

# DRAFT

**Petition No. 1474  
T-Mobile Northeast, LLC  
52 New Britain Avenue, Rocky Hill**

**Staff Report  
February 4, 2022**

## **Introduction**

On December 27, 2021, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from T-Mobile Northeast, LLC (T-Mobile) for a declaratory ruling pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed modification of an existing wireless telecommunications facility located at 52 New Britain Avenue, Rocky Hill, Connecticut. Specifically, T-Mobile proposes to install an emergency backup generator for its existing equipment installed at the site.

Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) §16-50j-40 on or about December 17, 2021, T-Mobile notified the abutting property owners and Town of Rocky Hill (Town) officials.

On December 29, 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 January 26, 2022. No comments were received.

## **Existing Facility**

The Town approved the facility in 1998. The Council approved T-Mobile's shared use of the tower on July 25, 2000.

The existing facility is owned by Crown Castle and consists of a 182-foot monopole located adjacent to the Rocky Hill Volunteer Fire Department Station #2. The fire station is located on two contiguous town-owned properties zoned commercial. The tower is located immediately adjacent to the southwest corner of the fire house. The existing facility does not have a fenced compound.

The tower hosts multiple telecommunications carriers with T-Mobile located at the 157-foot level of the tower, AT&T at the 168-foot level of the tower and Verizon located at the 90-foot level of the tower. T-Mobile's existing ground equipment is located on a raised platform adjacent to the tower and the south wall of the fire house. AT&T's existing ground equipment is also located on a raised platform adjacent to the south wall of the firehouse. AT&T's existing emergency backup generator is located on a concrete pad in the southwest corner of the parcel approximately 50 feet away from the tower and its equipment, adjacent to a driveway and parking area.

## **Proposed Project**

T-Mobile proposes to install a 25-kilowatt diesel-fueled emergency backup generator within a 4-foot by 10-foot lease area approximately 75 feet southwest of the existing tower. The generator would be installed on a 4-foot by 10-foot concrete pad in a lawn area south of AT&T's generator and adjacent to an existing shed and a utility frame. An underground electrical connection would extend through an existing trench beneath the firehouse driveway and parking area.

The proposed generator has a self-contained, 240-gallon doubled wall fuel tank that could provide 98 hours of run time before re-fueling is required. It also has leak detection alarms and a locked intrusion cover.

Pursuant to R.C.S.A. §22a-174-3b, the generator would be managed to comply with DEEP's "permit by rule" criteria and is exempt from general air permit requirements.

The proposed emergency backup generator would operate weekly on a 12-minute run cycle for testing. Noise from the operation of the emergency backup generator is exempt from the State Noise Control Regulations.

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, Sprint, 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.

Abutting land use is commercial. The generator is proposed to be located approximately 11 feet from the west property line. AT&T's existing emergency backup generator is also approximately 11 feet from this property line.

### **Environmental**

No trees would be removed. No wetlands are on the property or adjacent to the proposed installation. The proposed installation would not be visible from New Britain Avenue. No substantial adverse environmental or visual impact is expected from the proposed installation.

### **Conclusion**

If approved, staff recommends the following condition:

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

## Proposed Generator Location



## Site Plan

