



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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### CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 29, 2018

Thomas J. Regan, Esq.  
Brown Rudnick LLP  
CityPlace I, 38<sup>th</sup> Floor  
185 Asylum Street  
Hartford, CT 06103-3402

RE: **PETITION NO. 542A** – Sprint Corporation (Sprint) request to amend its declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed relocation of an existing Sprint facility attached to an Eversource electric transmission line structure (#830) onto an approved replacement electric transmission line structure (#830) within the existing Eversource right-of-way located at 560B Hawley Lane, Stratford, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Regan:

At a public meeting held on March 29, 2018, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and ruled that the above-referenced proposal to amend its declaratory ruling 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. Deployment and operation of a temporary facility subject to the submission of final design details to the Executive Director for review and final authorization, if applicable;
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 Stratford;
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 March 20, 2018 and additional information received on March 22, 2018.

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

Sincerely,

  
Robert Stein

Chairman

RS/MP/lm

Enclosure: Staff Report dated March 29, 2018

- c: The Honorable Laura R. Hoydick, Mayor, Town of Stratford  
John Rusatsky, Town Manager, Town of Stratford  
Jay Habansky, Planning & Zoning Administrator, Town of Stratford



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**Petition No. 542A**  
**Sprint Corporation**  
**Stratford, Connecticut**  
**Staff Report**  
**March 29, 2018**

On March 2, 2018, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a request for an exempt modification for the proposed relocation of the existing Sprint Corporation (Sprint) facility on Eversource's existing transmission Structure No. 830 to Eversource's approved replacement transmission Structure No. 830. On March 6, 2018, Sprint's request was denied on the basis that the location and height of the facility would change in contravention of the exempt modification criteria under Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 16-50j-72(b). The Council's denial letter stated that the proposed project must be filed as an amendment to the declaratory ruling issued in Petition No. 542.

On March 20, 2018, the Council received a petition (Petition) from Sprint to amend its declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed relocation of an existing telecommunications facility attached to an existing Eversource electric transmission structure within an existing Eversource right-of-way (ROW) located at 560B Hawley Lane in Stratford. On or about March 20, 2018, Sprint notified the Town of Stratford and abutting property owners of the proposed replacement project. No comments have been received to date.

On February 15, 2002, the Council approved Petition No. 542 from Nextel Communications Inc. (Nextel) to install a 101-foot power mount within an existing 81-foot lattice electric transmission structure (Structure No. 830). Since that time, Sprint and Nextel merged. Sprint's existing equipment compound at the proposed facility includes a 12-foot by 20-foot equipment building located approximately 30 feet southwest of the power mount. The facility is located in a commercial area of Stratford near the Trumbull town line.

On April 28, 2017, the Council approved Petition No. 1291, filed by Eversource, to modify an approximately 4.4-mile section of existing #1710 and #1730 115-kilovolt electric transmission lines extending from Devon 7R Substation in Milford through the Town of Stratford to Trumbull Junction (adjacent to Trumbull Substation) in Trumbull. As part of Petition No. 1291, Eversource would replace Structure No. 830. Eversource will install a 120-foot galvanized steel monopole electric transmission structure adjacent to the existing lattice transmission structure and the existing lattice structure will be removed.

Removal of the existing Structure No. 830 lattice structure and power mount and installation of the new Structure No. 830 monopole structure is expected to begin in April 2018. Sprint's proposed work schedule for this project is based on an April 2, 2018 electric transmission line outage required for the work to occur.

The replacement electric transmission structure is adjacent to Hawley Lane. Access to the structure extends through an adjacent parking lot for a shopping plaza located east of the transmission structure.

Sprint proposes to install three panel antennas and six diplexers on a low-profile antenna platform with a centerline height of 120 feet above ground level. Equipment, including three remote radio head units, would be installed on an equipment rack at the base of the replacement structure. Sprint would continue to use its existing equipment shelter at the base of the transmission structure. An eight-foot high chain link fence with barbed wire on top would be installed around the monopole transmission structure and equipment rack. An

existing chain link fence around the equipment shelter would remain with the exception of the north side of the fence line, which would be replaced.

Although Sprint's facility would be raised incrementally in height, the visibility of the proposed Sprint installation is not expected to have a significant impact on the surrounding community. Sprint proposes to use a low-profile antenna mount. There are no watercourses or wetland areas within the proposed work limits. The entire area is within a Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)-designated Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) Rare Species Habitat. Eversource has consulted with DEEP regarding avoidance or mitigation of impacts to species listed on the NDDDB.

The maximum worst-case power density of Sprint's proposed equipment would be 3.6 percent of the applicable Federal Communications Commission limit for radio frequency power density.

A Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut has certified that replacement Structure No. 830 has adequate capacity to support Sprint's proposed loading. Eversource has requested a "Determination of No Hazard to Air Navigation" for all replacement transmission structures approved in Petition No. 1291.

Staff recommends the following condition:

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

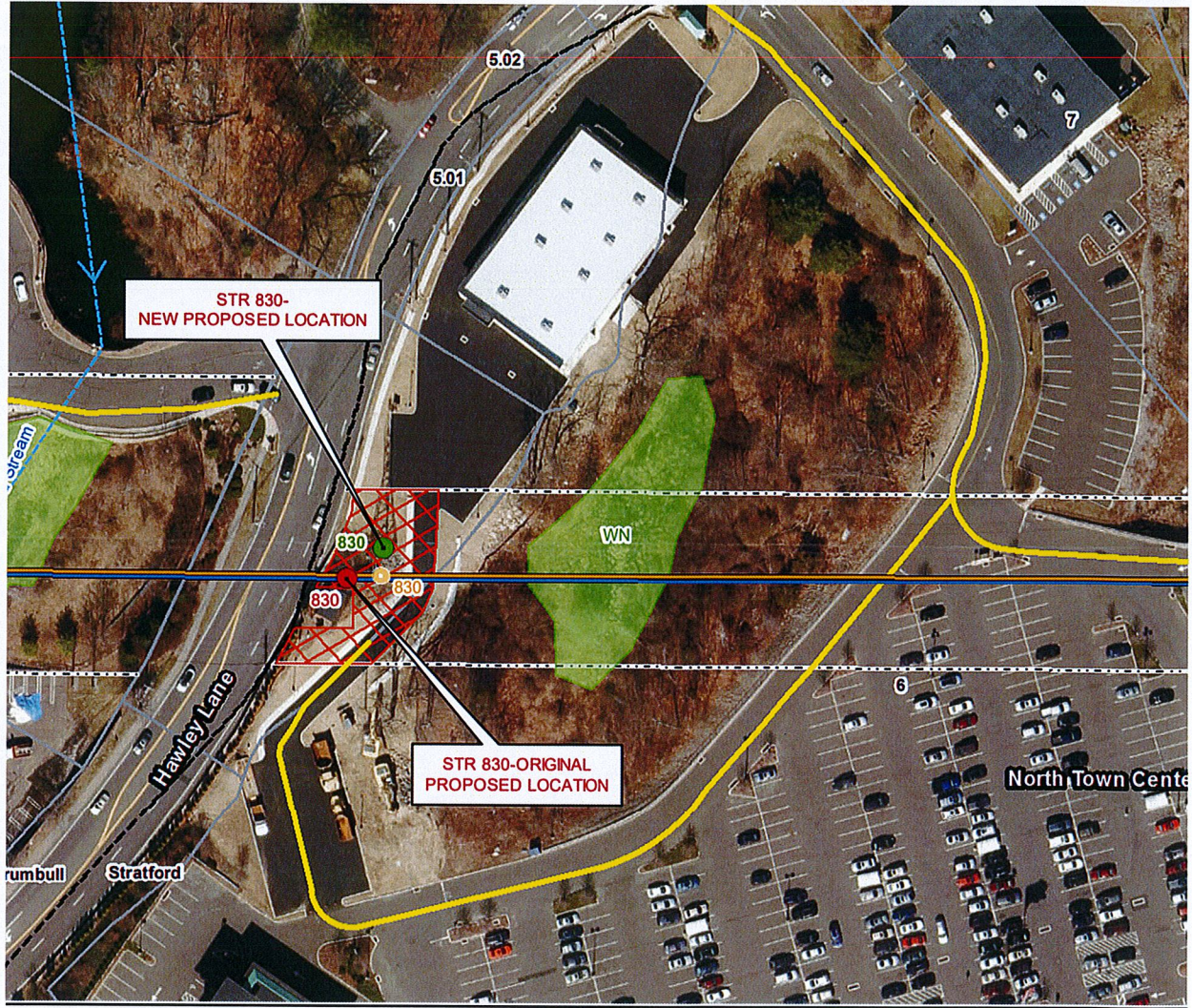


Figure 1. Proposed structure location shown as a green dot.

