



# 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

February 15, 2019

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

RE: **PETITION NO. 1359** – Crown Castle petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed installation of a temporary tower facility and associated equipment to be located at 445 Putnam Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Baldwin:

At a public meeting held on February 14, 2019, 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:

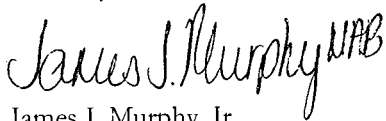
1. Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff;
2. Approval of the installation of this temporary facility is valid for three years from the date of this decision;
3. Electrical equipment within the compound shall be installed above the 500-year flood zone;
4. Unless otherwise approved by the Council, if the temporary facility authorized herein is not fully constructed within eighteen months 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 City of Hamden;
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 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. If the facility ceases to provide wireless services for a period of one year the Petitioner shall dismantle the temporary 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; and
10. This Declaratory Ruling may be transferred or partially transferred, provided both the facility owner/operator/transferor and the transferee are current with payments to the Council for their respective annual assessments and invoices under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v. 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. Both the facility owner/operator/transferor and the transferee shall provide the Council with a written agreement as to the entity responsible for any quarterly assessment charges under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v(b)(2) that may be associated with this facility.

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 January 7, 2019 and additional information received on February 7, 2019.

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

Sincerely,



James J. Murphy, Jr.  
Acting Chairman

JM/RDM/lm

Enclosure: Staff Report dated February 14, 2019

- c: The Honorable Curt B. Leng, Mayor, Town of Hamden  
Dan Kops, Planning & Zoning, Town of Hamden  
Woodeast LLC, property owner



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### Petition No. 1359

#### Crown Castle - Temporary Tower Facility

445 Putnam Avenue, Hamden

Staff Report

February 14, 2019

### Introduction

On January 7, 2019, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition (Petition) from Crown Castle (Crown) for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed installation of a 100-foot temporary tower facility at 445 Putnam Avenue in Hamden, Connecticut. The temporary tower would replace an existing Crown facility located at 1245 Dixwell Avenue in Hamden, approximately 1,000 feet west of the proposed site. The temporary facility is needed to maintain continuity of service while Crown pursues a permanent replacement tower on the same property.

Notice was provided by Crown to the Town of Hamden (Town), the subject property owner, and abutting property owners on or about January 7, 2019. On January 8, 2019, the Council sent correspondence to the Town stating that the Council has received the Petition and invited the municipality to contact the Council with any questions or comments by February 6, 2019. The Council did not receive any comment from the Town or from abutting property owners.

The Council submitted interrogatories to Crown on January 31, 2019. Crown responded to the Council's interrogatories on February 7, 2019. Crown submitted additional information on February 8, 2019.

### Existing Facility

The existing facility, owned by Crown, consists of a 100-foot tall flagpole tower located at the Putnam Plaza Shopping Center, a 12.3-acre commercially developed property. The flagpole tower and an associated small equipment compound are located in a parking lot south of the existing plaza building. T-Mobile is located on the existing Town-approved facility.

Due to T-Mobile's desire to upgrade its existing equipment from flush-mounted antennas to a platform-mounted antenna configuration and interest from other carriers to co-locate on the facility, Crown sought to expand the existing tower and compound to accommodate these needs; however, the landowner was not willing to allow an expansion of the existing facility. Crown and T-Mobile have been working since 2016 to upgrade the facility to accommodate wireless network advancements and increase wireless service reliability to the surrounding area.

In the future, Crown intends to submit an application to the Council for the installation of a new, 130-foot monopole facility at the 445 Putnam Avenue, Hamden property to replace the proposed temporary facility, allowing for future co-location at this site. Crown commenced the 90-day pre-application municipal consultation process on January 24, 2019.

### **Proposed Temporary Facility**

The proposed temporary facility would consist of a 100-foot ballast-mounted monopole located on a 3.0 acre parcel, zoned General Urban (T-4), that is developed with two warehouse buildings. The proposed temporary facility would be located in a lawn area at the north end of the property, adjacent to one of the buildings.

T-Mobile would install 9 panel antennas and associated remote radio heads on an antenna platform at a centerline height of 95 feet above ground level. The proposed temporary tower would be structurally adequate to support one or two additional carriers depending on specific antenna deployments.

A 35-foot by 90-foot fenced equipment compound would be established at the base of the tower. T-Mobile would install equipment cabinets on a 10-foot by 15-foot equipment pad within the compound.

Access to the temporary facility would be from a new, 80-foot long, 12-foot wide gravel drive extending from the existing paved parking lot on the property. Telephone/fiber service to the compound would be installed underground from existing service on Putnam Avenue through existing paved areas of the property and along the proposed access drive. Electrical service would be installed underground along the west property line from an existing overhead line adjacent to one of the on-site buildings.

### **Public Safety**

The ballast foundation and 100-foot monopole would be installed in accordance with the American National Standards Institute "Structural Standards for Steel Antenna Towers and Antenna Support Structures" Revision G. A Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut has certified that the proposed ballasted monopole would be structurally adequate to support the proposed loading. The ballast foundation consists of 8 concrete blocks installed within a 20-foot square metal frame.

The temporary facility would not be an aviation hazard and would not require notification to the Federal Aviation Administration.

The maximum worst-case power density for the general public would be less than 5.0 percent of the applicable limit.

### **Environmental**

The proposed compound and access drive are located within a maintained lawn area adjacent to a building and parking lot. No trees would be removed to develop the site. The nearest wetland is located in a wooded area along the east property line, approximately 55 feet east of the compound development area.

Although the temporary facility site is identified on a Federal Emergency Management Agency flood zone map (May 2017) as occurring in Flood Zone AE, with a base flood ground elevation of 40 feet, a topographic survey performed by Crown indicates the temporary facility site is at a ground elevation of 41.5 feet to 42.5 feet, above the designated base flood elevation.

The site is not within 0.25 mile of a Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection mapped Natural Diversity Database area (map date 12/18).

Installation of the temporary facility would require minor grading. Development of the compound and new access drive would disturb approximately 4,100 square feet. Appropriate erosion and sedimentation controls would be installed prior to site disturbance.

The site parcel is located in an industrial/commercial area and is adjacent to two developed industrial parcels to the west and commercial property to the south. Woodlands surround the developed, industrial area to the north, east and west. An apartment building is located approximately 450 feet to the southeast, beyond a wooded area. The Farmington Canal Heritage Greenway is located 0.2 miles to the west, adjacent to the Putnam Plaza Shopping Center and the existing flagpole facility.

The temporary monopole would be visible to some areas within 1,000 feet of the site, mostly from commercial and industrial properties and Putnam Avenue. The apartment building property to the southeast would have views of the upper portion of the temporary tower.

#### **Facility Construction**

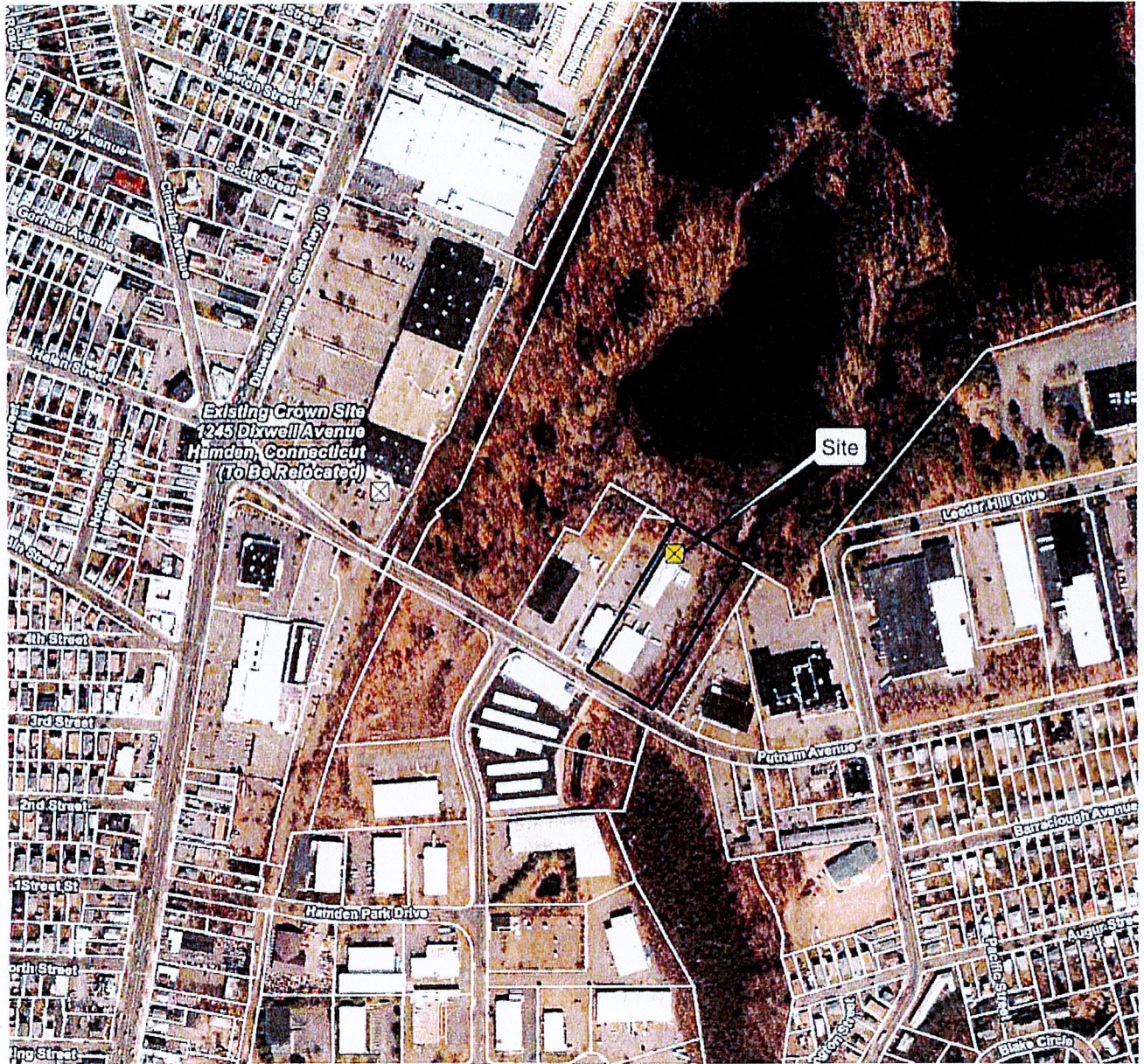
Crown would install the ballast tower approximately 90 days after the Council's approval. Crown anticipates that the temporary tower would remain in place for a minimum of two years, until the new permanent tower is approved and constructed.

#### **Conclusion**

If approved, staff recommends the following condition;

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





Location of the existing flagpole facility (1245 Dixwell Ave.) and the proposed temporary tower (Site).



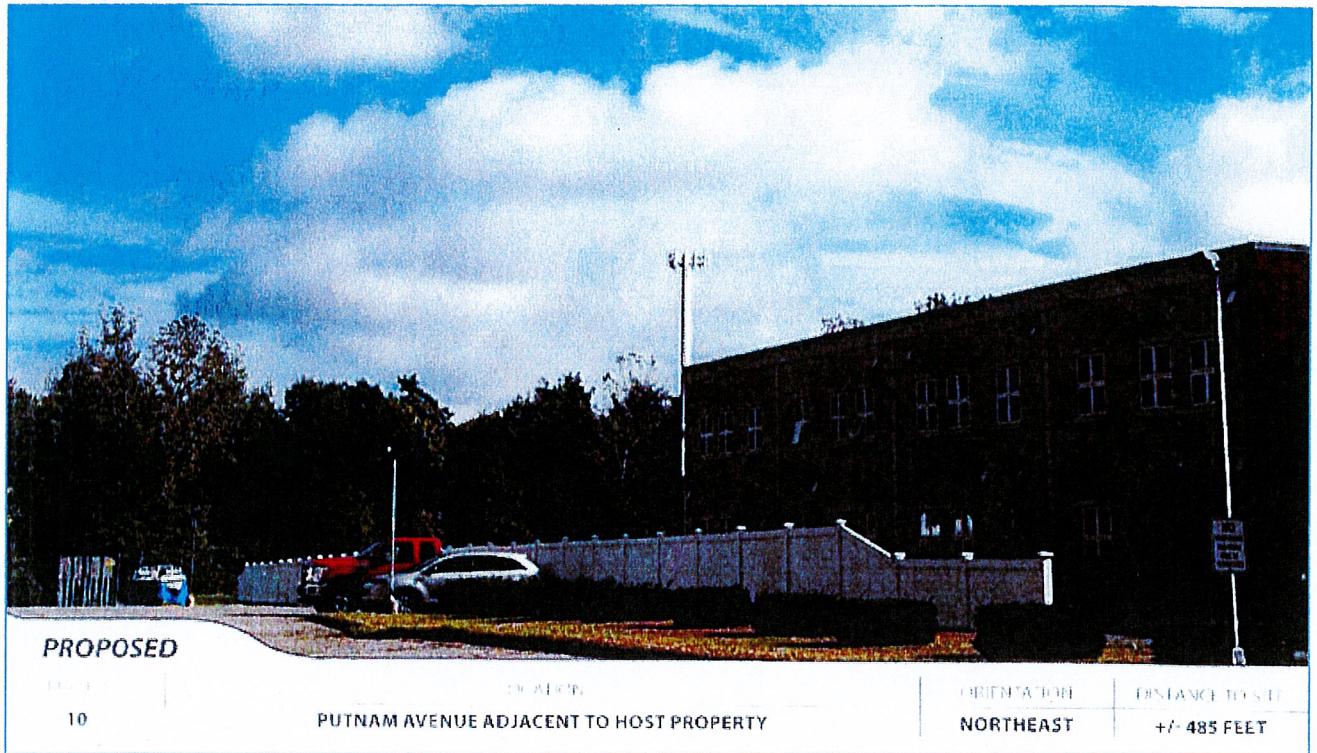


Photo-simulation of temporary tower from nearby apartment building.