DRAFT

Petition No. 1447
New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T)
Small Cell Facility

11 Lake Avenue Extension, Danbury, Connecticut

Staff Report
May 14, 2021

Introduction

On March 23, 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 11 Lake Avenue Extension, Danbury. Connecticut.

The small cell would be installed on a new metal pole adjacent to 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 City of Danbury (City), State officials and agencies, and abutting property owners, of the proposed project.

On March 24, 2021, 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 April 22, 2021. On April 13, 2021, the Council received comments from the City Department of Planning and Zoning seeking clarification as to the location of the metal pole and the scope of associated ground disturbance. On May 6, 2021, AT&T provided a revised set of drawings with an insert depicting the location of the proposed metal pole and indicated the utility providers will file applications with the City for ground disturbance associated with the utility route and comply with any conditions for restoration.

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 metal 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 Lake Avenue Extension and the surrounding area in the 1900/2100/5200/39000 MHz LTE frequency range.

The proposed site is located at the northern portion of a 0.49 acre developed commercial property within the City's Arterial Commercial (CA-80) district. Land uses surrounding the property are a mix of residential and commercial. The nearest residence is approximately 300-feet northeast of the proposed site. The proposed metal pole would be located on the front lawn of the property facing Mill Ridge Road, adjacent to the parking lot and about 12-feet from the sidewalk. The parcel currently hosts an office building and is owned by Eleven Lake View Ext LLC. The subject property abuts Mill Ridge Road to the north, Lake Avenue Extension and a fast food restaurant to the east and southeast, a hotel to the southwest and a City Housing Authority office to the west of the facility.

The proposed small cell facility consists of an approximately 25-feet above ground level (agl) 12-inch in diameter metal pole supported by a pier foundation. A 10-inch diameter canister antenna would be installed at the top of the metal pole extending to a height of approximately 30 feet agl. Three antennas with integrated RRUs would also be installed below the canister antenna at the 22-foot 6-inch level of the pole. A 15.37-inch long by 22.75 inch wide hexagonal shroud would enclose the three antennas. The proposed antennas would be capable of providing 5G services. A light fixture would be installed on the pole at a height of 24-feet agl that would serve to illuminate the parking lot.

Associated power and communication equipment including a utility meter and 3 remote radio heads would be installed within a 10-foot 6-inch long by 18-inch diameter cylindrical equipment cabinet installed at the base of 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 metal pole would be structurally adequate to support the proposed loading.

The calculated power density would be 2.6 percent of the applicable limit using a -10 dB off-beam adjustment.

A radio frequency (RF) caution sign with an emergency contact number visible from the ground would also be placed on opposite sides of the canister antenna and the shroud.

Environmental

The project is located in a previously disturbed area and consists of a landscaped lawn and paved areas. The nearest wetland is located off-site about 400-feet northeast 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.

The visual impact of the proposed facility is not expected to be significant due to the existing development at the property and surrounding areas, including above-ground utility poles and street lights along Mill Ridge Road. Additionally, AT&T's equipment would be concealed within shrouds. Views of the proposed telecommunications facility would be primarily along Mill Ridge Road to the north and the municipal building to the west of the facility. Visibility from the properties to the south and east would be obscured by the existing development.

Facility Construction

The construction of the proposed small cell facility is anticipated to take ten days 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

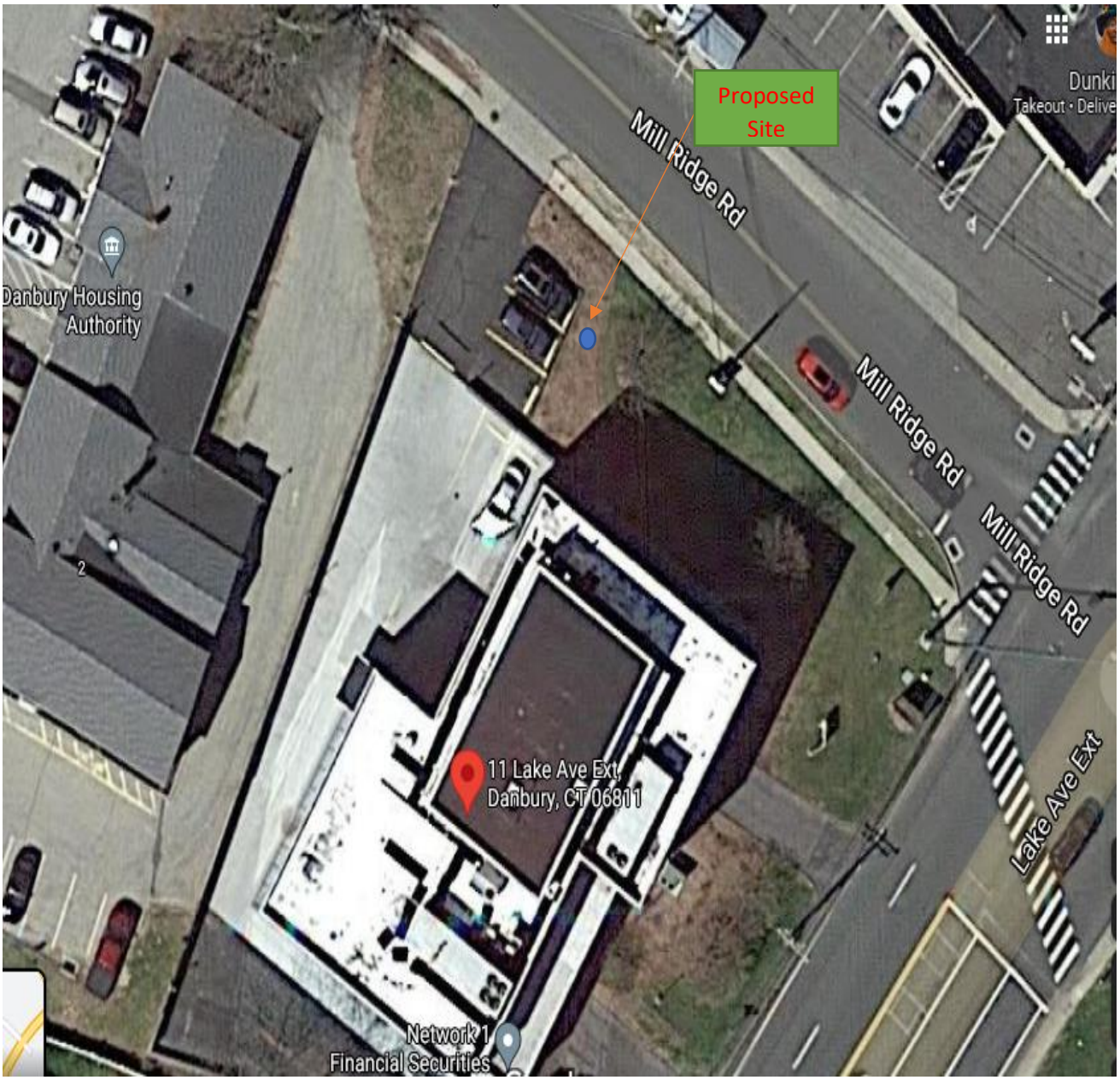

Figure 2. Facility Elevation Site Plan

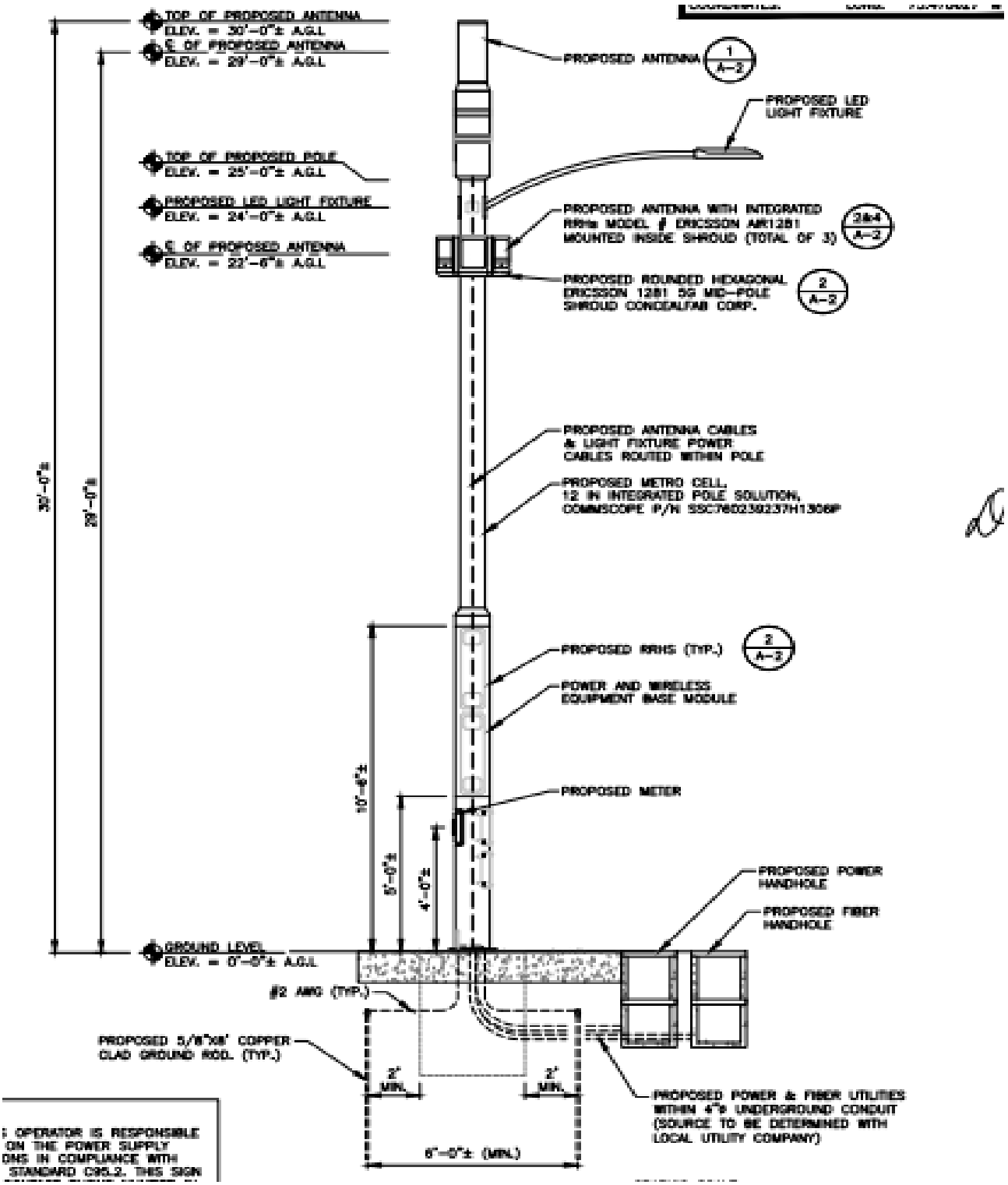

Figure 3. Existing Conditions –photo

Figure 4. Proposed Small Cell Facility Simulation