



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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www.ct.gov/csc

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 21, 2017

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

RE: **PETITION NO. 1309** - 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 construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 93 North Airline Road, Wallingford, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Baldwin:

At a public meeting held on July 20, 2017, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and ruled that the above-referenced proposal would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, and pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50k, would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need with the following conditions:

1. If the facility ceases to provide wireless services for a period of one year the Petitioner shall dismantle the tower and remove all associated equipment or reapply for any continued or new use to the Council within 90 days from the one year period of cessation of service. The Petitioner may submit a written request to the Council for an extension of the 90 day period not later than 60 days prior to the expiration of the 90 day period;
2. Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff;
3. Unless otherwise approved by the Council, if the facility authorized herein is not fully constructed within three years from the date of the mailing of the Council's decision, this decision shall be void, and the facility owner/operator shall dismantle the facility and remove all associated equipment or reapply for any continued or new use to the Council before any such use is made. The time between the filing and resolution of any appeals of the Council's decision shall not be counted in calculating this deadline. Authority to monitor and modify this schedule, as necessary, is delegated to the Executive Director. The facility owner/operator shall provide written notice to the Executive Director of any schedule changes as soon as is practicable;
4. Any request for extension of the time period to fully construct the facility shall be filed with the Council not later than 60 days prior to the expiration date of this decision and shall be served on all parties and intervenors, if applicable, and the Town of Wallingford;
5. Within 45 days after completion of construction, the Council shall be notified in writing that construction has been completed;
6. Any nonfunctioning antenna and associated antenna mounting equipment on this facility owned and operated by the Petitioner shall be removed within 60 days of the date the antenna ceased to function;

7. The facility owner/operator shall remit timely payments associated with annual assessments and invoices submitted by the Council for expenses attributable to the facility under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v;
8. This Declaratory Ruling may be transferred, provided the facility owner/operator/transferor is current with payments to the Council for annual assessments and invoices under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v and the transferee provides written confirmation that the transferee agrees to comply with the terms, limitations and conditions contained in the Declaratory Ruling, including timely payments to the Council for annual assessments and invoices under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v; and
9. If the facility owner/operator is a wholly owned subsidiary of a corporation or other entity and is sold/transferred to another corporation or other entity, the Council shall be notified of such sale and/or transfer and of any change in contact information for the individual or representative responsible for management and operations of the facility within 30 days of the sale and/or transfer.

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 June 12, 2017, and additional correspondence dated June 30, 2017.

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

Very truly yours,



Robert Stein
Chairman

RS/MAB/RDM/bm

Enclosure: Staff Report dated July 20, 2017

c: The Honorable William W. Dickinson, Jr., Mayor, Town of Wallingford
Kacie Costello, Town Planner, Town of Wallingford



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Petition No. 1309

Cellco – Wireless Telecommunications Facility 93 North Airline Road, Wallingford

Staff Report

July 20, 2017

On June 13, 2017, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Cellco) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed construction, operation and maintenance of a telecommunications facility at 93 North Airline Road in Wallingford, Connecticut. On June 23, 2017, the Council issued interrogatories to Cellco for additional information. Cellco responded to the Council's interrogatories on July 3, 2017.

On June 29, 2017 Council member Larry Levesque and Council staff member Robert Mercier conducted a field review of the proposed project with Cellco representative Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq. At the request of the Council, Cellco flew a balloon during the field review to simulate the height of the proposed facility.

Currently, Cellco is experiencing a gap in wireless service along Interstate 91 in the New Rock Hill Road area of Wallingford. Cellco intends to deploy 700 MHz LTE service to this area by installing two antennas and a remote radio head on top of a new wood pole extending to a height of 43 feet above grade. Power and telephone service would extend overhead to the new wood pole from an existing utility pole on the north side of New Rock Hill Road. A pole mounted battery would provide four to six hours of emergency power.

The new wood pole would be installed in the northwest corner of a 9.7-acre residential parcel at 93 North Airline Road, abutting Interstate 91 and New Rock Hill Road. Two existing electric distribution structures utility poles of similar height are located across the street with one supporting existing antennas operated by Sprint and the other hosting a U-Verse cabinet. These installations prevent Cellco from co-locating on the existing electric distribution structures.

The new pole would be installed using a bucket truck. Some minor grading to achieve a minimum pole depth of seven feet may be required. A section of guardrail along New Rock Hill Road may be removed to facilitate the installation. Cellco would coordinate guardrail removal as well as construction traffic control with the Town of Wallingford. The State Department of Transportation submitted correspondence to the Council on June 30, 2017 indicating that they had no comment. A nearby culvert would not be impacted by the installation.

Cellco contends that this proposed project would not have a substantial adverse environmental impact. The visual impact of the proposed facility is not expected to be significant due to the limited height of the facility, the presence of existing electric distribution structures hosting telecommunications and utility equipment, and the surrounding tree canopy that offers screening from nearby residences. Additionally, Cellco would paint the antennas and associated equipment to match the wood pole. The nearest wetland is approximately 30 feet to the south of the pole location and no impact is expected due to the minimal amount of excavation



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required for installation. The site is not within a Natural Diversity Database area. The calculated power density would be 2.7 percent of the applicable limit using a -10 dB off-beam adjustment. Notice to the Federal Aviation Administration is not required.

Notice was provided to the Town of Wallingford, the property owner, and abutting property owners on or about June 12, 2017. The Council has not received any comments to date as a result of this notification.

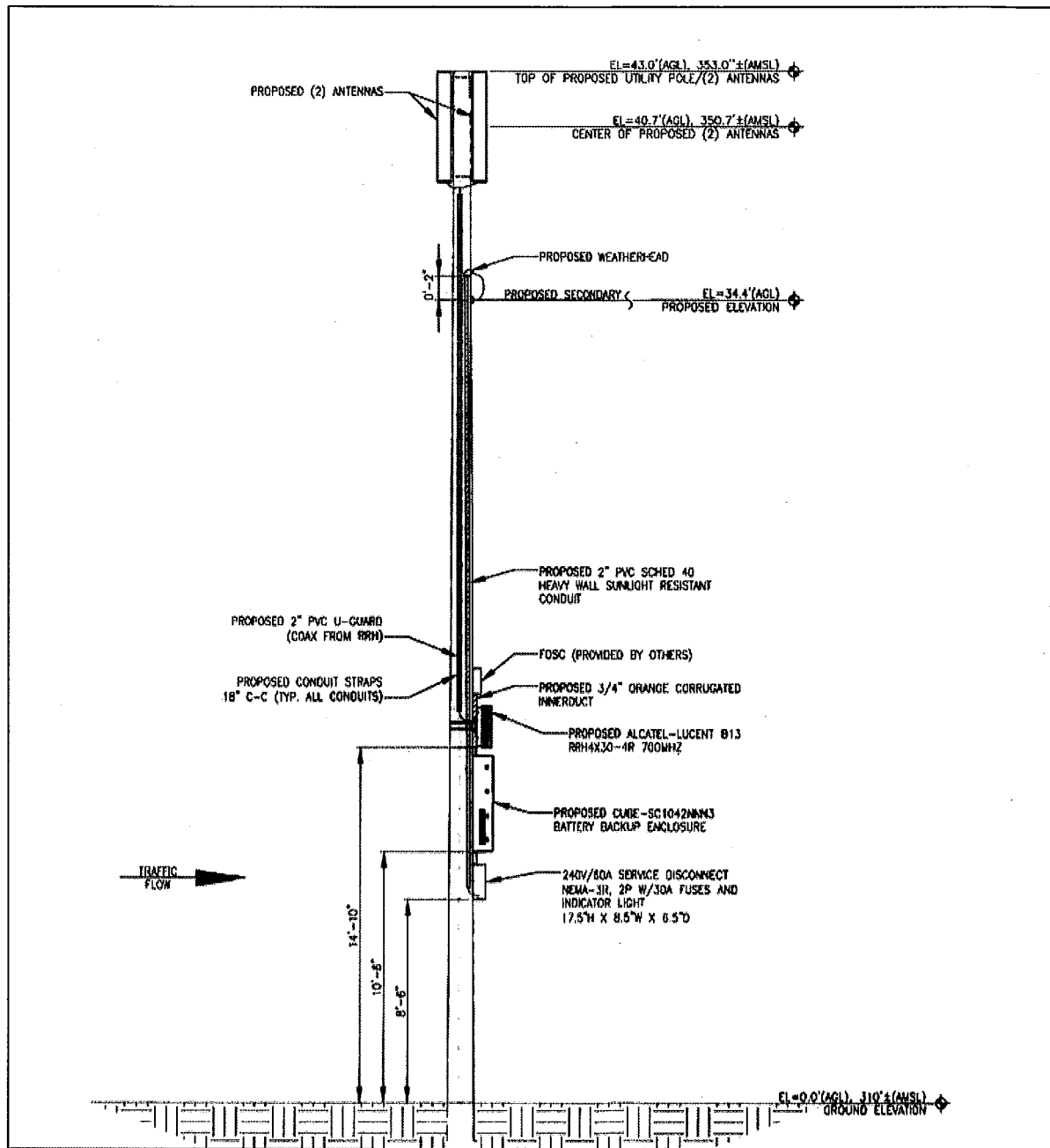
Staff recommends the following condition:

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

Site Location



Site Elevation Plan



Field Review Balloon Fly on June 29, 2017- looking east



Photo-simulation of telecommunications facility – looking west



LOCATION	ORIENTATION	DISTANCE TO SITE
NEW ROCK HILL ROAD	WEST	+/- 362 FEET