

DRAFT

**Petition No. 1478
T-Mobile Northeast, LLC
344 Firetown Road, Simsbury**

**Staff Report
February 18, 2022**

Introduction

On January 18, 2022, 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 344 Firetown Road, Simsbury, Connecticut. Specifically, T-Mobile proposes to install an emergency backup generator for its existing equipment at the site.

Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) §16-50j-40 on or about January 7, 2022, T-Mobile notified the abutting property owners and Town of Simsbury (Town) officials.

On January 20, 2022, 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 February 17, 2022. No comments were received.

The Council submitted interrogatories to T-Mobile on January 31, 2022. T-Mobile submitted responses to the interrogatories on February 15, 2022.

Existing Facility

The existing facility, owned by the Simsbury Fire District, was approved by the Town in 2003. It consists of an 80-foot monopole and associated compound located on an approximate 1.2-acre residential zoned parcel that is developed with the Simsbury Fire Department Firetown Station. The fire station is located at the corner of Hoskins Road and Firetown Road.

The Council approved T-Mobile's shared use of the tower on June 29, 2006 to locate at the 80-foot level of the facility. Verizon is located at the 67-foot level of the tower. An irregular fenced equipment compound (1,200 square feet) is located at the base of the tower that contains T-Mobile's equipment cabinets, meter equipment, and a Verizon equipment shelter.

Proposed Project

T-Mobile proposes to expand the southwest portion of the compound by 18 square feet to install a 25-kilowatt natural gas-fueled emergency backup generator. The generator would be installed on a new 6-foot by 12-foot concrete pad. An underground gas connection would be installed from the generator along the outside west fence line and within the central portion of the compound to a gas connection east of Verizon's equipment shelter.

The proposed emergency backup generator would be operated 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. 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.

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.

Abutting land use is residential. An existing wooded buffer is present between the abutters and the compound. The expansion area is approximately 30 feet from the west property line.

To accommodate the compound expansion landscape shrubs on the west side of the compound would be removed. Upon completion of construction, new shrubs would be planted along the fence line.

The estimated cost of the project is \$50,000. Work hours/days would be 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday-Friday or as the Fire Department allows. The total estimated duration of construction is 30 days.

Environmental

The nearest wetland from the project limit of disturbance is approximately 15 feet to the west.

The compound expansion area is in a level area. No retaining wall would be necessary to support side slopes.

No substantial adverse environmental or visual impact is expected from the proposed installation.

Conclusion

If approved, staff recommends the following conditions:

1. Approval of any project changes be delegated to Council staff; and
2. Establish erosion and sedimentation controls consistent with the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control during construction.

Proposed Generator Location



Site Plan

