

DRAFT

**Petition No. 1525
DISH Wireless, LLC
41 Manitock Hill Road
Waterford, Connecticut
Staff Report
September 9, 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 41 Manitock Hill Road in Waterford, Connecticut (Petition or Project). Specifically, DISH proposes to co-locate antennas on the existing self-supporting lattice tower 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 23, 2022, DISH provided notice to the abutting property owners and Town of Waterford (Town) officials.

On June 29, 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 July 27, 2022. No comments were received.

The Council submitted interrogatories to DISH on August 8, 2022. DISH submitted responses to the interrogatories on August 24, 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 August 18, 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 December 24, 2022, which is the 180-day statutory deadline for a final decision under CGS §4-176(i).

Existing Facility

The facility was approved by the Town on September 29, 1997.

The existing 136-foot self-supporting lattice tower, owned by Crown Castle, is located on a 5-acre mostly undeveloped wooded parcel owned by the City of New London that hosts a water tank. The site is zoned Low Density Residential District (R-40). The tower is located directly to the north of the water tank.

The tower hosts Sprint, Nextel, T-Mobile, Verizon, and AT&T at approximately the 136-foot, 127-foot, 117-foot, 107-foot, and 97-foot levels, respectively. The existing equipment compound consists of two equipment shelters, one elevated equipment platform, and two equipment pads which support cabinets and associated ground equipment of the telecommunications 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 87 feet above ground level. The proposed antennas would be capable of providing 5G services.

DISH would expand the existing compound/lease area by approximately 81 square feet (9-foot by 9-foot) 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 southern part of the compound and would be enclosed by a fence that matches the existing fence.

Electric utility would connect to an existing meter vacated by Nextel on the existing utility board to the north via an underground conduit. Telecom would connect underground directly to the northwest of DISH's equipment.

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

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 would occur during regular business hours, or as allowed by the property owner.

Environmental

The compound/lease expansion area is in a previously disturbed area. 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 126 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 34.9 percent of the applicable limit using a -10 dB off-beam adjustment.

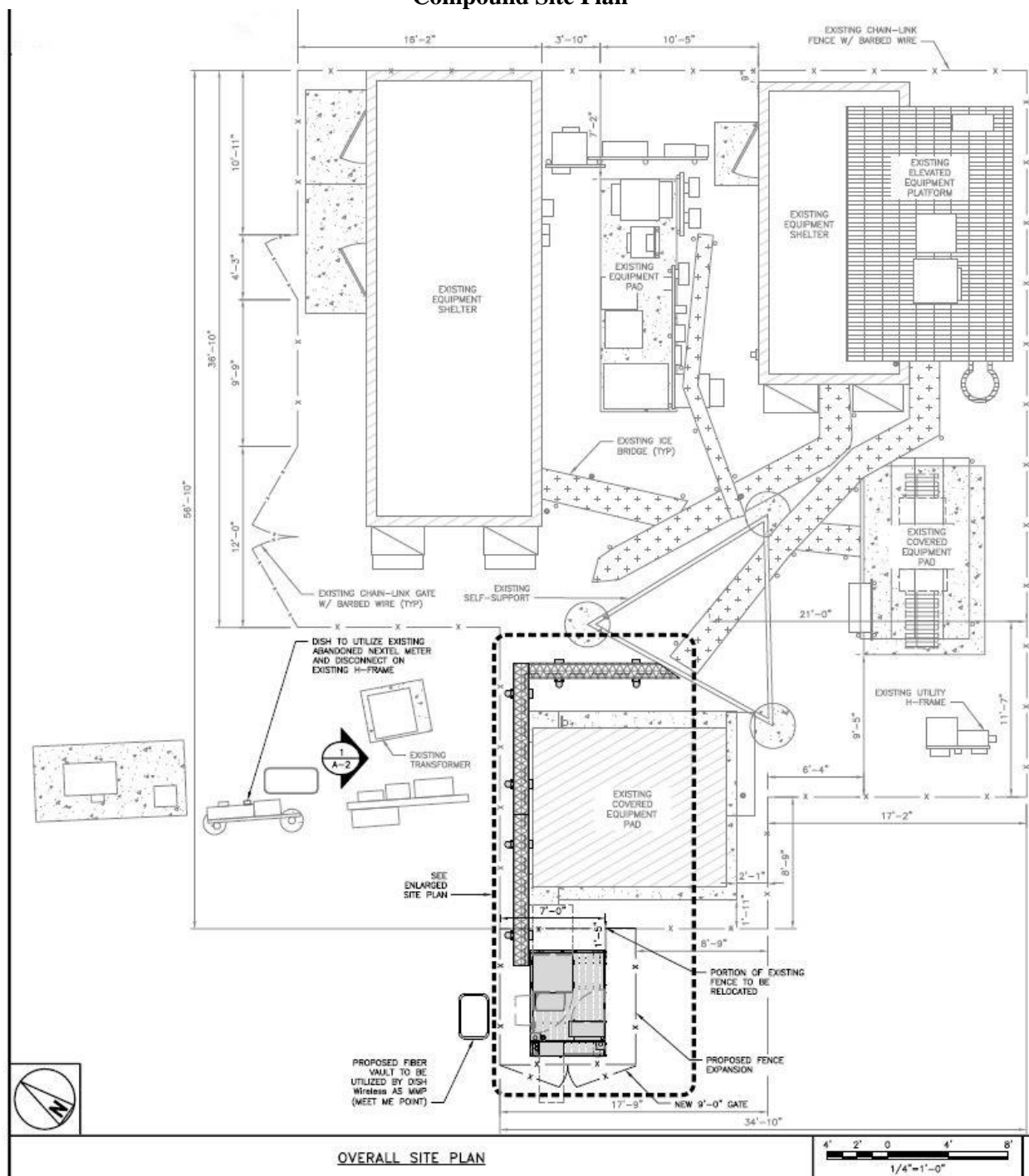
Conclusion

If approved, staff recommends the following conditions:

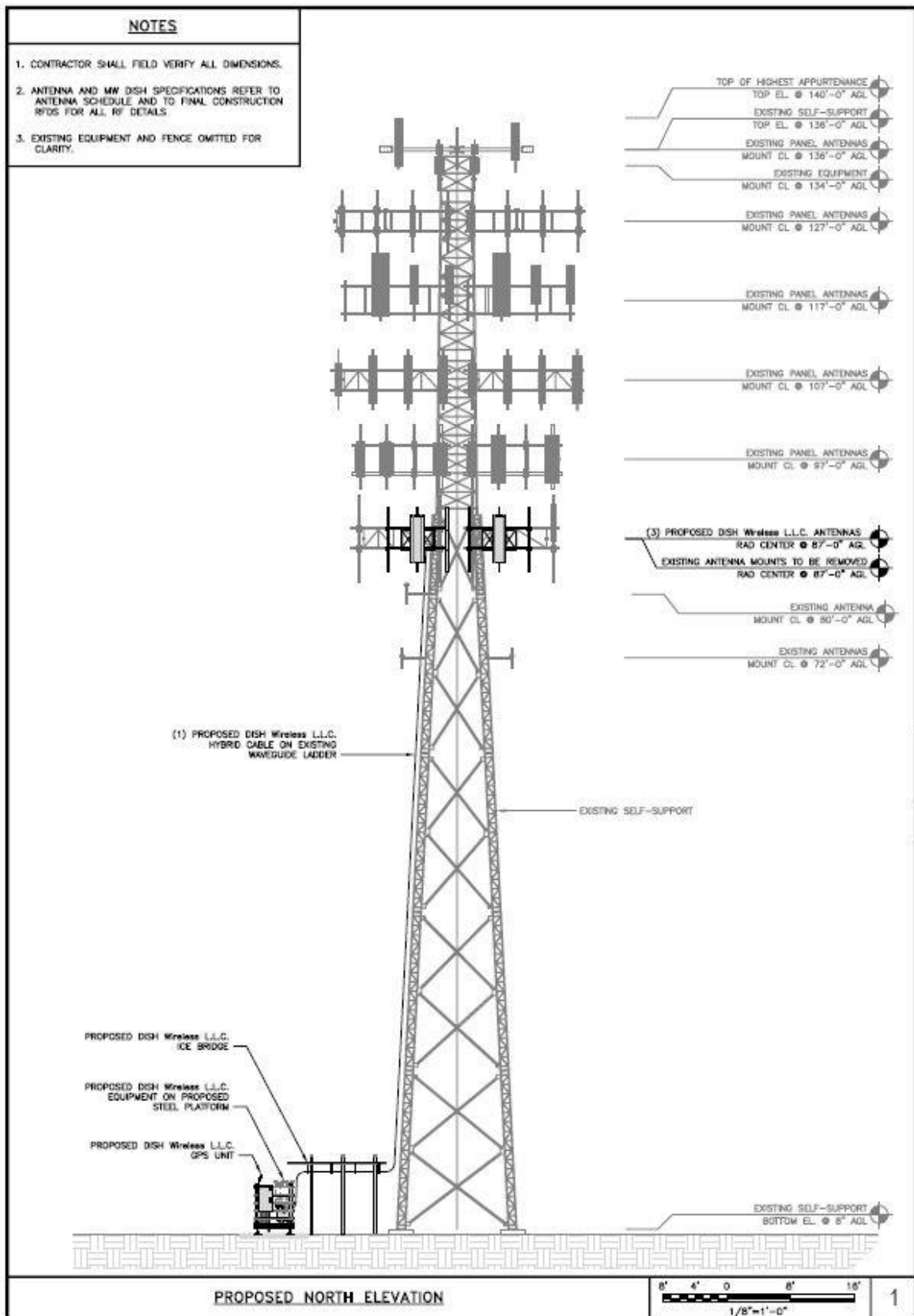
- 1) Approval of any project changes be delegated to Council staff;

- 2) The Council shall be notified in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of site construction activities;
- 3) Deployment of any 5G services must comply with FCC and FAA guidance relative to air navigation, as applicable; and
- 4) DISH shall submit an annual report relative to its ability to provide backup power during an electric service outage and plans concerning the provision of backup power no later than October 1, 2022 in compliance with CGS §16-50*ll* and the Council's August 4, 2022 Memorandum (copy attached).

Compound Site Plan



Tower Elevation



Council's Memorandum Regarding the Annual Backup Power Report



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 4, 2022

TO: Lucia Chiocchio, Esq., New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC
Christopher Fisher, Esq., New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC
Brian Leyden, AT&T Mobility
Sara Brady, AT&T Mobility
Michelle Painter Lama, Esq., T-Mobile
Mark Richard, T-Mobile
Susan Emery, T-Mobile
Kenneth Baldwin, Esq., Verizon Wireless
Tim Parks, Verizon Wireless
Jeanne Cottrell, Dish Wireless, LLC

FROM: Melanie Bachman, Executive Director *MB*

RE: Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50//

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §16-50//, the Connecticut Siting Council and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection jointly request that each provider of mobile radio service, as defined in 47 C.F.R. 20.3, submit a report for any telecommunications tower or antenna owned, leased or operated by such provider of mobile radio service relative to the following:

1. the ability to provide back-up power during an electric service outage; and
2. plans concerning the provision of backup power.

In accordance with the statute, any information provided in the report shall be considered confidential, not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and shall not be transmitted to any person except as needed to comply with the statute.

Please mail a detailed report no later than October 1, 2022 to the following agencies:

Connecticut Siting Council
ATTN: Melanie Bachman, Esq.
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
Siting.council@ct.gov

Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
ATTN: Brenda Bergeron, Esq.
1111 Country Club Road
Middletown, CT 06457
Brenda.bergeron@ct.gov

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

MB/CMW/laf