



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

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

September 29, 2023

Denise Sabo
Northeast Site Solutions
420 Main Street, Unit 3
Sturbridge, MA 01566-1359
denise@northeastsitesolutions.com

RE: **PETITION NO. 1571** – Dish Wireless, 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 the Norwich Public Works Department, 50 Clinton Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut.

Dear Denise Sabo:

At a public meeting held on September 28, 2023, 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. Radio frequency access restriction and caution signage shall be installed at the site in compliance with FCC guidance;
3. Deployment of any 5G services must comply with FCC and FAA guidance relative to air navigation, as applicable.
4. Install a generator plug for the deployment of a temporary emergency backup power source;
5. The Council shall be notified in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of site construction activities;
6. 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;
7. 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 City of Norwich;

8. Within 45 days after completion of construction, the Council shall be notified in writing that construction has been completed **along with a representative photograph of the facility modification**;
9. Any nonfunctioning antenna and associated antenna mounting equipment on this facility owned and operated by Dish Wireless shall be removed within 60 days of the date the antenna ceased to function;
10. 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;
11. If the facility ceases to be used for signal transmission or reception in the electromagnetic spectrum pursuant to a Federal Communications Commission license for a period of one year, the facility owner/operator shall dismantle the tower and remove all associated equipment or reapply for any continued or new use to the Council within 90 days from the one year period of cessation of signal transmission or reception. The facility owner/operator may submit a written request to the Council for an extension of the 90 day period not later than 60 days prior to the expiration of the 90 day period; and
12. This Declaratory Ruling may be transferred or partially transferred, provided both the facility owner/operator/transferor and the transferee are current with payments to the Council for their respective annual assessments and invoices under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v. 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. Both the facility owner/operator/transferor and the transferee shall provide the Council with a written agreement as to the entity responsible for any quarterly assessment charges under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v(b)(2) that may be associated with this facility, including contact information for the individual acting on behalf of the transferee.

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 April 26, 2023 and additional correspondence received September 13, 2023.

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

Sincerely,



Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/IN/dll

Enclosure: Staff Report dated September 28, 2023

c: John L. Salomone, City Manager, City of Norwich (cmoffice@cityofnorwich.org)

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)

: ss. Southington, Connecticut September 29, 2023

COUNTY OF HARTFORD)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Decision and Staff Report in Petition No. 1571 issued by the Connecticut Siting Council, State of Connecticut.

ATTEST:



Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)

: ss. New Britain, Connecticut September 29, 2023

COUNTY OF HARTFORD)

I certify that a copy of the Connecticut Siting Council Decision and Staff Report in Petition No. 1571 has been forwarded by Certified First Class Return Receipt Requested mail, on September 29, 2023, to each party and intervenor, or its authorized representative, as listed on the attached service list, dated May 1, 2023.

ATTEST:



Dakota LaFountain
Clerk Typist
Connecticut Siting Council

LIST OF PARTIES AND INTERVENORS
SERVICE LIST

| Status Granted | Document Service | Status Holder (name, address & phone number) | Representative (name, address & phone number) |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| Petitioner | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E-mail | Dish Wireless, LLC | Denise Sabo Northeast Site Solutions 420 Main Street, Unit 3 Sturbridge, MA 01566-1359 Phone (860) 209-4690 denise@northeastsitesolutions.com |
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**Petition No. 1571
Dish Wireless, LLC
50 Clinton Avenue
Norwich, Connecticut**

**Staff Report
September 28, 2023**

Notice

On April 28, 2023, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from Dish Wireless, LLC (Dish) for a declaratory ruling pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) §4-176 and §16-50k for proposed modifications to an existing telecommunications facility located at 50 Clinton Avenue in Norwich, Connecticut (Petition or Project). Specifically, Dish proposes to collocate antennas on the existing monopole and install ground equipment within an expanded compound at the site.

Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) §16-50j-40, on or about April 26, 2023, Dish provided notice to abutting property owners and City of Norwich (City) officials. No comments from the City or abutting property owners have been received.

On May 1, 2023, the Council sent correspondence to the City stating that the Council has received the Petition and invited the City to contact the Council with any questions or comments by May 28, 2023. No comments were received.

The Council submitted interrogatories to Dish on May 23, 2023. Following three extensions, Dish submitted responses to the Council's interrogatories on September 13, 2023.

Pursuant to CGS §4-176(e) of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, an administrative agency is required to take an action on a petition within 60 days of receipt. On June 8, 2023, pursuant to CGS §4-176(e), the Council voted to set the date by which to render a decision on the Petition as no later than October 25, 2023, which is the 180-day statutory deadline for a final decision under CGS §4-176(i).

Project Development

The Project is needed to provide wireless service to the northeastern portion of Norwich including portions of Interstate-395, State Route 2 and surrounding areas.

The estimated cost of the Project is \$48,000.

Neither the Project, nor any portion thereof, is proposed to be undertaken by state departments, institutions or agencies, or funded in whole or in part, by the state through any contract or grant. Dish is a private entity.

Existing Facility

This facility was approved by the City in 2000. The Council approved an Eligible Facilities Request from Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Verizon) to collocate on this facility in PE1133-VER-20150626 on August 17, 2015.

The existing facility is owned by Crown Castle and consists of a 149-foot monopole located on a 5.36-acre commercially-zoned parcel that is developed with buildings and a garage for the City's Public Works Department. The host parcel is owned by the City. The tower site is located in the central portion of the host parcel adjacent to the City's Public Works garage.

The tower hosts MetroPCS/T-Mobile at the 115/140-foot levels, AT&T at the 125-foot level and Verizon at the 60-foot level. The fenced equipment compound consists of one existing equipment shelter, four existing concrete pads which support cabinets and associated ground equipment of the telecommunications carriers and one existing generator on a concrete pad.

Proposed Modifications

Dish proposes to install three 600/1900 MHz antennas and six remote radio units on a platform antenna mount at a centerline height of approximately 106 feet above ground level. The proposed antennas would be capable of providing 5G services.

Dish would expand the existing compound area by approximately 180 square feet and install a 5-foot by 7-foot raised steel equipment platform which would support its radio equipment cabinet and other associated ground level equipment. The expansion area would be a rectangle-shaped area in the northeastern corner of the compound and would be enclosed by a fence that matches the existing fencing.

An underground power line would be installed within new conduits that extend west from Dish's power protection cabinet to an existing utility pole located 235 feet to the west of Dish's equipment platform. An underground fiber line would also be installed within new conduits that extend north to an existing utility pole located 16-feet north of Dish's equipment platform and within the host parcel.

Dish does not propose a permanent backup power source at this time. A generator plug is proposed if Dish needs to deploy a temporary backup generator or opts to install a permanent backup generator in the future.

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.

Material and equipment will be brought to the site by trailer and assembled/installed by hand.

The Project would take approximately two weeks to complete. Work hours/days would be Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or as allowed by the tower and property owner. Dish would coordinate with the City's Public Works Department to ensure there are no disruptions to operations.

Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

Construction would occur in a previously disturbed area. No trees or other vegetation would be removed or trimmed to develop the site. No excavation or filling would be required. No lighting would be installed.

The proposed expansion area is not within a flood zone or proximate to any wetlands.

The Project site is not located within a Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Natural Diversity Database buffered area or a DEEP designated Aquifer Protection Area.

There would be no increase in tower height. The proposed compound expansion would impact a small portion of the existing site perimeter. Thus, no substantial adverse environmental or visual impact is expected from the proposed installation.

Public Safety

The Project would be constructed in accordance with the current Connecticut State Building Code, Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) 222-H Structural Standards for Steel Antenna Towers and Antenna Supporting Structures using a maximum wind speed of 124 miles per hour, the National Electrical Code, the Connecticut State Fire Safety Code, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

Expansion of the existing compound would not impact or interfere with any existing nearby public utilities. Prior to commencement of construction, all existing utilities and infrastructure locations will be identified to ensure that proper construction measures can be incorporated to avoid impacts and interference.

Dish would coordinate with the City's Public Works Department to ensure there are no disruptions to public works operations.

A Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut has certified that the tower is structurally adequate to support the proposed loading.

The calculated cumulative worst-case power density after Dish's installation would be 0.23% of the applicable exposure limit established by the Federal Communications Commission at ground level using a far field approximation.

Conclusion

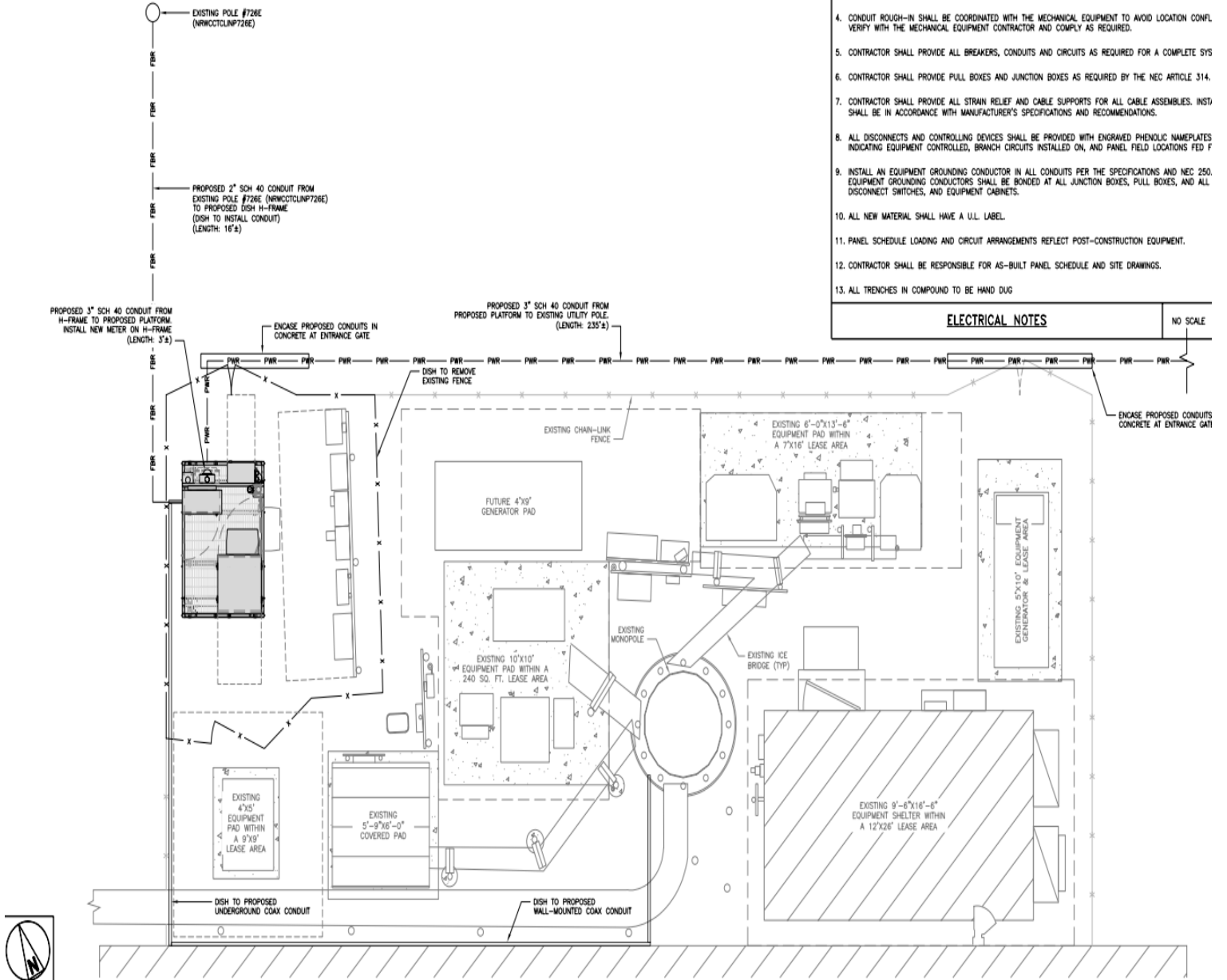
If approved, staff recommends the following conditions:

- 1) Approval of any project changes be delegated to Council staff;
- 2) Radio frequency access restriction and caution signage shall be installed at the site in compliance with FCC guidance; and
- 3) Deployment of any 5G services must comply with FCC and FAA guidance relative to air navigation, as applicable.

Aerial View of the facility compound



Compound Site Plan



Tower Elevation

