

DRAFT

**Petition No. 1488
T-Mobile Northeast, LLC
140 Duncaster Road
Bloomfield, Connecticut
Staff Report
May 6, 2022**

Introduction

On February 15, 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 (CGS) §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed modification of an existing wireless telecommunications facility on an Eversource Energy-owned electric transmission line structure located at 140 Duncaster Road, Bloomfield, Connecticut (Petition or Project). 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 February 4, 2022, T-Mobile notified the abutting property owners and Town of Bloomfield (Town) officials. No comments from the Town or abutting property owners were received.

On February 16, 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 March 17, 2022. No comments were received.

On February 22, 2022, the Council sent correspondence to T-Mobile noting a deficiency in the completeness of the Petition. Specifically, pursuant to RCSA §16-50j-39a, the Petition did not include a filing fee. The Council recommended that the Petitioner submit the filing fee by March 21, 2022. The filing fee was submitted on February 23, 2022. Accordingly, by letter dated February 28, 2022, the Council rendered the Petition complete.

The Council issued interrogatories to T-Mobile on March 11, 2022. T-Mobile provided responses to the Council's interrogatories on April 21, 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 7, 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 August 14, 2022, which is the 180-day statutory deadline for a final decision under CGS §4-176(i).

Existing Facility

The Council issued a Declaratory Ruling to VoiceStream Wireless for collocation of telecommunications equipment on a pipe extension to an existing electric transmission line structure in Petition No. 472 on July 25, 2000.

The existing 87-foot monopole electric transmission line structure is owned by The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource) and is located in the western portion of an approximately 2.63-acre undeveloped residential zoned parcel that is also owned by Eversource.

The structure hosts a 17-foot pipe extension with T-Mobile antennas attached to the pipe at 96-feet above ground level. T-Mobile's existing ground equipment consists of two equipment cabinets located on a 12-foot by 7-foot 6-inch concrete pad within a 19-foot by 17-foot fenced lease area between the tower and the existing Eversource access road to the west.

Proposed Project

T-Mobile proposes to expand its existing lease area by 153 square feet and install a 25-kilowatt diesel-fueled emergency backup generator on a 10-foot by 4-foot concrete pad. The generator would have a 3-foot minimum safety clearance on all sides. T-Mobile would install an 8-foot wide double gate on the southwestern side of the expanded fenced lease area. An underground electrical connection would extend from the generator to an existing power protection cabinet. An automatic transfer switch would also be installed.

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

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. Pursuant to RCSA §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. Existing wooded buffers are present between the abutting properties and the equipment compound.

The estimated cost of the Project is \$40,000. Work hours/days would be 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday-Friday.

Environmental

No trees would be removed. The installation is proposed to be located within an existing disturbed utility right of way immediately adjacent to the existing equipment compound. No wetlands are on the property or adjacent to the proposed installation. The proposed installation would not be visible from Duncaster Road. 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. The Council shall be notified in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of site construction activities.

Proposed Generator Location



Site Plan

