

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

IN RE:

APPLICATION OF OPTASITE TOWERS LLC
AND OMNIPOINT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR
THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND
OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS
FACILITY AT 425 LITCHFIELD ROAD,
NEW MILFORD, CONNECTICUT

DOCKET NO. 342

Date: SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF KEITH COPPINS

Q1. Mr. Coppins, please summarize your professional background in telecommunications.

A. I am the Vice President of Development at Optasite where I lead a development team in the growing Northeast Region telecommunications development and site acquisition activities. I have been part of the telecommunications industry for more than a decade and my primary focus is on property development, lease contract negotiations, and construction of newly-approved towers. I joined Optasite from Site Acquisitions, Inc. where I was Vice-President and oversaw the leasing, zoning and construction of new towers sites. I also managed a consulting team for AT& T Wireless and T-Mobile.

Prior to Site Acquisitions, I was General Manager for American Tower Corporation and managed a consulting group for Cellular One and Southern New England Telephone. My primary responsibilities were site acquisitions, lease negotiations and zoning of new cellular sites in the New England and New York

markets. I have successfully completed all aspects of development activities for more than 300 sites in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont and New York.

Q2. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A. My testimony provides background information relating to this application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the proposed New Milford facility. In addition, I will address the specific site search resulting in the proposed site as well as both Optasite and T-Mobile's activities prior to initiation of this application.

Q3. What is Optasite's and T-Mobile's relationship in this application?

A. As described in detail below, Optasite has a working relationship with T-Mobile to co-develop new tower facilities in the State of Connecticut. T-Mobile identified a need for a new facility in this area of New Milford and Optasite conducted the site search. The arrangement between T-Mobile and Optasite provides for Optasite and T-Mobile to make a joint application to the Council; for Optasite to own, construct and maintain the site as the Certificate holder; and for T-Mobile to serve as the anchor tenant.

Q4. How does Optasite conduct a site search?

A. Optasite maintains close relationships with T-Mobile as well as other wireless carriers, follows the development activities of others and has an in-depth understanding of the fluctuating market conditions. When T-Mobile (or another

wireless carrier) contacts Optasite regarding the need for a new facility, Optasite conducts an extensive review of the area. The first activity after assignment of a search ring to acquisition personnel is a review of the area for a suitable existing structure. Only once Optasite exhausts its search for existing structures on which to locate, does it then begin to study the area for suitable locations to construct a new facility. Optasite first studies the area to determine whether industrial or commercial areas which have appropriate environmental and land use characteristics are present. Potential locations are studied by radio frequency engineers to determine whether the locations will meet the technical requirements for a site in the area. The list of potential locations is then further refined based on the willingness of property owners to make their property available.

Q5. Please describe Optasite's search for the proposed New Milford wireless facility.

A. Optasite commenced a search for a site in this area of New Milford in January, 2006. In that area, Optasite found no existing towers suitable for use as a wireless communications facility. The nearest tower(s) suitable for use as a wireless communications facility are outside of T-Mobile's search area, are not useable due to existing terrain in the area or T-Mobile is already located on those facilities. In addition, Optasite identified no existing structures which were suitable for use and available. Specifically, T-Mobile already has a power-mount located on existing CL&P lines in this area of New Milford.

Turning to locations for a new tower proposal, Optasite found that site selection in the area was limited by existing residential development throughout the area. The Estate of Edward Drzal property was uniquely suited to development of a tower site due to its large size, extensive vegetation existing at the property and location in a commercial zone.

Q6. Have the Applicants consulted with municipal officials with regard to their plans?

A. Yes. In compliance with Section 16-50/(e), consultation with municipal officials was undertaken by Optasite. On March 16, 2007, Optasite provided technical information to the Mayor of New Milford. On April 24, 2007, Optasite met with the Town of New Milford's Mayor, Pat Murphy. The Town of New Milford, through its Planning and Zoning Commission, held an informational meeting on August 14, 2007 to discuss the Application. Optasite, T-Mobile and their legal representative attended that information session.

Q7. Has Optasite received any indications from the Town of New Milford that it is interested in locating emergency service equipment at this Site?

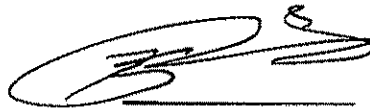
A. Yes, the Town of New Milford has expressed an interest in locating equipment on this tower. Optasite is following up with the Town to discuss its specific needs. As is its customary practice, Optasite will make space available for the Town's emergency service equipment, free of charge.

Q8. Are you aware of any other carriers who have a need to collocate on this facility?

A. Yes. Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless has expressed interest only but no application has been received in our offices.

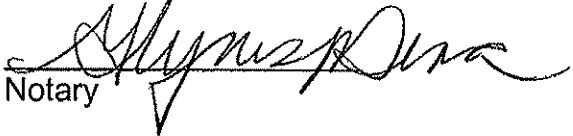
The statements above are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

9-4-07
Date



Keith Coppins

Subscribed and sworn before me this 4th September day of ~~August~~, 2007.

By: 
Notary

