STATE OF CONNECTICUT
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Petition No. 1524
DISH Wireless, LLC
181 Clapboard Ridge Road
Danbury, Connecticut
Staff Report
July 29, 2022

Introduction

On June 27, 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 181 Clapboard Ridge Road in Danbury, Connecticut (Petition or Project). Specifically, DISH proposes to co-locate antennas on the existing flagpole 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 June 21, 2022, DISH provided notice to the abutting property owners and City of Danbury (City) officials.

On June 29, 2022, the Council sent correspondence to the City stating that the Council has received the Petition and invited the City to contact the Council with any questions or comments by June 17, 2022. No comments were received.

Existing Facility

The City approved the facility in 2002. The Council issued a Declaratory Ruling to Clear Wireless LLC for shared use of the tower in 2010.

The existing 83-foot flagpole, owned by Crown Castle, is located on a 2.5-acre parcel owned by the Diocese for the Melkites in the USA, Inc. that hosts one church building (St. Anne Melkite Catholic Church) and a parking lot. The site is zoned Single Family Residential (RA-80). The tower is located in the central portion of the parcel.

The tower hosts T-Mobile at the 79-foot level, and AT&T at the 58-foot level. The approximately 430 square foot, irregular shaped fenced equipment compound consists of two existing concrete pads which support cabinets and associated ground equipment of AT&T and T-Mobile. Bollards are currently installed around the western fence line of the compound adjacent to an existing parking space.

Proposed Project

DISH proposes to install three 600/1900/2190 MHz flush-mounted antennas at a centerline height of approximately 68-feet above ground level and concealed within a 42-inch diameter by 9.75-foot long canister. The proposed antennas would be capable of providing 5G services.

DISH would expand the existing compound/lease area by approximately 37 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

southwestern part of the compound and would be enclosed by a fence that matches the existing fencing. Three shrub plants and two existing bollards would be removed as part of the project. Four new bollards would be installed.

An underground power line would be installed within new conduits that extend to an existing meter bank within the property. An underground fiber line would also be installed within new conduits to a proposed fiber vault about 80-feet north of the facility.

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. The project would take approximately two weeks to complete. 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 120 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.

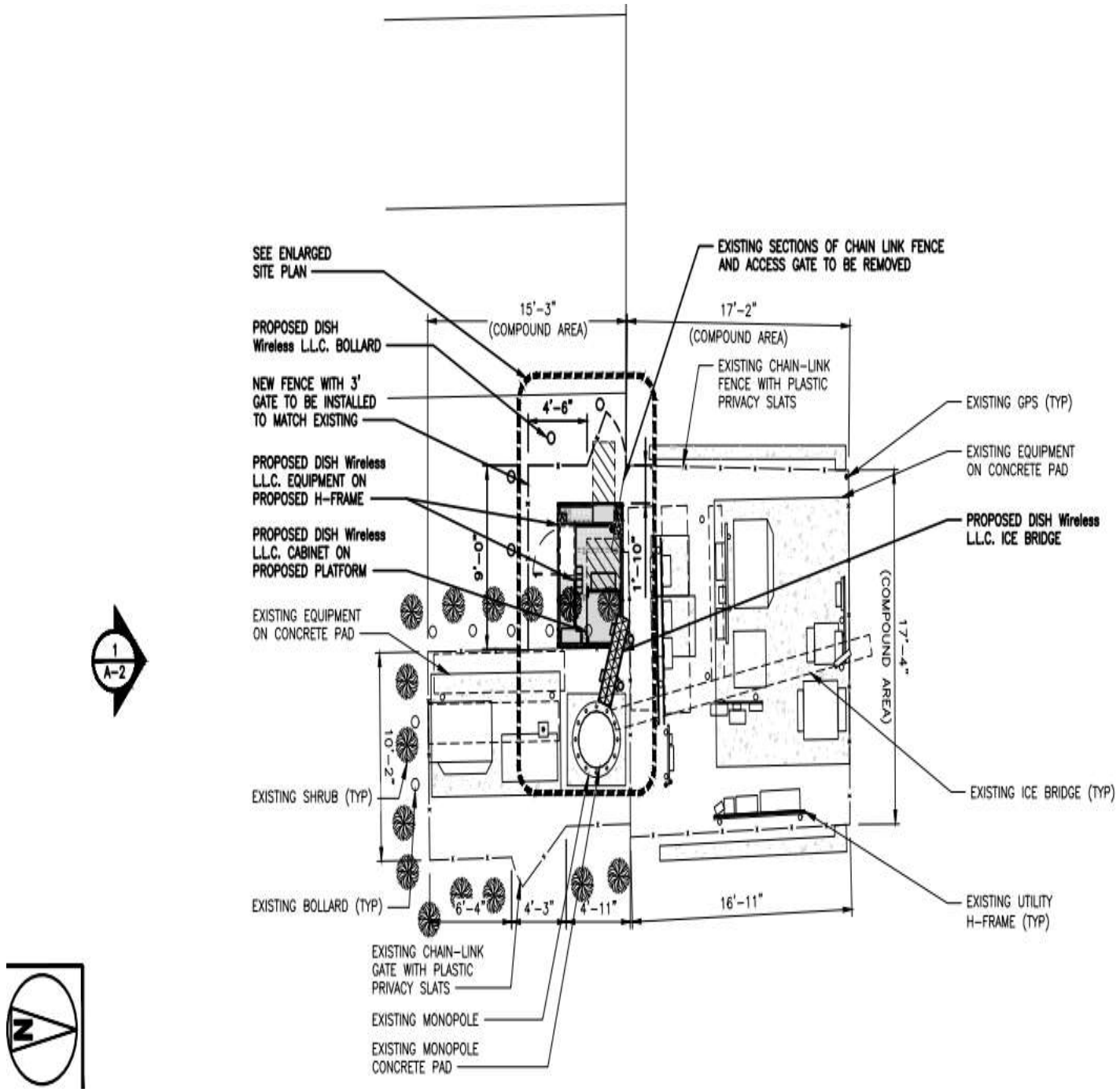
The calculated cumulative power density for the facility after DISH's installation would be 32.8 percent of the applicable limit using a -10 dB off-beam adjustment.

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