

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

IN RE:

APPLICATION OF 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 AT RICH ROAD IN THE
TOWN OF THOMPSON, CONNECTICUT

DOCKET NO. 344

DATE: October 3, 2007

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF RODNEY BASCOM, P.E.

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

A. Rodney A. Bascom and I am a Civil Engineer at Clough Harbour & Associates, LLP ("CHA"). CHA is located at 2139 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 212, Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Q2. Please state your qualifications.

A. I received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Clarkson University in 1982. I am a licensed civil engineer in the State of Connecticut. I have worked in the engineering field for over 24 years and have been employed by CHA for 22 years. I have managed and assisted in the permitting of more than 1,000 wireless telecommunications facilities in New England and New York.

Q3. Please describe your involvement in this matter.

A. CHA was responsible for designing and preparing the site plans for the proposed Facility including the site access plan, the compound plan and tower

elevation. CHA conducted a tree inventory of the site to determine the number of trees with a diameter of six inches or larger that would need to be removed for the construction of the site access driveway and compound. In addition, CHA was responsible for preparing the visual impact study and the Phase I Environmental Study. Finally, CHA supervised the NEPA Compliance study and documentation.

Q4. Please describe the site.

A. The site of the proposed Facility is located at Rich Road in Thompson (the "Site" or the "Property"). The Property is located in the R-40 residential zoning district. The Property is located on Assessor's map 97, block 28, lot 7. The Property is eight acres in size and is heavily wooded with mature vegetation. The Property is owned by the Town of Thompson. The Property is undeveloped and is located east of the Interstate I-395, exit 100N on-ramp. The Site is located in the northeastern portion of the Property. The Property is an ideal location for a telecommunications facility due to the topography, size, existence of mature trees and vegetation, as well as its proximity to Interstate I-395.

Q5. Please describe the access driveway.

A. The Co-Applicants will construct a 132 foot new access driveway off of Rich Road. The access driveway would result in minimal land disturbance but would require tree removal due to the fact that the Property is heavily wooded. In addition, the Co-Applicants will attempt to maintain a tree buffer along the access driveway and around the equipment compound in order to provide additional visual screening.

Q6. Please describe the proposed Facility.

A. The Application consists of plans for a 150-foot monopole and associated equipment compound and access driveway. The compound area is 50 foot by 90 foot and will be fenced in with a security fence and associated gate. The proposed Facility will accommodate antenna arrays and equipment for co-applicant Omnipoint Communications, Inc. ("T-Mobile") at 147 feet above ground level (AGL). In addition, the proposed Facility will accommodate intervenor Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (137 feet AGL) and two additional wireless carriers at 127 feet AGL and 117 feet AGL.

Q7. Please describe the process for conducting the Visibility Study.

A. At the request of MCF, CHA conducted the Visibility Study (Exhibit K of the Application), which included a balloon float test at the Site on April 30, 2007 and the preparation of a computer-generated viewshed map. The balloon float test consisted of floating a balloon, 60 inches in diameter, to the height of 150 feet, the proposed height of the Facility. Once the balloon was aloft, CHA staff completed a field drive of the study area and photographed the balloon from numerous vantage points within a two-mile radius (the "Study Area") to determine the actual locations where the proposed tower would be visible. CHA focused on sensitive visual receptors. The location of each photograph was recorded and subsequently plotted on a USGS topographic quad angle map to indicate their approximate distance and relative location to the proposed Facility.

Q8. How were the representative locations chosen?

A. Several photo locations were selected prior to the in-field evaluation utilizing a preliminary version of the viewshed map to identify areas adjacent to public roads where the proposed Facility might be visible. Other locations were identified based on in-field observations made during the time that the photographic documentation was being conducted, including areas along public roadways where the tower might be partially visible. In addition, CHA focused its efforts on sensitive visual receptors including residential and historical areas.

Q9. Please describe how you prepared the viewshed analysis for the Visibility Study.

A. The viewshed map was prepared by utilizing USGS topography maps and 2004 aerial photographs to determine the topography, and vegetation limits within the surrounding two-mile area. The vegetation height was estimated to be approximately 65 feet.

Also included in the viewshed model was information gathered during a field review for sensitive visual receptors. These receptors were determined by a review of the town GIS data and street maps. Additionally, information is gathered from the Connecticut State Department of Transportation (“DOT”) and local officials to determine if there are any state or locally designated scenic or historic roadways located in the study area.

CHA did not identify any scenic roads, recreational areas or historic or cultural resources within the Study Area.

Q10. Please describe the visibility of the proposed Facility.

A. Areas from which the proposed Facility will be at least partially visible year-round comprise 392 acres or approximately 5.0% of the entire study area. Much of that visibility occurs over open water of several ponds and lakes in the area including South Pond and Little Pond. The proposed Facility will be visible along I-395, Thompson Road, Highland Road, Porter Plain Road, Emil Drive, Liberty Lane, Jezierski Lane and Bates Point Road. The size of the host property and the existing mature vegetation on the site serve to minimize the visual effects of the proposed Facility. We estimate approximately 96 residences will have partial, year-round views of the proposed Facility.

In addition, 32 acres or approximately 4.0% of the entire study area will have seasonal views of a portion of the Facility. We estimate approximately 19 residences will have partial, seasonal views of the proposed Facility.

Q11. Will the proposed Facility have any visual impact on any sensitive visual receptors?

A. The proposed Facility will have no visual impact on sensitive visual receptors. CHA did not identify any scenic roads, hiking trails, recreational areas, historic resources or cultural resources in the Study Area.

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

10/3/07
Date

Rodney A. Bascom
Rodney A. Bascom, P.E.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 3rd day of October, 2007.

By: Cathy A. Diana
Notary - Cathy A. Diana

CATHY A. DIANA
NOTARY PUBLIC
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JAN. 31, 2012