

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

IN RE:

APPLICATION OF OPTASITE TOWERS LLC
AND OMNIPOINT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR
THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND
OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS
FACILITY AT 640 HILLIARD STREET
MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT

DOCKET NO. 339

Date: AUGUST 15, 2007

**INTERROGATORY RESPONSES TO CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
FROM CO-APPLICANTS OPTASITE TOWERS LLC AND OMNIPOINT
COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

Co-applicants Optasite Towers LLC ("Optasite") and Omnipoint Communications, Inc. ("T-Mobile") submit the following responses to the interrogatories from the Connecticut Siting Council in connection with the above captioned Docket.

Q27. How was the wetland delineation to the south of the proposed site determined?

A27. The wetland delineation was performed by a Professional Soil Scientist, Dean Gustafson of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. in accordance with the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (C.G.S. Section 22a-37). Mr. Gustafson has maintained registration with the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England as a Professional Soil Scientist since 1988.

Wetland and watercourse boundaries, as defined by the Act, were identified and delineated using consecutively numbered flags. The wetland boundary edge was determined based on a field review of soil profiles from hand dug test holes using a hand auger and spade.

Q28. Provide a detailed report of soil samples taken from the beneath the parking lot surface at the proposed site for the soil survey. If wetland soil is found beneath the parking lot, would the site meet the definition of a wetland?

A28. Select hand dug test pits were performed immediately adjacent to the gravel parking lot area to identify soil types in this area and confirm the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) mapping of an Urban Land soil unit. Test pits were excavated to an approximate depth of 24 inches revealing fill

material of various characteristics including asphalt and brick fragments and relatively sandy and gravelly soil material. No test pits were dug directly beneath the gravel parking lot due to the densely compacted material.

No buried wetland soils were encountered in these test pits. If in fact wetland soils did exist on the subject property prior to the industrial development that currently exists, such wetland soils would be located under several feet of fill material and therefore would no longer be considered wetlands under the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act.

Q29. Provide a map showing the location of soil samples taken on the host property.

A29. As is typical for a wetland determination investigation, locations of specific soil samples were not recorded. Generally, transects across suspected wetland boundaries include several hand dug test pits in both upland and wetland locations until a determination of the wetland boundary is made. It is not uncommon to dig three or four test pits for each wetland flag, particularly if topographic landforms (i.e., well defined slope break) do not clearly define the upland/wetland transition. It is estimated that approximately 20 test pits were dug throughout the subject property in various locations to identify the wetland boundary and confirm upland areas do not contain wetlands.

Q30. How was the edge of the wetland, shown on the wetland sketch in the application Tab J, determined?

A30. The wetland edge as depicted on the wetland sketch in Tab J of the application was determined in accordance with the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (C.G.S. Section 22a-37). The wetland edge represents the limit of either wetland soils as defined by the Act or the mean high water mark of Bigelow Brook as evident by the top of the bank of this watercourse.

Respectfully Submitted,

By: 

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Certification

This is to certify that a copy of the foregoing has been mailed, this date to all parties and intervenors of record.


Carrie L. Larson