Petition No. 1036

AT&T

Norwich, Connecticut

Staff Report

October 4, 2012

On August 13, 2012, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the extension of an existing telecommunications facility at 39 Maennerchor Road in Norwich, Connecticut. Council member Jerry Murphy and Siting Analyst David Martin visited the site on September 13, 2012 to review the proposal. Attorney Daniel Laub of Cuddy & Feder, Michael Libertine of All Points Technology, and David Vivian of SAI Communications represented AT&T at the field review.

The existing telecommunications tower at 39 Maennerchor Road is 119 feet tall and was approved under Docket 365. Currently there are two carriers located on this tower: T-Mobile at 117 feet and AT&T at 110 feet. The highest location on this tower available for AT&T is 97 feet, a height that its RF engineers have determined would not provide the service they are seeking to achieve at this location. At this height, a sizeable gap in coverage would remain in the vicinity of the intersection of Maennerchor Road and Main Street in the Taftville section of Norwich, an area critical to AT&T’s coverage plans.

AT&T did not find any alternatives to the proposed extended tower as any buildings in the vicinity on which antennas might be installed are one-story industrial/commercial buildings and are located at significantly lower elevations.

AT&T is proposing to add an 11-foot extension to the existing tower to bring it to a height of 130 feet. AT&T would install up to 12 antennas at a centerline height of 127 feet. A structural analysis has determined that the tower is capable of supporting the 11-foot extension and the proposed antennas. AT&T’s ground equipment would be installed within 12-foot by 20-foot equipment to be located within the existing 65-foot by 65-foot compound.

The existing compound is well-screened by mature vegetation. It is located on a small knoll well above its nearest residential neighbors, which do not have views of the compound.

Council staff calculates that the addition of AT&T’s antennas would bring the facility’s cumulative power density to 15.9% of the FCC limit for maximum permissible exposure.

AT&T performed a Comparative Visibility Analysis for the proposed extension. The Analysis determined that the increase in the visibility of the extended tower would be modest. No residences currently without views of the existing tower would have views of the extended tower. Most of the area from which the tower is visible is located within three-quarters of a mile of the tower’s location.

The proposed tower extension is not expected to have any substantial adverse environmental effects. Staff recommends approval.