

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

IN RE:

APPLICATION OF OPTASITE TOWERS LLC
AND OMNIPOINT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR
THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND
OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS
FACILITY AT 651 PADDOCK AVENUE IN
CITY OF MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT

DOCKET NO. 329

Date: APRIL 27, 2007

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF THOMAS PIETRAS

Q1. Mr. Pietras, please state your name and position.

A. Thomas Pietras and I am a Registered Professional Soil Scientist and Professional Wetland Scientist with Soil Science and Environmental Services, Inc. ("SSES"). SSES is an environmental services company located at 545 Highland Avenue in Cheshire. SSES was retained by URS Corporation to conduct a wetlands delineation and review for the proposed telecommunication facility at 651 Paddock Avenue, Meriden ("Facility").

Q2. Please state your qualifications.

A. I have a bachelors degree from West Virginia University in Forestry Resource Management and a masters degree in Natural Resource Conservation from the University of Connecticut. I am a registered professional soil scientist and professional wetland scientist in the State of Connecticut. I have worked in the field of wetlands and environmental sciences for 26 years. My expertise includes wetlands mapping, conducting tidal, inland and federal wetland delineations and preparing environmental assessment reports for site

development purposes. I am experienced in soil evaluation, soil permeability testing and have served as an environmental inspector to monitor sediment and erosion controls for large constructions projects. I have performed over 1,000 wetland mapping projects in more than 200 towns through southern New England, New York and New Jersey.

Q3. Please describe your involvement in this matter.

A. SSES was responsible for delineating the wetlands on the proposed site located at 651 Paddock Avenue in Meriden. SSES conducted an on-site investigation on February 11, 2006 and provided a brief description of the wetlands that exist on the property located at 651 Paddock Avenue in Meriden (the "Property").

Q4. Please describe the site.

A. The Property consists of 3.89 acres and is currently used as a church. The rear portion of the Property is undeveloped and backs up to the Merritt Parkway.

Q5. Please describe the results of the on-site wetlands inspection.

A. At the request URS, SSES conducted a wetlands inspection of the property located at 651 Paddock Avenue in Meriden (the "Property"), the results of which are found at Exhibit I of the Certificate Application. URS and SSES reviewed the materials provided by Optasite concerning the location of the proposed Facility, access drive and utility easements. I then conducted an in-field review of the Property to determine the location of wetlands on the Property. Based upon my inspection, there is a small, isolated wetland area, described as

a forested swamp, in the western portion of the Property. This is the area of the Property that directly abuts Route 15, the Wilbur Cross Parkway.

According to the proposed site plan, the nearest wetland is approximately 18 feet of the proposed leased area.

Q6. In your professional opinion, are the wetlands that exist on the Property high quality wetlands?

A. In my professional opinion, the wetlands that exist on the Property are not high quality. The wetlands have low-moderate quality. While the wetland soils provide good hydrology, the functionality of this wetland is severely limited due to the fact that it is a small, isolated wetland completely surrounded by development, including the Wilbur Cross Parkway. In addition, the quality of this wetland is partially degraded by the fact that runoff from the Wilbur Cross Parkway does drain into the wetland.

Q7. In your professional opinion, will the development of the proposed facility have an impact on the wetlands that exist on the Property?

A. No. With proper sedimentation and erosion control, the proposed facility can be constructed without physically disturbing the wetlands.

The statements above are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

April 27, 2007
Date

Thomas Pietras
Thomas Pietras

Subscribed and sworn before me this 27th day of April, 2007.

By: Susan M. Doanmu
Notary

SUSAN M. DOANMU
NOTARY PUBLIC
NY COMMISSION EXPIRES JULY 01, 2010