



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov

Web Site: portal.ct.gov/csc

Petition No. 1513
DISH Wireless, LLC
150 North Main Street
Branford, Connecticut
Staff Report
June 17, 2022

Introduction

On May 18, 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 150 North Main Road in Branford, 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 May 11, 2022, DISH provided notice to the abutting property owners and Town of Branford (Town) officials.

On May 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 June 17, 2022. No comments were received.

The Council submitted interrogatories to DISH on May 27, 2022. DISH submitted responses to the interrogatories on June 10, 2022.

Existing Facility

The Town approved the facility in 1997. The Council approved shared use of the tower for a telecommunications carrier, Springwiche Cellular Limited Partnership, a predecessor to AT&T, in 1998.

The existing 147-foot monopole, owned by Crown Castle, is located on a 2.05-acre parcel owned by Premier Realty Holdings, LLC that hosts one commercial building (Subaru car dealership) and a parking lot. The site is zoned General Industrial (IG-1). The tower is located in the northeastern portion of the parcel.

The tower hosts multiple telecommunications carriers with T-Mobile/Sprint at the 147/122-foot levels, and AT&T at the 110-foot level. The 47-foot by 40-foot 5-inch fenced equipment compound consists of two existing equipment shelters and four existing concrete pads which support cabinets and associated ground equipment of the telecommunication carriers.

Proposed Project

DISH proposes to install three 600/1900/2190 MHz antennas and six remote radio units on three T-arm antenna mounts at a centerline height of approximately 136 feet above ground level. The proposed antennas would be capable of providing 5G services.

DISH would expand the existing compound/lease area by approximately 36 square feet and install a 5-foot by 7-foot raised steel equipment platform which would support its radio equipment cabinet and other associated ground level equipment. The expansion area would be a rectangle-shaped area in the northwestern part of the compound and would be enclosed by a fence that matches the existing fencing.

An underground power line would be installed within new conduits that extend to an existing meter bank. An underground fiber line would also be installed within new conduits to a proposed utility box within the public right-of-way (ROW) on North Main Street.

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 130 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.

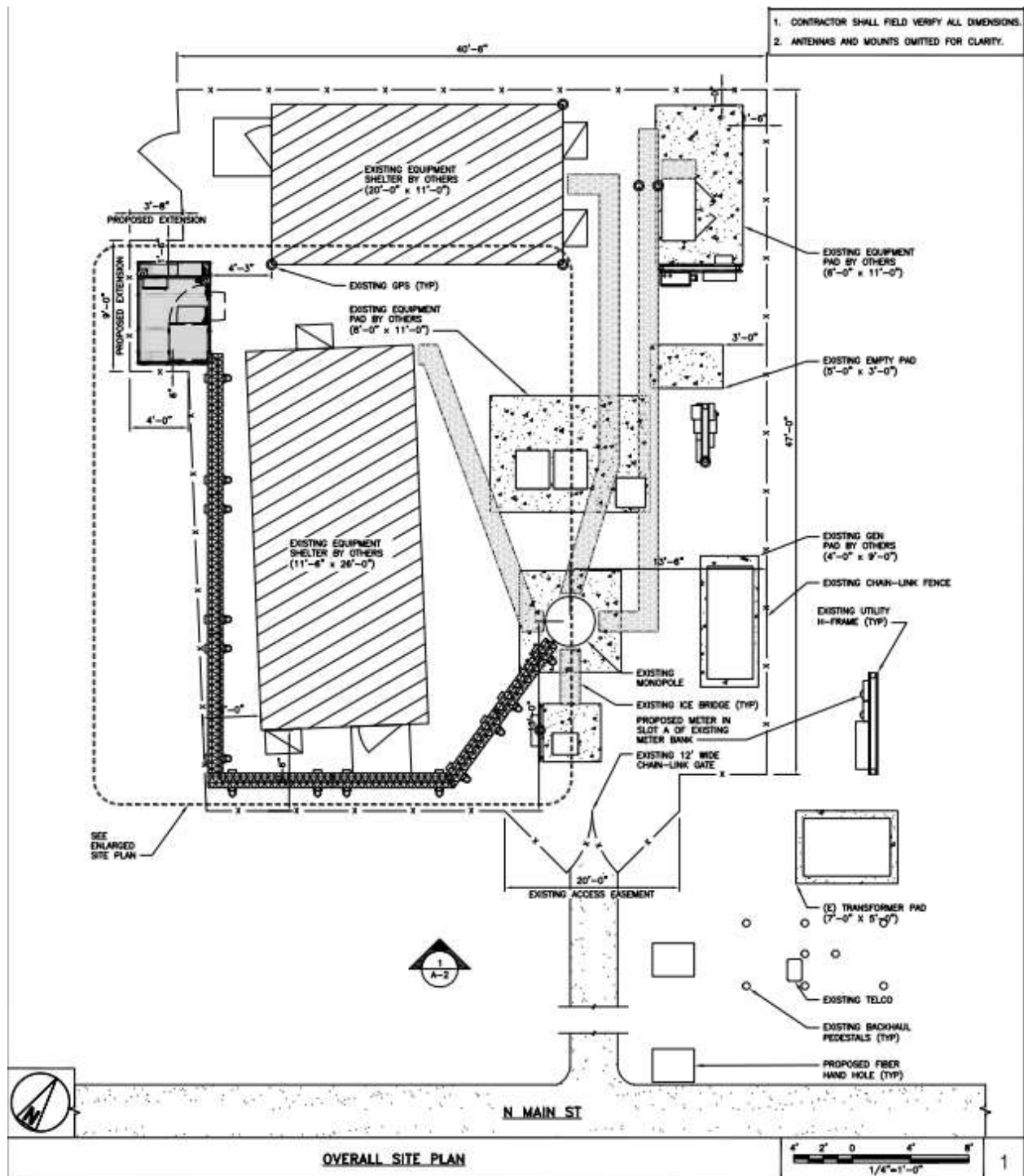
The calculated cumulative power density for the facility after DISH’s installation would be 35.2 percent of the applicable limit using a -10 dB off-beam adjustment.

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

