

DRAFT

**Petition No. 1496
DISH Wireless, LLC
52 New Britain Avenue
Rocky Hill, Connecticut
Staff Report
May 6, 2022**

Introduction

On March 11, 2022, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from DISH Wireless, LLC (DISH) for a declaratory ruling pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) §4-176 and §16-50k for proposed modifications to an existing telecommunications facility located at 52 New Britain Avenue in Rocky Hill, Connecticut (Petition or Project). Specifically, DISH proposes to co-locate antennas on the existing monopole and install ground equipment within an expanded compound/lease area at the site.

Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) §16-50j-40, on or about March 7, 2022, DISH provided notice to the abutting property owners and Town of Rocky Hill (Town) officials.

On March 15, 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 April 10, 2022. No comments were received.

The Council submitted interrogatories to DISH on April 6, 2022. DISH submitted responses to the interrogatories on April 22, 2022.

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 April 21, 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 September 7, 2022, which is the 180-day statutory deadline for a final decision under CGS §4-176(i).

Existing Facility

The Town approved the facility in 1998. The Council approved shared use of the tower for telecommunications carriers in 2000.

The existing 182-foot monopole, owned by Crown Castle, facility is located on a 0.57-acre parcel owned by the Town that hosts the Rocky Hill Volunteer Fire Department Station #2. The site is zoned Commercial. The tower is located behind the firehouse building.

The tower hosts multiple telecommunications carriers with AT&T at the 168-foot level, T-Mobile/Sprint at the 157/140-foot level and Verizon at the 90-foot level. The irregular shaped equipment area consists of one existing shelter and two existing platforms which support cabinets and associated ground equipment of the telecommunication carriers.

Proposed Project

DISH proposes to install three 600/1900 MHz antennas and six remote radio units on a platform antenna mount at a centerline height of approximately 130 feet above ground level. The proposed antennas would be capable of providing 5G services.

DISH would expand the existing compound/lease area by removing two existing bollards and installing a 5-foot by 7-foot raised steel equipment platform which would support its radio equipment cabinet and other associated ground level equipment. DISH would also install 5 new protective bollards that match the existing bollards, around its equipment platform.

Underground utilities would be installed within new conduits that extend to existing utility poles on New Britain Avenue.

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

The compound/lease expansion area is in a level paved parking lot. No trees or other vegetation would be removed to develop the site.

The site is not within a flood zone or proximate to any wetlands.

There would be no increase in tower height. The proposed compound expansion would impact a small portion of the existing site 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 using a maximum wind speed of 124 miles per hour.

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

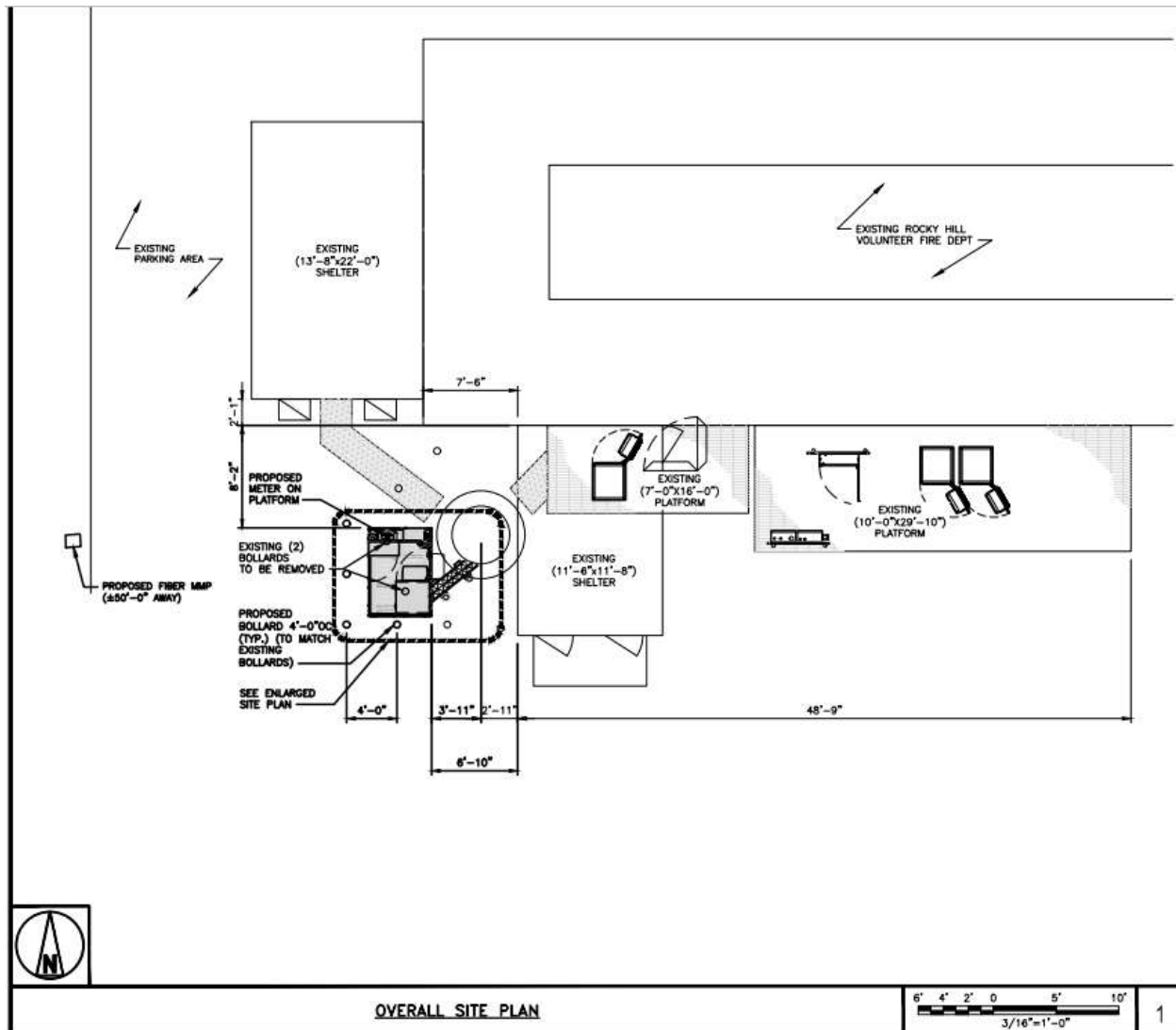
The calculated cumulative power density for the facility after DISH's installation would be 37.2 percent of the applicable limit using a -10 dB off-beam adjustment.

Conclusion

If approved, staff recommends the following conditions:

- 1) Approval of any project changes be delegated to Council staff;
- 2) The Council shall be notified in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of site construction activities; and
- 3) Deployment of any 5G services must comply with FCC and FAA guidance relative to air navigation, as applicable.

Compound Site Plan



Tower Elevation

