



Daniel F. Caruso  
Chairman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: [siting.council@ct.gov](mailto:siting.council@ct.gov)

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January 22, 2008

Julie Kohler, Esq.  
Carrie Larson, Esq.  
Cohen and Wolf, P.C  
1115 Broad Street

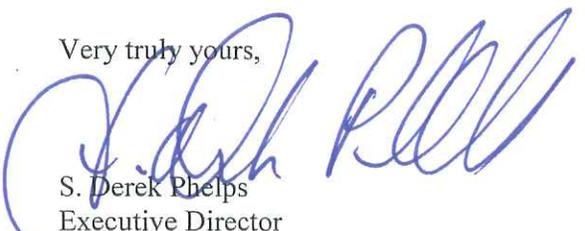
RE: **DOCKET NO. 344** - MCF Communications bg, Inc. and Omnipoint Communications, Inc. application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at Rich Road, Thompson, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Gannon:

By its Decision and Order dated January 10, 2008, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) granted a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at Rich Road, Thompson, Connecticut.

Enclosed are the Council's Certificate, Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order.

Very truly yours,



S. Derek Rhelms  
Executive Director

SDP/cm

Enclosures (4)



Daniel F. Caruso  
Chairman

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**CERTIFICATE  
OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED  
DOCKET NO. 344**

Pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50k, as amended, the Connecticut Siting Council hereby issues a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to MCF Communications bg, Inc. and Omnipoint Communications, Inc. for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at Rich Road, Thompson, Connecticut. This Certificate is issued in accordance with and subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Decision and Order of the Council on January 10, 2008.

By order of the Council,

Daniel F. Caruso, Chairman

January 10, 2008



Daniel F. Caruso  
Chairman

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January 22, 2008

TO: Classified/Legal Supervisor  
**344070906**  
Norwich Bulletin  
66 Franklin Street  
Norwich, CT 06360

Classified/Legal Supervisor  
**344070906**  
Villager Newspapers  
107 Providence Street  
Putnam, CT 06260

FROM: Carriann Mulcahy, Secretary 

RE: **DOCKET NO. 344** - MCF Communications bg, Inc. 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 Rich Road, Thompson, Connecticut.

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Please publish the attached notice as soon as possible, but not on Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday.

Please send an affidavit of publication and invoice to my attention.

Thank you.

CM



Daniel F. Caruso  
Chairman

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### NOTICE

Pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50p (d), the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) announces that, on January 10, 2008, the Council issued Findings of Fact, an Opinion, and a Decision and Order approving an application from MCF Communications bg, Inc. and Omnipoint Communications, Inc. for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at Rich Road, Thompson, Connecticut.. This application record is available for public inspection in the Council's office, Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut



Daniel F. Caruso  
Chairman

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January 22, 2008

TO: Parties and Intervenors

FROM: S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director

RE: **DOCKET NO. 344** - MCF Communications bg, Inc. 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 Rich Road, Thompson, Connecticut.

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By its Decision and Order dated January 10, 2008, the Connecticut Siting Council granted a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at Rich Road, Thompson, Connecticut.

Enclosed are the Council's Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order.

SDP/cm

Enclosures (3)

c: Attorneys Carrie Larson and Julie Kohler, Cohen and Wolf  
State Documents Librarian

<p><b>DOCKET NO. 344</b> - MCF Communications bg, Inc. 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 Rich Road, Thompson, Connecticut. }</p>	<p>Connecticut  Siting  Council</p>
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January 10, 2008

**Findings of Fact**

**Introduction**

1. MCF Communications bg, Inc. (MCF) and Omnipoint Communications, Inc. a subsidiary of T-Mobile USA, Inc. (T-Mobile), collectively referred to as the "Applicants," in accordance with provisions of Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) § 16-50g through 16-50aa, applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) on July 27, 2007 for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a wireless telecommunications facility on Rich Road in Thompson, Connecticut. (Applicants 1, p. 1)
2. MCF Communications is a stock corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MCF Communications bg, a subsidiary of MCF Communications, develops, owns, manages, and markets communication sites in New England for wireless communication companies. (Applicants 1, p. 3)
3. T-Mobile is a Delaware Corporation and a federally licensed provider of wideband PCS services in the State of Connecticut and other areas. (Applicants 1, p. 3)
4. The parties in this proceeding are the Applicants. Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Cellco) is an intervenor. (Transcript , October 11, 2007, 3:05 p.m. [Tr. 1], p. 6)
5. Cellco signed a lease with MCF to co-locate on the proposed facility. (Applicants 3 – Pre-filed testimony of Brad Gannon, Q8)
6. The proposed facility would provide coverage in the Town of Thompson, along Interstate I-395 as well as adjacent areas. (Applicants 1, p. 1)
7. Pursuant to CGS § 16-50m, the Council, after giving due notice thereof, held a public hearing on October 11, 2007, beginning at 3:05 p.m. and continuing at 7:00 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room of the Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenor Dale, Connecticut. (Tr. 1., p. 3)
8. Pursuant to CGS § 16-50/(b), public notice of the application was published in the Norwich Bulletin on July 24 and 26, 2007 and the Thompson Villager on July 27, 2007. (Applicants 1, p. 4; Norwich Bulletin Affidavit of Publication dated July 24, 2007; Stonebridge Press Affidavit of Publication dated August 9, 2007)

9. The Council and its staff conducted an inspection of the proposed site on October 11, 2007, beginning at 2:00 p.m. The applicant flew a balloon from 8:00 a.m. until approximately 7:00 p.m. at the proposed site to simulate the height of the proposed tower. Weather conditions for the balloon flight were breezy all day making it difficult for the balloon to fly at the 150-foot height of the proposed tower. (Tr. 1, pp. 17-18)
10. Pursuant to CGS § 16-50I(b), notice of the application was provided to all abutting property owners by certified mail. (Applicants 1, p. 5)
11. The Applicants received return receipts from all property owners to whom notice was sent. (Applicants 2, A1)
12. Pursuant to CGS § 16-50I(b), the Applicants provided notice to all federal, state and local officials and agencies listed therein. (Applicants 1, p. 4; Exhibit C)
13. On September 26, 2007, MCF posted a 4-foot by 6-foot sign on the town's property where its facility would be located. The sign notified the public of its pending application and provided notice of the scheduled public hearing. (Applicants 3, Pre-filed testimony of Brad Gannon, A10)

#### State Agency Comments

14. Pursuant to CGS § 16-50I, the Council solicited comments on the application from the following state departments and agencies: Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Public Health, Council on Environmental Quality, Department of Public Utility Control, Office of Policy and Management, Department of Economic and Community Development, and the Department of Transportation. The Council's letters requesting comments were sent on September 7, 2007 and on October 12, 2007. (CSC Hearing Package dated September 7, 2007 and Letter to State Agency heads dated October 12, 2007)
15. The Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) responded to the Council's solicitation with no comments. (ConnDOT Letter undated)
16. Other than the letter from ConnDOT, no comments were received from any state agency. (Record)

#### Municipal Consultation

17. On September 25, 2006, MCF submitted a technical report to Town of Thompson officials. The report described the development of a wireless telecommunications facility that would have been located on private property on Wilsonville Road. (Applicants 1, p. 17)

18. MCF representatives met with town officials on or about September 25, 2006 to discuss the technical report. During the course of MCF's consultation with town officials, the Town indicated that it was interested in locating a facility on town-owned property on Rich Road. MCF proceeded to investigate the possibility of developing a facility on this latter property pursuant to the town's request. (Applicants 1, p. 18)
19. MCF attended a town meeting on November 21, 2006 at which MCF presented a proposal to develop a telecommunications facility on the town property on Rich Road. Subsequent to this meeting, MCF and the Town of Thompson executed a lease for this property. (Applicants 1, p. 18)
20. On or about May 29, 2007, MCF submitted a supplemental technical report to the town. This report described the development of a telecommunications facility on the town-owned property on Rich Road. (Applicants 1, p. 18)
21. On May 31, 2007, the Thompson First Selectman, David Babbitt, wrote a letter to the Council in which he waived the 60-day municipal review period and expressed the town's support for the proposed facility. (Applicants 1, Exhibit P)
22. The Town of Thompson has indicated that it would like to reserve space on the proposed tower to accommodate its future telecommunications needs. (Applicants 2, A4)
23. MCF would provide space on the proposed tower for the Town of Thompson's public safety communications antennas for no charge. (Applicants 1, p. 9)
24. At the public hearing, the First Selectman expressed his support for the tower, citing its benefits for travelers on I-395 and its potential for improving coverage for the town's emergency services. (Tr. 1, p. 9)
25. At the public hearing, Kevin Kennedy, Director of Planning and Development for the Town of Thompson, expressed support for the tower because of his belief that it would be beneficial for the town's economic development. (Tr. 1, p. 11)

#### **Public Need for Service**

26. The United States Congress, through adoption of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, recognized the important public need for high quality telecommunication services throughout the United States. The purpose of this Act, which was a comprehensive overhaul of the Communications Act of 1934, was to "provide for a competitive, deregulatory national policy framework designed to accelerate rapidly private sector deployment of advanced telecommunications and information technologies to all Americans." (Applicants 1, p. 5)
27. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 prohibits local and state bodies from discriminating among providers of functionally equivalent services. (Council Administrative Notice, Telecommunications Act of 1996)

28. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 prohibits any state or local agency from regulating telecommunications towers on the basis of the environmental effects of radio frequency emissions to the extent that such towers and equipment comply with the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) regulations concerning such emissions. This Act also blocks the Council from prohibiting or acting with the effect of prohibiting the provision of personal wireless service. (Council Administrative Notice, Telecommunications Act of 1996)
29. In an effort to ensure the benefits of wireless technologies to all Americans, Congress enacted the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 (the 911 Act). The purpose of this legislation was to promote public safety through the deployment of a seamless, nationwide emergency communications infrastructure that includes wireless communications services. As an outgrowth of this act, the FCC mandated wireless to provide enhanced 911 services (E911) that would enable public safety dispatchers to identify a wireless caller's geographical location within several hundred feet. (Applicants 1, pp. 6-7)
30. The proposed facility would be an integral component of T-Mobile's wireless network in this area of Connecticut. (Applicants 1, p. 5)
31. The proposed facility would be an integral component of T-Mobile's E911 network. (Optasite 1, p. 7)
32. Cellco's antennas at this facility would comply with the requirements of the E911 act. (Tr. 1, p. 61)

#### Site Selection

33. MCF began looking for a site in this area in 2003. It was aware of a need for a facility in this area because it had built a tower in Webster, Massachusetts and knew that the Webster tower could not connect with the nearest tower to the south on Lowell Davis Drive in Thompson. (Tr. 1, p. 19)
34. In May of 2005, MCF was assigned a search ring in this area by T-Mobile. (Applicants 2, A2)
35. MCF focused its site search on the vicinity of Exit 100 of Interstate highway I-395. One landowner, Joan McHugh, owns three large tracts of undeveloped land in this area. (Applicants 1, Exhibit H)
36. MCF entered into a lease with Ms. McHugh on the parcel identified as Map 97, Block 29, Lot 3A on the Thompson Assessor Maps. This is the property about which its technical report was originally filed with the town. (Applicants 2, A10, Exhibit 1 Vicinity Map)
37. At the McHugh property, T-Mobile would need a minimum height of 137 feet above ground level (AGL) to achieve its coverage objectives in this area. (Tr. 1, p. 25)
38. MCF investigated at least eight other parcels in the vicinity of its proposed site without being able to successfully execute a lease agreement on any of them. (Applicants 1, Exhibit H; Applicants 2)

39. MCF identified five existing towers within four miles of its site search area. All of the towers are located outside of T-Mobile's search ring and would not adequately provide coverage to T-Mobile's target area. The towers are listed in the following table.

Tower Location	Tower Owner	Height of tower
Route 16 Webster, MA	Charter Communications	66'
Lowell Davis Road Thompson, CT	Charter Communications	78'
Off Douglas Road Webster, MA	Industrial Communications & Electronics, Inc.	213'
310 Thompson Road Webster, MA	SBA Towers, Inc.	59'
61 Lowell Davis Road Thompson, CT	Tele-Media	250'

(Applicants 1, p. 8; Exhibit G)

40. Repeaters, microcell transmitters, distributed antenna systems and other types of transmitting technologies are not a practicable or feasible means to provide service within the sizeable coverage gap T-Mobile is seeking to cover from the proposed location. (Applicants 1, pp. 7-8)
41. Cellco had its own search ring in this area of Thompson and was investigating another property at 354 Wilsonville Road, at the northwest corner of the intersection of Wilsonville Road and I-395, as a potential location for a telecommunications facility. (Tr. 1, pp. 65-67)
42. The Town of Thompson did not support Cellco's efforts to build a telecommunications facility at 354 Wilsonville Road and preferred that Cellco locate on the Rich Road property that MCF was proposing. (Letter from Thompson First Selectman dated June 20, 2007)

#### Site Description

43. The proposed site is on an 8.0 acre vacant parcel located on Rich Road approximately 1500 feet northeast of Exit 100 of Interstate Highway I-395. The parcel is owned by the Town of Thompson. (Applicants 1, Exhibit A)
44. The site property is zoned R-40 Residential. The proposed tower would comply with Thompson's zoning regulations that pertain to wireless communications towers. (Applicants 1, pp. 15-16)
45. At this location, MCF would construct a 150-foot steel monopole tower within a fenced 50-foot by 90-foot equipment compound. The compound would be within a 100-foot by 100-foot lease area and would be enclosed by an eight-foot chain link fence. (Applicants 1, p. 9; Exhibit A)
46. The tower would be located at 42° 00' 41.4" latitude and 71° 51' 07.3" longitude. Its elevation at ground level would be 626 feet above mean sea level. (Applicants 1, Exhibits A and Q)

47. The tower would be designed in accordance with the specifications of the Electronic Industries Association Standard ANSI/EIA/TIA-222-G, "Structural Standards for Steel Antenna Towers and Antenna Support Structures," in accordance with the International Building Code. (Applicants 2, A5)
48. The tower would be designed to accommodate four antenna placements with additional capacity to accommodate antennas for the Town of Thompson. (Applicants 1, Exhibit A; Tr. 1, p. 21)
49. T-Mobile would initially install six antennas on a triangular platform with a centerline height of 147 feet AGL. It could eventually install a total of nine antennas. (Tr. 1, p. 20; Applicants 1, p. 9; Exhibit A)
50. T-Mobile could use T-arm mounts for its antennas. (Tr.1, p. 49)
51. T-Mobile's ground equipment would consist of cabinets on a concrete pad. (Applicants 2, A12)
52. T-Mobile would use batteries for back-up power. (Applicants 2, A13)
53. Cellco would install 12 antennas (six cellular and six PCS) on a low profile platform or on T-arms at a centerline height of 137 AGL. (Cellco 1, Response 11)
54. Cellco's back-up power would be provided by a series of wet-cell batteries and a diesel generator. (Cellco 1, Response 13)
55. Cellco's diesel generator would have a 275-gallon fuel tank. The tank would be double-walled and include a leak detection system. The concrete floor beneath the tank would be capable of containing 120% of all fluids used in the event of a failure of the generator unit. (Cellco 1, Response 14)
56. The proposed site is relatively flat and requires minimal grading. Approximately 123 cubic yards of cutting would be required to remove topsoil for the installation of the gravel road and gravel compound surface. No fill would be required. (Applicants 2, A7)
57. Vehicular access to the facility would extend from Rich Road via a new 132-foot gravel driveway. (Applicants 1, p. 9)
58. Utility connections would extend underground from an existing utility pole on Rich Road along the edge of the gravel access drive. (Applicants 1, p. 9; Exhibit A)
59. Exposed ledge is visible on the property where the facility would be located and may be encountered during excavation. If ledge is encountered, chipping would be preferred to blasting. (Applicants 2, A8)
60. The proposed tower's setback radius would be contained within the town property. (Applicants 1, Exhibit A, Drawing A02)
61. There are 21 residences within 1,000 feet of the proposed facility. (Tr. 1, p. 22)

62. The nearest residence to the proposed tower is located 243 feet to the northeast and is owned by Wladyslawa and Eugeniosz Wotjtarowicz. (Applicants 2, A6)
63. The land use of the area around the proposed site is low density residential. (Applicants 1, p. 16; Tr. 1, p. 21)
64. The estimated construction cost of MCF's proposed facility, not including antennas, adjustments or contingencies, is:

Tower and foundation (including installation)	\$ 244,811
Site development	233,927
Utility installation	59,546
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 538,284</b>

(Applicants 1, p. 19)

### Environmental Considerations

65. The proposed facility would have no effect upon Connecticut's archaeological heritage. (Applicants 1, Exhibit M – July 5, 2007 Letter from State Historic Preservation Office)
66. The Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office found no evidence of cultural resources of significance to the Narragansett Tribe at the site of the proposed facility. (Letter from Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office, dated September 29, 2007)
67. The proposed facility would have no significant environmental impact on any of the environmental or cultural resources identified under Section 1.1307 of the National Environmental Policy Act. Applicants 1, Exhibit O)
68. There are no known extant populations of Federal or State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern Species that occur at the site of the proposed facility. (Applicants 1, Exhibit M – May 18, 2007 Letter from Connecticut DEP)
69. Twenty-two trees with a diameter at breast height of six inches or more would be taken down to develop the proposed facility. (Tr. 1, pp. 21-22)
70. The nearest wetland is approximately 194 feet west of the proposed facility. (Applicants 1, Exhibit L, p. 2)
71. MCF would establish and maintain soil erosion control measures consistent with the Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control throughout the construction of the proposed facility. (Applicants 1, p. 17)

72. The proposed facility would not require registration with the Federal Aviation Administration nor would the tower require lighting or marking. (Applicants 1, pp. 18-19)
73. The maximum power density from the radio frequency emissions of T-Mobile's and Cellco's proposed antennas would be approximately 10.5% of the standard for Maximum Permissible Exposure, as adopted by the FCC, at the base of the proposed tower. This calculation was based on a methodology prescribed by the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology Bulletin No. 65E, Edition 97-01 (August 1997) that assumes all antennas would be pointed at the base of the tower and all channels would be operating simultaneously. (Applicants 1, Exhibit N; Cellco 1, )

**Visibility**

74. The proposed tower would be visible year-round from approximately 392 acres within a two-mile radius of the site. (Applicants 1, Exhibit K)
75. Year-round visibility of the proposed tower from roads within a two-mile radius of the site is presented in the table below:

<b>Road</b>	<b>Length of Year-Round Visibility</b>	<b>No. of Residences with View</b>
I-395	6,300 feet	n/a
Thompson Road	4,500 feet	28
Highland Road	150 feet	2
Porter Plain Road	800 feet	7
Emil Drive	1,200 feet	14
Liberty Lane	300 feet	5
Jezierski Lane	1,500 feet	17
Bates Point Road	800 feet	23

(Applicants 1, Exhibit K)

76. The proposed tower would be seasonally visible from an additional 32 acres. (Applicants 1, Exhibit K)
77. Seasonal visibility of the proposed tower from roads within a two-mile radius of the site is presented in the table below:

<b>Road</b>	<b>Length of Seasonal Visibility</b>	<b>No. of Residences with View</b>
Wilsonville Road	1,800 feet	3
Rich Road	1,800 feet	6
Juliette Avenue	1,200 feet	10

(Applicants 1, Exhibit K)

78. The visibility of the proposed tower from different vantage points in the surrounding vicinity is summarized in the following table. The locations of the vantage points listed are identified by their corresponding number in the Visual Resource Evaluation Report contained in Exhibit K of the application and Figure 10 of this document

<u>Location</u>	<u>Visible</u>	<u>Approx. Portion of (150') Tower Visible (ft.)</u>	<u>Approx. Distance and Direction to Tower</u>
	<u>Site</u>		<u>Site</u>
1 – 39 Rich Road	Seasonal	100'	250 feet; W
2 – 66 & 70 Rich Road	Seasonal	110'	750 feet; SW
3 – 88 & 90 Rich Road	No	n/a	1400 feet; SW
4 – 15 Rich Road	Seasonal	110'	650 feet; S
5 – 471 Wilsonville Road	Seasonal	60'	1600 feet; NW
6 – Wilsonville Road & Route 193	No	n/a	2100 feet; NW
7 – 1081 Route 193	Yes	30'	4400 feet; NW
8 – High Pointe Church on Route 193	No	n/a	2100 feet; W
9 – 54 & 56 Jezierski Lane	Yes	20'	4500 feet; SW
10 – Little Pond Boat Launch	Yes	20'	3700 feet; W
11 – 8 Liberty Lane	Yes	20'	3400 feet; NW
12 – 16 Emil Drive	Yes	40'	3800 feet; NW
13 – 82 & 83 Lakeside Avenue	No	n/a	10,000 feet ; SW
14 – 51 Colonial Avenue	No	n/a	8300 feet; SW
15 – Wilsonville Road & Lowell Davis Road	No	n/a	2800 feet; NE
16 – 354 Wilsonville Road	Yes	40'	1700 feet, NE
17 – Wilsonville Road	No	n/a	900 feet, N
18 – I-395, 0.5 mile north of exit 100	Yes	20'	4800 feet, NE
19 – Juliette Avenue	Seasonal	70'	950 feet, W

(Applicants 1, Exhibit K)

79. The visibility of the proposed tower and a tower at the McHugh property would be comparable. (Tr. 1, p. 25)
80. The proposed tower would not be visible from the Airline Trail, which is approximately 8,000 feet south of the proposed facility. (Transcript , October 11, 2007, 7:00 p.m. [Tr. 2], p. 15; Applicants 1, Exhibit K)

**Existing and Proposed Wireless Coverage**

**T-Mobile**

81. The operating frequencies T-Mobile would use at this facility are:

Transmit: 1935.000 to 1945.000 MHz  
Receive: 1855.000 to 1865.000 MHz

and

Transmit: 1983.000 to 1984.000 MHz  
Receive: 1903.000 to 1904.000 MHz

(Applicants 2, A11)

82. T-Mobile's minimum design receive signal level threshold is -84 dBm to provide in-vehicle coverage for its network users. Its lower limit for providing in-building coverage is -76 dBm for average residential and business dwelling environments. (Applicants 2, A15)
83. T-Mobile's existing signal strength in the vicinity of the proposed site ranges from -84 dBm to -105 dBm. (Applicants 2, A16)
84. T-Mobile's antennas would cover 6.984 square miles from the proposed site. (Applicants 2, A17)
85. T-Mobile has a coverage gap on I-395 in the vicinity of the proposed site of 1.72 miles. (Applicants 2, A18)
86. T-Mobile's antennas would cover 2.2 miles along I-395 from this site. (Applicants 2, A19)
87. T-Mobile's antennas at this site would hand off signals with the sites identified below:

<b>Site Location</b>	<b>Type of Facility</b>	<b>T-Mobile Antenna Ht.</b>	<b>Distance and Direction to Site</b>
310 Thompson Road Webster, MA	190' monopole	170 feet AGL	1.33 miles, N
720 Thompson Road Thompson, CT	140' monopole	140 feet AGL	2.34 miles, S

(Applicants 2, A20, A21)

88. The minimum height at which T-Mobile could achieve its coverage objectives from this site would be 147 feet AGL. (Applicants 2, A22)
89. At heights below 147 feet, T-Mobile's antennas would not be able to hand off signals to its existing on-air site to the north, and the signal strength would fall below the required -84 dBm. (Applicants 3, Pre-filed testimony of Scott Heffernan, A7)

Cellco

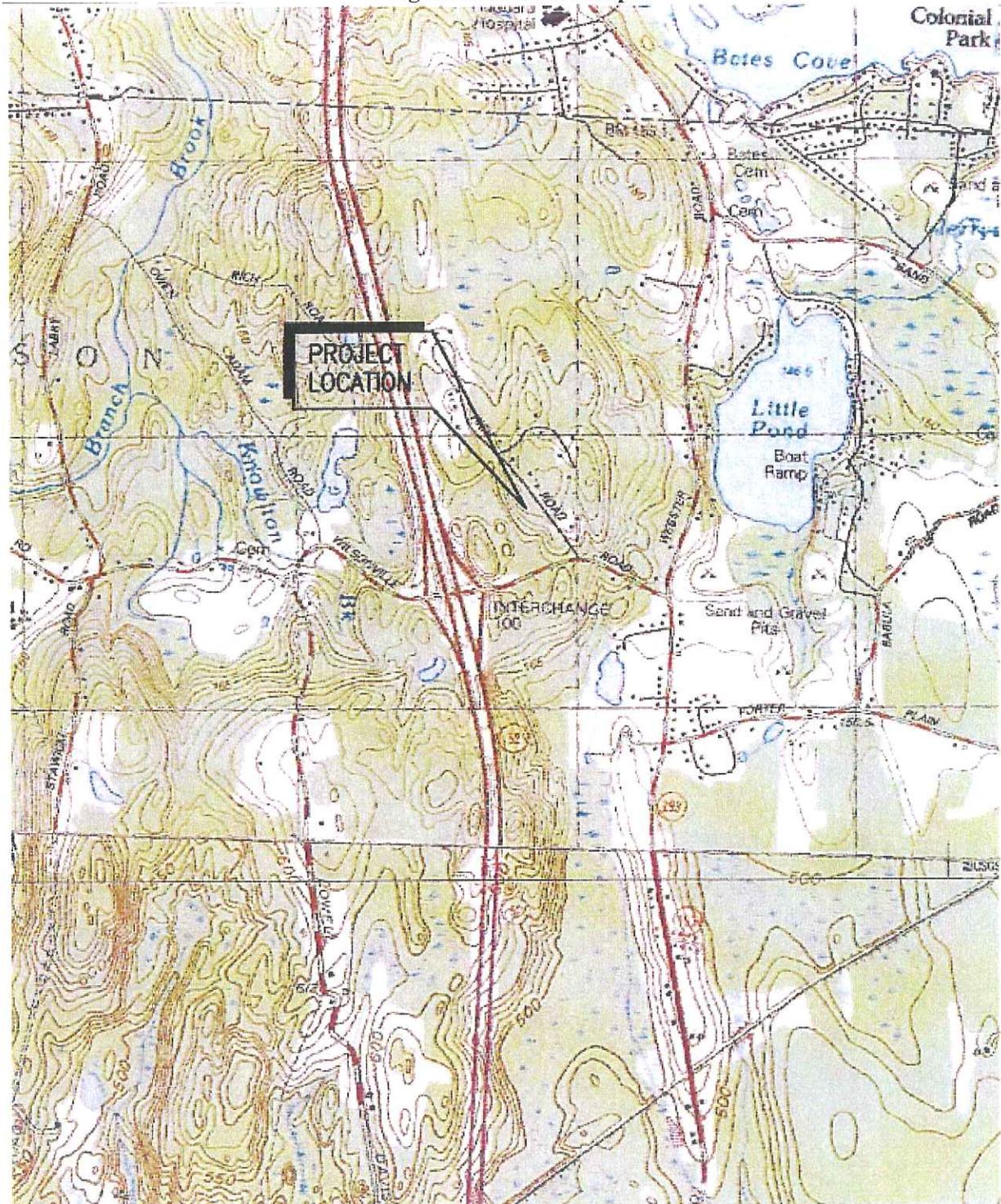
90. By locating on this facility, Cellco would seek to provide coverage primarily along Interstate 395 between Cellco's Webster 2 site in Massachusetts and its existing site in Thompson and along local roads in the northerly portions of the Town of Thompson. (Cellco 1, Response 5)
91. In Windham County, Cellco is licensed to operate in the 869-880 MHz cellular and 1970-1975 MHz frequency bands. (Cellco 1, Response 1)
92. Cellco designs its wireless system for a signal strength of -85 dBm for in-vehicle coverage. (Cellco 1, Response 3)
93. Cellco's design signal strength for in-building coverage is -75 dBm, but its coverage objective at this location is primarily to provide in-vehicle coverage. (Tr. 1, p. 61)
94. Cellco's signal strength in the vicinity of the proposed facility currently ranges from -86 dBm to -111 dBm. (Cellco 1, Response 4)
95. Cellco currently has a 1.2 mile coverage gap at cellular frequencies and a 2.3 mile coverage gap at PCS frequencies along I-395 between its Webster 2 and Thompson sites. (Cellco 1, Response 6)
96. From the proposed facility, Cellco's antennas would cover approximately 2.97 miles along I-395 at cellular frequencies and approximately 1.99 miles at PCS frequencies. (Cellco 1, Response 7)
97. Cellco's antennas would cover a total of approximately 9.8 square miles at cellular frequencies and 4.4 square miles at PCS frequencies from the proposed site. (Cellco 1, Response 8)
98. Cellco's antennas at this site would hand off signals with the sites identified below:

Site Location	Type of Facility	Cellco Antenna Ht.	Distance and Direction to Site
61 Lowell Davis Road Thompson, CT	243' lattice tower	237 feet AGL	2.2 miles, S
720 Quinebaug Road Thompson, CT	125' monopole	112 feet AGL	4.95 miles, W
84 Old Douglas Road Webster, MA	660' guyed lattice tower	130 feet AGL	3.36 miles, NW
Goya Drive Webster, MA	Lattice tower	175 feet AGL	4.54 miles, N

(Cellco 1, Response 9)

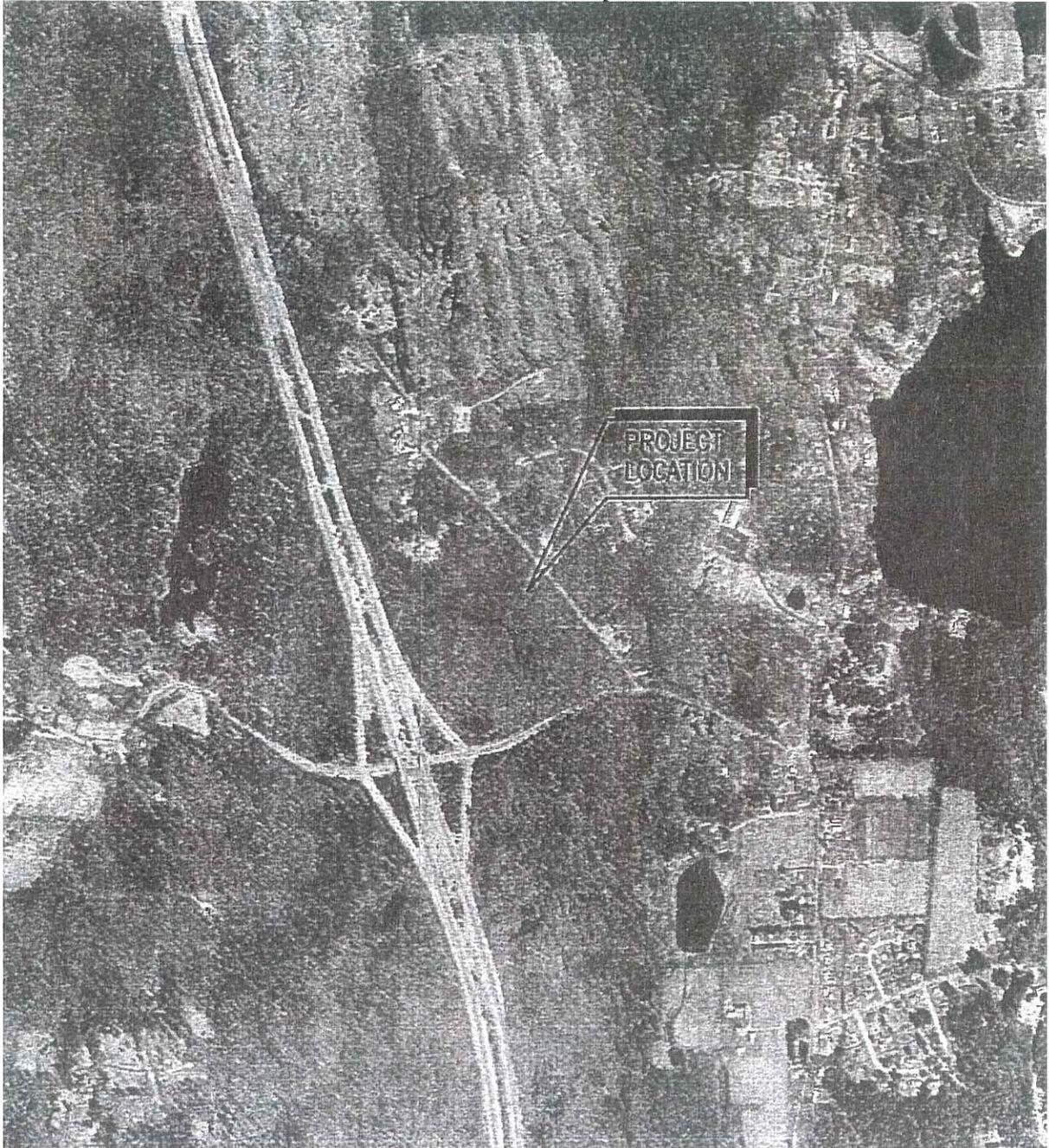
99. Cellco would need a minimum antenna height of 137 feet to achieve its coverage objectives from this site. (Cellco 1, Response 12)
100. Cellco's PCS coverage from this site would have some gaps to the north. Cellco is currently searching for a site in Massachusetts to fill these gaps. (Tr. 1, p. 62)

Figure 1: Location Map



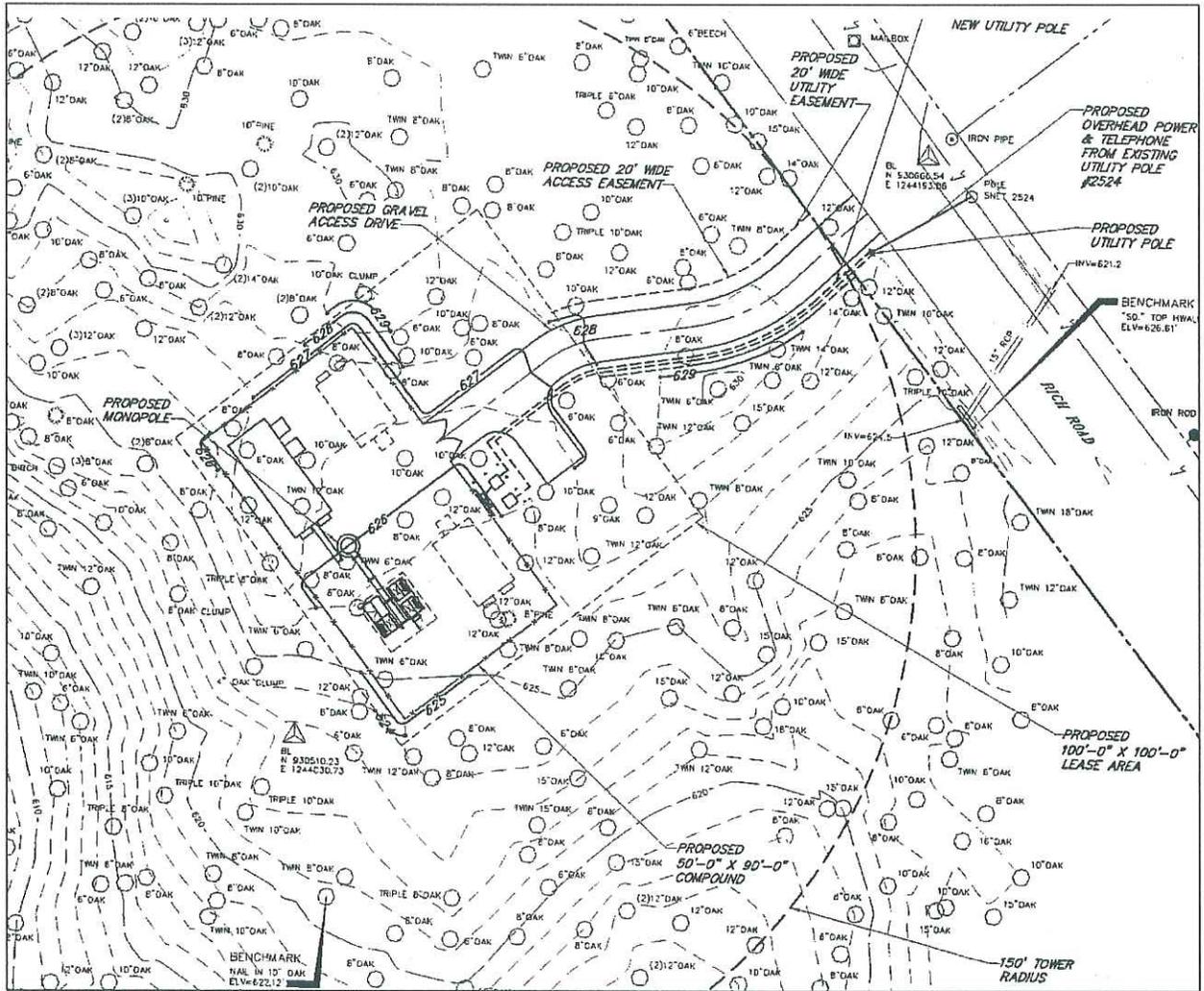
(Applicants 1, Exhibit A)

**Figure 2: Aerial Photo of Proposed Location**



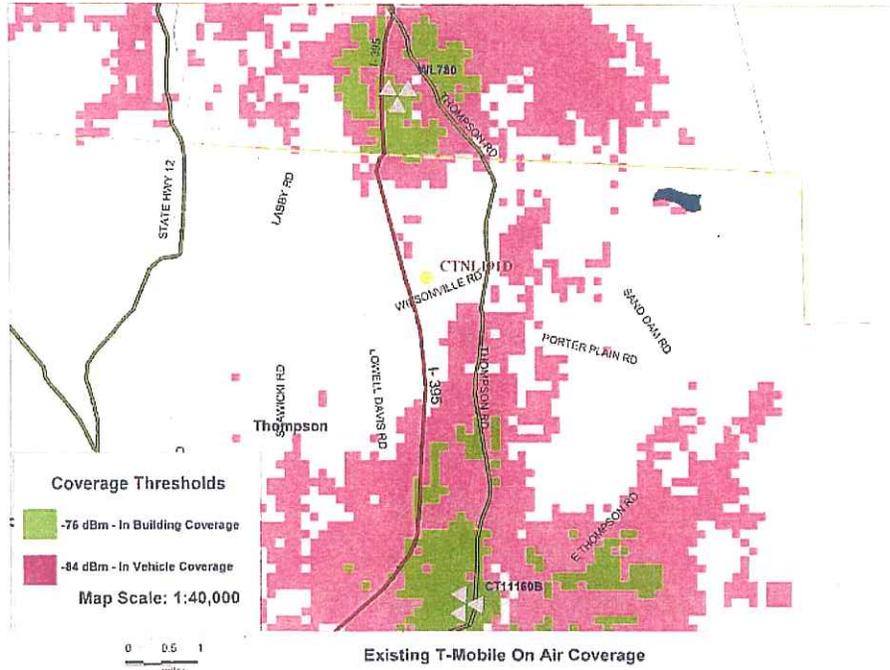
(Applicants 1, Exhibit A)

Figure 3: Proposed Site Plan



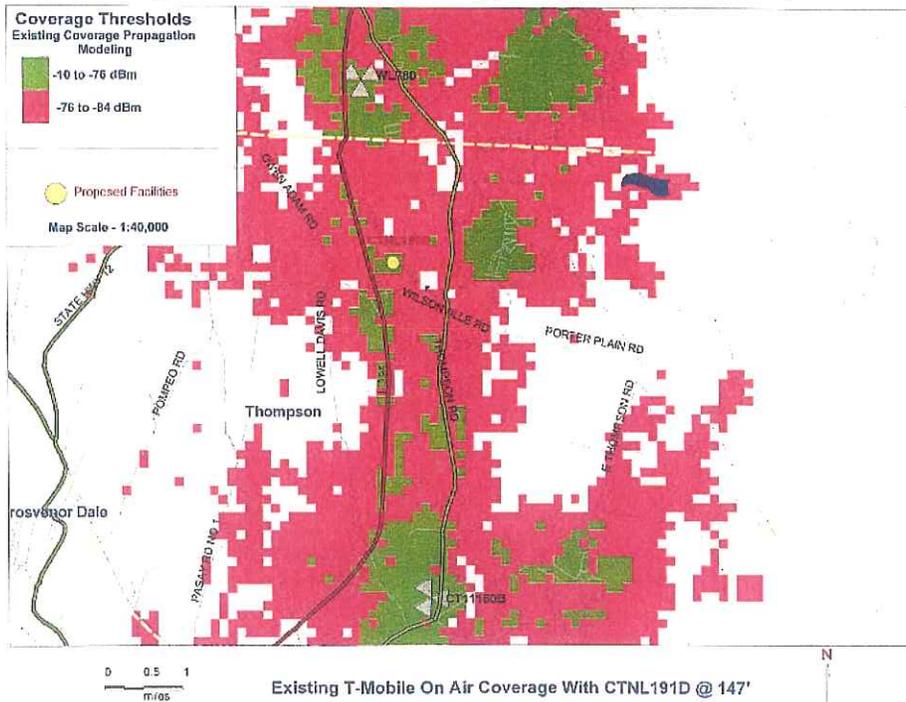
(Applicants 1, Exhibit 1)

Figure 4: T-Mobile's Existing Coverage



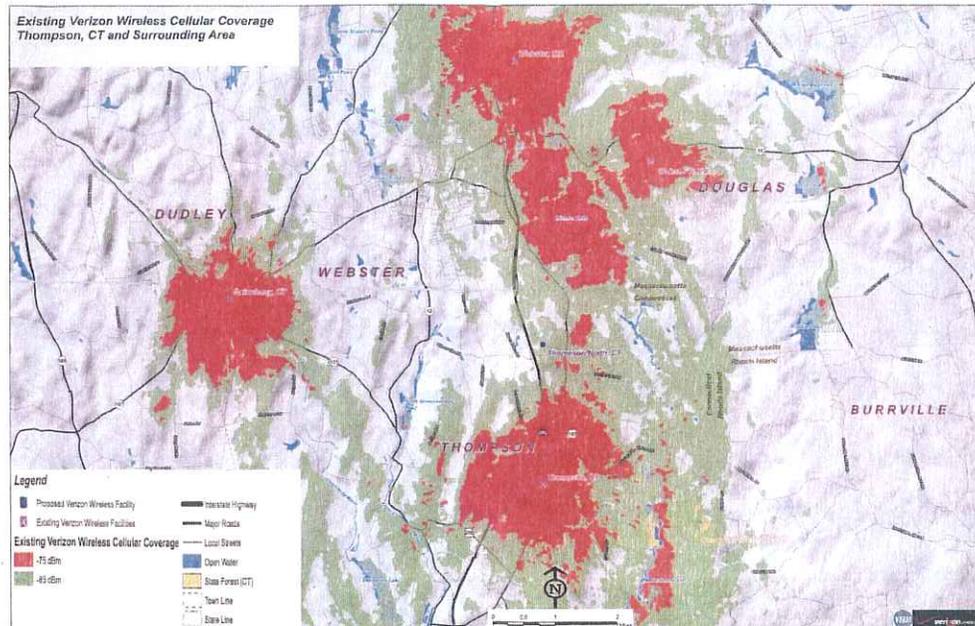
(Applicants 1, Exhibit F)

Figure 5: T-Mobile's Coverage with Proposed Facility



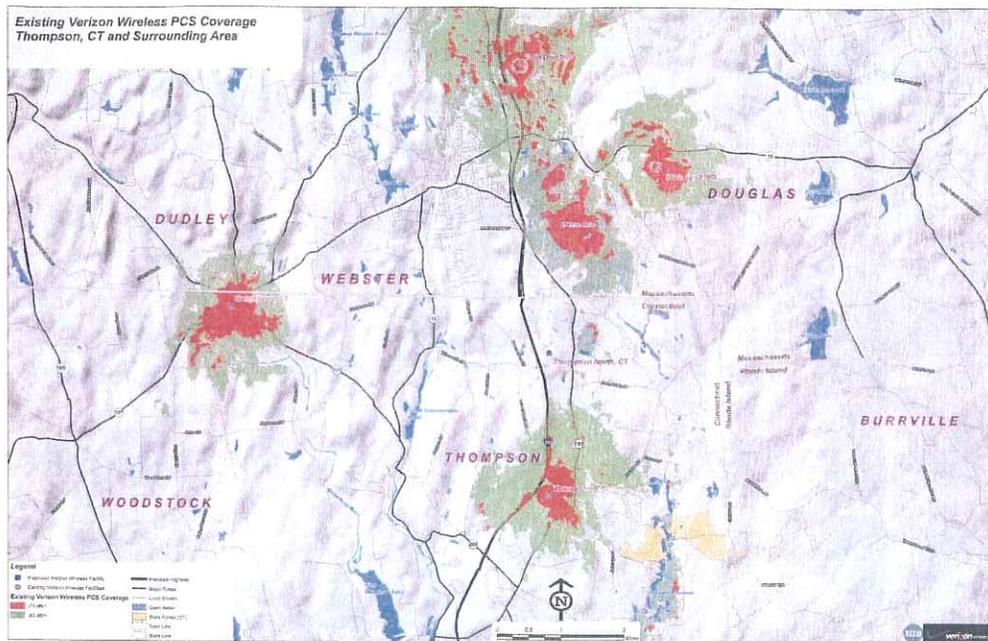
(Applicants 1, Exhibit F)

**Figure 6: Cellco's Existing Cellular Coverage**



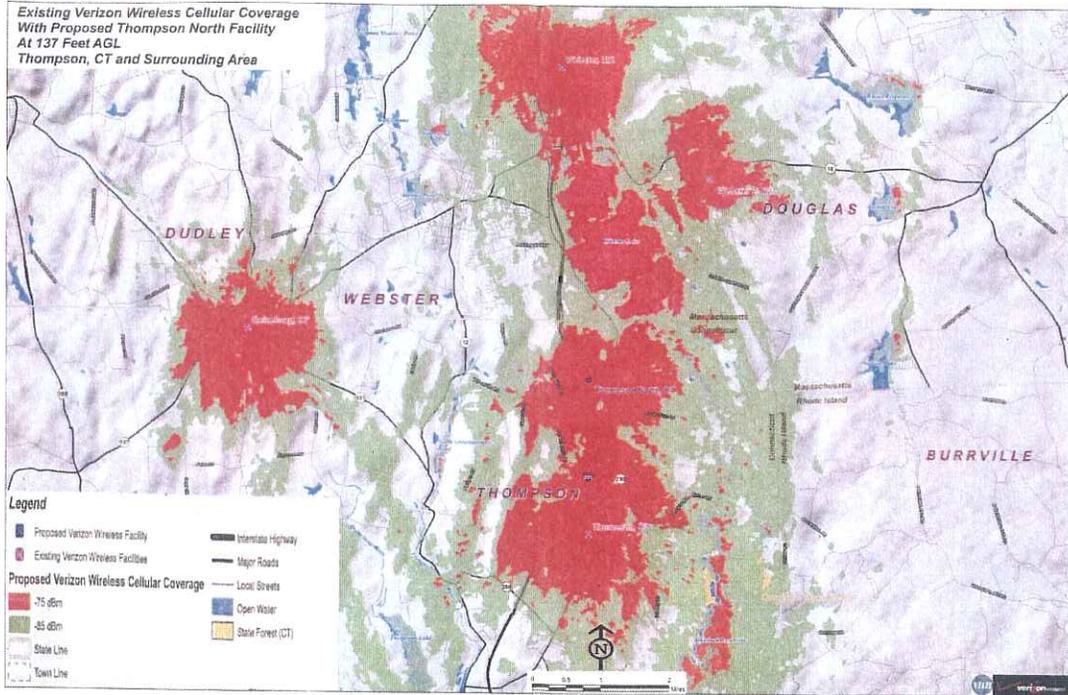
(Cellco 1, Attachment 1)

**Figure 7: Cellco's Existing PCS Coverage**



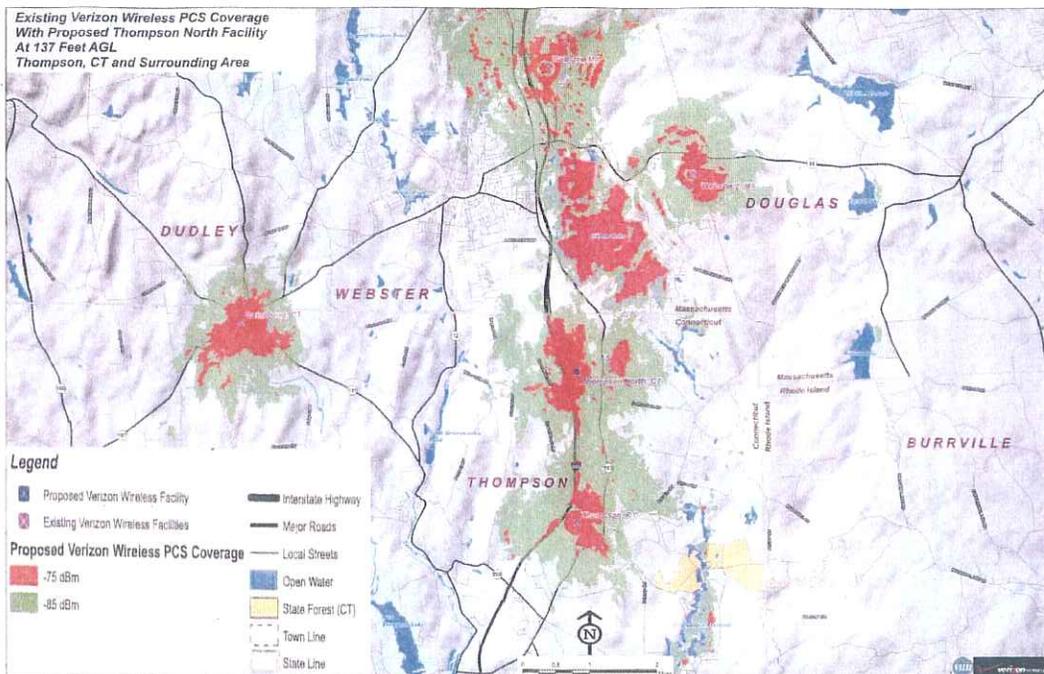
(Cellco 1, Attachment 1)

**Figure 8: Cellco's Cellular Coverage with Proposed Site**



(Cellco 1, Attachment 1)

**Figure 9: Cellco's PCS Coverage with Proposed Site**



(Cellco 1, Attachment 1)



DOCKET NO. 344 - MCF Communications bg, Inc. and } Connecticut  
Omnipoint Communications, Inc. application for a Certificate of }  
Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the } Siting  
construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications }  
facility located at Rich Road, Thompson, Connecticut. } Council

January 10, 2008

### Opinion

On July 27, 2007, MCF Communications bg, Inc. (MCF) and Omnipoint Communications, Inc. (T-Mobile) applied to the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for the issuance of a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) for the construction, maintenance and operation of a wireless telecommunications facility on Rich Road in Thompson, Connecticut. The applicants seek to develop a facility on an 8-acre parcel owned by the Town of Thompson. This property was vacant at the time of application. The proposed facility would provide coverage along Interstate I-395 and adjacent areas in the Town of Thompson.

At this location, MCF would lease a 100-foot by 100-foot parcel within which it would erect a 150-foot steel monopole tower within a 50-foot by 90-foot fenced compound. The tower would be designed to accommodate three additional wireless carriers and public safety antennas of the Town of Thompson. Vehicular access would be via a 132-foot gravel drive that would be extended from Rich Road. Utilities would be extended underground from Rich Road and would follow the access drive to the facility. No landscaping is proposed for the facility because the area in which the facility would be located is well vegetated and would be screened from Rich Road

The proposed tower's setback radius would be contained within the town property.

The proposed tower would be visible year-round from approximately 392 acres within a two-mile radius of the site. It would be seasonally visible from an additional 32 acres. Approximately 96 residences would have partial year-round views of the tower; 19 additional residences would have seasonal views of the tower.

The nearest wetland is approximately 194 feet west of the proposed facility. Twenty-two trees with a diameter at breast height of six inches or more would be cleared to develop the proposed facility.

No known populations of species listed as endangered, threatened or of special concern occur at the site of the proposed facility.

The Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office found no evidence of cultural resources of significance to the Narragansett Tribe at the proposed site. Moreover, the proposed facility would have no effect upon Connecticut's archaeological heritage.

According to a methodology prescribed by the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology Bulletin No. 65E, Edition 97-01 (August 1997), the combined radio frequency power density levels of the antennas proposed to be installed on the tower have been calculated to amount to 10.5% of the FCC's Maximum Permissible Exposure, as measured at the base of the tower. This percentage is well below federal and state standards established for the frequencies used by wireless companies. If federal or state standards change, the Council will require that the tower be brought into compliance with such standards. The Council will require that the power densities be recalculated in the event other carriers add antennas to the tower. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 prohibits any state or local agency from regulating telecommunications towers on the basis of the environmental effects of radio frequency emissions to the extent that such towers and equipment comply with FCC's regulations concerning such emissions.

The Council finds that the proposed facility would provide commercial wireless coverage in an area where there is a need for such coverage and that it would provide an opportunity for the Town of Thompson to improve the coverage of its emergency services wireless communications network.

Based on the record in this proceeding, the Council finds that the effects associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed telecommunications facility, including effects on the natural environment; ecological integrity and balance; public health and safety; scenic, historic, and recreational values; forests and parks; air and water purity; and fish and wildlife are not disproportionate either alone or cumulatively with other effects when compared to need, are not in conflict with policies of the State concerning such effects, and are not sufficient reason to deny this application. Therefore, the Council will issue a Certificate for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a telecommunications facility, which would include a 150-foot monopole tower, at the proposed site on Rich Road in Thompson, Connecticut.

DOCKET NO. 344 - MCF Communications bg, Inc. and } Connecticut  
Omnipoint Communications, Inc. application for a Certificate of }  
Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the } Siting  
construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications }  
facility located at Rich Road, Thompson, Connecticut. } Council

January 10, 2008

### Decision and Order

Pursuant to the foregoing Findings of Fact and Opinion, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) finds that the effects associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of a telecommunications facility including effects on the natural environment; ecological integrity and balance; public health and safety; scenic, historic, and recreational values; forests and parks; air and water purity; and fish and wildlife are not disproportionate either alone or cumulatively with other effects when compared to need, are not in conflict with the policies of the State concerning such effects, and are not sufficient reason to deny the application and therefore directs that a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need, as provided by General Statutes § 16-50k, be issued to MCF Communications bg, Inc. for the construction, maintenance and operation of a wireless telecommunications facility to be located on Rich Road in Thompson, Connecticut.

The facility shall be constructed, operated, and maintained substantially as specified in the Council's record in this matter, and subject to the following conditions:

1. The tower shall be designed and constructed as a monopole no taller than 150 feet above ground level to provide telecommunications services to both public and private entities. Panel antennas to be installed on the tower shall be flush-mounted or attached to the tower using T-arm mounts.
2. The Certificate Holder shall prepare a Development and Management (D&M) Plan for this site in compliance with Sections 16-50j-75 through 16-50j-77 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The D&M Plan shall be served on the Town of Thompson and all parties and intervenors, as listed in the service list, and submitted to and approved by the Council prior to the commencement of facility construction and shall include:
  - a) a final site plan(s) of site development to include specifications for the tower, tower foundation, antenna mountings, equipment building, access road, and utility line;
  - b) construction plans for site clearing, water drainage, and erosion and sedimentation control consistent with the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, as amended.

3. The Certificate Holder shall, prior to the commencement of operation, provide the Council worst-case modeling of the electromagnetic radio frequency power density of all proposed entities' antennas at the closest point of uncontrolled access to the tower base, consistent with Federal Communications Commission, Office of Engineering and Technology, Bulletin No. 65, August 1997. The Certificate Holder shall ensure a recalculated report of the electromagnetic radio frequency power density be submitted to the Council in the event other carriers locate at this facility or if circumstances in operation cause a change in power density above the levels calculated and provided pursuant to this Decision and Order.
4. Upon the establishment of any new state or federal radio frequency standards applicable to frequencies of this facility, the facility granted herein shall be brought into compliance with such standards.
5. The Certificate Holder shall permit public or private entities to share space on the proposed tower for fair consideration, or shall provide any requesting entity with specific legal, technical, environmental, or economic reasons precluding such tower sharing.
6. The Certificate Holder shall provide reasonable space on the tower for no compensation for any Town of Thompson public safety services (police, fire and medical services), provided such use can be accommodated and is compatible with the structural integrity of the tower.
7. Unless otherwise approved by the Council, if the facility authorized herein is not fully constructed and providing wireless services within eighteen months from the date of the mailing of the Council's Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order (collectively called "Final Decision"), this Decision and Order shall be void, and the Certificate Holder shall dismantle the tower and remove all associated equipment or reapply for any continued or new use to the Council before any such use is made. The time between the filing and resolution of any appeals of the Council's Final Decision shall not be counted in calculating this deadline.
8. Any request for extension of the time period referred to in Condition 7 shall be filed with the Council not later than 60 days prior to the expiration date of this Certificate and shall be served on all parties and intervenors, as listed in the service list, and the Town of Thompson. Any proposed modifications to this Decision and Order shall likewise be so served.
9. If the facility ceases to provide wireless services for a period of one year, this Decision and Order shall be void, and the Certificate Holder shall dismantle the tower and remove all associated equipment or reapply for any continued or new use to the Council before any such use is made.
10. The Certificate Holder shall remove any nonfunctioning antenna, and associated antenna mounting equipment, within 60 days of the date the antenna ceased to function.

11. In accordance with Section 16-50j-77 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Certificate Holder shall provide the Council with written notice two weeks prior to the commencement of construction activities. In addition, the Certificate Holder shall provide the Council with written notice of the completion of site construction and the commencement of site operation.

Pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50p, we hereby direct that a copy of the Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order be served on each person listed below, and notice of issuance shall be published in The Norwich Bulletin and The Thompson Villager.

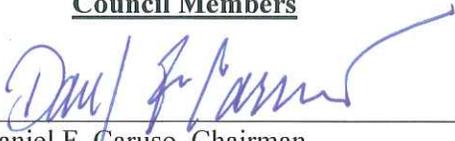
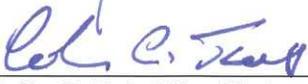
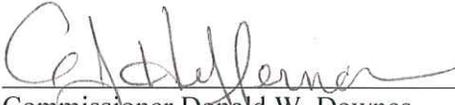
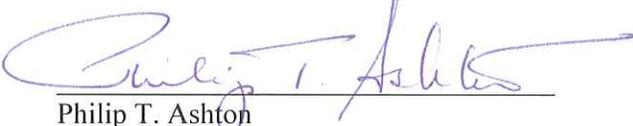
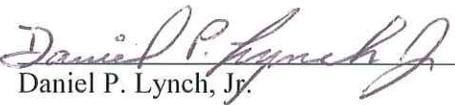
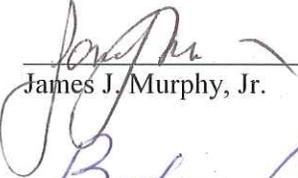
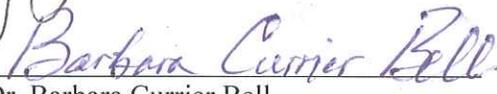
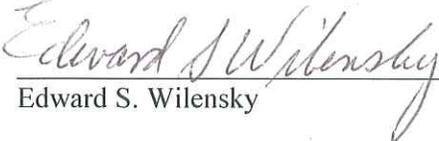
By this Decision and Order, the Council disposes of the legal rights, duties, and privileges of each party named or admitted to the proceeding in accordance with Section 16-50j-17 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

The parties and intervenors in this proceeding are:

<b>Status Granted</b>	<b>Status Holder (name, address &amp; phone number)</b>	<b>Representative (name, address &amp; phone number)</b>
<b>Applicant</b>	MCF Communications bg, Inc. and Omnipoint Communications, Inc.	Julie Kohler, Esq. Carrie Larson, Esq. Cohen and Wolf, P.C. 1115 Broad Street Bridgeport, CT 06604 Tel: 203-368-0211 Fax: 203-394-9901 <a href="mailto:JKohler@cohenandwolf.com">JKohler@cohenandwolf.com</a> <a href="mailto:Clarson@cohenandwolf.com">Clarson@cohenandwolf.com</a>
<b>Intervenor Approved 08/29/07</b>	Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless	Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq. Robinson & Cole LLP 280 Trumbull Street Hartford, CT 06103-3597 (860) 275-8200

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned members of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) hereby certify that they have heard this case, or read the record thereof, in **DOCKET NO. 344** - MCF Communications bg, Inc. 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 Rich Road, Thompson, Connecticut, and voted as follows to approve the proposed Site located on Rich Road in Thompson, Connecticut:

<u>Council Members</u>	<u>Vote Cast</u>
 _____ Daniel F. Caruso, Chairman	Yes
 _____ Colin C. Tait, Vice Chairman	Abstain
 _____ Commissioner Donald W. Downes Designee: Gerald J. Heffernan	Yes
 _____ Commissioner Gina McCarthy Designee: Brian J. Emerick	Yes
 _____ Philip T. Ashton	Abstain
 _____ Daniel P. Lynch, Jr.	No
 _____ James J. Murphy, Jr.	Yes
 _____ Dr. Barbara Currier Bell	Yes
 _____ Edward S. Wilensky	Yes

Dated at New Britain, Connecticut, January 10, 2008.

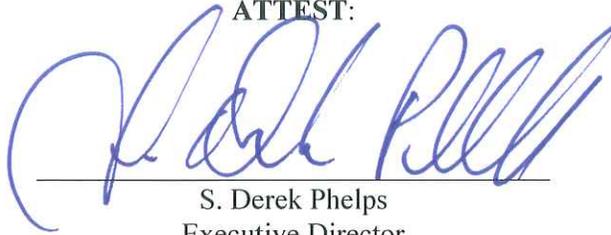
STATE OF CONNECTICUT )

ss. New Britain, Connecticut :

COUNTY OF HARTFORD )

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order issued by the Connecticut Siting Council, State of Connecticut.

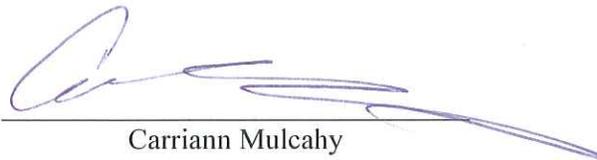
ATTEST:



S. Derek Phelps  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Siting Council

I certify that a copy of the Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Decision and Order in Docket No. 344 has been forwarded by Certified First Class Return Receipt Requested mail on January 22, 2008, to all parties and intervenors of record as listed on the attached service list, dated August 30, 2007.

ATTEST:



Carriann Mulcahy  
Secretary  
Connecticut Siting Council

**LIST OF PARTIES AND INTERVENORS**  
**SERVICE LIST**

<b>Status Granted</b>	<b>Status Holder (name, address &amp; phone number)</b>	<b>Representative (name, address &amp; phone number)</b>
<b>Applicant</b>	MCF Communications bj, Inc and Omnipoint Communications, Inc	Julie Kohler, Esq. Carrie Larson, Esq. Cohen and Wolf, P.C 1115 Broad Street Bridgeport, CT 06604 Tel: 203-368-0211 Fax: 203-394-9901 <a href="mailto:JKohler@cohenandwolf.com">JKohler@cohenandwolf.com</a> <a href="mailto:Clarson@cohenandwolf.com">Clarson@cohenandwolf.com</a>
<b>Intervenor Approved 08/29/07</b>	Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless	Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq. Robinson & Cole LLP 280 Trumbull Street Hartford, CT 06103-3597 (860) 275-8200