

Site Search Summary
(New Milford NW)

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 New Milford are provided below.

Site Search Process

To initiate its site selection process in an area where a need 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.

Identification of the New Milford NW Search Area

The purpose of the proposed New Milford NW Facility is to provide reliable coverage for coverage gaps or holes that have been identified in the northwesterly portions of New Milford, particularly along Route 7 and portions of Route 55 between Cellco’s existing Kent South and New Milford West facilities. (See Attachment 7.)

Existing Telecommunications Facilities

The only telecommunications tower within four (4) miles of the proposed New Milford NW Facility is an existing Spectrasite tower off Bulls Bridge Road in Kent, Connecticut, identified in this Application as Cellco’s Kent South facility. In addition to the Kent South facility, Cellco maintains three existing telecommunications facilities in the general area, two in New Milford and one in Sherman, Connecticut. These existing Cellco facilities, however, cannot provide the coverage needed along Routes 7 and 55 and local roads in the Gaylordsville area. (See Composite Coverage Maps in Attachment 7).

	<u>OWNER/ OPERATOR</u>	<u>FACILITY TYPE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CELLCO ANTENNA HEIGHT</u>
1.	SpectraSite	180’ Monopole	136 Bulls Bridge Road Kent, CT	160’

	<u>OWNER/ OPERATOR</u>	<u>FACILITY TYPE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CELLCO ANTENNA HEIGHT</u>
2.	Sprint	150' Monopole	86 Boardman Road New Milford, CT	130'
3.	Cellco/Nextel	90' Farm Silo	32 Route 37 East Sherman, CT	77'
4.	SpectraSite	150' Monopole	4 Elkington Farm Road New Milford, CT	133'

CL&P Transmission Line Structures

In addition to the existing telecommunications towers listed above, Cellco investigated the use of a series of CL&P transmission line structures in the Gaylordsville area. The shared use of CL&P structures was explored as a part of the initial site search process before the Gaylordsville Volunteer Fire Department (“GVFD”) site was selected. During the local input phase of this application process, the New Milford Zoning Commission asked Cellco to further explore the use of the CL&P structures. Cellco spent the next several months locating the existing transmission line structures and investigating whether use of those structures was feasible.

The structures investigated are associated with two CL&P transmission lines that run through the Gaylordsville section of New Milford. Line 398 is an existing 345 kV transmission line supported by a series of 60 to 70-foot wood poles. Line 568 is an existing 115 kV transmission line supported by a series of metal poles between 60 and 75 feet tall.

The use of the existing 60 to 70-foot wooden support structures along Line 398 present Cellco with some significant challenges. The existing 60 to 70-foot wood poles are not capable of supporting Cellco’s equipment and could not be extended to the height required for Cellco to satisfy its coverage objectives. The existing wood support structures would need to be replaced and extended to between 100 and 120 feet if they are to be used. Before this type of construction could occur, Line 398 would need to be taken out of service. While the extension and use of structures along Line 398 is theoretically possible, CL&P could not offer any assurance as to when, if ever, it would be willing to interrupt service of this line to allow the work to occur. Cellco cannot, therefore, be certain when it could (if ever) construct and maintain a facility along Line 398. Similar problems would exist if Cellco were to use one of the existing 60 to 75 foot wood or metal poles along Line 568 (the 115 kV transmission line). Because these structures were not designed to support telecommunications antennas and equipment, each structure would also need to be replaced with significantly taller structures.

Cellco reviewed a total of eleven (11) different CL&P structure locations as possible alternatives to the GVFD tower. Through its initial screening effort, Cellco’s RF engineers rejected five (5) of the eleven (11) locations because they failed to satisfy Cellco’s coverage objectives in the Gaylordsville area. (See Site locations A through E on the attached map). The

remaining six (6) locations, identified as #1 through #6, would all require the replacement and extension of the existing CL&P pole height from 60-75 feet to 100-120 feet. Each of these sites was rejected due to: 1) concerns for access; 2) wetland impacts; 3) impacts on adjacent residential areas; 4) construction difficulties; and 5) uncooperative landowners. In each instance, the overall environmental effect for each of the CL&P locations explored would be more significant than at the proposed GVFD site.

Gaylordsville United Methodist Church

Cellco also explored the installation of antennas in the steeple of the Gaylordsville United Methodist Church located at 685 Kent Road, in Gaylordsville. This site was rejected because the steeple, at approximately 68 feet above ground level, did not provide Cellco with adequate height for its antennas and would not satisfy its coverage objectives in the area.

Farm Silo Structure

Cellco also explored the use of an existing approximately 50-foot silo structure off Long Mountain Road in New Milford. The silo is located approximately one mile from the Gaylordsville Fire Department site. The existing silo is too short and too far from Routes 7 and 55 to provide reliable coverage in the Gaylordsville area.

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.

Sites Investigated in the northwest New Milford Area

In addition to the existing communications facilities and other tall structures listed above, Cellco identified and investigated two (2) "raw land" locations that would satisfy its coverage objectives on land in the Town of New Milford. These sites are described below.

Sites Investigated

1. Gaylordsville Volunteer Fire Department – The GVFD currently maintains its communication antennas on an approximately 50-foot tall wood pole, behind the Fire Station. Locating a new tower at this site is consistent with the existing use of the parcel and will allow the GVFD to enhance its emergency service communication network.

2. Golf Club at River Oaks – The Club at River Oaks is a 350 acre private golf club and residential community located off Evans Hill Road in Sherman, CT. The club owners were approached by a Cellco Real Estate Representative and rejected the offer to use the Club’s property for a cell site.

Site Search Summary Key Map
Proposed Verizon Wireless
Telecommunications Facility
700 Kent Road
New Milford, Connecticut

