



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 16, 2018

Denise Sabo
Northeast Site Solutions
199 Brickyard Road
Farmington, CT 06032

RE: **PETITION NO. 622A** – T-Mobile Northeast LLC (T-Mobile) request to amend its declaratory ruling pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k for the proposed relocation of an existing T-Mobile facility attached to an Eversource electric transmission line structure (#826) onto an approved replacement electric transmission line structure (#826) within the existing Eversource right-of-way located at 1975 Huntington Road, Stratford, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Sabo:

At a public meeting held on March 15, 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 January 10, 2018 and additional information received on February 16, 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 15, 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. 622A

T-Mobile Northeast LLC

Stratford, Connecticut

Staff Report

March 15, 2018

On January 16, 2018, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition (Petition) from T-Mobile Northeast LLC (T-Mobile) 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 1975 Huntington Road in Stratford. On or about January 8, 2018, T-Mobile notified the Town of Stratford and abutting property owners of the proposed replacement project. No comments have been received to date.

By letter dated January 19, 2018, per §16-50j-39a and §16-50j-40 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Council deemed the Petition incomplete, pending receipt of proof of notice to the underlying property owner of record. On or about February 15, 2018, T-Mobile mailed revised notice to abutters and notice to the underlying property owner of record based on the most updated configuration (which involves a minor shift of the structure by about 1.7 additional feet to the west versus the original January 16, 2018 request to amend the Petition). On February 16, 2018, T-Mobile provided proof of such notice to the Council and responses to Council interrogatories.

On June 11, 2003, T-Mobile (formerly Omnipoint) received approval from the Council in Petition No. 622 to install a telecommunications facility on an existing 80-foot tall lattice electric transmission line Structure No. 826 located at Huntington Road in Stratford. T-Mobile's existing facility consists of panel antennas installed on a pipe mast extending approximately 10.5 feet above the existing lattice structure and associated ground equipment installed within a fenced compound directly underneath the lattice structure. The Council's decision included a condition that a six-foot high wooden stockade fence enclose the compound area on all four sides.

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 identified Structure No. 826 for replacement. Specifically, Eversource will install a 110-foot double-circuit galvanized monopole structure approximately 23.9 feet to the west of the existing lattice structure. Eversource's existing lattice structure will be removed. Therefore, T-Mobile proposes to remove its equipment from the existing structure and install equipment on the new structure. T-Mobile would install six new antennas and six Smart Bias Tees on transmission pole mounts on the replacement structure at a centerline elevation of 110 feet above ground level.

T-Mobile's existing stockade compound fence would be removed. T-Mobile's existing equipment pad and equipment would remain. Three new equipment cabinets would be installed in the northwest corner of the existing equipment area. A new ice bridge would be installed to protect the coax cables. The fenced compound would increase from about 15-foot by 15-foot to 24-foot by 24-foot and would have a gravel surface. A landscaping plan has been provided to screen around the compound that includes the installation of various tree/shrub species around all sides of the facility (including the compound and monopole structure). A new six-foot tall white vinyl fence would be installed around T-Mobile's equipment compound.

Eversource and the underlying property owner have reviewed the fencing and landscaping plans and have no objections. Access to the site would connect to the north side of the fenced compound which is the same route as for the existing compound.

The area surrounding the transmission structure is residential. All work would be within Eversource's existing ROW. The proposed project would not require site clearing outside of the existing Eversource ROW. No wetlands are located in the vicinity of the proposed project. No vernal pools were identified during Eversource's review of this transmission upgrade route area. The proposed project is not located within the shaded area of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Natural Diversity Database. The maximum worst-case power density of T-Mobile's proposed LTE, GSM and UMTS equipment would be 3.75 percent of the applicable Federal Communications Commission limit for radio frequency power density using a -10 dB off-beam adjustment.

A Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut has certified that T-Mobile's proposed loading has been incorporated within the design of the replacement Eversource Structure No. 826. T-Mobile's TOWAIR determination results indicate that notice to the Federal Aviation Administration is not required.

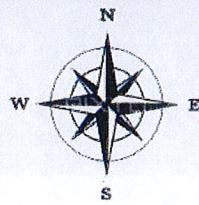
While the proposed relocated telecommunications facility would be located on a taller structure than the existing structure, the incremental visual impact is not expected to be significant because the replacement monopole structure has a more narrow visual profile than the existing (wider) lattice structure. In addition, the proposed vinyl fence would screen the ground equipment, and a landscaping plan has been provided for additional screening and aesthetics.

A temporary facility would not be required. T-Mobile would install the new antennas and lines, cut over to the existing ground equipment, and then remove the old antennas and lines. T-Mobile's work schedule would be based on an April 15, 2018 transmission line outage.

Staff recommends the following condition:

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

Existing Facility and Site Conditions



Proposed Relocated Telecommunications Facility

