DRAFT

Petition No. 1543
Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless
19 Kenosia Avenue, Danbury, Connecticut
Rooftop Wireless Telecommunications Facility

Staff Report
December 16, 2022

Introduction

On October 31, 2022, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Cellco) for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed installation of a wireless telecommunications facility on the roof of a building at 19 Kenosia Avenue in Danbury, Connecticut (Petition or Project).

The purpose of the proposed facility is to provide coverage and capacity relief to the Cellco network in the surrounding area.

Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) §16-50j-40, on or about October 28, 2022, Cellco notified the City of Danbury (City), the Town of Ridgefield[1], the host property owner, and abutting property owners of the proposed Project. No comments from the municipalities, host property owner or abutting property owners were received.

On November 1 and November 2, 2022, respectively, the Council sent correspondence to the municipalities stating the Council has received the Petition and invited the municipalities to contact the Council with any questions or comments by November 30, 2022. On November 16, 2022 the City indicated that it has no objections to the proposed Project.

The Council issued interrogatories to Cellco on November 16, 2022. Cellco provided responses to the Council's interrogatories on November 28, 2022.

Jurisdiction

Pursuant to CGS §16-50i(a)(6), the Council has exclusive jurisdiction over telecommunications towers, including associated equipment, owned or operated by the state, a public service company or a certified telecommunications provider or used in a cellular system.

Under Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §16-50j-2a (30), "Tower" means a structure, **whether free standing or attached to a building or another structure, that has a height greater than its diameter** and that is high relative to its surroundings, or that is used to support antennas for sending or receiving radio frequency signals, or for sending or receiving signals to or from satellites, or any of these, which is or is to be:

a) used principally to support one or more antennas for receiving or sending radio frequency signals, or for sending or receiving signals to or from satellites, or any of these, and

[1] The Town of Ridgefield is located within 2,500 feet of the proposed facility site.

b) owned or operated by the state, a public service company as defined in Section 16-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes, or a certified telecommunications provider, or used in a cellular system, as defined in Section 16-50i(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes. (Emphasis added).

The proposed rooftop tower has a height greater than its diameter. It will be used principally to support Cellco antennas. It would be owned and operated by Cellco, a certified telecommunications provider. Thus, the Council has jurisdiction over the proposed rooftop telecommunications facility.

Proposed Telecommunications Facility

Cellco's proposed facility would provide wireless service to the surrounding area in the 700 MHz, 850 MHz, 1900 MHz, 2100 MHz, 3625 MHz, and 3730 MHz frequency ranges.

The proposed site is on the roof of a four-story self-storage building located on an industrially-zoned 5.61-acre parcel. An existing flagpole on the building's roof extends to approximately 78 feet above ground level (agl). An existing clock tower on the building extends to a height of 64 feet agl.

The proposed facility consists of two 10-foot tall lattice antenna support structures, one on the northwestern corner and one on the northeastern portion of the roof, both extending to a height of 60 feet agl. Cellco would install 8 panel antennas and 8 remote radio heads at the 58-foot level of the structures. Both structures would be enclosed by radio frequency transparent screening enclosures that will be painted off-white to match the color of the building. The facility would be capable of providing 5G wireless services.

Cellco would install a 175-square foot metal frame on the center of the roof to support its equipment. A cable tray would protect fiber lines connecting the equipment area to the two structures.

Electrical and telephone service would extend from an existing utility room on the ground floor of the building to the proposed equipment platform.

Emergency backup power would be supplied from a battery cabinet located on Cellco's rooftop equipment platform. The batteries would provide power to the facility for up to four hours. A Camlock generator connector would be mounted to the exterior of the building at grade. The generator connector would be used to connect a diesel-fueled portable generator to the facility during an extended power outage. The portable generator would include a 165-gallon fuel tank and provide backup power for up to 24 hours at full power before refueling is required. 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 $350,000.

Environmental

Project construction will occur within and on the existing building and no ground disturbance is necessary. Access to the proposed facility would be through the existing building.

Surrounding land use consists of commercial and industrial to the north, south and east and undeveloped land to the west of the host parcel. Visibility of the proposed facility would be minimal as the screening enclosures would be designed and painted off-white to match the building's architecture. Views of the antenna screening enclosures would occur along portions of Kenosia Avenue and Apple Ridge Road. The

equipment cabinets are not expected to be visible from nearby roadways due to its location in the center of the rooftop.

Facility Construction

Construction would occur over a 4 to 6 month period. Typical construction hours and workdays of the week are as follows: Monday – Saturday, 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Public Safety

Cellco's proposed equipment installation would be capable of supporting text-to-911 service and would comply with federal E911 requirements and the Warning, Alert and Response Network Act of 2006.

The installation would not exceed the height of the highest existing structure on the building, therefore, no registration to the Federal Aviation Administration is required.

A Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut has certified that the building is adequate to support the proposed loading (to a design speed of 120 mph).

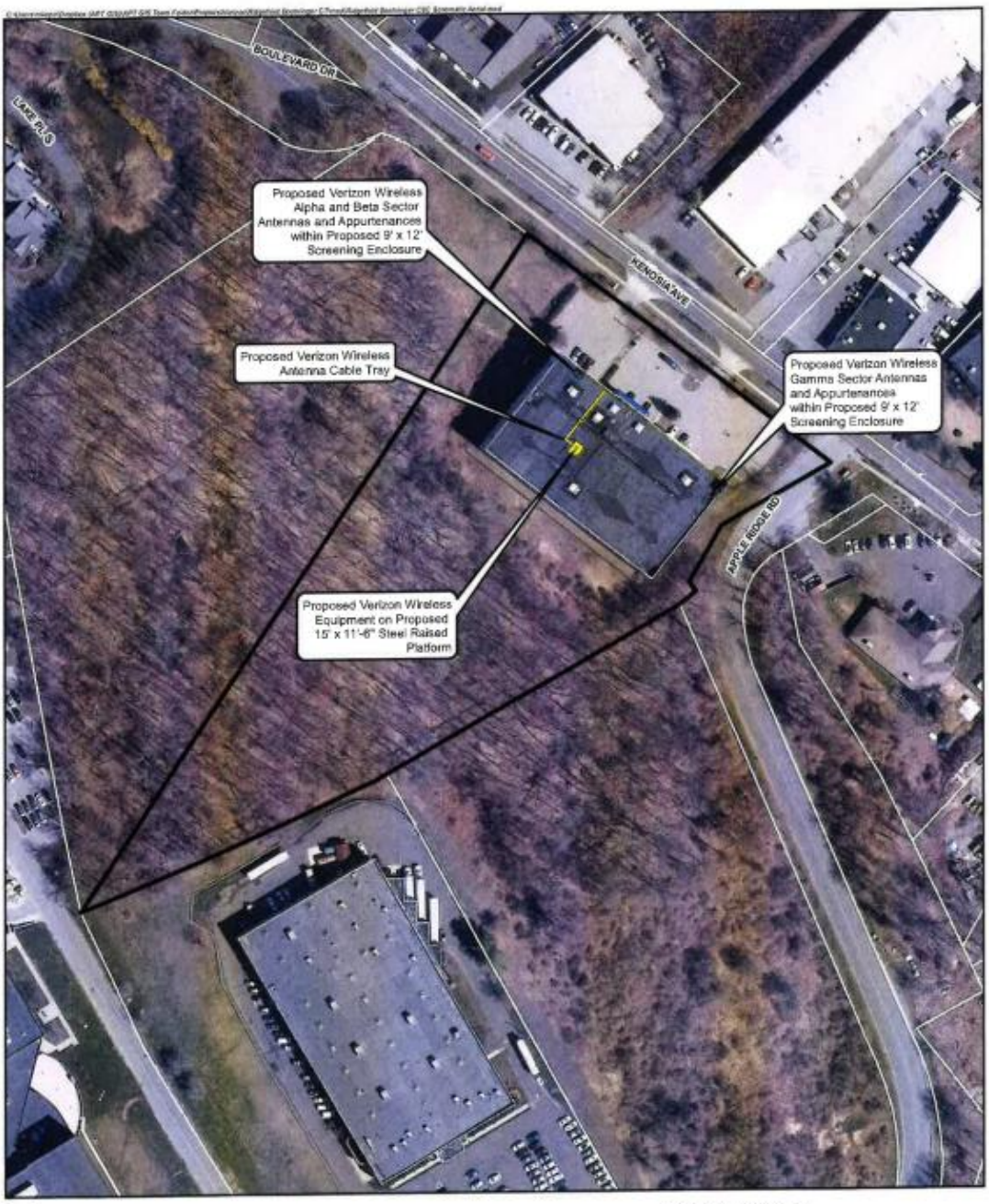
The calculated cumulative worst-case power density would be 4.0% of the applicable exposure limit established by the Federal Communications Commission at ground level using a far field approximation.

Conclusion

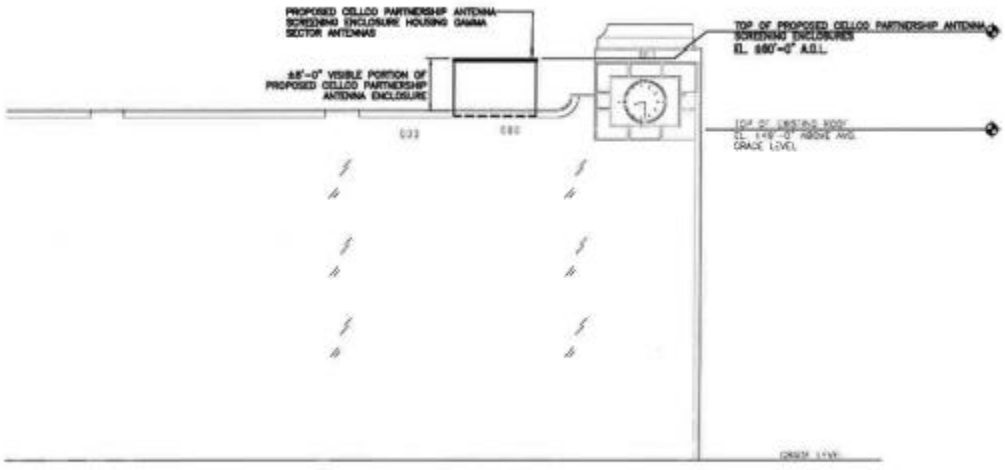
If approved, staff recommends the following condition:

1. Approval of any project changes be delegated to Council staff.

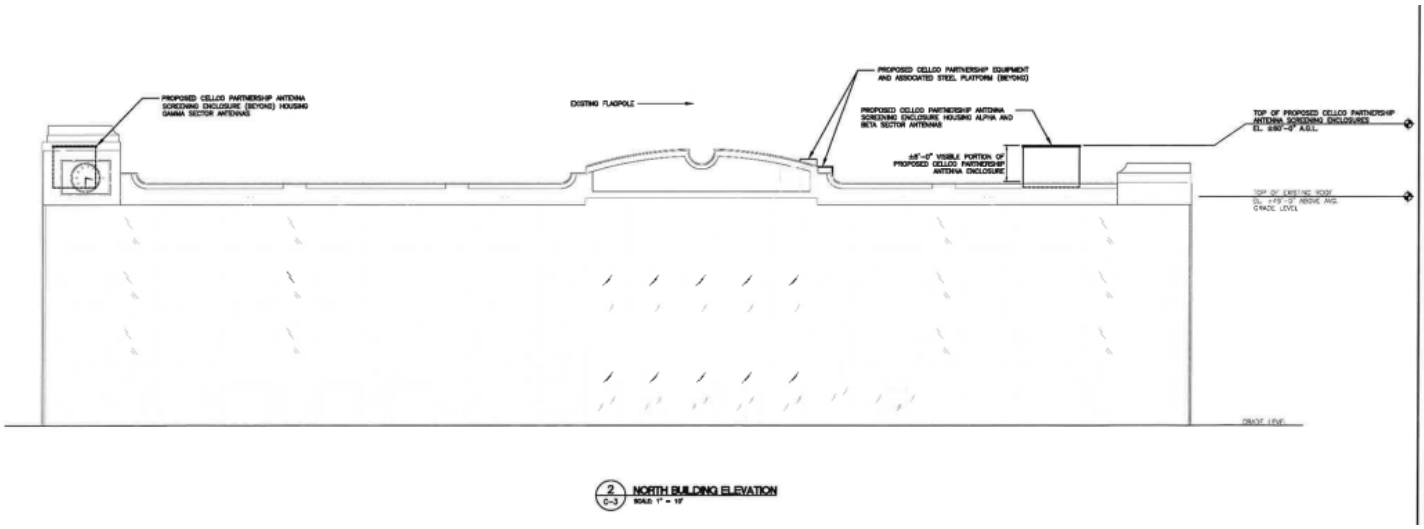
Site Location



Building Elevation Plan



1 C-3 PARTIAL EAST BUILDING ELEVATION
SCALE: 1" = 10'



2 C-3 NORTH BUILDING ELEVATION
SCALE: 1" = 10'