



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 21, 2021

Thomas J. Regan, Esq.
Brown Rudnick LLP
185 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103
tregan@brownrudnick.com

RE: **PETITION NO. 1446** – New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T) petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed installation of a small cell wireless telecommunications facility on a new approximately 34-foot privately-owned pole to be located in the northwest corner of the parking lot at 53 Ella T. Grasso Turnpike, Windsor Locks, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Regan:

At a public meeting held on May 20, 2021, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and ruled that the above-referenced proposal would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, and pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50k, would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need with the recommendation that parking curbs or bollards be installed, as appropriate, and with the following conditions:

1. Approval of any project changes be delegated to Council staff;
2. Unless otherwise approved by the Council, if the facility authorized herein is not fully constructed within three years from the date of the mailing of the Council's decision, this decision shall be void, and the facility owner/operator shall dismantle the facility and remove all associated equipment or reapply for any continued or new use to the Council before any such use is made. The time between the filing and resolution of any appeals of the Council's decision shall not be counted in calculating this deadline. Authority to monitor and modify this schedule, as necessary, is delegated to the Executive Director. The facility owner/operator shall provide written notice to the Executive Director of any schedule changes as soon as is practicable;
3. Any request for extension of the time period to fully construct the facility shall be filed with the Council not later than 60 days prior to the expiration date of this decision and shall be served on all parties and intervenors, if applicable, and the Town of Windsor Locks;
4. Within 45 days after completion of construction, the Council shall be notified in writing that construction has been completed;
5. Any nonfunctioning antenna and associated antenna mounting equipment on this facility owned and operated by the Petitioner shall be removed within 60 days of the date the antenna ceased to function;

6. The facility owner/operator shall remit timely payments associated with annual assessments and invoices submitted by the Council for expenses attributable to the facility under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v;
7. This Declaratory Ruling may be transferred, provided the facility owner/operator/transferor is current with payments to the Council for annual assessments and invoices under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v and the transferee provides written confirmation that the transferee agrees to comply with the terms, limitations and conditions contained in the Declaratory Ruling, including timely payments to the Council for annual assessments and invoices under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v; and
8. If the facility owner/operator is a wholly owned subsidiary of a corporation or other entity and is sold/transferred to another corporation or other entity, the Council shall be notified of such sale and/or transfer and of any change in contact information for the individual or representative responsible for management and operations of the facility within 30 days of the sale and/or transfer.

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 March 19, 2021, and additional information received March 25, 2021.

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

Sincerely,

s/ Melanie A. Bachman

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/IN/emr

Enclosure: Staff Report dated May 20, 2021

c: The Honorable J. Christopher Kervick, First Selectman, Town of Windsor Locks
(ckervick@wlocks.com)

This final decision has been electronically issued pursuant to Governor Lamont's March 12, 2020 Executive Order No. 7, "Protection of Public Health and Safety During COVID-19 Pandemic and Response" as subsequently extended.



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Petition No. 1446
New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T)
Small Cell Facility

53 Ella T. Grasso Turnpike,
Windsor Locks, Connecticut
Staff Report
May 20, 2021

Introduction

On March 19, 2021, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition (Petition) from New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T) for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed installation of a small cell wireless telecommunications facility at 53 Ella T. Grasso Turnpike, Windsor Locks, Connecticut.

The small cell would be installed on a new wood pole in the parking lot of a commercial property. It would provide reliable wireless service to AT&T customers and emergency service providers in the surrounding area.

On March 18, 2021, AT&T notified the Town of Windsor Locks (Town), state officials and agencies, and abutting property owners, of the proposed project.

On March 23, 2021, the Council sent correspondence to the Town stating that the Council has received the Petition and invited the Town to contact the Council with any questions or comments by April 18, 2021. No comments from the Town have been received.

Jurisdiction

Pursuant to CGS §16-50i(a)(6), the Council has exclusive jurisdiction over telecommunications towers, including associated equipment, owned or operated by the state, a public service company or a certified telecommunications provider or used in a cellular system.

Under Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §16-50j-2a (30), “Tower” means a structure, whether free standing or attached to a building or another structure, that has a height greater than its diameter and that is high relative to its surroundings, or that is used to support antennas for sending or receiving radio frequency signals, or for sending or receiving signals to or from satellites, or any of these, which is or is to be:

- a) **Used principally to support one or more antennas** for receiving or sending radio frequency signals, or for sending or receiving signals to or from satellites, or any of these, and
- b) Owned or operated by the state, a public service company as defined in Section 16-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes, or a certified telecommunications provider, or used in a cellular system, as defined in Section 16-50i(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The proposed wood pole will be used principally to support the proposed small cell facility. It will be owned and operated by AT&T, a certified telecommunications provider. Thus, the Council has jurisdiction over the proposed small cell facility.

Proposed Small Cell Facility

AT&T's proposed facility would provide network coverage and/or capacity relief along Ella Grasso Turnpike, and the surrounding area in the 1900/2100/5200/39000 MHz frequency range.

The proposed site is located at the northwest corner of a 6.51 acre developed commercial property within Windsor Locks Business (BUS1) District. The surrounding land use is a mixture of commercial and residential. The nearest residence is approximately 1,000-feet northeast of the proposed site. The host parcel is used as a parking lot and is owned by LPRI ELLA GRASSO LLC. The subject property abuts Ella Grasso Turnpike and a developed commercial property to the west, an undeveloped parcel to the east and other developed commercial properties to the north and south.

The proposed small cell facility consists of an approximately 34-feet above ground level (agl) 12.25 inches diameter wood pole supported by a pier foundation. A 10-inch diameter canister antenna would be installed at the top of the wood pole extending to a height of approximately 39 feet agl. Three antennas with integrated RRUs would also be installed below the antenna at 35-foot 2-inches agl. A 62.5-inch long by 16-inch diameter transparent shroud would enclose all the antennas. The proposed antennas would be capable of providing 5G services.

Associated communication equipment and 3 remote radio heads would be installed within a 23-inch wide by 15-inch deep by 39-inches-long equipment cabinet installed at the 11-foot 6-inch level of the pole. Three electrical and utility enclosures including the utility meter would also be installed between 5-feet agl and 10-feet agl on the pole. Electrical and telephone service would run underground with the route to be determined by Eversource.

No backup power is proposed for this small cell facility. Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) providers are licensed by and are under the jurisdiction and authority of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). At present, no standards for backup power for CMRS providers have been promulgated by the FCC. Every year since 2006, AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon have certified their compliance with the CTIA Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery Program and the Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council standards and best practices to ensure network reliability during power outages.

Public Safety

A Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut has certified that the proposed wood pole would be structurally adequate to support the proposed loading.

The calculated power density would be 8.2 percent of the applicable limit using a -10 dB off-beam adjustment.

A radio frequency (RF) safety sign with an emergency contact number visible from the ground would be placed on opposite sides of the equipment cabinet. Additionally, RF caution signs would also be placed on opposite sides of the shroud.

Environmental

The project is located in a previously disturbed, paved area. The nearest wetland is located off-site about 600-feet from the proposed facility.

Development of the proposed facility would not require tree removal and would result in minimal ground disturbance.

The facility site is not located within the Federal Emergency Management Agency-designated 100-year or 500-year flood zone. The proposed project is not located within a buffered area of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Natural Diversity Database.

Visual impact of the proposed facility is not expected to be significant due to the existing development at the property, including above-ground utility poles and streetlights along Ella Grasso Turnpike. Additionally, AT&T's equipment would be concealed within shrouds. Views of the proposed telecommunications facility would be primarily along the Ella Grasso Turnpike to the east and commercial properties to the south of the facility.

Facility Construction

The construction of the proposed small cell facility is anticipated to take a week working normal business hours.

Conclusion

AT&T contends that this proposed project would not have a substantial adverse environmental impact.

If approved, staff recommends the following condition:

1. Approval of any project changes be delegated to Council staff.

Figure 1. Proposed Site Location

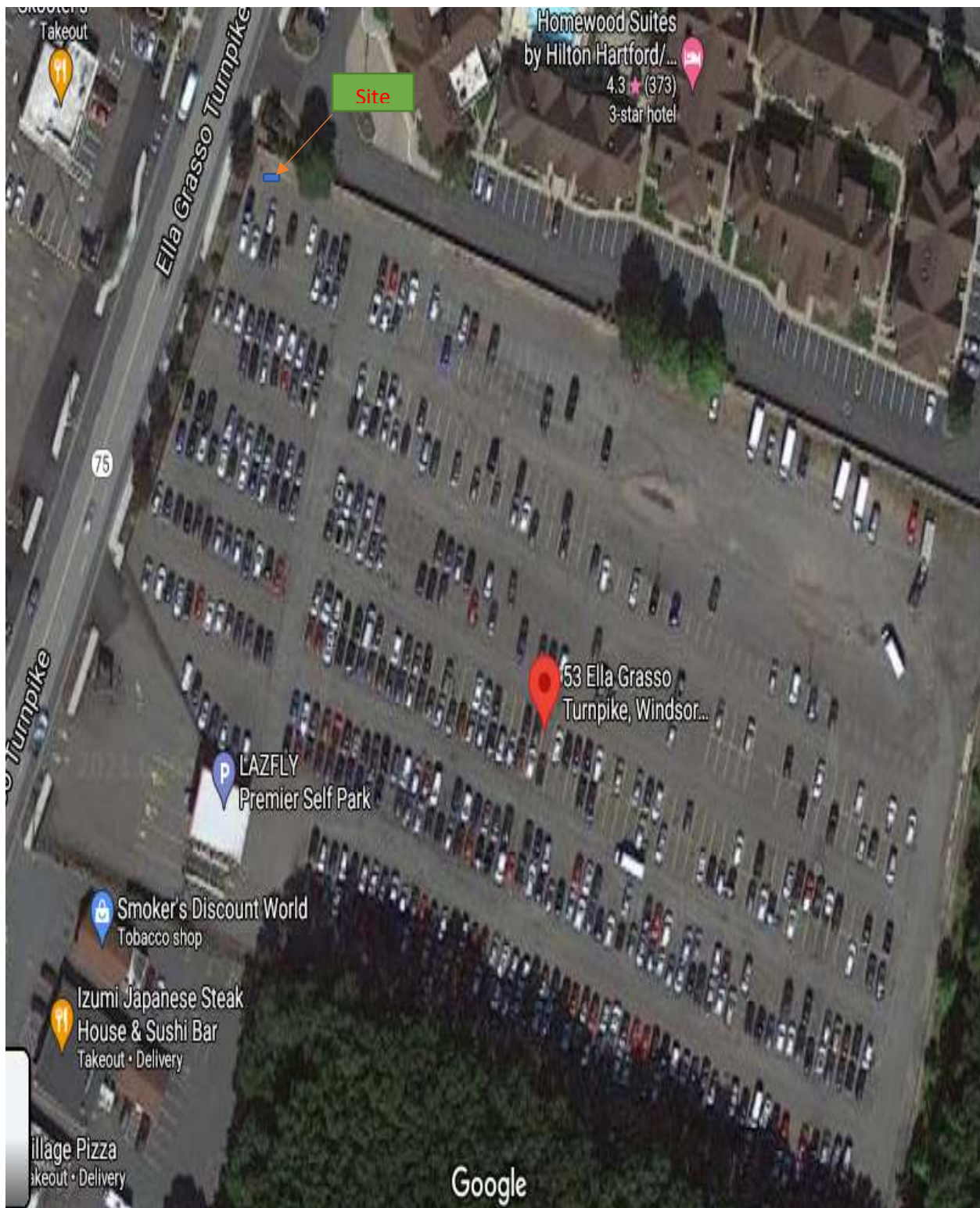


Figure 2. Facility Elevation Site Plan

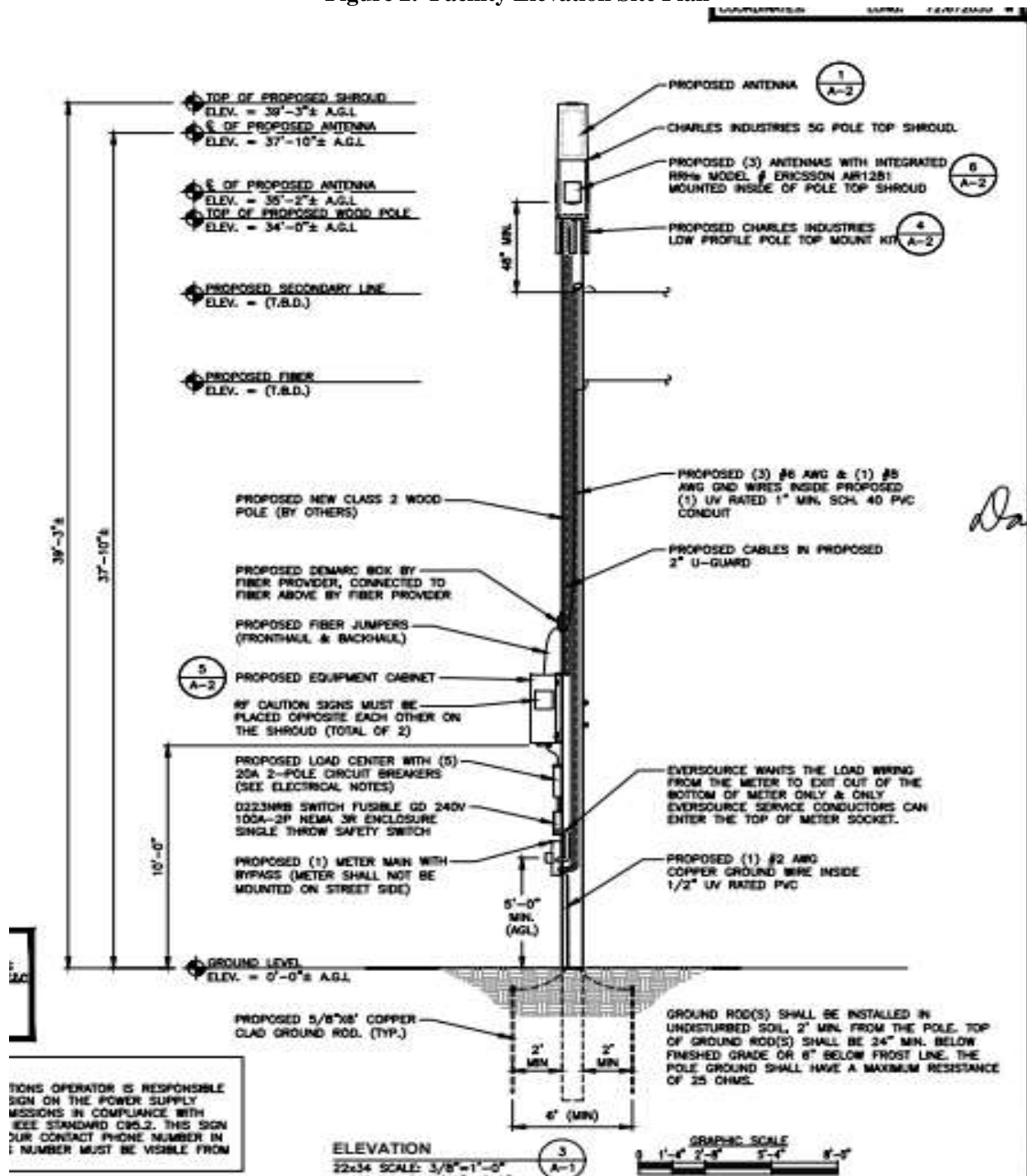


Figure 3. Existing conditions



Figure 4. Proposed Small Cell Facility Simulation

