

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE:	:	
	:	
A PETITION OF CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A	:	PETITION NO. 1641
VERIZON WIRELESS FOR A DECLARATORY	:	
RULING ON THE NEED TO OBTAIN A SITING	:	
COUNCIL CERTIFICATE FOR THE	:	
INSTALLATION OF A WIRELESS	:	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT 490	:	
SAW MILL ROAD, WEST HAVEN,	:	
CONNECTICUT	:	NOVEMBER 11, 2024

RESPONSES OF CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS TO
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL INTERROGATORIES

On October 28, 2024, the Connecticut Siting Council (“Council”) issued Interrogatories to Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Cellco”), relating to Petition No. 1641. Below are the Petitioner’s responses.

Notice

Question No. 1

Referencing Petition, Section III-B, p. 4 and Attachments 8 & 9, has the City of West Haven and/or any abutting property owners provided comments to Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Cellco) since the Petition filing? If so, please summarize the comments.

Response

The Petitioner has not received any comments from abutting property owners or Town officials on the proposed facility. Petitioner’s Counsel did speak with one abutter who had questions about why they received notice but no questions about the proposed new facility location at 490 Saw Mill Road.

Existing Non-Tower Antenna Array

Question No. 2

What entity approved the existing non-tower antenna array on the billboard structure at 478 Saw Mill Road? When?

Response

The existing billboard facility (Cellco's West Haven 2) was approved by the Town of West Haven in 2006.

Question No. 3

Provide details of the existing non-tower antenna array on the billboard structure including height, what equipment is installed and what services are provided?

Response

The existing billboard facility currently maintains twelve 12 antennas in four (4) antenna sectors, at an antenna centerline height of 86 feet above ground level. The site also maintains three (3) AWS remote radio heads (RRH) and six (6) Samsung Dualband RRHs, six (6) OVP boxes and twelve (12) 1-5/8" coax cables connecting the antennas to Cellco's radio equipment inside a ground level shelter. The existing billboard facility provides wireless services in Cellco's 700 MHz, 850 MHz, 1900 MHz and 2100MHz frequency ranges. The site does not currently provide any 5G services due to Cellco's inability to install the necessary equipment on the existing billboard.

Question No. 4

What is the distance and direction of the existing non-tower antenna array from the proposed facility?

Response

The existing billboard facility is located on the adjacent parcel, approximately 300 feet to the northeast of the Best Western Hotel building at 490 Saw Mill Road.

Question No. 5

Referencing Petition pp. 1 and 2, would the existing non-tower antenna array on the billboard be decommissioned before Cellco installs the new facility or afterwards? Would the transition from the existing non-tower antenna array to the proposed replacement facility create a network outage or interruption?

Response

Cellco intends to use its existing non-tower antenna array on the billboard until the proposed facility is installed and activate. Cellco would anticipate that its existing non-tower billboard facility would be decommissioned within six (6) months of the activation of the “relo” facility.

Question No. 6

Would any of the existing equipment from the non-tower antenna array on the billboard be used for the proposed replacement facility?

Response

No. Cellco would install new equipment at the proposed facility to maintain continuity of service as described in response no. 5 above. Some of the antennas and equipment currently in use at the billboard site could be reused at other Cellco cell sites.

Question No. 7

Would a temporary tower facility be required to maintain Cellco service during the cutover of equipment to the proposed replacement facility?

Response

No. The existing billboard facility would remain in operation until the proposed replacement facility is fully operational.

Proposed Site

Question No. 8

How would the proposed replacement facility impact Cellco's existing coverage and capacity within the service area. Would the proposed facility improve coverage and/or capacity? Please elaborate.

Response

Cellco anticipates that its existing wireless service in the area would improve after the activation of the replacement facility. While the overall coverage footprint of the replacement facility would be comparable to the non-tower billboard facility, the replacement facility would provide significantly more capacity benefits to the Cellco network and, more importantly, allow Cellco to deploy more advanced wireless services and frequencies (e.g. 5G and C-Band) that cannot currently be supported on the non-tower billboard facility.

Question No. 9

Provide the address, distance and direction of the nearest residential property line.

Response

The nearest residential property is a multi-family residential complex located at 79-80 Claudia Drive, approximately 650 feet to the NNW of the Best Western Hotel building,

Question No. 10

Did Cellco consider collocation of its proposed replacement facility on a United Illuminating electric transmission structure in the vicinity of the existing non-tower antenna

array?

Response

No. As the Council is aware, use of electric transmission lines for wireless facilities presents both the wireless carriers and the electric distribution companies with certain challenges and restriction on access for installation and maintenance of the network. If an alternative existing structure, like a building, is available, and satisfies Cellco's wireless service objectives it will always be preferred over a transmission line structure.

Proposed Replacement Facility and Associated Equipment

Question No. 11

What is the estimated cost of the proposed project? Does the cost include decommissioning the existing non-tower antenna array on the billboard?

Response

The estimated cost to construct the proposed facility is approximately \$300,000. The cost to decommission the existing non-tower facility is estimated to be approximately \$75,000.

Question No. 12

Is the project, or any portion of the project, proposed to be undertaken by state departments, institutions or agencies, or to be funded in whole or in part by the state through any contract or grant?

Response

No.

Question No. 13

Provide typical construction workdays and hours, and the anticipated duration of construction.

Response

Cellco would expect work to be completed during daytime hours between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Adjustments to work hour would be coordinated with the property owner to avoid disruption to hotel guests. Cellco expects construction can be completed within approximately 10-12 weeks.

Question No. 14

What limitations, if any, would the proposed replacement facility design create for any future upgrades? Explain.

Response

As described in the Petition, the existing non-tower structure is incapable of supporting any future upgrades. Cellco believes the existing Best Western building would be able to accommodate any and all facility upgrades for the foreseeable future.

Public Health and Safety

Question No. 15

Provide the distance, direction, and elevation above ground level to the nearest publicly accessible area from the proposed antennas. What is the far-field percentage maximum permissible exposure (%MPE) value at the nearest publicly accessible area?

Response

The percentage of MPE for any area on the top floor of the hotel (publicly accessible area or hotel room) occurs at a distance of 28 feet in front of the Delta sector antennas. The percentage of the MPE limit at that point is calculated to be 8.74%.

Question No. 16

Provide the distance, direction, and elevation above ground level of the nearest hotel

room from the proposed antennas. What is the far-field %MPE value at the nearest hotel room?

Response

See Response to Question 15 above.

Question No. 17

Would the proposed equipment installation be capable of supporting text-to-911 service and comply with federal E911 requirements and the Warning, Alert and Response Network Act of 2006?

Response

Yes.

Question No. 18

What measures are proposed for the site to ensure security and deter vandalism? (Including alarms, gates, locks, anti-climb fence design, etc.) Is the host building rooftop accessible to the public?

Response

Access to the roof of the building where all of Cellco's antennas and equipment would be located is not publicly accessible and restricted to hotel personnel. Once constructed, Cellco's technicians would be afforded access to the roof to maintain its equipment.

Question No. 19

Identify the safety standards and/or codes by which equipment, machinery or technology that would be used or operated at the proposed facility.

Response

- 2021 International Building Code (IBC), with the 2022 Connecticut State Building Code amendments.

- 2020 National Electric Code (NFPA 70).
- 2021 International Mechanical Code, with the 2022 Connecticut State Building Code amendments.
- 2022 Connecticut State Fire Safety Code.
- ANSI/TIA-222-H "Structural Standard for Antenna Supporting Structures and Antennas and Small Wind Turbine Support Structures".
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Emergency Backup Power

Question No. 20

Referencing Petition, Section II-A & Attachment 3, Cellco intends to install a 50kW natural-gas fueled emergency backup generator. Would the backup generator run periodically for maintenance purposes? If so, at what frequency and duration? Would this be scheduled for daytime hours?

Response

Yes, Cellco's generators are typically "exercised" once every two weeks for approximately 20 minutes, in the late morning on a weekday, to ensure that they are operating properly. Generator testing can be scheduled if the Council determines a more appropriate time should be considered.

Question No. 21

Would the site include a backup battery system in the event the emergency backup generator failed to start? If so, how long would the battery system provide power?

Response

Yes, Cellco's equipment platform would support a radio equipment cabinet and a battery

cabinet for use, if commercial power to the facility is interrupted. The battery system can provide back up power for approximately 8 hours.

Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

Question No. 22

What, if any, stealth antenna design options were considered? Would any stealth design options be feasible to employ at this site? Provide costs related to each stealth design.

Response

No camouflage or stealth design options were considered for the West Haven 2 Relo Facility. While camouflage design options may be considered technically feasible (e.g., RF-transparent screening of the antennas or the use of RF-transparent reflective film), the surrounding environment consists of active and dense commercial and industrial development, utility infrastructure, and the I-95 and Metro-North Railroad corridors. There would be, therefore, little benefit to incorporating camouflage design elements into this project. As proposed, the antenna design is contextually consistent with the character of the area.