



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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Web Site: www.state.ct.us/csc/index.htm

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

September 3, 2003

Joey Lee Miranda, Esq.
Robinson & Cole LLP
280 Trumbull Street
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: **PETITION NO. 618T** - Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed modification to an existing Connecticut Light and Power Company transmission structure located at 67 Hawthorne Mead Drive, Glastonbury, Connecticut.

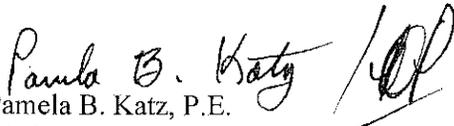
Dear Ms. Miranda:

At a public meeting held on August 26, 2003, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) considered and ruled that this proposal at the alternate site, on N57A Hebron Avenue, would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, and pursuant to General Statutes § 16-50k would not require a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

This decision is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Council and is not applicable to any other modification or construction.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the staff report on this project.

Very truly yours,


Pamela B. Katz, P.E.
Chairman

PBK/CML

Enclosure: Staff Report dated August 26, 2003

c: Honorable Walter Cussan, Chairman Town Council, Town of Glastonbury
Kenith Leslie, Town Planner, Town of Glastonbury
Richard J. Johnson, Town Manager, Town of Glastonbury



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Staff Report
Petition No. 618
Verizon Wireless PCS
Glastonbury
August 26, 2003

On March 14, 2003, Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Verizon) petitioned the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (Certificate) would be required for the proposed modification of a Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P) 345-kV electric transmission line structure located at 67 Hawthorne Mead Drive or N57A Hebron Avenue, Glastonbury, Connecticut.

Verizon is currently experiencing coverage gaps and capacity problems in the Glastonbury area. A power mount at the proposed prime or alternate site is intended to avoid the unnecessary proliferation of towers and would satisfy Verizon's coverage objectives in this area of Glastonbury.

On June 18, 2003, the Council held a public hearing regarding the proposed project at the Glastonbury Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, Connecticut. On May 20, 2003, Verizon notified the abutting landowners to the prime site of the hearing. On June 3, 2003, Verizon notified the landowners that about the alternate site of the hearing and that Verizon would be submitting supplemental information to the Council regarding the alternate site.

Verizon proposes to install a 150-foot power mount within an existing 130-foot lattice transmission tower (structure # 12196) at the proposed prime site. Verizon would place 12 panel antennas at the 150-foot level, with space available at the 140-foot level for a future carrier. On June 11, 2003, Verizon proposed the installation of a power mount on a 112-foot CL&P lattice transmission structure (structure # 12197) located to the north of Hebron Avenue as an alternate to the proposed prime site. At the alternate site, Verizon would install 12 panel antennas at the 132-foot level of a 132-foot power mount and leave space available at the 122-foot level for a potential future carrier.

Verizon's proposed equipment would be located within a 12-foot by 30-foot equipment shelter that would be placed at the base of the tower at either the proposed prime site or the alternate site. An 8-foot high stockade fence would surround the equipment compound. Verizon intends to maintain most of the existing vegetation surrounding the site to help screen the visibility.

Access to the prime site would be via a gravel driveway that would extend from Hebron Avenue, along the existing CL&P right-of-way. An underground conduit from an existing utility pole will provide power and telephone service to the prime site. CL&P has easements over the two parcels on which the site compound and access drive of the prime site are proposed. Access to the alternate site would be via an existing driveway, then along a new access drive that would follow an existing path. All proposed construction activities would take place on property owned by CL&P.

Public comments received by the Council from nearby residents in the Town of Glastonbury expressed a preference for installation of the proposed power mount at the alternate structure. A few residents stated that the proposed alternate structure would have less of a visual impact on the surrounding neighborhood than the proposed prime structure.

Verizon would be willing to install a gate at the entrance of the access road of either the proposed prime or alternate site to hinder vehicle traffic onto the access road.

An intermittent watercourse associated with a man-made drainage swale is located approximately 60 feet to the east of the proposed prime structure and approximately 29 feet to the east of the access road. A stream is located approximately 225 feet to the east of the proposed alternate site. Verizon would install erosion and sediment control measures to avoid any construction related impacts to either the prime or alternate site.

The proposed site is within a rural residence (RR) zone. The nearest residence to the proposed site is approximately 242 feet to the east. The alternate structure is located approximately 650 feet to the north of the prime structure across Hebron Avenue and is also within a RR zone. The nearest residence is located approximately 190 feet to the west of the alternate structure.

The visual impacts from the proposed power mount are expected to be minimal. A computer-aided viewshed analysis was performed for the proposed prime and alternate sites. The proposed prime structure would be visible from approximately 79 acres of the 2,010-acre study area. The prime structure power mount would expand viewshed of the existing structure in all directions. The proposed alternate structure would be visible from approximately 88 acres of the 2,010-acre study area. The existing transmission structure at the alternate site is visible from approximately 76 acres. The alternate structure power mount would be visible from the area that has a view of the existing structure, as well as an expanded area to the east, possibly including a few residential properties that do not currently have views of the top of the existing tower.

The calculated cumulative worst case power density for the prime and alternate site would not exceed the applicable standard.

Verizon contends that they would not have the need to construct a telecommunications tower to provide coverage to this area of Glastonbury, and the proposed modification of the existing structure would not cause a substantial adverse environmental effect.