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January 22, 2021

Via Electronic Mail

Melanie A. Bachman, Esq.
Executive Director/Staff Attorney
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: **EM-VER-020-201224 – Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless notice of intent to modify an existing telecommunications facility located at 719 George Washington Turnpike, Burlington, Connecticut**

Dear Attorney Bachman:

This letter is in response to your letter of January 15, 2021, regarding the above referenced notice of exempt modification filed by Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Cellco”) on December 24, 2020.

Your summary of the factual background involving recent exempt modification filings on the Burlington Fire Department tower points out correctly that T-Mobile’s July 8, 2019 approval expired on July 8, 2020. No request for an extension of that approval was filed with or approved by the Siting Council. There is also no notice from T-Mobile that the approved modifications were completed prior to July 8, 2020.

The same is true for the Siting Council’s November 18, 2019 approval of the AT&T facility modifications. That approval expired on November 18, 2020. No request for an extension of that approval was filed with or approved by the Council and there is no notice from AT&T that the approved modifications were completed prior to November 18, 2020.

The structural analysis dated April 17, 2020 and submitted in support of Cellco’s December 24, 2020 exempt modification filing, therefore accurately reflect the current state of existing conditions and confirms that the Burlington Fire Department tower is structurally capable of supporting the modifications described in EM-VER-020-201224. These proposed

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modifications satisfy all of the Council's regulatory criteria provided for in R.C.S.A. Section 16-50j-72(b)(2) and should be approved.

The May 8, 2020 structural analysis that Attorney Forsyth referred to in his January 11, 2020 letter, showing the tower stress level at 115% of capacity, is an analysis that assumed both T-Mobile and AT&T completed their previously approved modifications. We know now that is not the case.

Cellco's Real Estate Consultants did reach out to the Town and I have spoken with Attorney Forsyth. We understand that the Town has engaged Centek Engineers to "map" the existing tower. We look forward to reviewing that analysis once it is completed. Cellco is committed to working cooperatively with the Town and the other wireless carriers on all future tower modification proposals.

Finally, I do want to address the concern raised by the Town Attorney in his January 19, 2021 letter, in which he states that "T-Mobile was conducting work on the tower beginning on, or about, December 19, 2020". The letter goes on to state that it is the Town's belief that the work currently being performed by T-Mobile is that which was approved in EM-T-Mobile-020-190614. As you know, the Council's authorization to perform this work expired more than five months ago. If the Town's assumptions are correct, these modifications are being completed without Council approval and should cease immediately.

Sincerely,



Kenneth C. Baldwin

Enclosures

Copy to:

Theodore Shafer, Burlington First Selectman
Michael Boucher, Fire Chief, Town of Burlington
Duncan Forsyth, Esq., Halloran and Sage
Jamie Heffernan, Verizon Wireless
Magali Black, SAI
Rebecca Rafferty, SAI
Mark Richards, Site Development Manager, T-Mobile
Lucia Chiochio, Esq. Cuddy Feder LLP