

## **DRAFT**

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

**53 Ella T. Grasso Turnpike,  
Windsor Locks, Connecticut  
Staff Report  
May 14, 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**

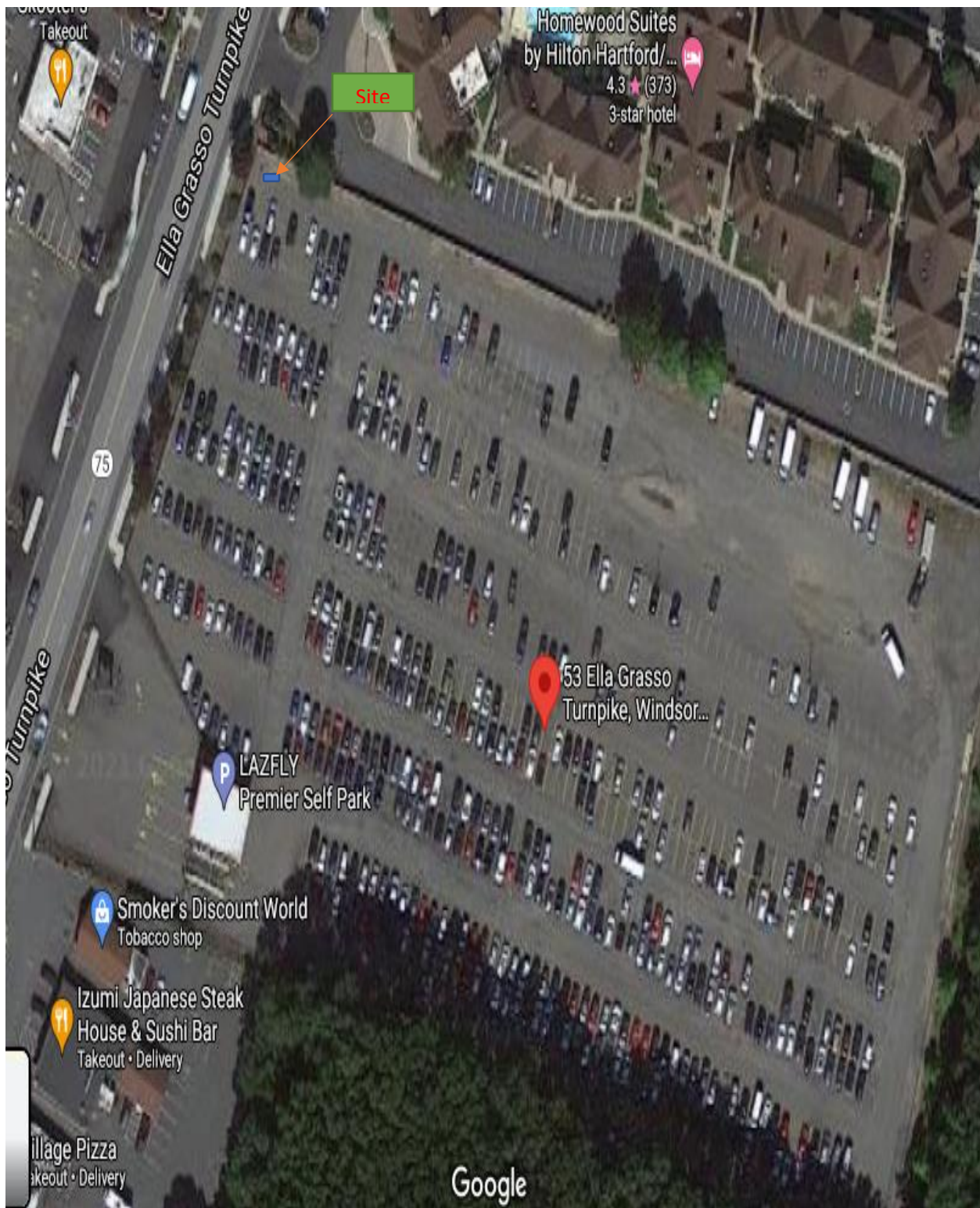
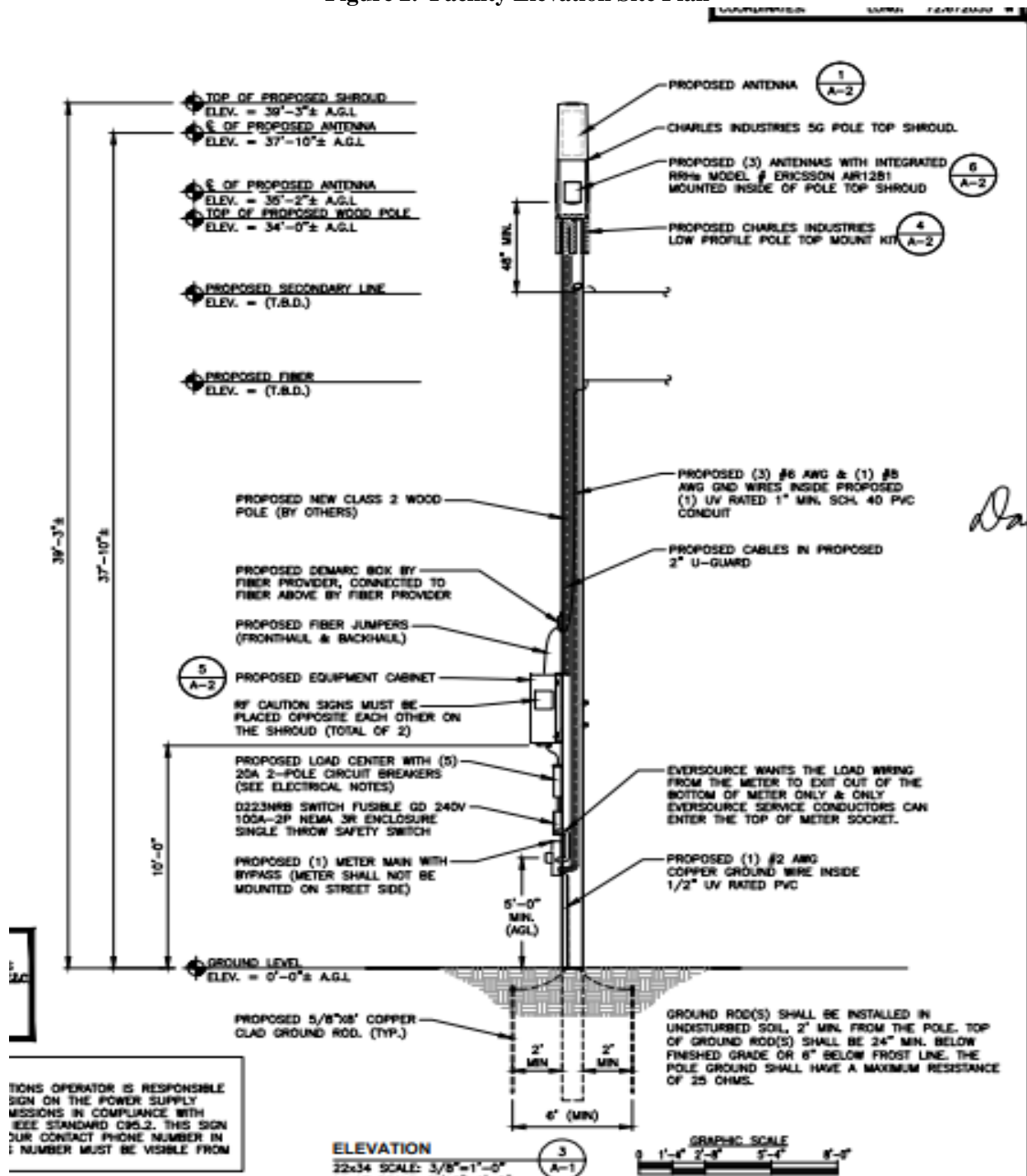


Figure 2. Facility Elevation Site Plan





**Figure 3. Existing conditions**



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

