Petition No. 1103
AT&T
Waterbury, Connecticut
Staff Report
June 5, 2014

On May 12, 2014, 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 a proposed installation of a wireless telecommunications facility on an existing CL&P structure located at 227 Whitewood Road in Waterbury, Connecticut. Council member Michael Caron and staff member David Martin visited the site on June 5, 2014 to review the proposal. Lucia Chiocchio of Cuddy & Feder, Harry Rocheville of Centek Engineering and Matthew Bandle of AT&T Mobility represented AT&T at the field review.

CL&P's transmission structure #11229 is an 80-foot monopole tower (one of the replacement towers on CL&P's 1990 line that was the subject of Petition 1058). AT&T proposes to add a 25-foot extension to the tower in order to install 12 panel antennas—three antennas (one per sector) for UMTS and nine antennas (three per sector) for LTE— at a centerline height of 105 feet above ground level. AT&T's equipment compound would be located near the base of the tower. The compound would include a 12-foot by 16-foot equipment shelter. Backup power would be provided by a 50 kW propane-fueled generator that would be located adjacent to the equipment shelter. The compound would be enclosed by a 6-foot chain link fence. A 1000-gallon propane storage tank would be located on a concrete pad within its own fenced enclosure adjacent to the equipment compound. Included with the petition materials was a noise study recommending that a noise barrier/sound absorber composite be installed on the inside of the fence extending six feet beyond the generator in the easterly and westerly directions. The engineer confirmed that the noise absorber would be installed on the compound fence. Access to the compound would be over an easement on an adjacent property as the grade at the rear of the property on which the compound would be located is too steep to allow vehicular access. Utility service would be brought underground from a utility pole on Whitewood Road

A professional engineer performed a structural analysis of the existing transmission tower and proposed extension and concluded that the transmission tower is structurally capable of supporting the extension.

An AT&T RF engineer calculated that the power density of the proposed antennas would be approximately 23.8% of the FCC's maximum permissible exposure.

Land uses surrounding the proposed facility are apartments, condominiums, and moderate density single family residences. The tower to be extended is next to a taller lattice structure. The proposed extension with antennas would be very similar in height and mass to the existing lattice structure. Visibility of the tower will be somewhat limited by mature deciduous trees, especially for the residential properties to the south of the tower.

For this petition, AT&T notified the City and abutting property owners. No comments have been received.

AT&T's proposed tower extension and antenna installation should not create any significantly adverse environmental impacts.

View of transmission towers from the south, on Whitewood Road

View of the transmission towers from west, from access location

Site of equipment compound