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DATE: March 13, 2007

TO: Council Members

FROM: S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director

RE: **DOCKET NO. 330** - Optasite Towers LLC and Omnipoint Communications, Inc. application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 1294 Pleasant Valley Road North, Groton, Connecticut.

I. Introduction

The application is from Optasite Towers LLC and Omnipoint Communications for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility and associated equipment in the Town of Groton, Connecticut.

The proposed site is located on a 3.66 acre parcel used as a dog boarding and grooming business and a horse paddock at 1294 Pleasant Valley Road North. At this location, Optasite would erect a 140-foot steel monopole inside a 50-foot by 50-foot fenced compound. Omnipoint would install antennas at a centerline height of 137 feet to provide coverage to areas on Routes 12 and 32 in Groton and Ledyard.

II. Technical

The application includes relevant maps, descriptions of the proposed prime and alternate site, costs, a description of the environmental effects of the proposed construction, and health and safety information. The application meets statutory technical requirements for processing the application. Council staff believes additional information can be obtained through pre-hearing interrogatories. This project would not require an outside consultant.

III. Administrative Review

The applicant has stated that all service and filing requirements pursuant to General Statutes § 16-501 (b) have been fulfilled. The applicant stated that notice to the general public was published in The Day and The Norwich Bulletin.

IV. Procedural

The Council must schedule a hearing for the proceeding between 30 and 150 days after receipt of an application. The Council must also appoint a custodian of the docket and designate a place for the deposition of the transcript. Staff recommends designating Lisa Fontaine as custodian of the docket, holding the public hearing in the Town of Groton on Wednesday, May 16, 2007, and depositing the transcript in the Town Clerk's Offices of the Groton and Ledyard Town Halls.

V. Proposed Schedule

Application received	02/22/07
Completeness review	03/13/07
Subcommittee meeting	03/13/07
Pre-hearing Questions	
• Set-One Filed	03/16/07
• Set-One responses due	04/04/07
• Set-Two Filed	04/06/07
• Set-Two responses due	04/13/07
Pre-hearing conference (10:00 a.m.)	04/03/07
Pre-filed testimony due	04/12/07
Deadline to request Party/Intervenor status	04/12/07
Field review (2:00 p.m.)	04/18/07
Hearing (3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.)	04/18/07
Close of Record	05/18/07
Draft Findings of Fact	05/22/07
Draft Findings of Fact, Opinion & Decision & Order	06/01/07
Deadline for Decision	08/21/07
180-day extension date	02/17/08

C. David Martin
Siting Analyst