



Daniel F. Caruso  
Chairman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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**CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

January 22, 2007

H. Karina Fournier  
Zoning Department  
T-Mobile  
30 Cold Spring Road  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

RE: **PETITION NO. 799** - Omnipoint Communications, Inc. (T-Mobile) petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the replacement of an existing gas station sign with a monopole at 207 West Street, Cromwell, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Fournier:

At a public meeting held on January 18, 2007, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and ruled that this proposal would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, and pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50k would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need with the following conditions:

1. The applicant shall prepare an erosion and sediment control checklist for use in the field.
2. The applicant shall notify the Development Compliance Officer and the Town Engineer prior to commencement of work.

This decision is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Council and is not applicable to any other modification or construction. All work is to be implemented as specified in the petition, dated December 21, 2006.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the staff report on this project.

Very truly yours,

Daniel F. Caruso  
Chairman

DFC/MP/laf

c: The Honorable Paul C. Beaulieu, First Selectman, Town of Cromwell  
Frederic Curtin, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Town of Cromwell



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### **Petition No. 799**

### **Staff Report**

### **T-Mobile**

**207 West Street, Cromwell**

**January 18, 2006**

On December 21, 2006, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition (Petition) from Omnipoint Communications, Inc. (T-Mobile) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed replacement of a gas station sign with a monopole at 207 West Street, Cromwell. Specifically, T-Mobile seeks to remove an existing 54-foot high sign structure (that is not currently being used for any purpose) and replace it with a 54-foot monopole on the property of an Exxon Station on Route 372 (West Street). The existing sign structure does not meet the current wind load requirements for T-Mobile's proposed antennas.

The Petition was field reviewed by Council member Phil Ashton and Mike Perrone of the Council staff on January 8, 2007. Two representatives from T-Mobile: H. Karina Fournier, Zoning Department and Brian Paul, Construction Manager also attended the field review.

The monopole would have three flush-mounted panel antennas centered at the 51-foot level, so that the top of the antennas would be flush with the top of the tower. The proposed antennas would fill an existing coverage gap T-Mobile has in parts of Cromwell in the vicinity of Route 372.

T-Mobile would also install a 15-foot x 15-foot fenced compound which would contain equipment including three BTS cabinets on two 5-foot x 10-foot concrete pads. The proposed tower would be located in the same location as the existing sign. The compound would be separate from the tower.

To the south of the site, the surrounding area is wooded. To the north of the site is Route 372 with a commercial property across the street and one residential/commercial property diagonally across the street. To the east of the site is Stop and Shop Plaza. To the west of the site is commercial.

The nearest wetlands are approximately 55 feet to the south of the proposed compound. T-Mobile would install proper erosion and sedimentation controls. T-Mobile has received a permit from the Town of Cromwell Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency (Town IWWA). The Town IWWA granted the petition with the following general conditions:



Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer

1. The applicant shall prepare an erosion and sediment control checklist for use in the field.
2. The permit shall expire five years after the date of the issuance (if the project is not constructed).
3. All development shall be conducted as shown on plans submitted in connection with the application as amended to reflect any conditions of approval.
4. The Permittee shall notify the Development Compliance Officer and the Town Engineer prior to commencement of any work.

The tower would not be located in a flood zone. The equipment compound would be technically located in a 500-year flood zone; however, the chances of such a flood occurring are very remote (approximately 0.2 percent in a given year).

The proposed monopole would be the same height as the existing sign structure, but considerably narrower and more compact. As such, the visual impact is expected to decrease with T-Mobile's proposal. In addition, the equipment compound would be located behind an existing wood stockade fence, thus significantly blocking the view of the compound from Route 372. Utilities would run underground and would connect to an existing wood pole on Route 372.

The height of the proposed monopole is also not significantly higher than the existing 40 to 45 feet tall electric distribution poles on Route 372. The tower is well under 200 feet tall and there are no airports within 5 miles of the site, so FAA registration is not required. Also, the worst-case power density at the base of the tower would be 24.9% of the applicable limit.

The structural analysis takes into account the three antennas and also indicates that the tower would be capable of supporting a 9-foot by 9-foot sign on the top. However, there are no plans to install a sign as part of T-Mobile's proposal. Should the property owner decide to install a sign in the future, it would require a separate municipal review and approval. But if a sign is contemplated, Council staff notes that this could increase the visibility of the structure.

All abutters (including the properties across the street) and the property owner were notified by T-Mobile by letters and all were asked to contact S. Derek Phelps with any questions or concerns by January 16, 2006. No comments were received.

Staff suggests adopting the following conditions:

1. The applicant shall prepare an erosion and sediment control checklist for use in the field.
2. The applicant shall notify the Development Compliance Officer and the Town Engineer prior to commencement of any work.