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

March 29, 2019

Kristen Motel, Esq.
Christopher B. Fisher, Esq.
Cuddy & Feder LLP
445 Hamilton Avenue, 14th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601

RE: **PETITION NO. 1361 –** New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed installation of a wireless telecommunications facility and associated equipment on the roof of an existing building located at 500 Newfield Avenue, Stamford, Connecticut.

Dear Attorneys Motel & Fisher:

At a public meeting held on March 28, 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. Install a radiofrequency emission Level 2B caution sign at the base of the unipole in accordance with the recommendation contained within the radio frequency emission analysis report prepared by SiteSafe, dated December 13, 2018;

3. Prior to AT&T's rooftop installation, the proposed replacement of the wood building columns with new steel columns shall be completed, as indicated on the Site Plan Drawings prepared by Dewberry Engineers, Inc., dated January 28, 2019 and signed and stamped by Jiang Yu;

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 City of Stamford;

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. 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; 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 February 1, 2019.

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

Sincerely,

Melanie Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/RDM/lm

Enclosure: Staff Report dated March 28, 2019

c: The Honorable David Martin, Mayor, City of Stamford
Ralph Blessing, Land Use Bureau Chief, City of Stamford
WCL Limited Partnership, property owner

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Petition No. 1361
New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC
500 Newfield Avenue, Stamford
Rooftop Wireless Telecommunications Facility

Staff Report
March 28, 2019

On February 1, 2019, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T) for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed installation of a wireless telecommunications facility on the roof of a building at 500 Newfield Avenue in Stamford, Connecticut. The facility would improve AT&T's 700 MHz and 2300 MHz service in central Stamford.

AT&T proposes to install a 34.3-foot tower on the roof of a mixed-use (residential and office space) four story building located on a residentially-zoned 0.75-acre parcel. The building roof extends to a height of 38 feet above ground level (agl) and features a parapet that extends to a height of 42 feet agl. Roof-mounted ballast frame facilities for T-Mobile and Verizon, previously approved by the City of Stamford (City), are located along the sides and corners of the roof, with antennas extending to a height of 47 feet agl.

AT&T's proposed 34.3-foot tower would be installed on a steel frame in the central portion of the roof, extending to a total height of 75 feet agl. The tower would be designed as a 40 inch diameter "unipole" to accommodate three interior flush-mount antennas each at 71 feet and 61 feet agl. To support the roof-mounted frame and unipole, three existing wood columns on the fourth floor of the building would be replaced by new steel columns.

AT&T would install two equipment cabinets, associated electrical boxes and 15 remote radio units on the roof-mounted frame. Safety work lights would be installed to illuminate the cabinets and electrical equipment. Electrical and telephone service would extend along an existing interior conduit run from the basement to the rooftop electrical panel.

Emergency power may be supplied from an existing or new generator located in Verizon's existing rooftop equipment area, subject to an agreement with Verizon. Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) providers are licensed by and are under the jurisdiction and authority of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). At present, no standards for backup power for CMRS providers have been promulgated by the FCC. Every year since 2006, AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon have certified their compliance with the CTIA Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery Program and the Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council standards and best practices to ensure network reliability during power outages.

The proposed project will occur within and on the existing building and no ground disturbance is necessary. Access to the unipole facility would be through the existing building.

AT&T examined several types of rooftop installations including a stub monopole tower with platform-mounted antennas and ballast frame antenna sectors similar to the existing City-approved Verizon and T-Mobile installations. After examining available space on the roof, and determining the roof lacks sufficient space for an additional ballast frame installation, a stub monopole was examined but the property owner was concerned about the aesthetics of the stub monopole with an associated wide profile antenna platform. Both AT&T and the property owner then determined that the proposed unipole tower would address limited roof

space issues by placing all equipment in the center of the roof and aesthetic issues by having antennas concealed within a casing so the tower would appear uniform.

Additionally, the proposed height of the unipole is necessary to meet AT&T's 700 MHz /2300 MHz wireless service objectives and avoid potential radio-frequency interference issues with T-Mobile's and Verizon's existing rooftop facilities as well as among AT&T's own spectrum deployment by providing sufficient antenna height and spacing.

Visibility of the proposed unipole facility would generally occur from the area surrounding the four story building with most year-round views occurring within 0.15 mile of the site. Isolated year-round views of the facility would occur up to a half-mile from the site. The nearest commercial child day care center and school area are approximately 0.25 mile and 0.5 mile northeast of the site, respectively. Surrounding land use consists of commercial and residential. A town park (Barrett Field) is approximately 250 feet to the southeast.

The installation would not be a hazard to air navigation and no registration to the Federal Aviation Administration is required.

A Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut has certified that the metal frame unipole-mounting structure and building is adequate to support the proposed loading provided new structural steel building columns are installed, as specified.

The highest calculated power density level for AT&T's proposed antennas would be 22.59 percent of the applicable exposure limit established by the Federal Communications Commission at ground level with a -10 dB off-beam adjustment.

Radio frequency emissions modeling of AT&T's proposed installation was conducted at the rooftop level that accounted for T-Mobile's and Verizon's existing equipment. Due to the orientation of the proposed AT&T antennas out toward the horizon, radio frequency emissions for AT&T's equipment on the roof would be less than 5 percent of the general public exposure limit. General public radio frequency exposure limits are exceeded in front of T-Mobile's and Verizon's existing rooftop mounted antennas as these are mounted slightly above the roof top. Radio frequency emission warning signs are required in these areas. Additionally, the radio-frequency report recommends the installation of a Level 2B caution sign at the base of the proposed unipole.

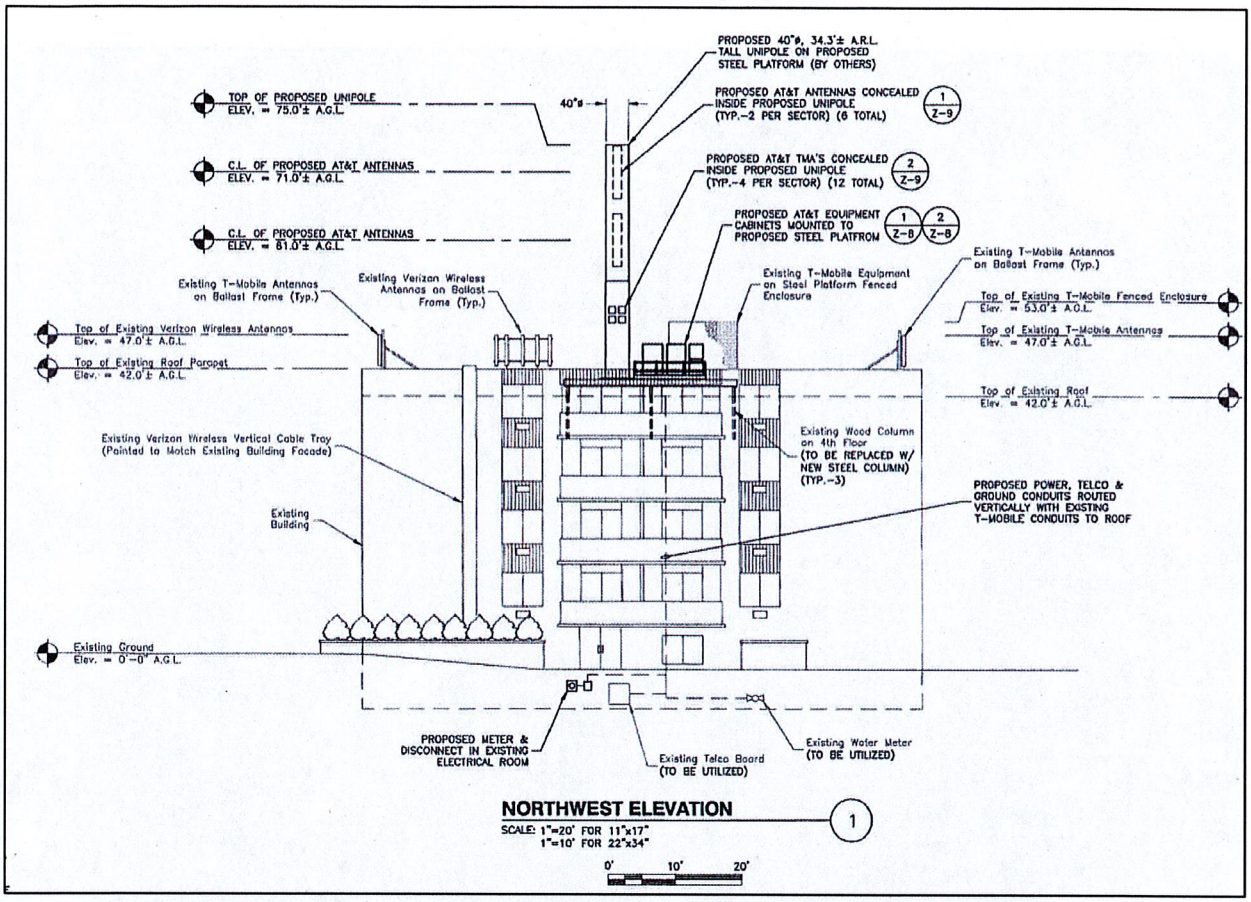
Notice was provided to the City of Stamford, the property owner, and abutting property owners on or about January 31, 2019. No comments have been received to date.

AT&T contends that this proposed project would not have a substantial adverse environmental impact.

If approved, staff recommends the following conditions:

1. Approval of any minor project changes be delegated to Council staff;
2. Install a radiofrequency emission Level 2B caution sign at the base of the unipole in accordance with the recommendation contained within the radio frequency emission analysis report prepared by SiteSafe, dated December 13, 2018; and
3. Prior to AT&T's rooftop installation, the proposed replacement of the wood building columns with new steel columns shall be completed, as indicated on the Site Plan Drawings prepared by Dewberry Engineers, Inc., dated January 28, 2019 and signed and stamped by Jiang Yu.

Site Plan



Site Location (no scale)

Photosimulation – front of building

PROPOSED

PHOTO	LOCATION	FOCAL LENGTH	ORIENTATION	DISTANCE TO SITE	VISIBILITY
11	FRANCIS AVENUE AT NEWFIELD AVENUE	50mm	SOUTHWEST	+/- 275 FEET	VISIBLE