

Daniel F. Caruso
Chairman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

February 16, 2007

Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq.
Robinson & Cole LLP
280 Trumbull Street
Hartford, CT 06103-3597

RE: **PETITION NO. 798** - Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed modification of an existing telecommunications facility located at 477 Route 7, Sharon, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Baldwin:

At a public meeting held on February 6, 2007, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and ruled that this proposal would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, and pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50k would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

This decision is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Council and is not applicable to any other modification or construction. All work is to be implemented as specified in the petition, dated December 5, 2006.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the staff report on this project.

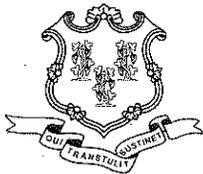
Very truly yours,

Daniel F. Caruso
Chairman

DFC/MP/laf

c: The Honorable Malcom M. Brown, First Selectman, Town of Sharon
Elizabeth H. Casey, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Town of Sharon

Enclosure: Staff Report dated February 6, 2007



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Petition No. 798
Staff Report
Verizon Wireless
477 Route 7, Sharon
February 6, 2007

On December 5, 2006, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition (Petition) from Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed modifications to an existing "tree" monopole (monopine) at 477 Route 7, Sharon. The monopine was originally approved by the Sharon Planning and Zoning Commission in 2001. In this Petition, Verizon Wireless seeks to extend the existing 120-foot monopine to 130 feet tall.

Verizon Wireless would install 12 panel antennas at the 130-foot level of the tower. Simulated branches at the top of the monopine would extend to a total height of 135 feet. A structural analysis certifies that the tower is capable of supporting the proposed modifications. The power density would also be within applicable limits.

Verizon Wireless currently has no wireless service in the Town of Sharon. At 130 feet, Verizon Wireless can provide reliable service to 3.83 square miles of area, including a 2.4 mile portion of Route 7 in Sharon.

A 12-foot by 30-foot equipment shelter would be installed inside the fenced compound. A 10-foot by 12-foot section of the equipment shelter would contain a backup generator. The generator would be located inside the shelter and would only operate during emergencies, so noise is not expected to be significant.

Currently, only seven acres of land have year-round views of the tower. If the tower is extended to 130 feet, the total area of year-round visibility would increase to nine acres. The views of the existing and modified tower are distant views, above the tree line, from locations in excess of ¼ mile from the tower site.

This petition was field reviewed by Council member Colin Tait and Mike Perrone of the Council staff on January 11, 2007. Mark Gauger from Verizon Wireless and Rachel Mayo of Robinson & Cole LLP also attended the field review. The surrounding area is residential, but has significant tree cover. The nearest home is roughly 400 feet to the south of the monopine. The site is not in the vicinity of wetlands. Also, the Federal Aviation Administration does not require the tower to be marked or lit.

The property owner has been notified, and he informed Council staff that he has no objection. All abutters were noticed and asked to contact S. Derek Phelps with any questions or concerns by January 12, 2007. No responses were received. By letter dated January 9, 2007, the First Selectman of Sharon indicated that he does not object to the proposal.



CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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The applicant was asked to determine if the tower would be visible from the Mohawk or Appalachian Trails. By letter dated January 12, 2007, Verizon Wireless indicated that neither the existing nor the extended monopine would be visible from the Appalachian Trail. Regarding the Mohawk Trail, the only area of the concern was the Lookout Point on the trail. However, VHB (Verizon Wireless' visual resource consultant) believes that views of the existing and/or extended monopine from the Lookout Point are not likely. Furthermore, even if such a view is possible, the monopine would likely blend into the landscape, given that the Lookout Point is at a much higher elevation than the tower and is nearly two miles away.

Council staff also contacted the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff and confirmed that the proposal's visual impact would not significantly affect the Greenway near the Housatonic River, and the tower extension is not expected to harmful to migratory birds.