



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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

E-Mail: [siting.council@po.state.ct.us](mailto:siting.council@po.state.ct.us)

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

### CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 22, 2006

Gregory W. Piecuch, Esq.  
O'Connell, Flaherty & Attmore, LLC  
280 Trumbull Street  
Hartford, CT 06103-3598

RE: **PETITION NO. 764** - Omnipoint Communications, Inc. (T-Mobile) petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the construction of a ten foot (10') extension to an existing CL&P transmission tower located at 437 Hobart Street, Southington, Connecticut.

Dear Attorney Piecuch:

At a public meeting held on May 17, 2006, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and ruled that this proposal would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, and pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50k would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need with the conditions that either privacy slats in the chain link fence or a stockade fence be installed in place of chain link based on the Town of Southington's preference; that the existing screening vegetation be left intact to help shield the view of the equipment compound; and that T-Mobile's equipment compound be installed underneath the tower within its base.

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 April 25, 2006.

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

Very truly yours,

Pamela B. Katz, P.E.  
Chairman

PBK/laf

Enclosure: Staff Report dated May 17, 2006

c: John Weichsel, Town Manager, Town of Southington  
The Honorable John Barry, Chairman Town Council, Town of Southington  
Mary Hughes, Town Planner, Town of Southington

Petition No. 764  
Omnipoint/T-Mobile  
437 Hobart Street, Southington, Connecticut  
Staff Report  
May 17, 2006

T-Mobile is seeking to add a ten-foot extension to an existing 90-foot transmission line tower located at 437 Hobart Street in Southington, Connecticut. The extension would support three flush-mounted antennas at a center line height of 97 feet. The overall height of the structure with extension would be 100 feet. T-Mobile would also install a 15-foot square compound for its ground equipment. The compound would be eight feet from the northwest corner of the tower. It would be enclosed by a six-foot chain link fence topped with barbed wire. An existing dirt path would be improved to provide a gravel access drive.

Council member Ed Wilensky and staff member David Martin conducted a field review of this project on May 12, 2006. They were joined by Attorney Gregory Piecuch who was representing T-Mobile.

The tower is located approximately 30 feet from the northerly edge of Hobart Street. The surrounding area is single family residential. The nearest homes are on either side of the tower on Hobart Street, approximately 210 feet to the west and 235 feet to the east. There are no homes immediately across Hobart to the south because the CL&P easement runs in this direction.

The tower is prominently visible along Hobart Street and, probably, from many of the homes in the area. The tower, however, is typical of those within the easement in this area. The base of the tower is very well screened on all sides by existing vegetation.

Attorney Piecuch reported that he had sent letters to the nearest neighbors notifying them of this pending petition. The letters were sent on Wednesday, May 10.

If the Council decides to approve this petition, it should consider requiring privacy slats in the chain link fence or a stockade fence to be installed in place of chain link and requiring that the existing screening vegetation be left intact to help shield the view of the equipment compound. The Council may also wish to consider requiring T-Mobile's equipment compound to be installed underneath the tower within its base as was done at a tower mount on Cathy Drive nearby in Southington (Petition 691).

UPDATE: During the field review, Mr. Wilensky asked if T-Mobile would consider locating its antennas on one of the other nearby towers since the one they propose to use is quite prominent to the surrounding area. We also asked if T-Mobile would consider installing a stockade fence to provide additional screening of their equipment. Subsequent to the field review, T-Mobile responded by letter that it would be willing to use a stockade fence rather than a chain link one. The letter also explained that T-Mobile explored the possibility of using another tower with CL&P. They were limited to the tower in the petition because of CL&P's concerns over the length of the access to other towers. In addition, the topography of the nearest towers is lower than the one to be used and would require T-Mobile to install a higher extension to achieve the same coverage.