

DATE: August 29, 2007

TO: Council Members

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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#### I. Introduction

The application is from MCF Communications bg, Inc and Omnipoint Communications, Inc. for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility and associated equipment in the Town of Thompson, Connecticut.

MCF proposes to erect a 150-foot steel monopole telecommunications tower on an 8.0 acre parcel near Exit 100 of Interstate Highway I-395. The tower would be built within a 50-foot by 90-foot enclosed compound.

#### 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 § 16-50j (b) have been fulfilled. The applicant stated that notice to the general public was published in the Norwich Bulletin and the Thompson Villager.

#### 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 Carriann Mulcahy as custodian of the docket, holding the public hearing in the Town of Thompson on Thursday, October 11, 2007, and depositing the transcript in the Thompson Town Hall.

V. Proposed Schedule

Application received	07/27/07
Completeness review	08/29/07
Subcommittee meeting	08/29/07
Pre-hearing Questions	
• Set-One Filed	08/30/07
• Set-One responses due	09/18/07
• Set-Two Filed	09/20/07
• Set-Two responses due	10/08/07
Pre-hearing conference (10:00 a.m.)	09/13/07
Pre-filed testimony due	10/05/07
Deadline to request Party/Intervenor status	10/08/07
Field review (2:00 p.m.)	10/11/07
Hearing (3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.)	10/11/07
Close of Record	11/12/07
Draft Findings of Fact	11/16/07
Draft Findings of Fact, Opinion & Decision & Order	11/28/07
Deadline for Decision	01/23/08

Siting Analyst: David Martin