



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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June 26, 2015

Vincent Xavier
Homeland Towers, LLC
22 Shelter Rock Lane, Bldg. C
Danbury, CT 06810

RE: **DOCKET NO. 451** – Homeland Towers, LLC Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at the Cheshire Wastewater Treatment Plant, 1325 Cheshire Street, Cheshire, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Xavier:

At a public meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) held on June 25, 2015, the Council considered and approved the Development and Management (D&M) Plan, with the conditions noted in the staff report, submitted for this project on June 1, 2015.

This approval applies only to the D&M Plan submitted on June 1, 2015. Requests for any changes to the D&M Plan shall be approved by Council staff in accordance with Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section (RCSA) §16-50j-77(b). Furthermore, the Certificate Holder is responsible for reporting requirements pursuant to RCSA 16-50j-77.

Please be advised that changes and deviations from this plan are enforceable under the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50u. Enclosed is a copy of the staff report on this D&M Plan, dated June 25, 2015.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Robert Stein
Chairman

RS/FOC/cm

Enclosure: Staff Report, dated June 25, 2015

c: Parties and Intervenors

Docket 451
Homeland Towers/New Cingular Wireless
1325 Cheshire Street, Cheshire
Development and Management Plan
Staff Report
June 25, 2015

On January 8, 2015, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to Homeland Towers (HT) for the construction, maintenance and operation of a wireless telecommunications facility at 1325 Cheshire Street, Cheshire, Connecticut. This certificate application was filed jointly by HT and New Cingular Wireless (AT&T), which would be the primary tenant on the tower. The Town of Cheshire also plans to install antennas for its emergency communications network. In its decision, the Council specified that the approved tower shall be constructed as a monopole not to exceed 170 feet in height with the overall height of the antennas not to exceed 190 feet above ground level. As required in the Council's Decision and Order, HT submitted a Development and Management (D&M) Plan for this facility on June 1, 2015. HT provided copies of the D&M Plan to participants in this proceeding: Town of Cheshire (party) and Jennifer Arcesi and Gary Wassmer (intervenors).

HT's site is in the center of a 59-acre property owned by the Town of Cheshire in the northeastern part of Cheshire. The Town's waste water treatment plant is located on this parcel, directly to the south of approved facility's location. There are also municipal recreation fields on the parcel to the north and east of the approved facility's location.

The D&M plans indicate HT will lease a 75-foot by 75-foot area within which it would develop a 62-foot by 75-foot compound with a 170-foot monopole to be enclosed by an eight-foot high chain link fence with less than two-inch mesh. AT&T would install 12 antennas, 21 remote radio heads, six A2 modules, and four Squid boxes on a platform mount at a centerline height of 155 feet. The Town of Cheshire would install two omnidirectional antennas at a mounting height of 168 feet, and two omnidirectional antennas and two, two-foot diameter microwave dish antennas at a mounting height of 170 feet. The antennas would not exceed 190 feet above ground level.

AT&T will install an 11'5" by 16' shelter - on an 11'5" by 26' concrete pad - for its ground equipment, and the town would have a 10-foot by 12-foot shelter. For backup power, AT&T would install a 50 kilowatt (kW) diesel generator on the same pad as its shelter; this is an upgrade to the proposed 35kW generator proposed in the application. It will be capable of supplying approximately two days of power before refueling. The town would utilize its own backup power source from a 1200 kW generator to be installed at the waste water treatment plant including support of its radio equipment.

HT's D&M plans also include a geotechnical report, on which the design for the tower foundation is based, and the Structural Design Report prepared by Sabre Industries, the manufacturer of the tower. The tower's structural design would have the capacity to accommodate four additional carriers at the 165-, 145-, 135-, and 125-foot levels.

Consistent with the Council's Decision and Order condition 2(c), HT submitted a turtle protection plan. The turtle protection plan calls for contractor education, erosion control materials installed in an isolation manner to keep turtles out of the construction area, daily sweeps of the work area, prohibitions against the use of herbicides and pesticides, spill containment measures, and environmental monitoring.

Vehicular access to the facility would extend from Cheshire Street over an existing paved driveway- a distance of approximately 1,360 feet- that serves the Town's waste water treatment plant. A new gravel access drive will be installed approximately 140 feet to the site. Electric and telephone lines would extend overhead approximately 65 feet from an existing utility pole - to cross the existing paved driveway - to a proposed new utility pole then transition underground for a distance of approximately 385 feet to the proposed facility. Underground utilities would closely parallel the proposed facility's access drive.

No landscaping is proposed as the site is set back from the street entrance and the property has mature vegetation screening the base compound of the facility.

The D&M plans indicate that HT will install erosion and sedimentation controls consistent with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control* around the area that will be disturbed during construction. These measures will be kept in place during the construction period.

Consistent with the Council's Decision and Order, AT&T's worst-case radio frequency power density level at the base of the tower will be 2.7 percent of the Federal Communications Commission's General Public/Uncontrolled Maximum Permissible Exposure limit. During the proceeding no data was presented related to the operations of the Town's antennas. Staff recommends that prior to the commencement of operation and consistent with the Council's Decision and Order condition number 3, "the Certificate Holder shall 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."

HT has provided notice of commencement of construction beginning subsequent to approval of the D&M plans in accordance with the Regulations of CT State Agencies Section 16-50j-77.

The D&M plans as presented conform to the Council's Decision and Order, and staff recommends approval. Council staff further recommends that:

- prior to the commencement of operation, the Certificate Holder shall provide the Council worst-case modeling of the electromagnetic radio frequency power density of the Town of Cheshire 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
- that approval of requested significant changes to the approved D&M Plan be delegated to Council staff in accordance with Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §16-50j-77(b). In accordance with that section, if advance written notice is impractical, the Certificate Holder shall provide verbal notice of the changes and shall submit written specifications to the Council within 48 hours after the verbal notice. All changes pursued without advance notification and approval shall be subject to a penalty, enforceable by the Attorney General pursuant to C.G.S. §16-50u.