



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

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[www.ct.gov/csc](http://www.ct.gov/csc)

### CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

October 26, 2018

Lucia Chiocchio, Esq.  
Cuddy & Feder, LLP  
445 Hamilton Avenue, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
White Plains, NY 10601

RE: **PETITION NO. 1349** – New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed extension of an existing wireless telecommunications facility located at 250 Meriden Waterbury Turnpike, Southington, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Chiocchio:

At a public meeting held on October 25, 2018, 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:

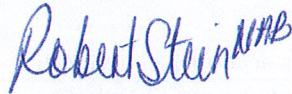
1. Prior to AT&T's antenna installation the tower modification shall be carried out in accordance with the Structural Modification Report and Modification Drawings prepared by Paul J. Ford, dated March 16, 2018 and March 19, 2018 respectively, and stamped and signed by Joseph Pachicarah Jacobs;
2. Within 45 days following completion of proposed modifications, AT&T shall provide documentation that its installation complied with the recommendations of the Tower Modification Schedule;
3. Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff;
4. 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;
5. 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 Southington;
6. Within 45 days after completion of construction, the Council shall be notified in writing that construction has been completed;
7. 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;

8. 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;
9. 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
10. 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 received September 4, 2018 and additional information received on October 5, 2018 and October 11, 2018.

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

Sincerely,



Robert Stein  
Chairman

RS/IN/lm

Enclosure: Staff Report dated October 25, 2018

- c: The Honorable Christopher Palmieri, Chairman, Town of Southington  
Mark J. Sciota, Town Manager, Town of Southington  
Robert Phillips, Director of Planning and Community Development, Town of Southington  
John Rogus, property owner



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Petition No. 1349

New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC

Southington, Connecticut

Staff Report

October 25, 2018

On September 4, 2018, New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T) submitted a petition (Petition) to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a declaratory ruling pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) §4-176 and §16-50k for the proposed extension of an existing wireless telecommunications facility located at 250 Meriden Waterbury Turnpike, Southington, Connecticut. A field review of the proposed project was conducted on September 25, 2018. Council member Daniel Lynch and Fred Cunliffe and Ifeanyi Nwankwo of the Council staff attended the field review. Kristen Motel Esq., Mark Roberts and Brian Huff attended the field review as representatives of AT&T. At the request of the Council, AT&T attempted to fly a balloon during the field review to simulate the proposed extension of the facility, but it was unsuccessful due to weather conditions. AT&T conducted a second balloon float at the site on October 1, 2018. Two balloons were flown, one red (2-feet in diameter) and one white (3.5-feet in diameter) and flown at elevations of 110-feet and 120-feet above ground level, respectively.

The existing facility is located on a 1.2 acre parcel containing a commercial building, associated outbuildings and a parking area within a Business District Zone. The surrounding area consists of a mix of residential, commercial and retail uses to the north and west and residential uses to the south and east.

The existing facility consists of an 80-foot self-supporting lattice tower owned by Crown Castle. AT&T currently has nine antennas mounted at a center line height of 78-feet above ground level (agl) and Verizon has six antennas mounted at a center line height of 60-feet agl. AT&T and Verizon have associated equipment located at the base of the tower. The equipment shelter is locked and the tower is equipped with an anti-climbing shield.

AT&T proposes to extend the height of the existing self-supporting lattice tower to 120-feet agl. AT&T would remove its existing antennas and install three new 700/850 MHz antennas at the top of the lattice extension. Antennas would be installed at a centerline height of 120-feet agl. The height at the top of AT&T's antennas would be 123-feet agl. AT&T would also install six remote radio head units (RRU's), one surge arrester, nine cables and an 11-foot lightning mast at the same 120-foot level. The proposed equipment is dual technology capable and compatible with 5G. Aside from minor equipment upgrades within AT&T's equipment shelter, there will be no changes to the existing equipment area at ground level. Existing access to the site would continue to be used. Verizon's existing antennas and equipment would not be affected.

AT&T has backup power batteries within its equipment shelter. These batteries can handle periods of commercial power outages of up to eight hours. For extended commercial power outages, AT&T would utilize a mobile diesel generator that would be transported to the site. This method of backup power has been successfully deployed several times during the sites existence.

AT&T states that in the event of a tower failure due to a catastrophic event, the tower's control section (40 – 60 foot along the legs of the tower) would cause it to collapse upon itself keeping it within the subject parcel.

The purpose of the proposed modification is to provide reliable wireless service in this area of Southington. The existing AT&T antennas are currently at or below the height of the surrounding tree canopy and as a result two of the three sectors of antennas are blocked by the tree line. AT&T dropped call data for this site indicates elevated voice and data drops, as well as substandard data service, that drive the need for the proposed height extension. The proposed height is the lowest height AT&T could locate antennas to gain the coverage necessary to provide reliable service, particularly north along State Route 120. Reducing the height to 100-feet would decrease coverage by one-half to the area.

The proposed extension would have a minimal impact on visibility. The proposed extension would be consistent with the existing tower in design, color and material. Views from the closest residential areas on Meriden Waterbury Turnpike and Orchard Lane are not expected to be substantial. The existing facility can be seen from West Peak and Castle Craig (0.5 miles and 0.9 miles northeast respectively, of the AT&T facility) within Hubbard Park in Meriden. The proposed extension would also be visible from these locations.

There are no schools or child day care centers within 1,000-feet of the tower. The nearest school is South End Elementary School located approximately 8,270-feet from the site. There are 72 residences within 1000-feet of the existing site. The closest residence is within approximately 10-feet and is located on the subject parcel. The closest off-site residence is within approximately 200-feet and is located at Orchard Lane.

The site is outside of the 100-year and 500-year flood zones. The nearest wetland is approximately 1,155-feet to the northwest of the site. No aviation marking or lighting is required. The nearest Important Bird Areas to the site (East Rock Park (11 miles away) and Naugatuck State Forest (12 miles away)) would not be adversely impacted by the proposed modification. Furthermore, the proposed modifications would comply with the recommended guidelines of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for minimizing the potential for telecommunication towers to impact bird species.

There will be no ground disturbance or tree removal for the proposed extension.

A Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut has certified that the tower is structurally adequate to support the proposed loading with certain conditions. The maximum worst-case power density would be 25.2% of the applicable limit. AT&T's RF Tier rating for this facility is Tier 1 (level of priority to maintain network continuity) since it provides service to an interstate highway (I-691).

Notice was provided to the Town of Southington, the property owner and abutting property owners on August 29, 2018. No comments have been received to date.

AT&T contends that this proposal will not have a substantial adverse environmental effect. Staff recommends approval with the following conditions:

- Prior to AT&T's antenna installation the tower modification shall be carried out in accordance with the Structural Modification Report and Modification Drawings prepared by Paul J. Ford, dated March 16, 2018 and March 19, 2018 respectively, and stamped and signed by Joseph Pachicarah Jacobs;
- Within 45 days following completion of proposed modifications, AT&T shall provide documentation that its installation complied with the recommendations of the Tower Modification Schedule; and
- Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff.

**View of Balloon float from Commercial district on Meriden Avenue**



Photo-simulation showing proposed tower extension from commercial district on Meriden Avenue



View of Balloon float from nearby residential area on Orchard Lane

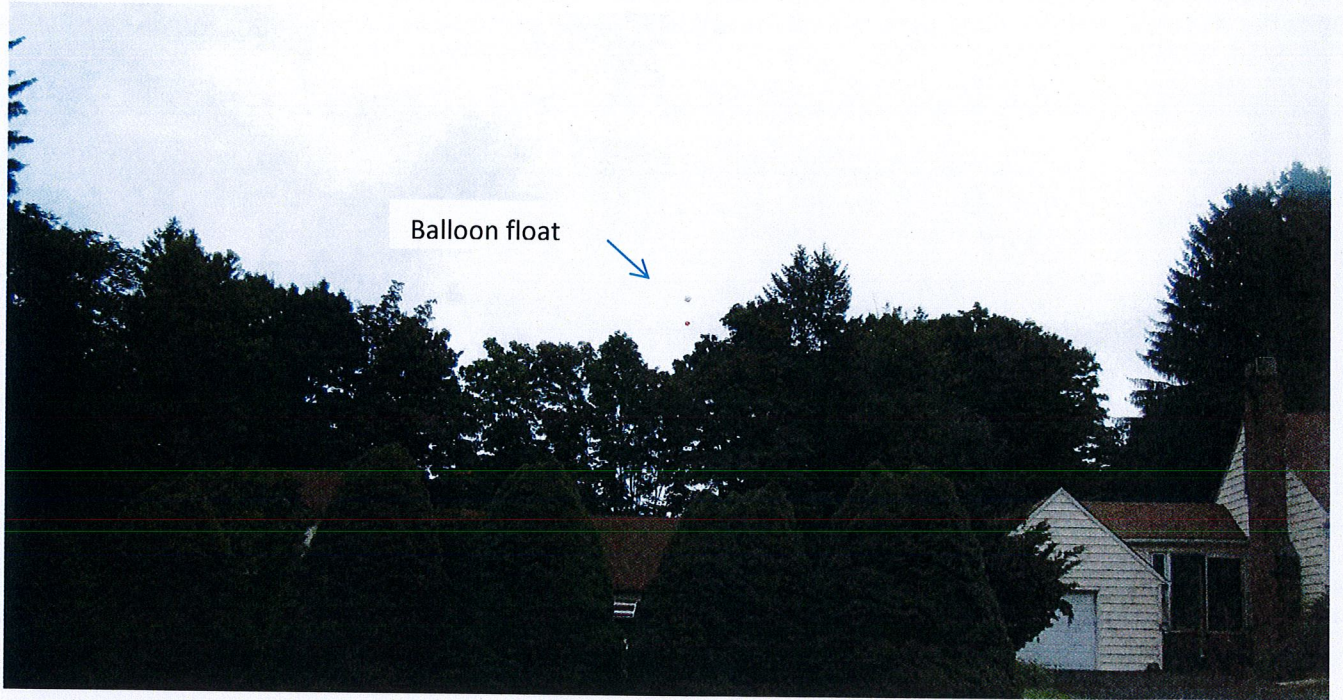
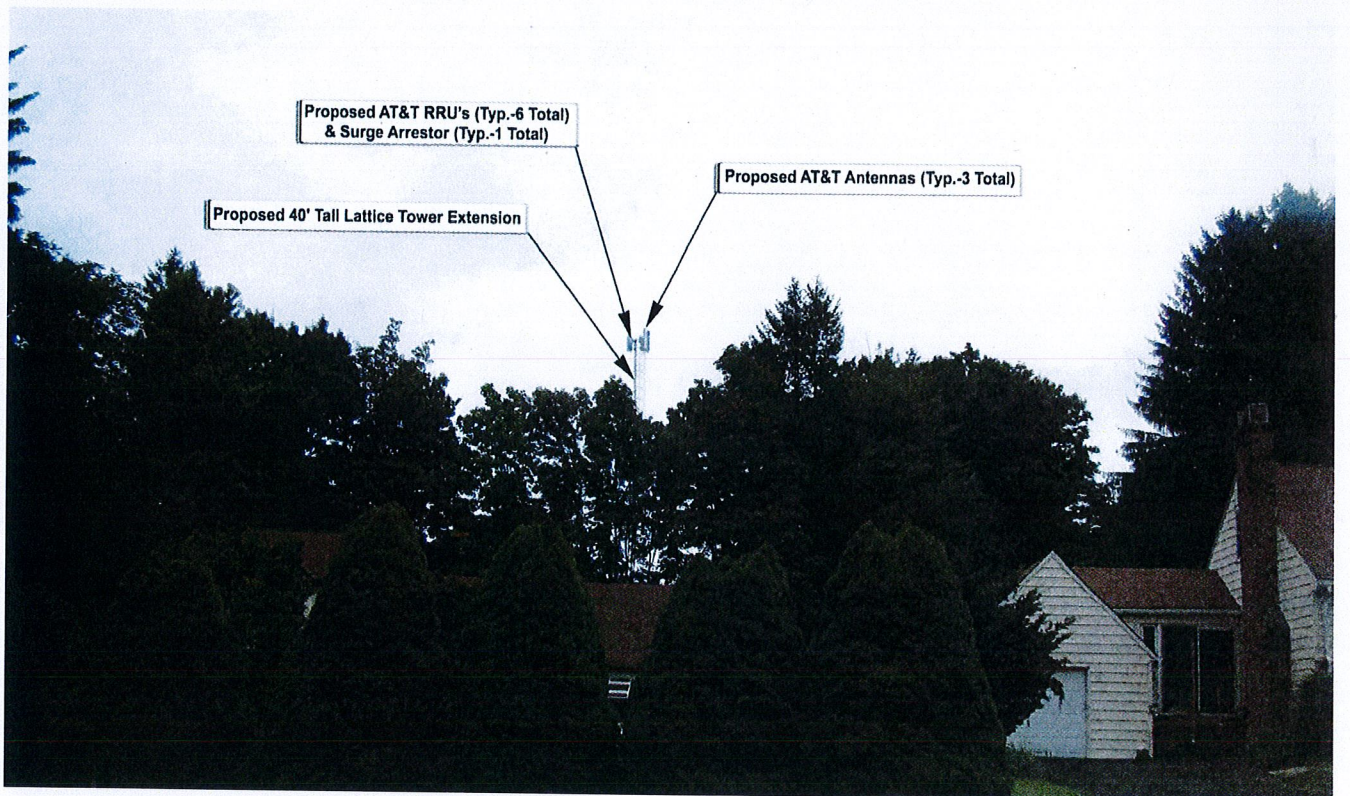


Photo-simulation showing proposed tower extension from nearby residential area on Orchard lane



View of Balloon float from the Tower Farm on West Peak



**Photo-simulation showing proposed tower extension from the Tower Farm on West Peak**

