

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE: :
 :
APPLICATION OF MCF COMMUNICATIONS : DOCKET NO. 323
bg, INC. FOR A CERTIFICATE OF :
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND :
PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, :
MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF A :
TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT 12 :
CARPENTER ROAD, BOLTON, :
CONNECTICUT : APRIL 4, 2007

**POST HEARING BRIEF OF INTERVENOR
CELLCO PARTNERSHIP d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS**

I. INTRODUCTION

On October 4, 2006, MCF Communications bg, Inc. (“MCF”) and Omnipoint Communications, Inc. (“Omnipoint”) (collectively the “Applicant”) submitted an application (“Application”) to the Connecticut Siting Council (“Council”) for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a 130-foot telecommunications facility at 12 Carpenter Road in Bolton, Connecticut (“Property”). (Applicant’s Exhibit (“Exh.”) 1).

Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Cellco”) evaluated the MCF tower proposal and determined that this site could satisfy the coverage objectives of its “Manchester 2” search area. (Cellco Exh. 1). Consequently, on December 14, 2006, Cellco filed a petition to intervene in the Application and hearing process (“Petition”) requesting that the height of the proposed tower be increased from 130 feet to 140 feet. On December 20, 2006, Cellco submitted to the Council Supplemental Information pertaining to Cellco’s need for the proposed MCF tower.

Notice of Cellco's intent to intervene and request that the tower height be extended to 140 feet was mailed to the Chief Elected Officials in the Towns of Bolton and Manchester and to the abutting landowners of the Property, as identified in the Application. In addition, notice of Cellco's intervention request and its request increase the height of the tower was published in the *Hartford Courant* on December 21 and 22, 2006. (Cellco Exh. 1).

II. THE CELLCO INSTALLATION

The Cellco installation would consist of twelve (12) panel-type directional antennas with their centerline at the 138-foot level on the extended tower. Cellco's equipment would be installed in a 12' x 30' single-story equipment shelter located near the base of the tower. Cellco would also install a back-up generator inside its equipment shelter for use during power outages and periodically for maintenance purposes. (Cellco Exh. 1, 3/14/07 Hearing Transcript ("3/14/07 Tr.") p. 57).

A. Cellco's Need

The Docket No. 323 record contains ample, unrefuted evidence that Cellco antennas at the 138-foot level on the extended tower would provide quality wireless telecommunications service and satisfy Cellco's coverage needs in the Bolton area. Cellco's network currently experiences significant gaps in coverage along the heavily traveled I-384 and Route 6 near the Bolton/Manchester Town line. More specifically, Cellco's network experiences an approximately 1.1 mile gap in coverage along I-384 and approximately 1.6 mile coverage gap along Route 6 at PCS frequencies, and an approximately 0.95 mile coverage gap along Route 6 at cellular frequencies. Cellco has determined that the use MCF tower described in the Application, with the requested 10-foot extension, would eliminate these coverage gaps and allow Cellco to provide its customers with continuous and uninterrupted coverage along I-384 and Route 6

between its existing and proposed cell sites. The coverage maps submitted in support of Cellco's intervention request and in response to Council interrogatories assume coverage from its existing Bolton, Bolton East and Manchester 4 cell sites and its proposed Manchester Green cell site. At Manchester Green, Cellco would install antennas on an existing tower at the Manchester Police Department. (Cellco Exh. 1; Cellco Exh. 4, Attachments 1 and 2; Tr. p. 58). Cellco's goal with the MCF tower, is to satisfy its coverage objectives in the area with a single cell site. As discussed more fully below, after considering alternative tower locations including the site described in the recently filed Docket No. 328 application, the most effective means to satisfy these objectives is through the expanded MCF tower.

B. Environmental Impact

The Docket No. 323 record contains ample evidence that the extension of the MCF tower and the installation of Cellco's antennas at the 138-foot level would not significantly increase the anticipated environmental impact of the proposed facility. First, although the requested extension does increase the visibility of the facility slightly within the 8,042 acre study area from 27 acres to 30 acres, it does not create any new areas of visibility. (Cellco Exh. 1, Attachment 5; 3/14/07 Tr. pp. 55-57). Second, Cellco has confirmed that, pursuant to FAA standards and requirements an extended tower at the MCF site would not constitute an obstruction or hazard to air navigation and, therefore, no obstruction marking or lighting would be required. (Cellco Exh. 1, Attachment 4). Lastly, Cellco's equipment shelter would be located within the limits of the proposed tower compound. Its installation would not require any additional clearing or grading beyond that required for the compound area described in the Application. In sum, the potential environmental impacts from Cellco's proposed installation and tower extension would be minimal when balanced against the benefits to the public.

C. Alternative Locations

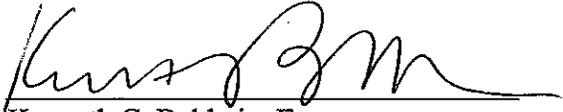
During the course of the Docket No. 323 proceeding, State Representative Pamela Sawyer and members of the public identified eight (8) alternative locations as potential sites for the proposed facility. (See Council Exh. 1; 1/24/07 Tr. (evening) pp. 22-23 and 40-44). One of the eight sites, the Birch Mountain water tank site is currently used by Cellco and is identified on existing coverage maps as Cellco's Manchester 4 cell site. (Cellco Exh. 4, Resp. 12 and 13). Cellco evaluated each of the other recommended alternative sites and determined it would need to install antennas at a height in excess of 200 feet above ground level ("AGL") at each of these locations to provide coverage comparable to that which it can achieve at the 138-foot level at the proposed MCF tower. (Cellco Exh. 4, Resp. 12 and 13).

During the course of the March 14, 2007 hearing, the Council focused most of its attention on the DOT Garage site and the Liberty Candle site. At each of these locations, Cellco would need an antenna height of 240 feet AGL to provide coverage comparable to that achieved at the 138-foot level at the MCF site. (3/14/07 Tr. pp. 58-61).

III. CONCLUSION

The evidence in the Docket No. 323 record supports Cellco's need for the installation of antennas on the proposed extended tower at 138 feet AGL. The MCF tower at the location proposed in the Application, with the requested 10-foot extension, will provide Cellco with significant coverage relief in the Bolton/Manchester area, in particular, along the heavily traveled I-384 and Route 6. This evidence remains unrefuted. Cellco, therefore, respectfully requests that the Council approve the MCF Application and Cellco's requested 10-foot extension.

Respectfully submitted,
CELLCO PARTNERSHIP d/b/a VERIZON
WIRELESS

By 

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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that on this 4th day of April 2007, a copy of the foregoing was mailed, postage prepaid, to the following parties and intervenors:

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Omnipoint Communications, Inc.**
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