

Petition No. 530
AT&T Wireless PCS, LLC
East Lyme, Connecticut
Staff Report
November 28, 2001

On November 5, 2001, Connecticut Siting Council (Council) member Gerald J. Heffernan and Christina Lepage and Robert Mercier of the Council staff met with AT&T Wireless PCS, Inc. (AT&T) representatives Peter Carbone and Karen Couture on Flanders Road, East Lyme, Connecticut for inspection of an electric transmission structure. The property and structure is owned by Connecticut Light and Power Co. (CL&P). AT&T with the agreement of CL&P, proposes to modify the structure by installing antennas and associated equipment for telecommunications use and is petitioning the Council for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) is required for the modification.

AT&T proposes the installation of six panel antennas on a pipe extension. The antennas would extend approximately 10-feet above the existing 98-foot transmission line monopole structure (# 6077). The height at the top of the antennas would be about 109-feet above ground level (AGL), with a centerline of 108-feet AGL.

Equipment cabinets will be located on a 12-foot by 20-foot concrete pad within a 16-foot by 33-foot compound with an 8-foot high stockade fence with 1-foot of barbed wire near to the base of the tower. Placement of the proposed equipment compound would be within a vegetated area adjacent to a cleared area. The proposed compound would require the removal of some vegetation. AT&T investigated the possible use of the cleared area as a location of the equipment compound and have determined that they can not use the cleared area because it is owned by the Department of Transportation (DOT). The DOT has refused AT&T request for a lease or easement over their land in similar proposals. An underground conduit from an existing utility pole will provide power and telephone service to the site. A gravel access drive will be constructed for direct access to the site.

The zoning designation of this site is Commercial (CA). AT&T identified that the surrounding landscape is comprised of transmission towers, high voltage lines, right-of-way, the railroad station, Interstate 95 and commercial uses. The nearest residence is 350 feet to the north.

The worst-case power density for the telecommunications operations at the site has been calculated to be 2.77% of the applicable standard for uncontrolled environments.

AT&T contends that the proposed modification of the structure would not cause a substantial adverse environmental impact and would prevent the construction of a new tower in the area. AT&T also states that the proposed facility would not be out of scale with the existing surrounding landscape.