



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

www.ct.gov/csc

**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

August 27, 2009

Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq.
Robinson & Cole LLP
280 Trumbull Street
Hartford, CT 06103-3597

RE: **PETITION NO. 911** - Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the extension of an existing telecommunications facility located at 60 Rice Lane, Beacon Falls, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Baldwin:

At a public meeting held on August 27, 2009, 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.

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 July 6, 2009.

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

Very truly yours,

Daniel F. Caruso
Chairman

DFC/CDM/jbw

Enclosure: Staff Report dated August 27, 2009

c: The Honorable Susan Ann Cable, First Selectman, Town of Beacon Falls
Brian Herb, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Town of Beacon Falls

Petition No. 911
Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless
Beacon Falls, Connecticut
Staff Report
August 27, 2009

On July 7, 2009, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from Cellco Partnership LLC d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Verizon) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for a ten-foot extension of an existing 150-foot monopole telecommunications tower at 60 Rice Lane in Beacon Falls, Connecticut. Council member Ed Wilensky and staff member David Martin visited the property on July 31, 2009 to review the proposal. Attorney Joey Lee Miranda represented Verizon at the field review.

The existing tower is owned by SBA Communications. There are currently 3 carriers on the tower: Sprint at a centerline height of 152 feet, T-Mobile at 143.5 feet, and AT&T at 134.5 feet. The Town of Beacon Falls also has emergency service antennas at the 86-foot level. Verizon wants to go on this tower in order to fill existing coverage gaps on portions of Routes 63, 42 and 8, as well as local roads in northeast Beacon Falls, south Naugatuck, and northwest Bethany. Verizon investigated putting its antennas at the 124-foot level of the tower but found it could not achieve its coverage objectives at this height. With its antennas at a centerline height of 162 feet, Verizon could cover the gaps it could not reach at 124 feet.

In order to successfully cover its target area, Verizon seeks to add ten feet to the existing tower and install a platform with 15 antennas at a centerline height of 162 feet. The structural analysis of this proposed extension concludes that the tower's shaft needs reinforcement and base transfer stiffeners to support the additional height and antennas. The addition of Verizon's antennas would bring the tower's aggregate power density to 29.87% of the FCC's Maximum Permissible Emission.

The existing tower is located deep in the woods near the end of a long gravel road. The topography and thick growth of mature, deciduous trees around the site minimize near-field views of the tower. Other than from a very, short distance on Rice Lane Extension, the tower is scarcely visible from the nearest residential streets. In fact, the tower's lack of visibility made it difficult for the representatives of both the Council and Verizon to find it. There are neighborhoods farther away from the tower that have far-field views of the tower. From these areas, the tower rises noticeably above the tree line, but the distance of the views lessens the tower's presence in the landscape.

Prior to submitting its petition to the Council, Verizon sent notices of its plans to abutting property owners. Neither Verizon nor the Council received any adverse comments regarding this proposal.