

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE:

APPLICATION OF HOMELAND TOWERS, LLC
(HOMELAND TOWERS) AND NEW CINGULAR
WIRELESS PCS, LLC (AT&T) FOR A CERTIFICATE
OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND
PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION,
MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF A
TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER FACILITY IN
RIDGEFIELD, CONNECTICUT

DOCKET NO. 445

May 27, 2014

**HOMELAND TOWERS, LLC and NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS, PCS LLC (AT&T)
RESPONSES TO RACT INTERROGATORIES
SET II & SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSES TO SET I**

SET II

- Q1. As the application presents potential impacts to adjacent wetlands, please provide the construction detail for the proposed swale around the side of the compound.
- A1. *The contributing drainage area to this swale is less than one half acre and consists mainly of severely weathered rock and granular soil surfaces on very steep grades. The flow here is minimal, the grade along the swale is less than 2% and the Drainage Report calculates the average velocity to be less than 2.5 feet per second. Erosion and sediment transport are not anticipated to be an issue in this location. The swale will be designed to accommodate the flow from a 100 year storm. The design for the anticipated flows will be accommodated in the space available on the property. The final and actual design of the swale surface and cross section will be completed during the Development and Management phase of the siting process should the proposed facility be approved.*
- Q2. Similarly, please produce any soil profile data you or your contractors collected for the area underlying the proposed compound, as well as location of test holes.
- A2. *The surficial soils observed on-site are consistent with the soil definitions included in the Drainage Manual as defined by the National Resources Conservation Services "Web Soil Survey" used for analysis. This information was used for site design and is sufficient at this stage of the process. A site specific geotechnical investigation will be conducted during the Development and Management phase of the siting process and the proposed tower and equipment foundations will be designed accordingly.*

- Q3. Did the Applicant's soil scientist or similar site analyst survey the area approximately 100 feet NW of Wetland Flag 1-03 where Phragmites-Skunk Cabbage community occupies a level area on the slope? If so, what is the soil type in that location?
- A3. *Yes, the phragmites-skunk cabbage seep area was identified during the wetland investigation performed by All-Points Technology Corp., P.C. on June 22, 2013. This area was found to contain poorly drained soils (classified as Ridgebury fine sandy loam; soil profile exhibited some disturbance likely resulting in the dominance of phragmites in this feature). The seasonally saturated soils in this seep surface discharge into a small seasonal intermittent watercourse that flows to the south over uplands into Wetland 1 off the subject property. This phragmites seep wetland area was determined in the field to be located along the west subject parcel boundary primarily on the adjoining Ridgefield Conservation parcel approximately 200 feet west of the proposed tower location. Please refer to the enclosed Wetland Delineation Map dated June 22, 2014 which depicts the approximate location of the phragmites seep area.*
- Q4. Please provide a copy of the Proposed Drainage Plan (DR-PR) cited on p4 of the Drainage Report.
- A4. *The drainage plan is included in the "Site Drainage Report" bulk filed with the Application and another copy of drawing DR-PR is attached.*
- Q5. Please provide a copy of Items 2-4 listed at the end of the Drainage Report on p9 Appendix B.
- A5. *The information noted is what is attached as the body of Appendix B and bulk filed with the Application.*
- Q6. Please provide a detail section for the compound surface. Will it be gravel or asphalt, concrete, etc?
- A6. *The submitted permitting plans identify a gravel surfaced compound on sheet SP-2 "COMPOUND SITE PLAN AND TOWER ELEVATION". A detail of the proposed compound surfacing is included in the revised permitting drawing set submitted as a supplemental submission. It can be found on Sheet SP-4 as Detail #5.*
- Q7. On Sheet SP3 "Gravel Road Section" there is this reference: "See Notes Sheet N-1". But there is no Sheet N-1 in the application materials filed online. Please provide a copy of the same.
- A7. *The reference to Sheet N-1 was inadvertently shown on the permit drawings and has been removed from the current set of permitting drawings. The Sheet N-1 referenced is created once the geotechnical and tower/foundation designs have*

been completed. This requisite work will be completed during the Development and Management phase of the siting process should the proposed facility be approved.

- Q8. Did you delineate or calculate the drainage areas for proposed subwatersheds 4S, 6P, 8S noted in the wetlands assessment? If so, please provide copies of these drainage areas.
- A8. *There is no mention of the drainage areas 4S, 6P or 8S in the Soil Scientists report. The delineation of the noted drainage areas is included in the mapping of the Drainage Report. These areas are defined in terms of size, surficial soils, surface grade, and hydrologic soil group, individually, within the report. Additionally,*
- SubCatchment 4S is defined in the report multiple times (once for each event studied)*
 - Node 6P is the retention basin not a subwatershed,*
 - Node 8S is the subcatchment that discharges to the head end of the swale located along the Northeastern edge of the proposed compound and is defined similarly to SubCatchment 4S noted above.*

SET I

- Q5. Were drive test ("scan tests") that would verify the results of the calculated plots conducted? If so, please provide the data sets which were generated by the tests and note whether the data needs to be corrected for variables including, but not limited to, antenna position, gain and line loss.
- A5. *Attached is drive test data at the thresholds incorporated in the coverage plots provided in the Application.*
- Q17. What is the percent of dropped calls in the target area?
- A17. *AT&T network statistics for the UMTS and LTE sites and sectors around the S1855 area, including 6 sites in CT and 3 sites in NY have been reviewed. All of the sectors pointing into the S1855 coverage area show elevated and unacceptable levels of dropped calls (voice), failed sessions (data), and excessively high usage on the 850 MHz layer which is indicative of a site bordering a coverage gap. The 850 MHz usage is particularly indicative of a gap because it shows that a number of current, actual AT&T users are trying to use their devices in areas where these neighboring sites cannot provide reliable service on 1900 MHz UMTS, only on 850 UMTS – and this could very well be within buildings, homes, and cars as well as outdoors. In conjunction with the measured signal levels on the roads, and the predicted coverage levels shown by the propagation model, this provides a consistent indication of unacceptable and in places completely unusable AT&T coverage in the S1855 area.*

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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Wetland Delineation Map



Source: 2010 Bing Color Orthoimagery

Legend

- Proposed Tower Location
- Proposed Access
- APT Delineated Wetland Boundary
- Approximate Wetland Area
- Subject Parcel

Proposed Homeland Towers Wireless Communications Facility Old Stagecoach Road Ridgefield, Connecticut

Thursday, May 22, 2014





APT
ENGINEERING

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APT FILING NUMBER: NY-283-120

DR-PR

SCALE: AS NOTED

DRAWN BY: JW3

DATE: 05/08/13

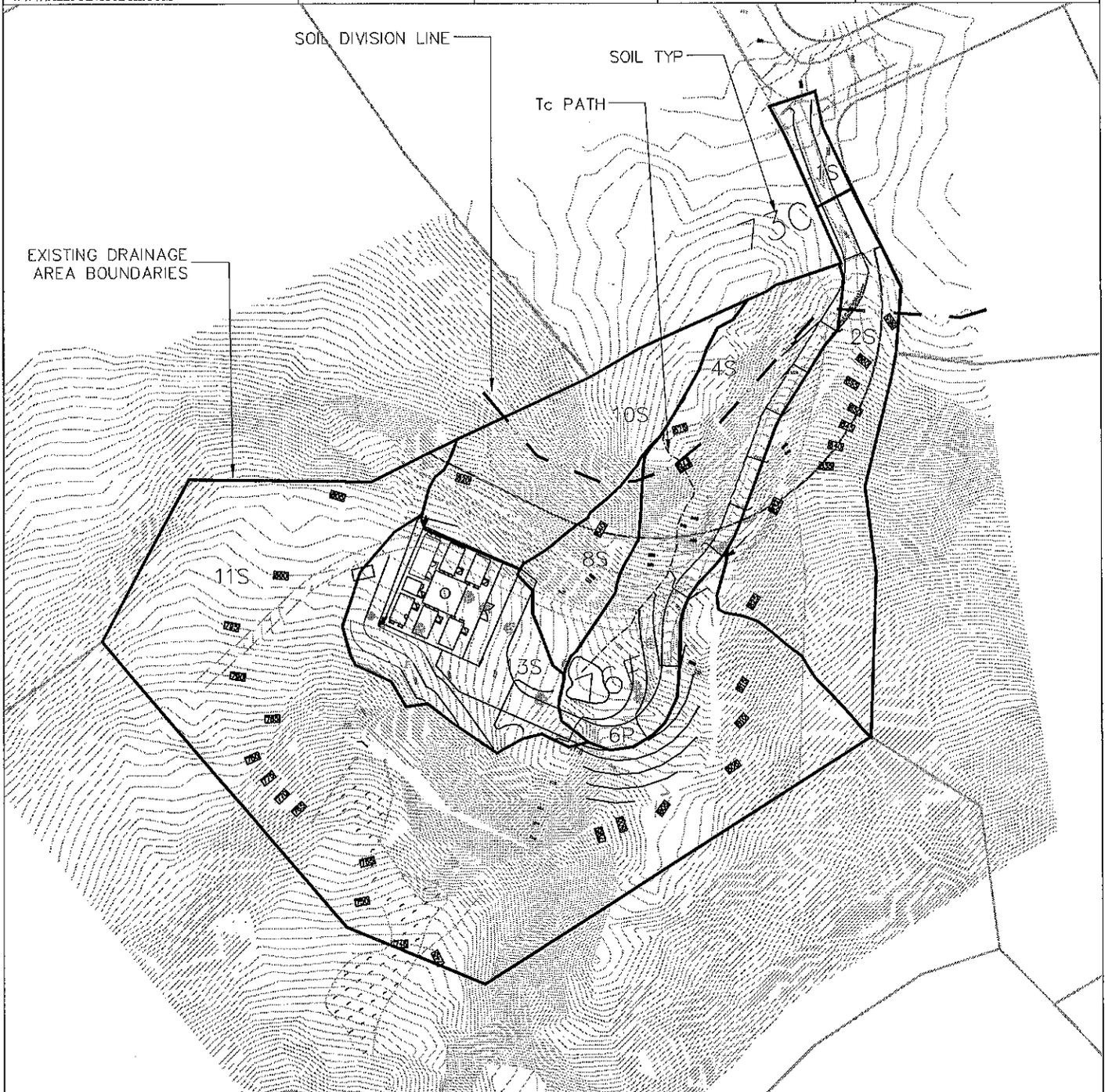
CHECKED BY: SMC



HOMELAND TOWERS
22 SHELTER ROCK LANE
BUILDING C
DANBURY, CT 0810

HOMELAND TOWERS:
CT897 RIDGEFIELD

LEDGES AT RIDGEFIELD
OLD STAGECOACH ROAD
RIDGEFIELD, CT 06877



PROPOSED DRAINAGE PLAN

SCALE : 1" = 100'-0"

REVO:

NOTES:

1. EXACT LOCATION AND ORIENTATION OF PROPOSED COMPOUND AREA PENDING SITE SURVEY & FURTHER ENGINEERING REVIEW AND ANALYSIS.
2. PROPOSED UTILITY ROUTING TO BE DETERMINED BY LOCAL UTILITY PROVIDERS.
3. PROPERTY LINES SHOWN ARE BASED ON A PROPERTY BOUNDARY SURVEY PERPARED BY BARRET, BONACCI AND VAN WEELE, PC, DATED MAY 7, 2013.

UMTS Dominant Pilot RSCP (dBm)

- 74 to -30 (22%) (108)
- 82 to -74 (78%) (378)

