

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SITING COUNCIL

PETITION OF NEW CINGULAR
WIRELESS PCS, LLC ("AT&T") TO THE
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL FOR
A DECLARATORY RULING THAT NO)
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED IS
REQUIRED FOR A PROPOSED
TEMPORARY TOWER TO BE
LOCATED OFF OF ANCIENT HIGHWAY
IN THE TOWN OF EAST LYME, CONNECTICUT

PETITION NO. 1152

MAY 5, 2015

APPLICATION TO INTERVENE UNDER CEPA, §4-177a AND §16-50n

East Lyme Residents for Responsible Cell Tower Placement ("the Residents"), a voluntary association, hereby moves and petitions the Connecticut Siting Council to become a party intervenor in the above petition by New Cingular Wireless, LLC, ("AT&T"), for a declaratory ruling that no certificate of environmental compatibility and public need is required for a telecommunications facility on Wilson Hill in East Lyme, Connecticut. The purpose of the intervention is to participate in these proceedings to prevent unreasonable impact to the natural resources of the State including scenic vistas so that evidence of alternative location(s) and/or configurations and technology of lesser visual impact may be entered into the record.

Pursuant to Conn.Gen.Stat. §22a-19 ("CEPA"), R.C.S.A §16-50j-14 and C.G.S §4-177a, the Residents, is an entity which has a direct interest in the proceedings which will be specifically and substantially affected as it is a voluntary association consisting of taxpayers and citizens of the Town of East Lyme within the viewshed of the proposed facility some of whom are adjacent to the proposed location parcel. The members of the group are likely to suffer property value loss different from and greater than that of the public in general due to the proximity of the

facility to their homes. As a result, the Council is being requested to render a decision which will likely impact substantial rights of the members of the Residents.

Intervenor seeks party status in the above proceedings for the purpose of submitting testimony, briefs and other evidence relevant to the consideration of the application under consideration; specifically the mitigation of environmental impact to scenic vistas by the use of alternate locations, alternative technology and tower configurations.

Intervenor's participation will be in the interests of justice and is proper under CEPA in that the evidence and testimony to be given will tend to show that the proposed activity for which Applicant seeks a certificate is likely to unreasonably harm the public trust in the air, water or other natural resources of the State of Connecticut in that, if granted, the proposed facility will, inter alia, unreasonably impair the visual quality of the environment in and about the Wilson Hill area; and is reasonably likely to cause viewshed deterioration that is unreasonable because at least one feasible alternative solution of lesser impact for providing temporary and/or permanent coverage exists.

In support of this application, the movant states the following:

1. East Lyme Residents for Responsible Cell Tower Placement is a duly constituted Connecticut voluntary association with members who enjoy the scenic views in and about the area of the proposed facility on Wilson Hill. The members include, but are not limited to: Rocco Tricarico, residing at 17 Rose Lane; Judy Best, residing at 24 Wayne Drive; Todd Taylor, residing at 6 Chris Alan Drive; Timothy Highman, residing at 74 Ancient Highway; Richard England, residing at 22 Bittersweet; James Fleming, residing at 10 Seebeck Road; Anne Santoro, residing at 11 Rose Lane; Michael Boucher, residing at 27 Rose Lane; Kim & Paul Hurlock, residing at 41 Ancient Highway; Gautam Ranade, residing at 18 Wayne Drive; Mary & Ben Gentile, residing at 25 Rose Lane; all of East Lyme, Connecticut.

2. The proposed tower will have a negative impact on the scenic vistas in East Lyme and specifically on Rose Lane, Ancient Highway, Chris Alan Drive, Seebeck Road and Bittersweet Drive.

3. There exists an alternative means of providing the temporary and permanent coverage by locating at available alternative sites of lesser impact on Boston Post Road where the existing emergency services facility is located, on Heritage Road and at the commercial project site adjacent to Interstate 95 at Exit 73.

4. The Intervenors intend to submit evidence to the record in the form of expert and fact witness testimony which will substantiate the feasibility of available alternatives to the proposed facility of lesser visual impact which will assist the Council in complying with its mandate to minimize impact as required by C.G.S §16-50g and 16-50p(3)(G)(b)(1).

5. Due to the expedited nature of these petition proceedings and the limited and inadequate notice to some of the members of the Residents group, the Intervenor was unable to make this application any earlier than this time, so Intervenor requests that good cause exists for the timing of the filing of this application to intervene.

DISCUSSION OF LAW

The Council must be mindful of the statutory requirements which apply to interventions under its own regulations and under the Administrative Procedures Act, but especially so for CEPA. The bar is quite low for filing an intervention and thus §22a-19 applications should not be lightly rejected. *Finley v. Town of Orange*, 289 Conn. 12 (2008) (an application need only allege a colorable claim to survive a motion to dismiss) citing *Windels v. Environmental Protection Commission*, 284 Conn. 268 (2007).

CEPA clearly and in the broadest terms indicates that any legal entity may intervene. This includes municipal officials, *Avalon Bay Communities v. Zoning Commission*, 87 Conn. App. 537, 867 A.2d 37 (2005).

An allegation of facts that the proposed activity at issue in the proceeding is likely to unreasonably impair the public trust in natural resources of the State is sufficient. See, *Cannata v. Dept. Of Environmental Protection, et al*, 239 Conn. 124 (1996)(alleging harm to floodplain forest resources).

The Connecticut Appellate Court has noted that statutes "such as the EPA are remedial in nature and should be liberally construed to accomplish their purpose." *Avalon Bay Communities, Inc. v. Zoning Commission of the Town of Stratford*, 87 Conn.App.537 (2005); *Keeney v. Fairfield Resources, Inc.*, 41 Conn. App. 120, 132-33, 674 A.2d1349 (1996). In *Red Hill Coalition, Inc. v. Town Planning & Zoning Commission*, 212 Conn. 7272, 734, 563 A.2d 1347 (1989) ("section 22a-19[a]makes intervention a matter of right once a verified pleading is filed complying with the statute, whether or not those allegations ultimately prove to be unfounded"); *Polymer Resources, Ltd. v. Keeney*, 32 Conn. App. 340, 348-49, 629 A.2d 447 (1993) ("[Section] 22a-19[a] compels a trial court to permit intervention in an administrative proceeding or judicial review of such a proceeding by a party seeking to raise environmental issues upon the filing of a verified complaint. The statute is therefore not discretionary.") See Also, *Connecticut Fund for the Environment, Inc. v. Stamford*, 192 Conn. 247, 248 n.2, 470 A.2d 1214 (1984).

In *Mystic Marinelife Aquarium v. Gill*, 175 Conn. 483, 490, 400 A.2d 726 (1978), the Supreme Court concluded that one who filed a verified pleading under § 22a-19 became a party to an administrative proceeding upon doing so and had "statutory standing to appeal for the limited purpose of raising environmental issues." "It is clear that one basic purpose of the act is to give

persons standing to bring actions to protect the environment.” *Belford v. New Haven*, 170 Conn. 46, 53-54, 364 A.2d 194 (1975).

The Intervenor is entitled to participate as a §22a-19 intervenor which allows for a right of appeal under that statute. *Committee to Save Guilford Shoreline, Inc. v. Guilford Planning & Zoning Commission*, 48 Conn. Sup. 594, 853 A.2d 654(2004) once any entity has filed for intervention in an administrative proceeding, it has established the right to appeal from that decision independent of any other party. *Mystic Marinelife Aquarium v. Gill*, 175 Conn. 483 (1978) stated quite clearly that “one who files a §22a-19 application becomes a party with statutory standing to appeal.” *Branhaven Plaza, LLC v Inland Wetlands Commission of the Town of Branford*, 251 Conn. 269, 276, n.9 (1999) held that a party who intervenes in a municipal land use proceeding pursuant to §22a-19 has standing to appeal the administrative agency’s decision to the Superior Court. The Court cited as support for this proposition, *Red Hill Coalition, Inc. v. Conservation Commission*, 212 Conn. 710, 715, 563 A.2d 1339 (1989)(“because the [appellants] filed a notice of intervention at the commission hearing in accordance with §22a-19(a), it doubtless had statutory standing to appeal from the commission’s decision for that limited purpose.”)

In *Keiser v. Zoning Commission*, 62 Conn. App. 600, 603-604 (2001) our Appellate Court stated that the *Branhaven Plaza* case is directly on point and held “the plaintiff in the present case properly filed a notice of intervention at the zoning commission hearing in accordance with §22a-19(a). Accordingly, we conclude that he has standing to appeal environmental issues related to the zoning commission’s decision.”

The rights conveyed by CEPA are so important and fundamental to matters of public trust that the denial of a 22a-19 intervention itself is appealable. See, *CT Post Limited Partnership v. New Haven City Planning Commission*, 2000 WL 1161131 Conn. Super. (Hodgson, J.

2000)(§22a-19 intervenors may file an original appeal for improper denial of intervenor status).

Intervenors' application for intervenor status should be granted so that it may participate by presenting evidence for the record and meaningfully assist the Siting Council in reaching a decision which minimizes impact to natural resources of the state while providing adequate coverage for wireless telecommunications.

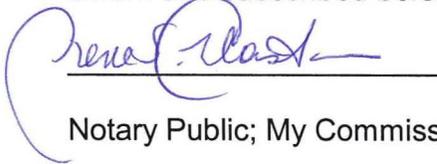
VERIFICATION

The undersigned, Rocco Tricarico, duly authorized coordinator of East Lyme Residents for Responsible Cell Tower Placement, duly sworn, hereby verifies that the above application is true and accurate to the best of his knowledge and belief.



Rocco Tricarico

Sworn and subscribed before me this 4th day of May, 2015.



Notary Public; My Commission Expires _____

IRENE S. CHLASTAWA
NOTARY PUBLIC OF CONNECTICUT
Commission Expires 2/29/2020

Respectfully Submitted,

By _____
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that a true copy of the foregoing was deposited in the United States mail, first-class, postage pre-paid this 4th day of May, 2015 and addressed to:

Ms. Melanie Bachman, Executive Director, Connecticut Siting Council, 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051 (1 orig, 15 copies, plus 1 electronic) (US Mail/electronic).

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