

Site Search Summary  
(Ashford North)

Section 16-50j-74(j) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies requires the submission of a statement that describes “the narrowing process by which other possible sites were considered and eliminated.” In accordance with this requirement, descriptions of the general site search process, the identification of the applicable search area and the alternative locations considered for development of the proposed telecommunications facility in Ashford are provided below.

Site Search Process

To initiate its site selection process in an area where a coverage or capacity problem has been identified, Cellco first establishes a “site search ring” or “site search area.” In any search ring or area, Cellco seeks to avoid the unnecessary proliferation of towers and to reduce the potential adverse environmental effects of the cell site, while at the same time maximizing the quality of service provided from a particular facility. These objectives are achieved by initially locating existing towers and other sufficiently tall structures within and near the site search area. If any are found, they are evaluated to determine whether they are capable of supporting Cellco's telecommunications equipment at a location and elevation that satisfies its technical requirements.

Cellco maintains three (3) existing communications facilities all located within approximately four (4) miles of Cellco’s Ashford North search area. These existing facilities, however, cannot provide the coverage or capacity relief needed in the identified problem areas, along Ashford Center Road (Route 44), Route 89 and local roads in the area. (See Attachment 6).

<u>OWNER/OPERATOR</u>	<u>FACILITY TYPE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ANTENNA HEIGHT</u>
1. National Grid Wireless	Monopole (150’)	99 Knowlton Hill Road Ashford, CT	127’ Cellco’s Ashford West 2 Facility
2. Raymond Baker	Guyed-Lattice (190’)	20 Seles Road Ashford, CT	190’ Cellco’s Ashford West Facility
3. Charter Communications	Guyed-Lattice (300’)	353 Pumpkin Hill Road Ashford, CT	240’ Cellco’s Ashford Facility

If existing towers or structures are not available or technically feasible, other locations are investigated where the construction of a new tower is required to provide adequate elevation to satisfy Cellco's requirements. The list of available locations may be further reduced if, after preliminary negotiations, the property owners withdraw a site from further consideration. From among the remaining locations, the proposed sites are selected by eliminating those that have greater potential for adverse environmental effects and fewer benefits to the public (i.e., those requiring taller towers, possibly with lights; those with substantial adverse impacts on densely populated residential areas; and those with limited ability to share space with other public or private telecommunications entities). It should be noted that in any given site search, the weight afforded to factors considered in the selection process will vary depending upon the availability and nature of sites within the search area.

#### Identification of the Ashford North Search Area

The purpose of the proposed Ashford North facility is to provide reliable coverage to areas where existing cellular and PCS coverage gaps that have been identified in certain south central portions of Ashford, particularly and primarily along the heavily-traveled Routes 44 and 89. (See coverage maps provided behind Tab 6 of this Application). The proposed Ashford North Facility will also provide additional traffic handling capacity in the Ashford area by off-loading traffic from Cellco's existing Ashford and Ashford West facilities. The coverage gaps were identified using best server propagation modeling.

The descriptions of the individual sites investigated, which are set forth below, include sites both inside and out of the Ashford North search area that were analyzed and found to be technically unworkable. This is due either to the topography in the area or the overall distance from the investigated site to the search area and adjacent cell sites.

#### Sites Investigated in the Ashford Area

In addition to the existing communications facilities listed above, Cellco identified and investigated sites described below.

1. Midway Restaurant – This is an approximately two-acre parcel located on the south side of Route 44. Cellco and the property owner have entered into a lease agreement for use of the parcel for a tower site. This site is the proposed location for the Ashford North Facility.
2. June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation – This is an approximately 55-acre parcel located on the north side of Route 44, north of the Midway Restaurant parcel. Cellco's real estate representatives made repeated attempts to contact the property owner. None of Cellco's phone calls were returned.
3. National Grid Wireless Facility – This is an existing tower site located at 229-31 Ashford Center Road, approved by the Council in Docket No. 239. This tower site was evaluated and rejected by Cellco RF engineers. Cellco

antennas at the highest available location on the National Grid tower (157' AGL) could not satisfy Cellco's coverage objectives in the area.

4. James Whitehouse Property – This is an approximately 17-acre parcel located at 177 Ashford Center Road. In the southerly portion of this site is an automotive repair facility and vehicle storage yard. To the north, the ground elevation of the parcel drops into a large wetland area.

**Site Search Summary Map  
Ashford, Connecticut and Surrounding Area**



**Legend**  
 ● Sites Investigated

\* Site numbers correspond to Site Search Summary documentation

Base Map: Spring Hill/USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map

