



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051
Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: siting_council@ct.gov
Web Site: www.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 1, 2020

Anne Marie Zsamba
Crown Castle
3 Corporate Park Drive, Suite 101
Clifton Park, NY 12065
AnneMarie.Zsamba@crowncastle.com

RE: **EM-T-MOBILE-135-200324** – T-Mobile notice of intent to modify an existing telecommunications facility located at 69 Guinea Road, Stamford, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Zsamba:

I am following up on our phone conversation yesterday afternoon with regard to the above-referenced request for an exempt modification to swap out 6 existing antennas at the telecommunications facility located at 69 Guinea Road in Stamford that was approved by the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) on April 27, 2020. During our conversation, you referenced that the City of Stamford is requiring Crown Castle to pay a \$3300 fee and to apply for zoning approval. **This is not legally required.**

Pursuant to its authority under the Public Utility Environmental Standards Act, the Council has exclusive jurisdiction over the construction, maintenance, operation and modification of telecommunications facilities throughout the state of Connecticut. Under Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) §16-50i (a)(6), the Council has jurisdiction over *“telecommunications towers, including associated telecommunications equipment, owned or operated by the state, a public service company or a certified telecommunications provider or used in a cellular system...”* (Emphasis added). The above-referenced telecommunications facility was approved by the Council on April 2, 1998 in Docket No. 180. It is a telecommunications facility over which the Council has exclusive jurisdiction and for which the Council is required by statute to approve any facility modifications.

Additionally, CGS §16-50x(a) states in pertinent part: *“Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes to the contrary, ... the council shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the location and type of facilities and over the location and type of modifications of facilities subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section... Whenever the council certifies a facility pursuant to this chapter, such certification shall satisfy and be in lieu of all certifications, approvals and other requirements of state and municipal agencies...”* (Emphasis added).

Requests for exempt facility modifications are governed by Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) §16-50j-72: *“... any modification to a facility that the Council,... has determined satisfies the criteria of this section shall be deemed not to have a substantial adverse environmental effect and shall not require a certificate... modifications to facilities, including, but not limited to, change-outs and installations of antennas on existing telecommunications towers..., upon Council acknowledgment... may qualify for such exemption.”* (Emphasis added). The Council acknowledged this request for an exempt facility modification on April 27, 2020.

Furthermore, pursuant to RCSA §16-50j-72(b), requests for exempt facility modifications must meet the following criteria:

“Changes on an existing site that do not:

- (A) Increase the tower height;
- (B) Extend the boundaries of the site by any dimension;
- (C) Increase noise levels at the site boundary by 6 decibels or more, or to levels that exceed state and local criteria;
- (D) Add radio frequency sending or receiving capability which increases total radio frequency electromagnetic radiation power density measured at the site boundary to or above the standards adopted by the Federal Communications Commission...;
- (E) Cause a significant adverse change or alteration in the physical or environmental characteristics of the site; and
- (F) Impair the structural integrity of the facility, as determined in a certification provided by a professional engineer licensed in Connecticut.”

The above-referenced request for exempt modification was properly submitted to the Council on March 24, 2020 indicating that on or about March 24, 2020, written notice of the request for an exempt modification was provided to the chief elected official of the City of Stamford. This is compliant with the notice requirements for a request for an exempt modification under RCSA §16-50j-72. On March 25, 2020, the Council sent correspondence to the Mayor and City of Stamford representatives notifying them that the request for exempt modification had been filed with the Council and requesting any comments on the request for exempt modification to be filed by April 8, 2020. A copy of the Council’s March 25, 2020 correspondence is attached for your convenience. The Council did not receive any comments or concerns about the requested facility modification from the City of Stamford. The requested facility modification met the criteria for an exempt facility modification under RCSA §16-50j-72(b) and it was therefore approved by the Council on April 27, 2020.

According to the statutory and regulatory authority cited above, the Council has exclusive jurisdiction over the existing telecommunications facility and the Council’s review and approval of an exempt modification of a jurisdictional facility, such as the subject telecommunications facility, “**shall satisfy and be in lieu of all certifications, approvals and other requirements of state and municipal agencies.**”

If you have any further concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me at 860-827-2951.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

s/Melanie A. Bachman

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

Enclosure



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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 25, 2020

The Honorable David Martin
Mayor
City of Stamford
Stamford Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard
P. O. Box 10152
Stamford, CT 06904-2152

RE: **EM-T-MOBILE-135-200324** – T-Mobile notice of intent to modify an existing telecommunications facility located at 69 Guinea Road, Stamford, Connecticut.

Dear Mayor Martin:

Pursuant to the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 16-50j-72, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of a request to modify an existing telecommunications facility located in the City of Stamford.

In accordance with Section 16-50j-73 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, on March 24, 2020, written notice of the intent to modify the existing telecommunications facility was provided to the Council, the property owner of record and the chief elected official of the municipality in which the existing telecommunications facility is located.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding the above-referenced request, please feel free to call me at 860-827-2951 or submit written comments to the Council by April 8, 2020.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

s/ Melanie A. Bachman

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/IN/emr

c: Ralph Blessing, Land Use Bureau Chief, City of Stamford