is discovered during construction or after the completion of review.⁴ In such instances, the Applicant must cease construction and promptly notify, among others, any potentially affected Indian Tribe or NHO. An Indian Tribe's or NHO's failure to express interest in participating in pre-construction review of an undertaking does not necessarily mean it is not interested in archeological properties or human remains that may inadvertently be discovered during construction. Hence, an Applicant is still required to notify

¹ See Clarification of Procedures for Participation of Federally Recognized Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations Under the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement, *Declaratory Ruling*, FCC 05-176 (released October 6, 2005) (Declaratory Ruling).

² *Id* § 8-10.

³ We note that, under the Declaratory Ruling, an expression of interest by an Indian Tribe or NHO addressed solely to the Commission staff during the 20-day period is sufficient even if it does not contact the Applicant.

⁴ *Id* at § 11.

any potentially affected Indian Tribe or NHO of any such finds pursuant to Section IX or other applicable law.

Sincerely,

Dan Abeyta
Assistant Chief
Spectrum and Competition Policy Division
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

LIST OF PROPOSED COMMUNICATIONS TOWERS

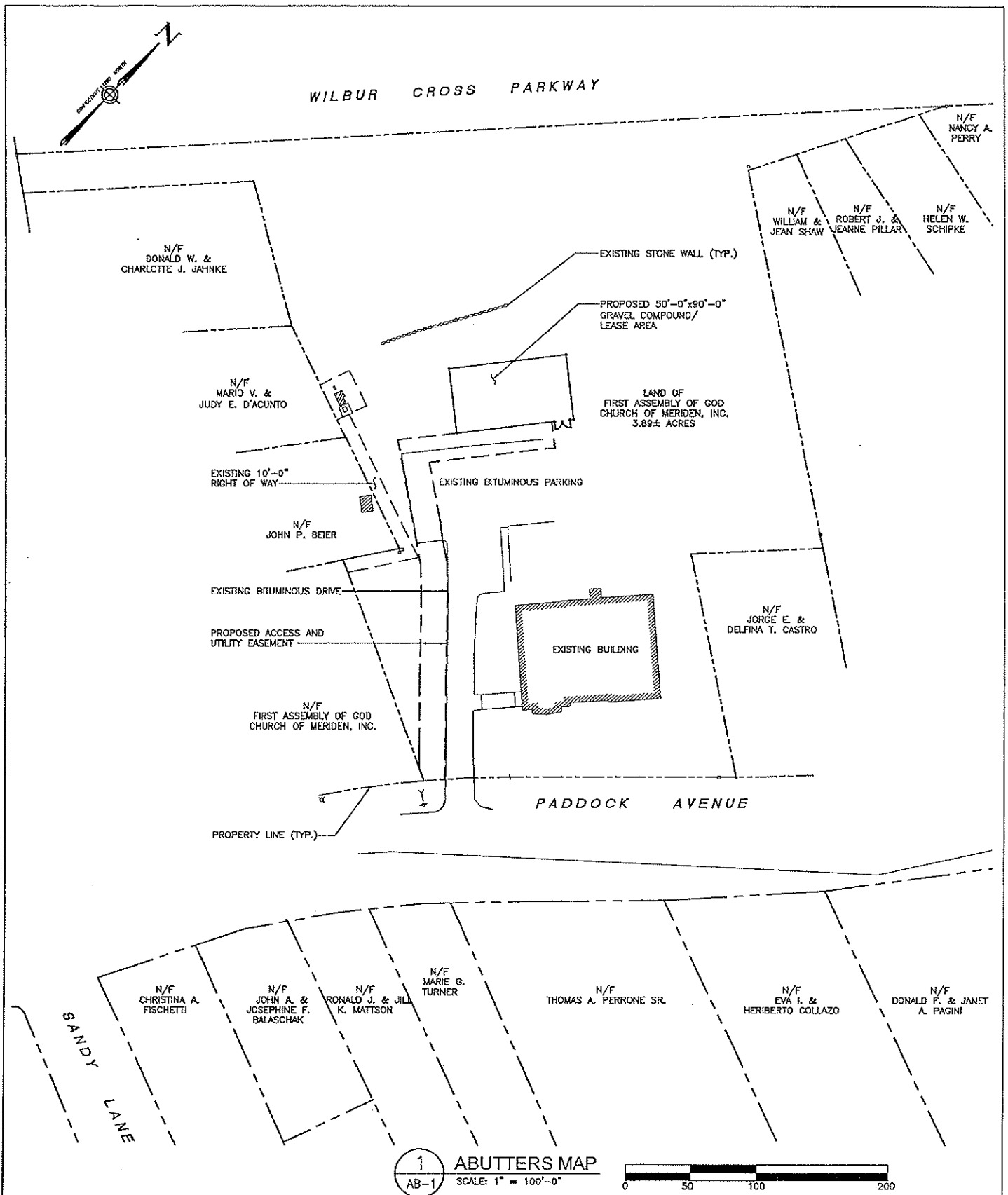
TCNS#: 16555 Referred Date: 08/10/2006 Location: 940 Meriden Road, Waterbury, CT
Tribe Name: Narragansett Indian Tribe

TCNS#: 16323 Referred Date: 08/10/2006 Location: 1919 Boston Post Road, Guilford, CT
Tribe Name: Narragansett Indian Tribe

TCNS#: 15547 Referred Date: 08/10/2006 Location: 651 Paddock Avenue, Meriden, CT
Tribe Name: Narragansett Indian Tribe

LEGEND:

* - Notification numbers are assigned by the Commission staff for sites where initial contact was not made through TCNS.



1
AB-1

ABUTTERS MAP
SCALE: 1" = 100'-0"



URS

URS CORPORATION-AES
500 ENTERPRISE DRIVE
ROCKY HILL, CT. 06067
1-(860)-529-8882
1-(860)-529-5566 (FAX)

(((•)))
Optasite

ONE RESEARCH DRIVE, SUITE 200C
WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581
(508) 779-2460

DRAWING TITLE:

ABUTTERS MAPS

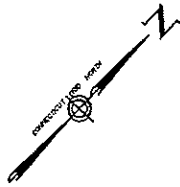
PROJECT INFORMATION:

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
651 PADDOCK AVENUE
MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT

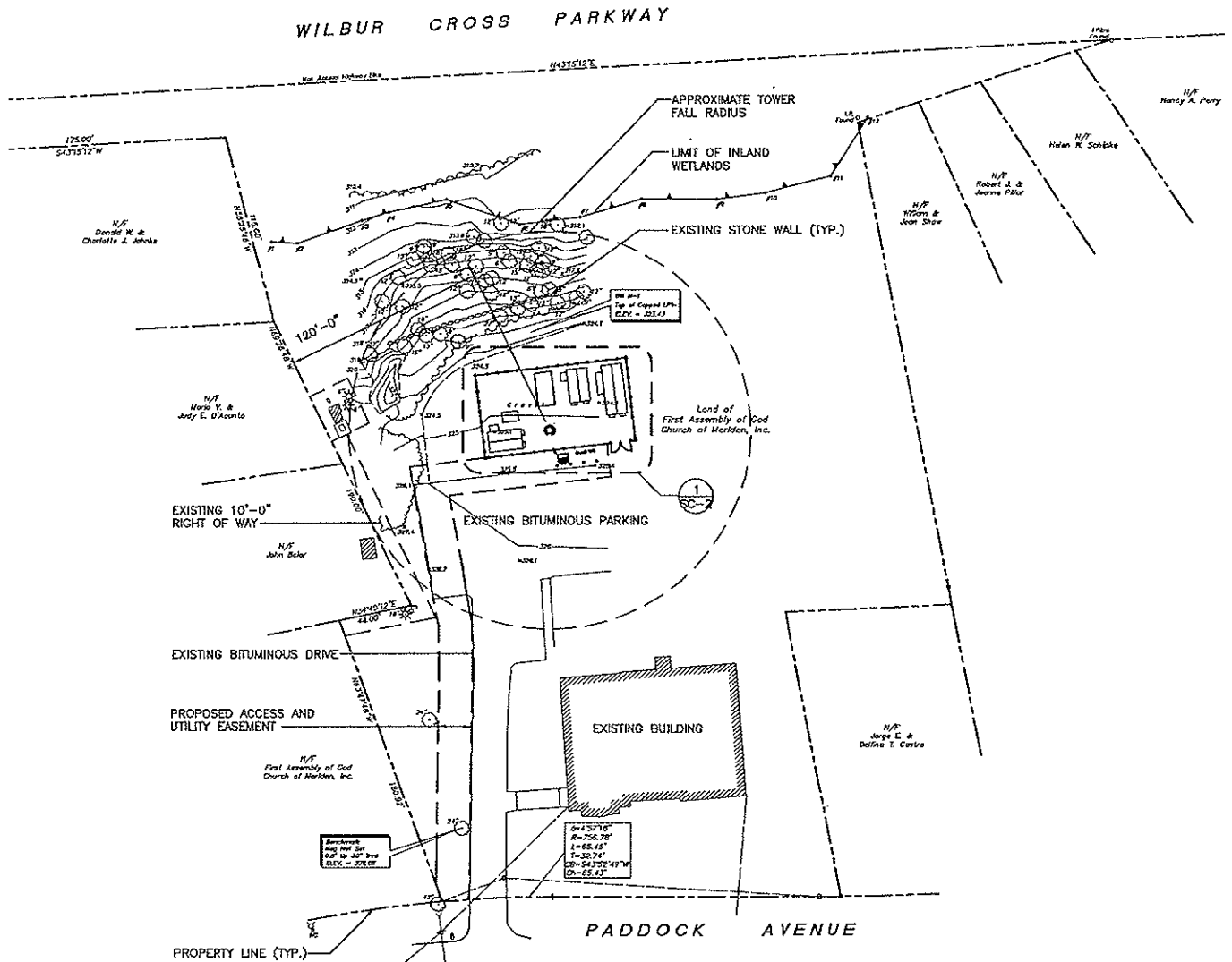
DRAWING TITLE:

AB-1

REVISION NO. 0	DRAWN BY: RRH
DATE ISSUED: 02/27/06	CHECKED BY: PJS
SCALE: AS NOTED	APPROVED BY:
	SHEET NO. 1 OF 1
URS JOB NO.: OPT011 (36915451.00003)	

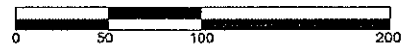


PROPOSED UTILITIES TO BE
CONFIRMED AFTER MEETING
WITH UTILITY COMPANY.



1
L-1

SITE ACCESS MAP
SCALE: 1"=200'-0"



URS

URS CORPORATION-AES
500 ENTERPRISE DRIVE
ROCKY HILL, CT. 06067
1-(860)-529-8882
1-(860)-529-5566 (FAX)

Optasite

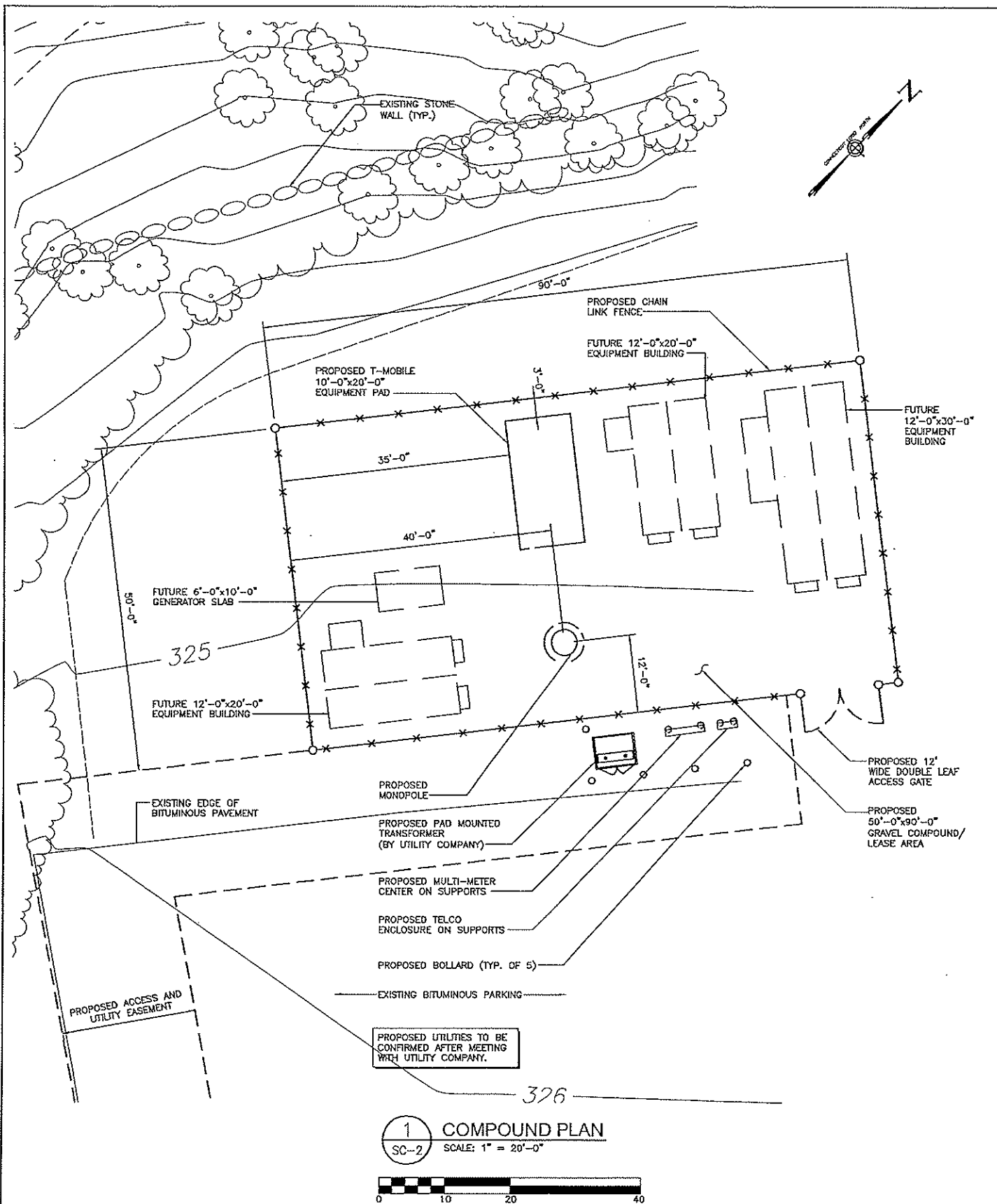
ONE RESEARCH DRIVE, SUITE 200C
WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581
(508) 779-2460

DRAWING TITLE
SITE ACCESS MAP
PROJECT INFORMATION:

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
651 PADDOCK AVENUE
MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT

DRAWING TITLE
SC-1

REVISION NO. 0	DRAWN BY: RRH
DATE ISSUED: 02/27/06	CHECKED BY: PJS
SCALE: AS NOTED	APPROVED BY:
	SHEET NO. 1 OF 3
URS JOB NO.: OPT011 (36915451.00003)	



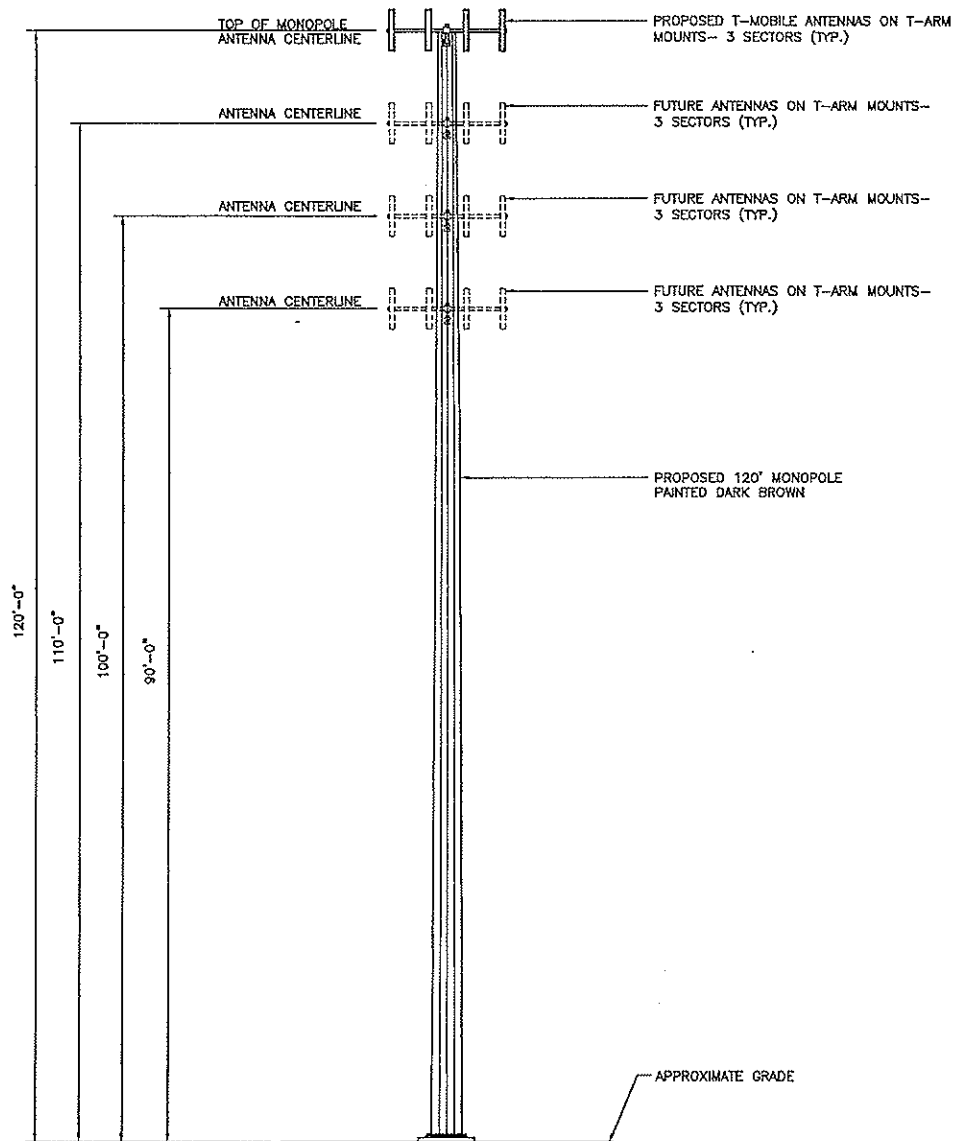
URS
URS CORPORATION-AES
500 ENTERPRISE DRIVE
ROCKY HILL, CT. 06067
1-(860)-529-8882
1-(860)-529-5566 (FAX)

((·))
Optasite
ONE RESEARCH DRIVE, SUITE 200C
WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581
(508) 779-2460

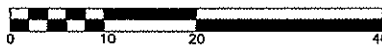
DRAWING TITLE: COMPOUND PLAN
PROJECT INFORMATION:
FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
651 PADDOCK AVENUE
MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT

DRAWING TITLE:
SC-2

REVISION NO. 0	DRAWN BY: RRH
DATE ISSUED: 02/27/06	CHECKED BY: PJS
SCALE: AS NOTED	APPROVED BY:
	SHEET NO. 2 OF 3
URS JOB NO.: OPT011 (36915451.00003)	



1 TOWER ELEVATION
SC-3 SCALE: 1" = 20'-0"



URS

URS CORPORATION-AES
500 ENTERPRISE DRIVE
ROCKY HILL, CT. 06067
1-(860)-529-8882
1-(860)-529-5566 (FAX)

Optasite

ONE RESEARCH DRIVE, SUITE 200C
WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581
(508) 779-2460

DRAWING TITLE: TOWER ELEVATION
PROJECT INFORMATION:

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
651 PADDOCK AVENUE
MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT

DRAWING TITLE:

SC-3

REVISION NO. 0	DRAWN BY: RRH
DATE ISSUED: 02/27/05	CHECKED BY: PJS
SCALE: AS NOTED	APPROVED BY:
	SHEET NO. 3 OF 3
URS JOB NO.: OPT011 (36915451.00003)	