

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@ct.gov

www.ct.gov/csc

March 21, 2013

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

RE: **DOCKET NO. 438** - Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 53 Gallup Road, Voluntown, Connecticut. Development and Management Plan – Part II

Dear Attorney Baldwin:

At a public meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) held on March 20, 2014, the Council considered and approved the Development and Management (D&M) Plan – Part II submitted for this project on March 7, 2014, with the condition that, in order to avoid unintentional impact or mortality to vernal pool herpetofauna, the construction activities shall be restricted during peak amphibian movement periods (early spring breeding between March 1 and May 15 and late summer dispersal between July 15 and September 15).

This approval applies only to the D&M Plan - Part II, submitted on March 7, 2014. Any changes to the D&M Plan require advance Council notification and approval. Furthermore, the Certificate Holder is responsible for reporting requirements pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 16-50j-77.

Please be advised that deviations from this plan are enforceable under the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50u. Enclosed is a copy of the staff report on this D&M Plan, dated March 20, 2014.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

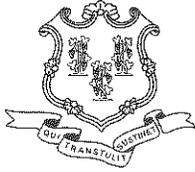
Very truly yours,

Robert Stein
Chairman

RS/CDM/laf

Enclosure: Staff Report, dated March 20, 2014

c: Parties and Intervenors
The Honorable Robert A. Sirpenski, First Selectman, Town of Voluntown
Peter Zvingilas, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Town of Voluntown



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Docket 438
Voluntown – 53 Gallup Road
Cellco/Verizon Wireless
Development and Management Plan – Part II
Staff Report
March 20, 2014

On September 5, 2013 the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Verizon) for the construction, maintenance and operation of a wireless telecommunications facility, with a 150-foot monopole tower, at 53 Gallup Road in Voluntown, Connecticut. Previously, Verizon submitted a plan for tree cutting in the area to be developed for the facility. The tree cutting was to occur during a time of year that would not interfere with the roosting season of two bat species. Recently, Verizon's environmental consultant submitted a letter documenting that the tree cutting had been successfully completed in January 2014.

On March 7, 2014, Verizon submitted the second part of its Development and Management Plan (D&M) for the construction of the facility to the Council and to the Town of Voluntown. Verizon's facility is located on a 261-acre parcel owned by Benjamin Gallup and Byron D. Gallup, who use it for agricultural and residential purposes. It will consist of a 50-foot by 52-foot compound, enclosed by an eight-foot chain link fence, that will include a 150-foot monopole tower and a 12-foot by 30-foot shelter for its ground equipment. The shelter will also house a propane-fueled generator. The propane fuel tank would be separate from the shelter to maintain the required 10-foot no spark zone. Verizon has moved the location of its tower approximately 45 feet closer to Gallup Road in conformance with Condition 2 of the Council's Decision and Order. Verizon will install 12 antennas on a four-sided platform at a centerline height of 150 feet. The antennas will reach an overall height of 153 feet. The four-sided platform will be used because this site is located close to the edge of the Connecticut market area. It will allow Verizon to deploy its antennas in such a way that their signals do not spill over excessively into the adjacent market area.

Vehicular access will be from Gallup Road and will consist of a gravel drive that will extend approximately 70 feet to the back of Verizon's compound in order to provide parking and turn-around space. Utilities will be extended underground from utility pull boxes on Gallup Road.

Verizon's D&M includes a Wetland and Vernal Pool Evaluation Report, which incorporates a Wetland and Vernal Pool Protection Plan. The purpose of this plan is to provide protection during construction of the facility for a vernal pool that lies approximately 200 feet to the northeast. The plan consists of several components in addition to the normal erosion and sedimentation controls. These components include isolation of the project perimeter; periodic inspection and maintenance of isolation structures; herpetofauna sweeps; education of all contractors and sub-contractors prior to initiation of work on the site; protective measures; and reporting.

The D&M plans as presented conform to the Council's Decision and Order, including Condition No. 4 that requires the Certificate Holder to provide recommendations for vernal pool protective measures.