

DRAFT

**Petition No. 1532
T-Mobile Northeast, LLC
376 Deercliff Road
Avon, Connecticut
Staff Report
September 23, 2022**

Introduction

On July 21, 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 located at 376 Deercliff Road, Avon, Connecticut (Petition or Project). 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 June 29, 2022, T-Mobile notified the abutting property owners and Town of Avon (Town) officials. No comments from the Town or abutting property owners were received.

On July 22, 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 August 20, 2022. No comments were received.

The Council issued interrogatories to T-Mobile on August 31, 2022. T-Mobile provided responses to the Council's interrogatories on September 14, 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 September 15, 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 January 17, 2023, which is the 180-day statutory deadline for a final decision under CGS §4-176(i).

Existing Facility

The Town approved the original facility in 1985. The Council approved T-Mobile's and DISH's shared use of the tower on July 18, 2011 and September 24, 2021, respectively.

The existing facility is owned by Crown Castle and consists of a 560-foot guyed lattice tower located on an approximately 2.00-acre residential zoned parcel that is developed with a building. The host parcel is owned by Homeowners Finance Co.

The tower hosts T-Mobile antennas at the 240-foot level and DISH antennas at the 202-foot level. The tower and associated ground equipment are located within an approximately 380 square foot fenced compound/lease area.

Proposed Project

T-Mobile proposes to expand its existing compound by 150 square feet and install a 48-kilowatt diesel-fueled emergency backup generator on a 9-foot by 4-foot concrete pad. The generator would have a 3-foot minimum

safety clearance on all sides. An underground electrical connection would extend from the generator to a proposed automatic transfer switch and continue to the existing power protection cabinet.

The proposed generator has a self-contained, 240-gallon double walled diesel fuel tank that could provide 48 hours of run time at full electrical load before re-fueling is required. It also has leak detection alarms and a locked intrusion cover.

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.

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.

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. The nearest property line is about 190 feet to the west. Existing wooded buffers are present between the abutting properties and the equipment compound.

Construction would occur over a two to three week period. Typical construction hours and workdays are as follows: Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

The estimated cost of the Project is \$20,000.

Environmental

No trees would be removed. The installation is proposed to be located within a previously disturbed area immediately adjacent to the existing equipment compound. No wetlands are located adjacent to the proposed installation. Views of the existing compound from Deercliff Road are screened by an existing building and surrounding vegetation. No substantial adverse environmental or visual impact is expected from the proposed installation.

Conclusion

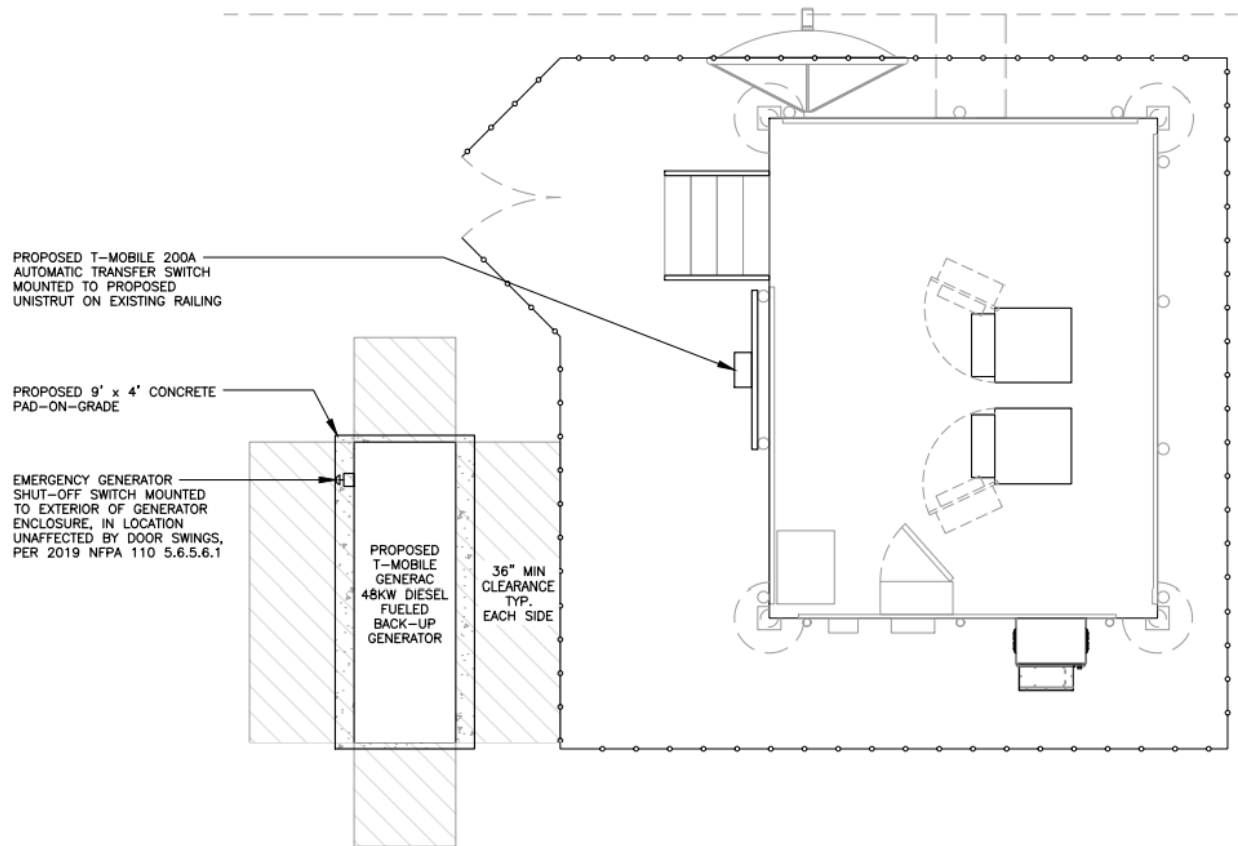
If approved, staff recommends the following conditions:

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



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EQUIPMENT PLAN - PROPOSED

SCALE: 3/8" = 1'

