



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Construction Progress Report

Date: June 9, 2014

Re: **DOCKET NO. 425** - Message Center Management Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a replacement telecommunications facility located at 4 Dittmar Road, Redding, Connecticut.

In this docket, Message Center Management (MCM) proposed replacing an existing 110-foot guyed lattice tower with a 120-foot monopine tower. The replacement monopine was to be located within an 87-foot by 42-foot compound enclosed with a stockade fence. The facility is located on a 5.6-acre property owned by Robert Paradise, who uses it for residential and agricultural purposes. MCM, T-Mobile and the Town of Redding were participants in this proceeding. AT&T and Sprint/Nextel had antennas installed on the existing tower and would be relocated onto the replacement tower. T-Mobile also intended to install antennas on the monopine. The Council approved the proposed facility on June 21, 2012. The Development and Management Plan was approved on December 27, 2012. MCM received an extension of the period by which the facility was to be operational until December 30, 2014.

I visited this site on June 6, 2014. At the time of my visit, the tower was erected and the artificial branches were in place. There was pine cladding on the tower as well. The compound's utility board had six meter placements with one meter in place—for AT&T. The compound was enclosed by an eight-foot high stockade fence, but the gate was not in place at this time. Inside the compound, there were equipment cabinets for one carrier, AT&T. The compound area was well graveled, but no gravel had been added to the existing access road. Judging from the photographs I took during my visit, AT&T's antennas are installed on the tower, although it was hard to tell at the time because they were well-hidden by the artificial pine branches. Very little grading was needed for this facility, and there were no signs of erosion at the time of my visit.

The D&M plan approved by the Council called for landscaping to be planted around the compound. No landscaping had been planted at this time.

Visibility of this tower is minimal. It is shielded from the view of motorists passing on the nearest roads by the profusion of mature, deciduous trees in the area. The tower is difficult to see even from Dittmar Road adjacent to the host property. Only when I turned onto the property and headed along the access road to the facility could I see the tower. I'm sure that the nearest neighbors have views of the tower, and there may be some far views of the tower. But the tower is scarcely visible from publicly accessible, nearby locations.

I will visit the site again, once it is complete.

View of tower



Close-up of top of tower



Close-up of bark cladding



Compound front



Compound side



AT&T equipment pad



View of tower from access road

