

**DRAFT**  
**Petition No. 1449**  
**New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC**  
**Small Cell Facility**  
**39 North Gate Road**  
**Woodstock, Connecticut**

**Staff Report**  
**May 14, 2021**

**Introduction**

On March 29, 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 (CGS) §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed installation of a small cell wireless telecommunications facility at the Woodstock Fair Grounds located at 39 North Gate Road, Woodstock, Connecticut.

The small cell would be installed on a new wood pole to be located on the portion of the property facing North Great Road. It would provide reliable wireless service to AT&T customers and emergency service providers in the surrounding area.

On March 26, 2021, AT&T notified the Town of Woodstock (Town), state officials and agencies and abutting property owners, of the proposed project.

On March 31, 2021, the Council sent correspondence to the Town stating that the Council has received the petition and invited the municipality to contact the Council with any questions or comments by April 29, 2021. No comments from the Town were 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 (RCSA) §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 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 at the Woodstock Fairgrounds property and nearby roads in the 1900 MHz and 2100 MHz frequency range.

The site is located in the northernmost portion of a 17.9 acre developed commercial property within Woodstock's Community district. The surrounding land use is a mixture of commercial, rural farmland, religious and residential uses. The nearest residence is approximately 600-feet west-northwest of the proposed site. The host parcel is used as a farmer's market and the site of the annual Woodstock Fair and is owned by the Woodstock Agricultural Society. The subject property abuts rural and commercial properties to the west, residential properties to the east and south east and North Gate Road and farmland to the north.

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 30-inch long by 24-inch wide panel antenna and one RRU would be installed on a pipe mast chain mount at the 32-foot level of the wood pole. Two RRUs would also be installed at the 32-foot agl and 29-foot 6-inch agl of the pole. The proposed antenna would be capable of providing 5G services.

One fiber box, four cables and two electrical and utility enclosures including the utility meter would also be installed 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 monopole extension and antenna mounts would be structurally adequate to support the proposed equipment loading.

The calculated power density would be 77.6 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 wood pole. Additionally, RF caution signs would also be placed on opposite sides of the antenna.

### **Environmental**

The project is located in a grassy previously disturbed area approximately 44-feet from North Gate Road. The nearest wetland is located off-site about 1000-feet southeast of 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 existing above-ground utility poles along North Gate Road and existing poles with street lights within the fairgrounds. Views of the proposed telecommunications facility would be primarily from within the fairgrounds and along North Gate Road.

### **Facility Construction**

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

### **Conclusion**

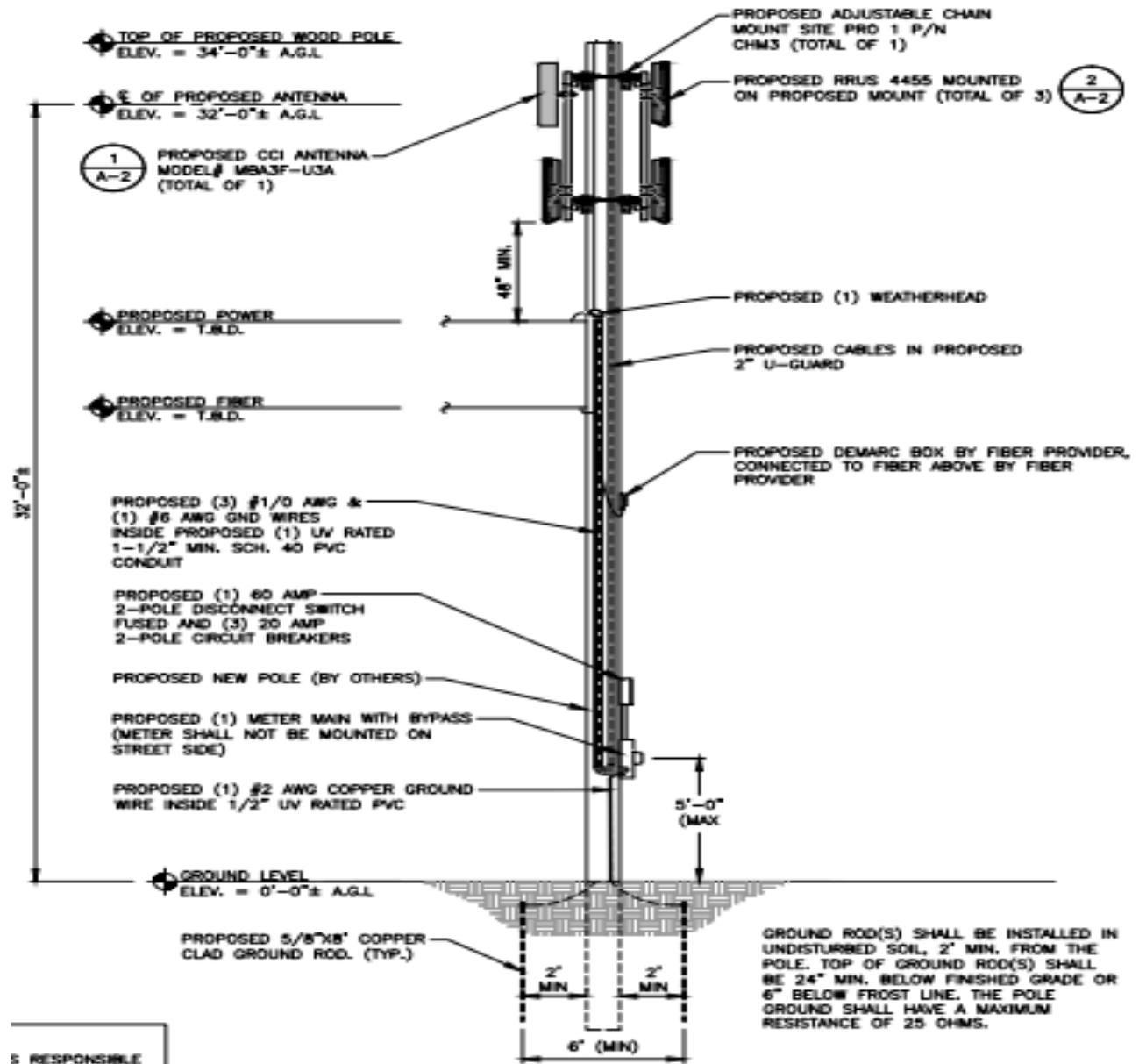
If approved, staff recommends the following conditions:

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

**Figure 1. Proposed Site Location**



Figure 2. Side Elevation of the proposed facility



**Figure 3. Existing Conditions –photo**





**Figure 4. Proposed Small Cell Facility Simulation**

