

Petition No. 1477
DISH Wireless, LLC
441 Homestead Avenue, Hartford
DRAFT Staff Report
April 14, 2022

Introduction

On January 14, 2022, DISH Wireless, LLC (DISH) submitted a petition (Petition) to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a declaratory ruling pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) §4-176 and §16-50k for the proposed modifications to an existing telecommunications facility at 441 Homestead Avenue, in Hartford.

Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) §16-50j-40 on or about January 12, 2022, DISH provided notice to the abutting property owners and City of Hartford (City) officials.

On January 20, 2022, the Council sent correspondence to the City stating that the Council has received the Petition and invited the municipalities to contact the Council with any questions or comments by February 13, 2022. No comments were received.

Pursuant to CGS §4-176(e) of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, an administrative agency is required to take action on a petition within 60 days of receipt. On March 10, 2022, pursuant to CGS §4-176(e), the Council voted to set the date by which to render a decision on the Petition as no later than July 13, 2022, which is the 180-day statutory deadline for a final decision under CGS §4-176(i).

The Council submitted interrogatories to DISH on February 16, 2022. On February 28, 2022, DISH requested an extension of time until March 31, 2022 to respond to the interrogatories. On March 2, 2022, the Council granted such extension of time. DISH submitted responses to the interrogatories on April 1, 2022.

Existing Facility

The Council granted a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to Metro Mobile CTS of Hartford, Inc. for the facility in 1990 in Docket No. 126.

The existing 140-foot monopole, owned by Crown Castle, is located on a 1.8-acre parcel owned by Talar Properties LLC that is currently vacant.¹ The host property is zoned CX-1 (commercial/industrial mix district). It is located south of Albany Avenue (Route 44) and west of Homestead Avenue and is accessed from Homestead Avenue. Abutting properties are also zoned CX-1.

The tower currently supports The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Sprint, New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T), T-Mobile, and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless at centerline heights of approximately 74 feet, 104 feet, 117 feet, 128 feet, and 142 feet, respectively.

Proposed Project

DISH would replace existing decommissioned equipment that would be removed and install 3 panel antennas and 6 remote radio units on a platform mount at a centerline height of approximately 93 feet above

¹ The Council issued a Declaratory Ruling to Fuel Cell Energy, Inc. for construction, maintenance and operations of an 8.4 MW AC fuel cell facility and associated equipment at the site on December 20, 2021 in Petition No. 1458.

ground level. This antenna mounting level was previously occupied by MetroPCS prior to its merger with T-Mobile.

DISH would also replace an existing decommissioned equipment platform that would be removed and install its ground equipment on a new 7-foot by 5-foot steel equipment platform in the eastern portion of the equipment compound. To accommodate the larger platform, DISH would add a new 9-foot 4-inch by 6-foot 2-inch expanded fenced area to the eastern side of the fenced compound. DISH would utilize a six-foot tall chain link fence with one-foot of barbed wire top; this would match the existing fence. Underground utilities would extend from DISH's equipment on the platform to an existing utility H-frame located directly to the north and inside the existing compound.

DISH does not propose backup power (e.g. battery or generator) for this project.

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.

The estimated cost of the project is \$48,000. Work hours/days would be 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday-Friday.

Environmental

No trees would be removed to develop the site. The proposed site is not within a Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Natural Diversity Database buffered area. There are no wetlands or watercourses proximate to the site.

There would be no increase in tower height. The proposed compound expansion would impact a small portion of the existing fenced perimeter. Thus, no substantial adverse environmental or visual impact is expected from the proposed installation.

Public Safety

The Project would be constructed in accordance with the 2017 National Electric Code, 2018 Connecticut State Building Code and the American National Standards Institute "Structural Standards for Steel Antenna Towers and Antenna Support Structures" Revision H.

A Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut has certified that the tower is structurally adequate to support the proposed loading with certain conditions.

The calculated power density would be 48.9 percent of the applicable limit using a -10 dB off-beam adjustment.

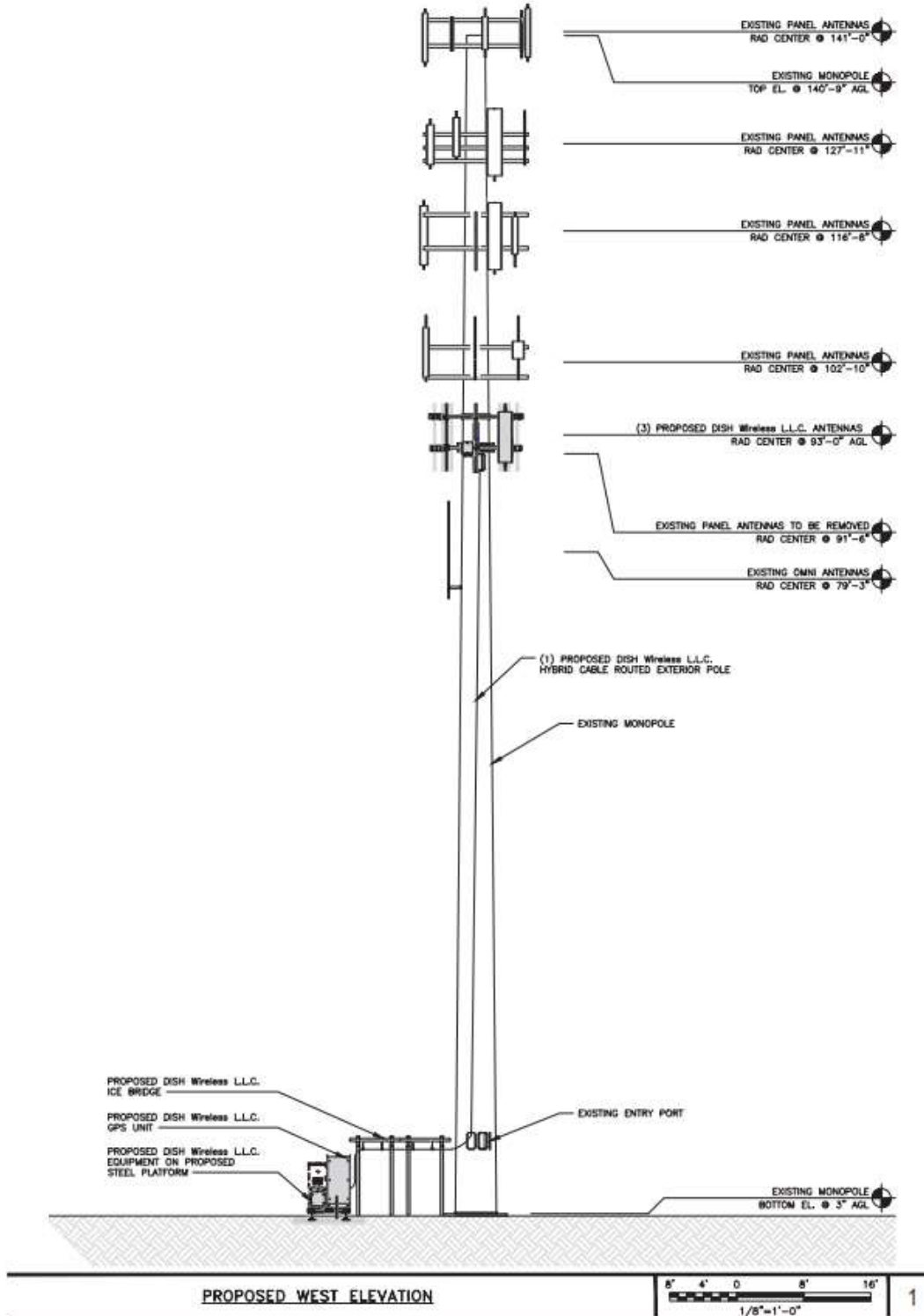
Conclusion

If approved, staff recommends the following conditions:

- 1) Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff;
- 2) Deployment of any 5G services must comply with FCC and FAA guidance relative to air navigation, as applicable;
- 3) Prior to DISH's antenna installation, the recommendation shall be implemented in accordance with the Structural Analysis Report prepared by Crown Castle, dated March 7, 2022, and stamped and signed by Maham Barimani; and

- 4) Within 45 days following completion of proposed modifications, DISH shall provide documentation that its installation complied with the recommendations of the Structural Analysis Report.

Tower Elevation Drawing



Site Plan

