



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
*CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL*

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

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**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL & CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

February 25, 2022

Denise Sabo  
Northeast Site Solutions  
420 Main Street, Suite 1  
Sturbridge, MA 01566-1359  
[denise@northeastsitesolutions.com](mailto:denise@northeastsitesolutions.com)

RE: **PETITION NO. 1478** – T-Mobile Northeast, LLC petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for proposed modifications to an existing telecommunications facility located at 344 Firetown Road, Simsbury, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Sabo:

At a public meeting held on February 24, 2022, 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 following conditions:

1. Approval of any project changes be delegated to Council staff;
2. Establish erosion and sedimentation controls consistent with the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control during construction;
3. Unless otherwise approved by the Council, the validity of this action shall expire three years from the date of this letter. 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. T-Mobile shall provide written notice to the Executive Director of any schedule changes as soon as is practicable;
4. Any request for extension of the time period to complete construction shall be filed with the Council not later than 60 days prior to the expiration date of this decision and shall be served on the Town of Simsbury;
5. Within 45 days after completion of construction, the Council shall be notified in writing that construction has been completed;
6. Any nonfunctioning equipment at this facility owned and operated by T-Mobile shall be removed within 60 days of the date the equipment ceased to function;
7. T-Mobile 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;

8. This Declaratory Ruling may be transferred, provided T-Mobile 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.

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 January 7, 2022, and additional information received on February 15, 2022

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

Sincerely,



Melanie A. Bachman  
Executive Director

MAB/RDM/lm

Enclosure: Staff Report dated February 24, 2022

- c: The Honorable Wendy Mackstutis, First Selectman, Town of Simsbury ([wmackstutis@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:wmackstutis@simsbury-ct.gov))  
Maria Capriola, Town Manager, Town of Simsbury ([townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov))



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**Petition No. 1478**  
**T-Mobile Northeast, LLC**  
**344 Firetown Road, Simsbury**

**Staff Report**  
**February 24, 2022**

**Introduction**

On January 18, 2022, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from T-Mobile Northeast, LLC (T-Mobile) for a declaratory ruling pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k for the proposed modification of an existing wireless telecommunications facility located at 344 Firetown Road, Simsbury, Connecticut. Specifically, T-Mobile proposes to install an emergency backup generator for its existing equipment at the site.

Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) §16-50j-40 on or about January 7, 2022, T-Mobile notified the abutting property owners and Town of Simsbury (Town) officials.

On January 20, 2022, 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 February 17, 2022. No comments were received.

The Council submitted interrogatories to T-Mobile on January 31, 2022. T-Mobile submitted responses to the interrogatories on February 15, 2022.

**Existing Facility**

The existing facility, owned by the Simsbury Fire District, was approved by the Town in 2003. It consists of an 80-foot monopole and associated compound located on an approximate 1.2-acre residential zoned parcel that is developed with the Simsbury Fire Department Firetown Station. The fire station is located at the corner of Hoskins Road and Firetown Road.

The Council approved T-Mobile's shared use of the tower on June 29, 2006 to locate at the 80-foot level of the facility. Verizon is located at the 67-foot level of the tower. An irregular fenced equipment compound (1,200 square feet) is located at the base of the tower that contains T-Mobile's equipment cabinets, meter equipment, and a Verizon equipment shelter.

**Proposed Project**

T-Mobile proposes to expand the southwest portion of the compound by 18 square feet to install a 25-kilowatt natural gas-fueled emergency backup generator. The generator would be installed on a new 6-foot by 12-foot concrete pad. An underground gas connection would be installed from the generator along the outside west fence line and within the central portion of the compound to a gas connection east of Verizon's equipment shelter.

The proposed emergency backup generator would be operated weekly on a 12-minute run cycle for testing. Noise from the operation of the emergency backup generator is exempt from the State Noise Control Regulations. Pursuant to R.C.S.A. §22a-174-3b, the generator would be managed to comply with DEEP's "permit by rule" criteria and is exempt from general air permit requirements.

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.

Abutting land use is residential. An existing wooded buffer is present between the abutters and the compound. The expansion area is approximately 30 feet from the west property line.

To accommodate the compound expansion landscape shrubs on the west side of the compound would be removed. Upon completion of construction, new shrubs would be planted along the fence line.

The estimated cost of the project is \$50,000. Work hours/days would be 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday-Friday or as the Fire Department allows. The total estimated duration of construction is 30 days.

### **Environmental**

The nearest wetland from the project limit of disturbance is approximately 15 feet to the west.

The compound expansion area is in a level area. No retaining wall would be necessary to support side slopes.

No substantial adverse environmental or visual impact is expected from the proposed installation.

### **Conclusion**

If approved, staff recommends the following conditions:

1. Approval of any project changes be delegated to Council staff; and
2. Establish erosion and sedimentation controls consistent with the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control during construction.

Proposed Generator Location



