



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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DRAFT

Docket No. 242 122 Route 6, Andover

AT&T Request to Reopen and Modify the Decision and Order and EM-AT&T-001-210617 - AT&T notice of intent to modify an existing telecommunications facility located at 122 Jonathan Trumbull Highway (Route 6), Andover, Connecticut.

Staff Report July 9, 2021

Introduction

On October 14, 2003, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) to AT&T Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T Wireless (AT&T) for the construction, maintenance and operation of a 150-foot telecommunications facility at 122 Route 6 in Andover, Connecticut (Docket No. 242).

The Council's Docket No. 242 Decision and Order (D&O), Condition No. 2 specified that "Panel antennas shall be installed on the monopole using a flush mount design."

On June 17, 2021, Crown Castle (Crown), on behalf of AT&T, submitted a Motion to Reopen and Modify D&O Condition No. 2 (Motion to Reopen) to allow for the use of platform mounting systems at this facility. Also on June 17, 2021, Crown submitted an associated exempt modification request to install platform mounted antennas on the existing facility (EM-AT&T-001-210617).

On June 21, 2021 the Council deemed the Motion to Reopen and EM-AT&T-001-210617 incomplete as it did not include referenced attachments and referred to a site in Oxford and EM-AT&T-001-210617 did not include proof of notice to the Chief Elected Official of Andover or to the underlying property owner.

On June 22, 2021, in response to the Council's incomplete letter, Crown submitted the requested information for the Motion to Reopen and EM-AT&T-001-210617. On June 23, 2021, the Council acknowledged the Motion to Reopen and EM-AT&T-001-210617 as complete and would be processed in accordance with Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 16-50l-1a and related Federal Communications Commission regulations.

Background Site Information

On December 23, 2003, the Council approved a Development and Management (D&M) Plan for this facility that included a 150-foot monopole. The D&M Plan included AT&T's installation consisting of three flush-mounted panel antennas at a centerline height of 150 feet above ground level (agl).

Condition No. 3 of the D&O required Site preparation and construction activities to occur during the time period of November 1 through March 31 to reduce potential impacts to populations of the Wood Turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*), a State Species of Special Concern.

There is no record of the Certificate being transferred from AT&T to Crown, as required under Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) §16-50k(b).

Currently, AT&T maintains 6 antennas on flush-mount arms at 150 feet, T-Mobile maintains 6 panel antennas on flush-mount arms at 140 feet and Verizon maintains 12-panel antennas on flush-mount arms at 130 feet.

AT&T Exempt Modification Request

On June 17, 2021, Crown, on behalf of AT&T, submitted EM-AT&T-001-210617, to replace 6 existing antennas with three 700/850/1900/2100 MHz antennas and three 700/850 MHz antennas mounted on an antenna platform at a centerline height of 147 feet agl. Additionally, six tower mounted amplifiers would be replaced with six remote radio heads.

Other improvements include the installation of a cabinet and other ground equipment within the existing compound. The modifications include equipment that is both 4G and 5G capable.

The Notice of Exempt Modification included certification from a Structural Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut that the structure is capable of supporting the proposed loading with certain recommendations.

The facility would have a cumulative worst-case power density of 9.9 % of the applicable limit using a -10 dB off-beam adjustment.

The Notice of Exempt Modification was provided to the Town of Andover and the property owner.

Request to Reopen and Modify

Crown's June 17, 2021 Request to Reopen the D&O seeks to allow the use of platform mounting systems to promote tower sharing and to enhance existing wireless service, as detailed below:

- The flush mount design cannot meet AT&T's current capacity and coverage demands which have evolved due to improvements in network design and technology since the approval of the tower in 2003;
- Restricting antenna installations on the tower to flush mounts has the potential to limit services of other wireless carriers that would otherwise deploy new technologies to better serve their customers; and
- The visual effect of the platform mount system is not significant, as demonstrated in the photo-simulation included in the Motion to Reopen.

On June 17, 2021, Crown notified the Town of Andover, the property owner and abutting property owners of the Request to Reopen.

On June 18, 2021, the Council notified Parties and Intervenors of the Request to Reopen and requested that any submission of comments or statements with respect to whether the Request to Reopen should be granted or denied, including any request for a hearing, be submitted to the Council by close of business on July 8, 2021. No comments were received.

Recommendations

If approved, staff recommends the following conditions:

1. Crown shall submit a request to the Council for a Transfer of Certificate from AT&T to Crown, pursuant to CGS §16-50k(b), prior to the Council's issuance of a revised Certificate;
2. Site preparation and construction activities shall occur during the time period of November 1 through March 31 to reduce potential impacts to populations of the Wood Turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*), a State Species of Special Concern;
3. Prior to AT&T's antenna/platform installation, the structural modifications shall be installed in accordance with the Structural Analysis prepared by Crown, dated February 17, 2021 and stamped and signed by Terry Styran; and
4. Within 45 days following completion of equipment installation, AT&T shall provide documentation certified by a Professional Engineer that its installation complied with the recommendations of the Structural Analysis.

Site Location

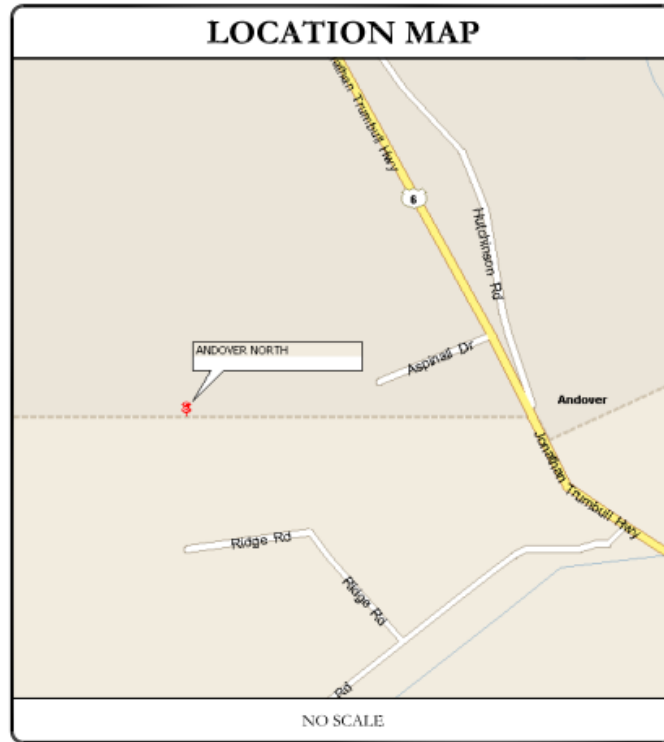


Photo-simulation of Proposed Installation



Existing and Proposed Antenna Configuration - EM-AT&T-001-210617

