# **Technical Report**

# For the Construction, Operation and Maintenance of a Telecommunication Facility

at

237 Sandy Hollow Road, Groton CT

Filed By:

MCF Communications bg Inc

733 Turnpike Street

North Andover MA 01845

(978) 687-2536

and

**Omnipoint Communications, Inc.** 

100 Filley Street

Bloomfield, CT 06002

# Communication Tower Technical Report for Groton CT

## I. INTRODUCTION

MCF Communications bg Inc. ("MCF") and Omnipoint Communications Inc. ("Omnipoint or T-Mobile")hereinafter referred to as Applicants, respectfully submit this Technical Report with attachments ("Report") to the Town of Groton, CT (the "Town"), pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) §§ 16-50g et seq., as amended. This submission pertains to an application to be filed with the Connecticut Siting Council ("Council") for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need ("Application" or "Certificate") that will allow MCF to construct, operate and maintain a wireless telecommunications facility and associated equipment ("Facility") at 237 Sandy Hollow Road, Groton, Connecticut. Omnipoint is committed to locating on the facility and will serve as an anchor tenant. The proposed facility is a necessary component in Omnipoint's network plan to provide personal wireless communication services in the State of Connecticut, specifically the Groton area. This application falls within the jurisdiction of the Council pursuant to C.G.S. §§ 16-50i (a)(6), 16-50k and 16-50x.

The purpose of this report is to provide the Town with information concerning the public need for the Facility, the site selection process and any environmental effects associated with the proposed construction, operation and maintenance of the Facility.

## II. SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

## A. Applicant

MCF Communications is a stock corporation organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with its principal office located at 733 Turnpike Street, North Andover, MA 01845. MCF bg and its parent company MCF develop, own, manage and market communication sites in the New England states for the wireless communication companies, and is its sole business in the state of Connecticut. Based on experience in the

Radio Broadcast Industry since the mid 1980's, MCF was established in 1998 to focus on the growing wireless communication industry. It has developed over 30 sites throughout the New England region, and worked with most of the mobile communication service providers including co-applicant Omnpoint Communications Inc.

Omnipoint Communications Inc. is a subsidiary of T-Mobile USA, Inc. which is a federally licensed provider of wideband PCS services in the State of Connecticut and in other areas. It is a Delaware Corporation with a principal place of business at 12920 S.E. 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Bellevue, Washington 98006 and has offices in Connecticut at 100 Filley Street, Bloomfield, CT 06002.

# B. Proposed Facility

The property on which the Facility would be located is a 3.35 acre wooded parcel with an address of 237 Sandy Hollow Road ("Property"). This parcel is owned by the Mystic River Ambulance Association Inc. and is recorded in the Town of Groton Land Records Voume 518 at Page 656 and located on Tax Map 261909, Block 6, Lot 5371. The Property has an RS-20 zone, and is located on the southwest intersection of Allyn and Sandy Hollow Streets just after the Interstate 95 Exit 89 exit ramp.

MCF proposes to build a Facility on the area of the Property approximately 240 feet from Sandy Hollow road on the west side of the existing Ambulance Office building ("Site"). As demonstrated on the plans attached hereto as Attachment A, it proposes to construct a 130 foot tall steel monopole in an approximately 1775 (35' x 50') square foot compound area. The equipment compound will be enclosed by the proposed 8 foot tall chain-link fence with privacy slats. The Facility would be designed to accommodate space for Omnipoint and additional wireless carriers.

Vehicular access to the Site is proposed via existing paved access driveway from Sandy Hollow Road. Utility service will extend underground from existing utility service poles on Sandy Hollow Road. No water or sanitary facilities are required and once built, the Facility will generate minimal traffic because each of the collocating entities will only need to visit the site about once a month to perform routine maintenance and inspection.

The proposed Facility provides a valuable opportunity for tower sharing in eastern Groton and the area of Interstate 95, as there are no existing structures of any significant height to allow the collocation of wireless carriers.

# III. CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURE

As discussed below, the location and type of the proposed Facility is within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Council pursuant to the Public Utility Environmental Standards Act, C.G.S. §§ 16-50g et seq. C.G.S. §§ 16-50i (a) (6), 16-50k, and 6-50x (a). The Council has jurisdiction over all facilities defined in C.G.S. § 16-50i (a). This jurisdiction includes "telecommunication towers . . . used in a cellular system, as defined by the Code of Federal Regulations Title 47, Part 22 . . . ." C.G.S. § 16-50i (a) (6).

All applicants for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need are required, at least 60 days prior to filing an application with the Council, to (1) make a good faith effort to consult with the municipality in which a Facility will be located regarding the selected sites, and (2) provide a technical report to Town officials. C.G.S. § 16-50l. The Town may choose to conduct public hearings and meetings as it deems necessary for it to advise the applicant of its recommendations concerning the proposed facility. Within 60 days of the initial consultation, the Town shall issue its recommendations. Within 15 days of filing an application with the Council, the applicant must provide the Council with (1) the technical report submitted to the Town and (2) a summary of the Town's comments and recommendations.

As set forth herein, MCF is providing substantial documentation regarding all aspects of this project, thus satisfying this municipal notice requirement and wishes to receive comment from the Town.

MCF plans to submit its application to the Council by December 1st, 2006. Upon receipt of an application, the Council will assign a docket number and set a hearing date. At that time, the Town may choose to become an intervenor or a party to the proceedings. Other procedures followed by the Council include serving the applicant and other participants with interrogatories, holding a pre-hearing conference, and conducting a public hearing. The public hearing on this application would be held at a location in the Town of Groton. Once

the public hearing is completed, the Council will issue findings of fact, an opinion, and a decision and order, which can include issuing a Certificate for the Facility or a variation thereto. Prior to construction, the Council will require MCF to submit a Development and Management Plan, which is a final site development plan showing the location of structures and details of site development such as grading and landscaping. Upon receiving Council approval, MCF will submit a building permit application to the Town building official.

The procedures described above are governed by the Connecticut General Statutes, the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and the Connecticut Siting Council's Rules of Practice.

## IV. COMPLIANCE WITH MUNICIPAL CONSULTATION CRITERIA

The statutory municipal consultation and notice requirements can be satisfied by this comprehensive submissions and any subsequent information requested of or provided by MCF. Compliance with these requirements is specifically set forth below and all materials filed with the Town to date have been itemized and included as Attachment B to this Report.

# A. Information Regarding Public Need

In 1996, the United States Congress recognized a nationwide need for high quality wireless telecommunication services. Through the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress sought to promote competition, reduce regulation to encourage technical innovation, and recognized the public need for quality nationwide wireless telecommunication services. MCF assists carriers in fulfilling their license requirements by providing them with a variety of services, including locating, leasing, zoning and constructing personal wireless facilities for the carriers' antennas and equipment. It also provides municipalities the opportunity and location to improve vital emergency services communication systems.

The proposed facility is an integral component of Omnipoint's wireless network in this area of the State of Connecticut. Currently, a gap in coverage exist in Omnipoint's network in the eastern part of Groton, specifically along Interstate 95 and adjacent areas in this portion of New London County. The proposed Facility in conjunction with other existing and future

facilities in Groton and surrounding towns, is needed by Omnipoint to provide its wireless services to people living in and traveling through this area of the State.

# B. Information Regarding Site Selection Process

Only after determining there to be no buildings or structures of sufficient height in or near this area did MCF search for an appropriate location for a new telecommunications facility that would serve the needs of multiple carriers. Its goal in selecting a site, such as that proposed herein, is to locate a facility in such a manner as to allow both the Town and telecommunication carriers to build and operate high-quality communication systems with the least environmental impact. MCF determined that the proposed Facility would satisfy this goal. Furthermore, this Facility will permit telecommunications carriers to provide coverage in the most inconspicuous manner possible because only one Facility is required, the monopole is as low as it can be while still providing the necessary coverage. The proposed Facility will provide opportunities for the carriers to provide wireless coverage. Additionally, by receiving a Certificate for this Facility, MCF can provide one telecommunications tower that can service the Town as well as multiple carriers, thus avoiding the proliferation of towers.

MCF investigated alternate sites and has provided a list of those sites with reasons why they were not selected in the Site Selection Report – Attachment C. Therefore no alternate site is proposed as MCF has identified this location as being the only functional location for this Facility.

## C. Information Regarding Environmental Effects of the Project

The design of the proposed Facility was developed to meet the public need for high quality communications service while minimizing any potential environmental impacts. MCF has site plans and tower design prepared, as well as performing a visibility analysis.

# 1. Visibility

In order to investigate potential visual impacts, MCF retained Clough Harbor and Associates ("CHA") to prepare a Visual Resource Evaluation for the facility. CHA conducted a balloon float on July 25th, 2006 and prepared photographs to simulate the visibility of the

proposed Facility from several locations. The Visual Resource Evaluation and photographic documentation are included at Attachment D.

Study results concluded that the proposed Facility will be visible year-round from a total of only 20 acres within the two mile study area, which is one quarter of one percent (1/4 %) of the entire study area. Only three quarters of one percent (3/4 %) of the study area (56 acres) will have a seasonal view. The majority (99%) of the two mile radius study is screened by topography, vegetation, and existing buildings. Views of the proposed monopole from the surrounding community are minimal as only 2 residences on Sandy Hollow and 6 residences on Pequot are expected to have seasonal visibility.

The compound will have a de minimis visual impact as it will be screened by the existing building, fencing, and the wooded property. These Visual Resources demonstrate that, even from most of the areas where the Facility will be visible, the tower is unobtrusive. Accordingly, the proposed Facility will not result in an unacceptable adverse visual impact.

# 2. Power Density

In August, 1996, the FCC adopted a hybrid ANSI/NCRP Standard for exposure to Radio Frequency (RF) emissions from telecommunications facilities. The ANSI standard was adopted by Connecticut in C.G.S. §§ 22a-162 and 22a-162a "for the purpose of preventing possible harmful effects in human beings from exposure to electromagnetic fields in the frequency range of 300 kilohertz (KHz) to 100 gigahertz (GHz). . ."

To demonstrate potential compliance with the applicable standards, MCF will provide the Town maximum power density calculations for the proposed Facility. The power density calculations are conservative, worst-case approximations for RF power density levels at the closest accessible point to the antennas (in this case, at the base of the tower) and with all antennas transmitting simultaneously on all channels at full power. MCF will have the analysis prepared for this Site once it obtains all of the necessary information regarding colocator equipment, but it will show the levels are well below requirements due to the proposed antenna height above ground (more than 10 meters).

## 3. Other Potential Impacts

CHA on behalf of MCF analyzed the proposed Facility to determine if any other environmental impact would result. Included in this analysis is an examination of ten (10)

criteria specified under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), including wilderness areas, wildlife preserves, endangered species, historic places, Indian Religious, floodplains, wetlands and high intensity white lights. This NEPA report indicates the Site is not located in an officially designated wildlife preserve. We have not been notified regarding any impact to Native American cultural resources. The "NEPA Screening Report" dated July 28, 2006, is attached hereto as Attachment G.

In addition, as indicated by the analysis included in Attachment G, the Site is not located in a 100 year flood zone and no watercourses were identified (or delineated) within the proposed development area. The limits of disturbance of all construction activities will be confined to the minimum extent possible. If soil and erosion controls are necessary, all measures shall be installed in accordance with the "Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control" (Revised 2002).

Furthermore, the proposed Facility will be passive in nature. It will not create any smoke, ash, heat, glare, pollution, or noise and no sanitary facilities are required. No hazardous substances will be located at the Facility. The Facility will not require marking or lighting and will not require notice to the Federal Aviation Administration. See TOWAIR fax notice dated , 2006 attached hereto as Attachment H.

Based on the above, MCF submits that the proposed Facility will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

## V. CONCLUSION

Based on the information and documentation contained in this Report, MCF submits that the construction of a telecommunications facility at 237 Sandy Hollow Road, Groton, CT will not have a substantial adverse environmental effect. Further, it will alleviate the Town's struggle to remediate inadequate emergency services coverage and will allow the provision of wireless coverage to an area in which such coverage is virtually nonexistent. As this Facility provides collocation opportunities for four carriers, MCF's proposal fulfills the legislative mandate to eliminate the unnecessary proliferation of telecommunications towers in Connecticut.

Specifically, MCF submits that it has demonstrated (1) the public need for the Facility for

wireless telecommunication coverage; (2) that the proposed Facility will not result in any

adverse environmental impacts; (3) that the shared use of the Facility is feasible; and (4) that

the proposed Facility will not substantially affect the scenic, historic, recreational or

ecological quality of the site. Finally, the proposed Facility will help provide a level of

service in Groton that is commensurate with current public demand for telecommunications

service, as well as to meet such demand for the foreseeable future.

Correspondence and/or communications regarding this report may be addressed to applicant's

attorney:

Cohen and Wolf, P.C.

115 Broad Street

POBox 1821

Bridgeport, CT 06601-1821

Attn: Julie D. Kohler, Esq (203) 368-0211

With a copy of all correspondence to:

MCF Communications bg Inc.

668 Main Street, Suite 114

Wilmington, MA 01887

Attn: Michael McFadden (978) 658-7360

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# **Communication Tower Technical Report for Groton CT**

Location: 237 Sandy Hollow Road, Groton CT Tax Map 261909 / Block 6 / Lot 5371

# **Attachments Included:**

# A - Site Plans

B - Additional Information Filed with the Town

C - Site Selection Report

**D** – Photo Simulations

E - Visual Resource Evaluation

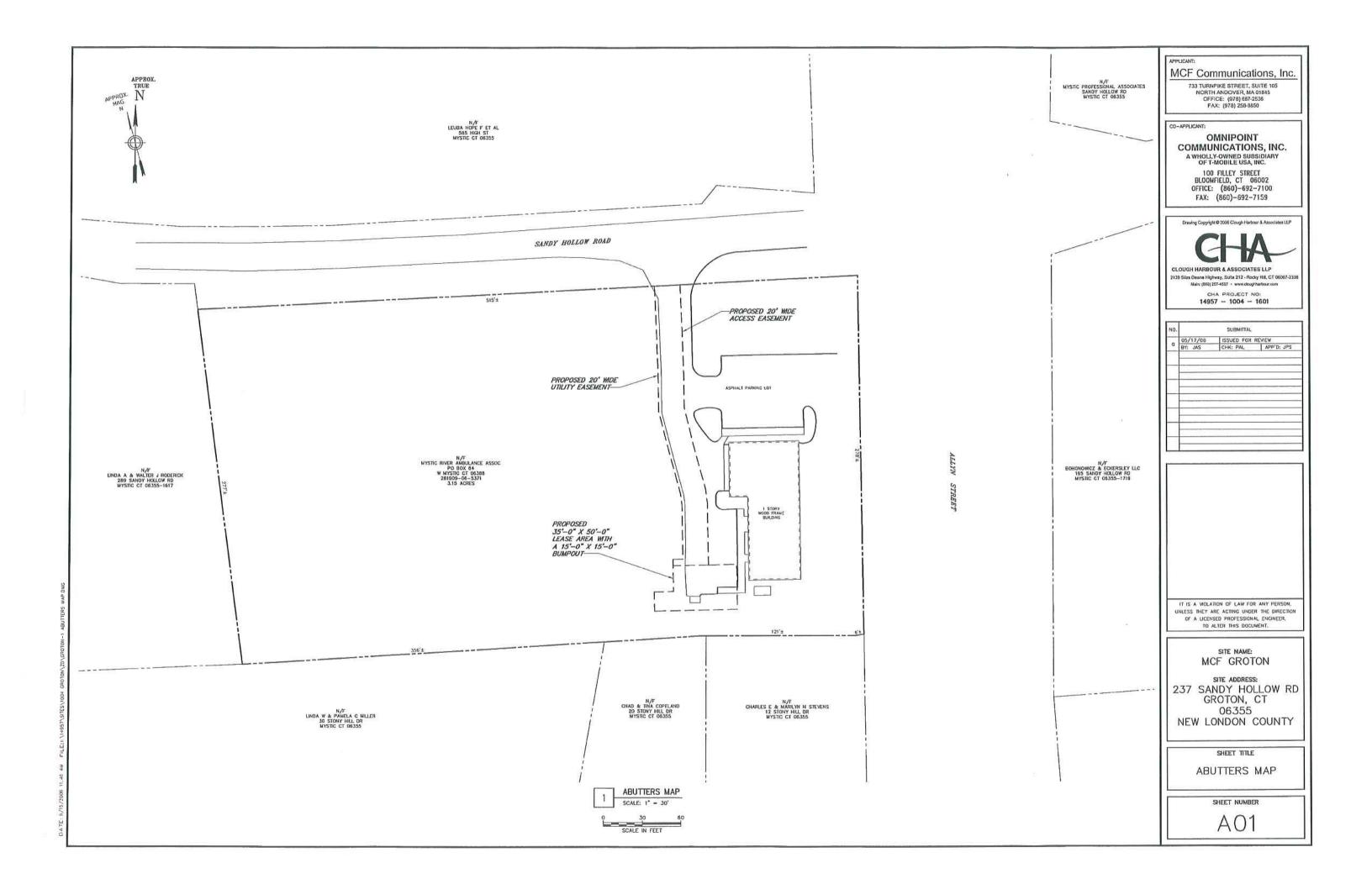
F-Radio Frequency Information

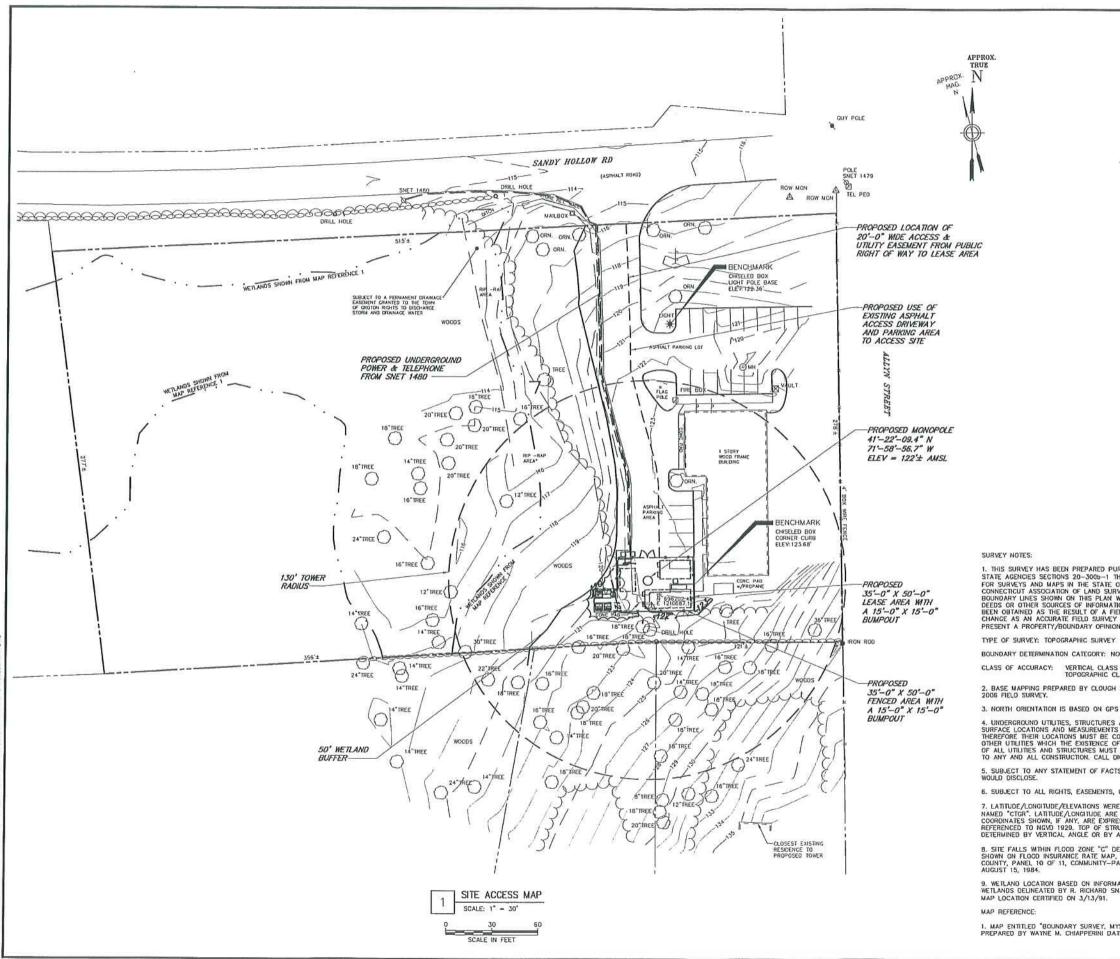
**G-NEPA** report Summary

H-FAA Information

# Attachments Included:

A – Site Plans





APPLICANT:

# MCF Communications, Inc.

733 TURNPIKE STREET, SUITE 105 NORTH ANDOVER, MA 01845 OFFICE: (978) 687-2536 FAX: (978) 258-8850

CO-APPLICANT:

# OMNIPOINT

COMMUNICATIONS, INC. A WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF T-MOBILE USA, INC.

100 FILLEY STREET BLOOMFIELD, CT 06002 OFFICE: (860)-692-7100 FAX: (860)-692-7159

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CLOUGH HARROUR & ASSOCIATES LER 2139 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 212 - Rocky Hill, CT 06067-233

Main: (860) 257-4557 · www.cloughhartour.com

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IT IS A VIOLATION OF LAW FOR ANY PERSON. UNLESS THEY ARE ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER. TO ALTER THIS DOCUMENT.

> SITE NAME: MCF GROTON

SITE ADDRESS: 237 SANDY HOLLOW RD GROTON, CT 06355 **NEW LONDON COUNTY** 

SHEET TITLE

SITE ACCESS MAP

SHEET NUMBER

A02

. THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED PURSUANT TO THE REGULATIONS OF CONNECTICUT IT THE SOUNCE IN SECTIONS 20-3008—1 THROUGH 20-3008—20 AND THE "STANDARDS FOR SURVEYS AND MAPS IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUIT" AS ADDITED BY THE CONNECTICUIT ASSOCIATION OF LAND SURVEYORS INC. ON SEPTEMBER 26, 1996. THE BOUNDARY LINES SHOWN ON THIS PLAN WERE COMPILED FROM RECORD PLANS, RECORD DEEDS OR OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION. IT IS NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS HAVING BEEN OBTAINED AS THE RESULT OF A FIELD SURVEY, AND IS SUBJECT TO SUCH CHANGE AS AN ACCURATE FIELD SURVEY MAY DISCLOSE. BOUNDARY LINES DO NOT DESCENT A DROCEDY FORMANDED

TYPE OF SURVEY: TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

BOUNDARY DETERMINATION CATEGORY: NONE

CLASS OF ACCURACY: VERTICAL CLASS V-3
TOPOGRAPHIC CLASS T-2

2. BASE MAPPING PREPARED BY CLOUGH HARBOUR & ASSOCIATES LLP FROM A MAY 2006 FIELD SURVEY.

3. NORTH ORIENTATION IS BASED ON GPS OBSERVATIONS.

4. UNDERGROUND UTILITIES, STRUCTURES AND FACILITIES HAVE BEEN SHOWN FROM SURRACE LOCATIONS AND MEASUREMENTS OBTAINED FROM A FIELD SURVEY, THEREFORE THEIR LOCATIONS MUST BE CONSIDERED APPROXIMATE ONLY. THERE MAY BE OTHER UTILITIES WHICH THE EXISTENCE OF ARE NOT KNOWN. SIZE, TYPE AND LOCATION OF ALL UTILITIES AND STRUCTURES MUST BE VERIFIED BY PROPER AUTHORITIES PRIOR TO ANY AND ALL CONSTRUCTURES MUST BE VERIFIED BY PROPER AUTHORITIES PRIOR TO ANY SUBSURFACE ACTIVITY.

5. SUBJECT TO ANY STATEMENT OF FACTS THAT AN UP-TO-DATE ABSTRACT OF TITLE WOULD DISCLOSE.

6. SUBJECT TO ALL RIGHTS, EASEMENTS, COVENANTS OR RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD.

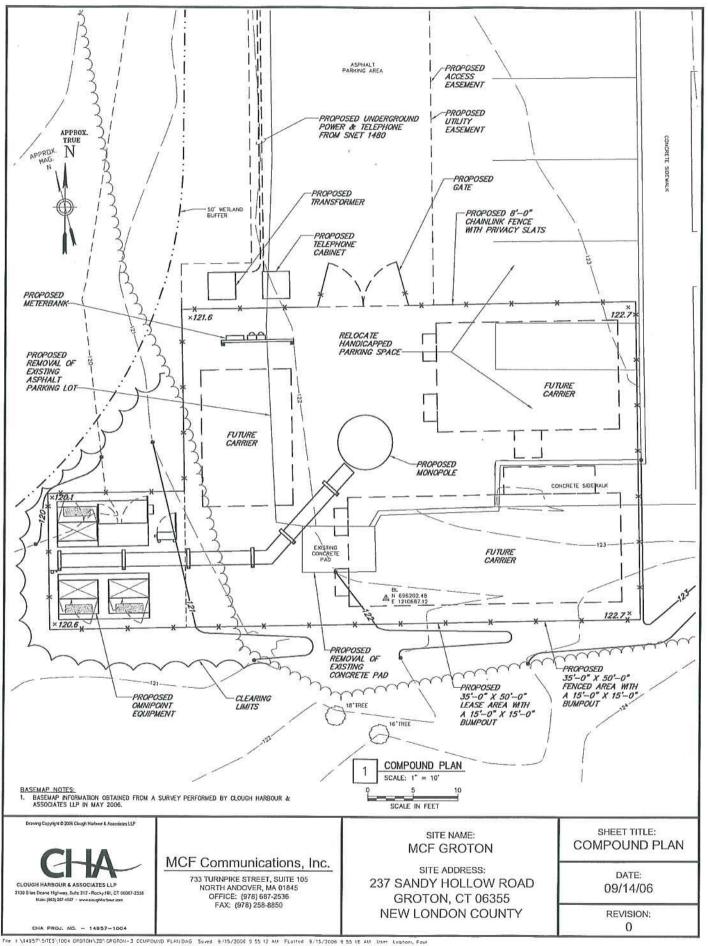
7. LATITUDE/LONGITUDE/ELEVATIONS WERE OBTAINED UTILIZING NGS BASE STATION NAMED "CTGR". LATITUDE/LONGTUDE ARE REFERENCED TO NADB3 CONNECTICUT ZONE. COORDINATES SHOWN, IF ANY, ARE EXPRESSED IN U.S. SURVEY FEET, ELEVATIONS ARE REFERENCED TO NGVO 1292. TOP OF STRUCTURE HEIGHT AS SHOWN, IF ANY, DETERMINED BY VERTICAL ANGLE OR BY ACTUAL LOCATION.

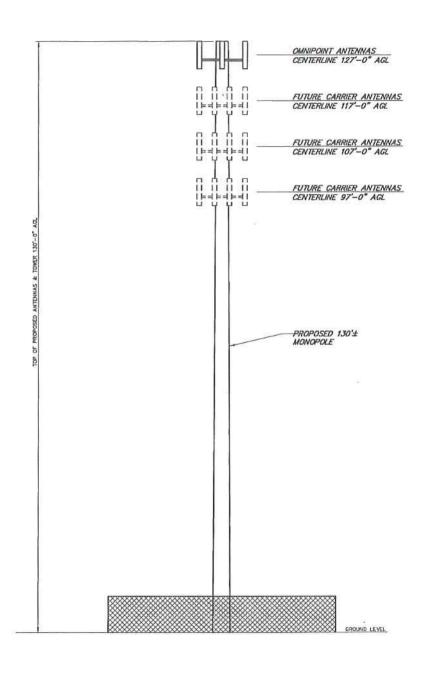
B. SITE FALLS WITHIN FLOOD ZONE "C" DEFINED AS AREAS OF MINIMAL FLOODING AS SHOWN ON FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP, TOWN OF GROTON, CONNECTICUT, NEW LONDON COUNTY, PANEL 10 OF 11, COMMUNITY-PANEL NUMBER 090097 0010 C, REMSED AUGUST 15, 1984.

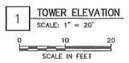
9. WEILAND LOCATION BASED ON INFORMATION SHOWN ON MAP REFERENCE # 1. SAID WEILANDS DELINEATED BY R. RICHARD SAARSKI, CERTIFIED SOIL SCIENTIST # 1975 AND MAP LOCATION CERTIFIED ON 3/13/91.

MAP REFERENCE:

1. MAP ENTITLED "BOUNDARY SURVEY, MYSTIC RIVER AMBULANCE ASSOC, INC." AS PREPARED BY WAYNE M. CHIAPPERINI DATED 1-9-91 AND LAST REVISED 4-10-91.







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CLOUGH HARBOUR & ASSOCIATES LLP 2136 Size Deare Highway, Suits 212 - Rocky HR, CT 00067-2236 Mair: (MO) 257-4557 + www.zbughtartour.com

CHA PROJ. NO. - 14957-1004

# MCF Communications, Inc.

733 TURNPIKE STREET, SUITE 105 NORTH ANDOVER, MA 01845 OFFICE: (978) 687-2536 FAX: (978) 258-8850

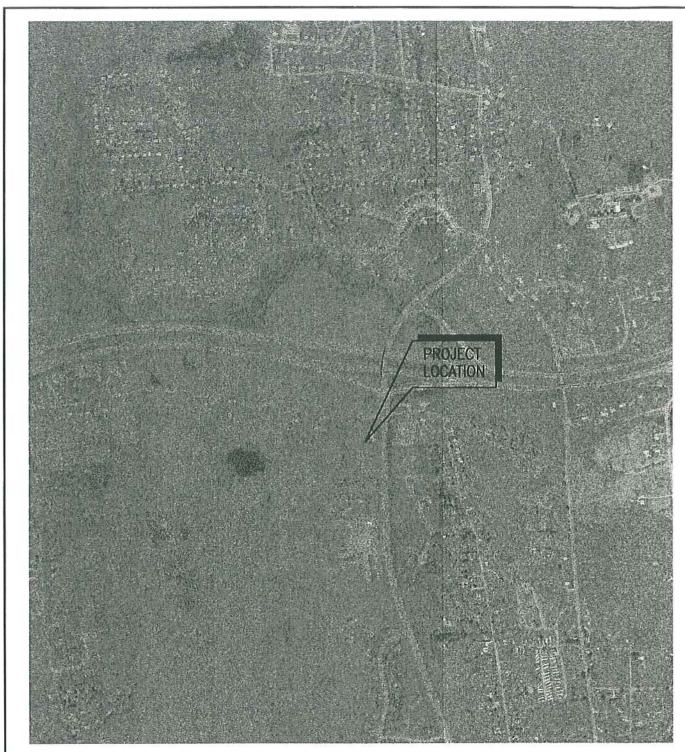
## SITE NAME: MCF GROTON

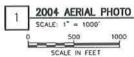
SITE ADDRESS: 237 SANDY HOLLOW ROAD GROTON, CT 06355 NEW LONDON COUNTY

## SHEET TITLE: TOWER ELEVATION

DATE: 09/14/06

REVISION:







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CLOUGH HARBOUR & ASSOCIATES LLP 2139 5-las Deane Highway, Suite 212 - Rocky Hill, CT 05067-2336 Main. (968) 257-4557 · www.chaybharbour.com

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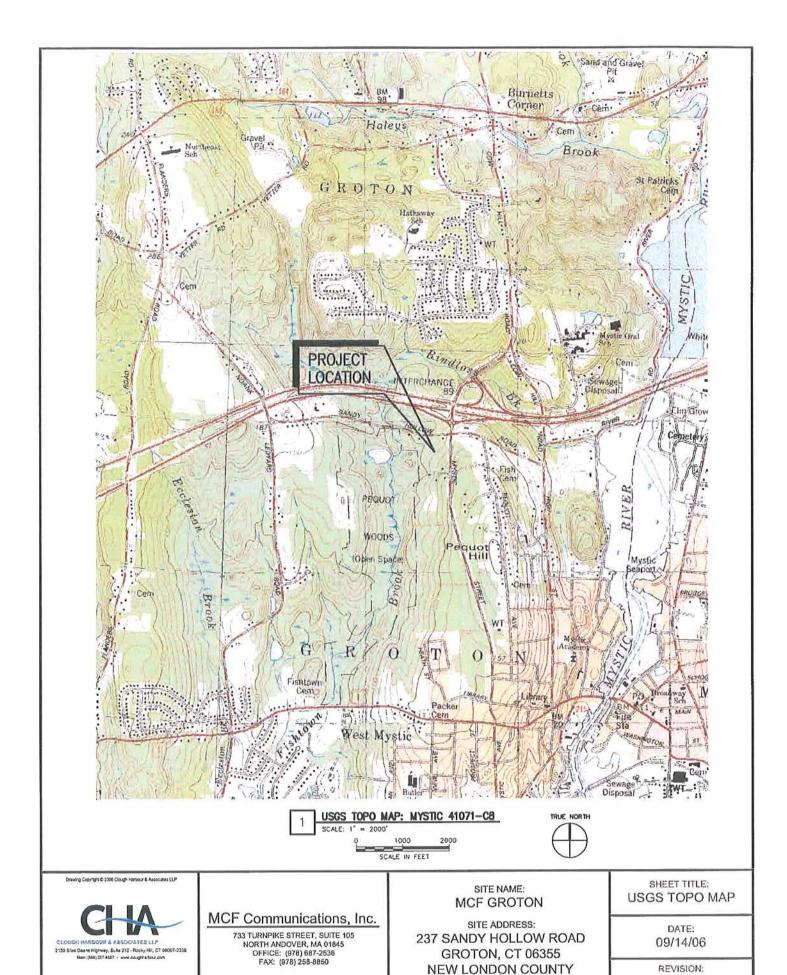
# MCF Communications, Inc.

733 TURNPIKE STREET, SUITE 105 NORTH ANDOVER, MA 01845 OFFICE: (978) 687-2536 FAX: (978) 258-8850 SITE NAME: MCF GROTON

SITE ADDRESS: 237 SANDY HOLLOW ROAD GROTON, CT 06355 NEW LONDON COUNTY SHEET TITLE: AERIAL PHOTO

> DATE: 09/14/06

REVISION:



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CHA PROJ. NO. - 14957-1004

# Attachments Included:

# B – Additional Information Filed with the Town



# COMMUNICATION TOWER LEASE AGREEMENT

This Communication Tower Lease Agreement (the "Lease") is made and entered into this 19th day of January 2006, by and between, Mystic River Ambulance Association Inc. whose mailing address is PO Box 64, West Mystic CT 06388, hereinafter referred to as "Lessor", and MCF Communications, bg Inc., a Massachusetts corporation whose mailing address is 668 Main Street, Suite 114, Wilmington, MA 01887 hereinafter referred to as "Lessee".

# A. SUBJECT

Ground Lease for installation and management of a communication tower and associated transmission facilities, equipment, structures and access area.

# LOCUS: 237 Sandy Hollow Road, West Mystic, CT 06388

- 2.400 square feet situated on a portion of Lessor's land to be located in Groton, CT, more particularly shown as Lot 5371 on the (City/Town) of Groton assessor's (Plat) #261909 (map 153) Block 06 recorded in the Groton Registry of Deeds in Book 518, Page 656 as shown in Exhibit "A-1", (a site plan to be drawn by the Lessee and initialed by Lessor shall replace said sketch attached hereto as Exhibit A-2) attached for the placement, management and operation of a communication tower and associated antennas, transmission facilities, equipment and structures ("Leased Premises"). Together with the non-exclusive right for ingress and egress, seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, on foot or motor vehicle, including trucks, and installation of and maintenance of utility poles, wires, cables conduits and pipes along a 20-foot wide right of way extending from Sandy Hollow Road to the Leased Premises. Lessor agrees to prepare and execute a separate easement agreement including an engineered plan if Lessor does not have the proper authority to grant access on and across the property, in a form reasonable for recording at the registry of deeds, where the land lies. This Lease is subject to the foregoing.
- 2. Lessee shall be responsible for costs incurred to construct, install and or maintain such tower and transmission facilities, equipment and structures during the Lease period. Lessor agrees to be reasonably cooperative in applying for and going through the processes necessary to obtain licenses, permits and zoning approvals for such tower and associated transmission facilities to be built on or installed for the purpose of conducting the intended business. All licenses, permits and approvals shall be obtained by Lessee at Lessee's sole cost and expense.

Lessor's Initials

Lessee's Initials



# M. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) This Lease shall be governed by the laws of the State of Connecticut.

(b) All Amendments, Riders, and Exhibits attached hereto are made a material part of this Lease.

(c) If any provision of this Lease is deemed invalid or nonenforceable, the reminder of this Lease shall remain in force and the fullest extent as permitted by law.

(d) This Lease and all terms and conditions contained herein shall run with the Property and inure to the benefit of an d be binding upon Lessor and Lessee and each of their respective heirs, executors, administrators, successors and permitted assigns.

(e) This Lease contains all terms of the parties. No oral representations or writings contained herein shall be given effect.

# N. Additional Requirements

1 - Lessee agrees to relocate existing handicap ramp and parking space in accordance with ADA. Federal and State guidelines as necessary.

2 – Lessee agrees to construct a compound fence and generator fence mutually agreeable to both parties. Lessor may be responsible for fence maintainence pending final design requirements.

3 - Lesser would be permitted to install its antennas on the tower at no charge.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Lease as of the date first above written.

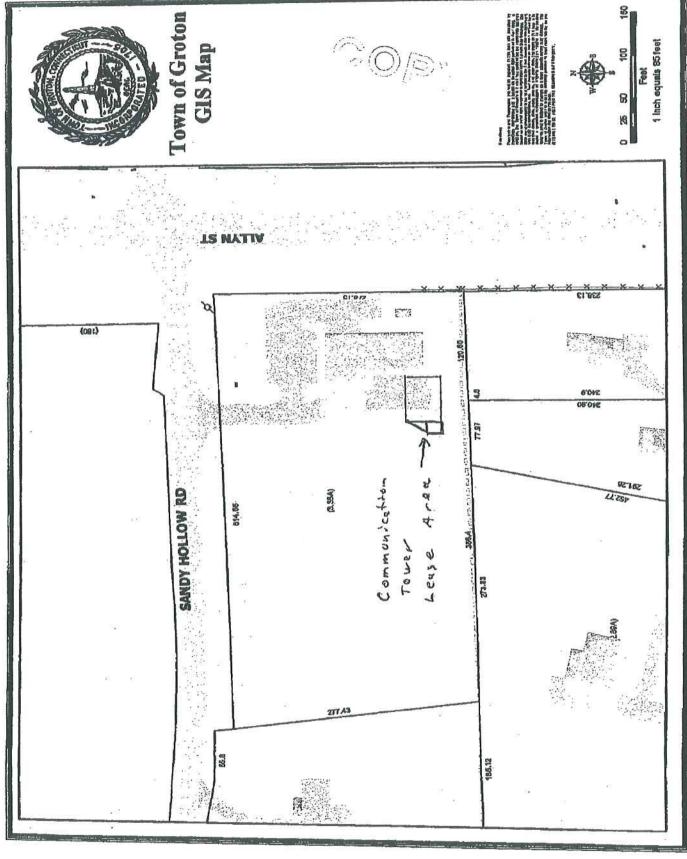
Lessee: MCF Communications, bg, Inc.

Authorized Principal
Title: President

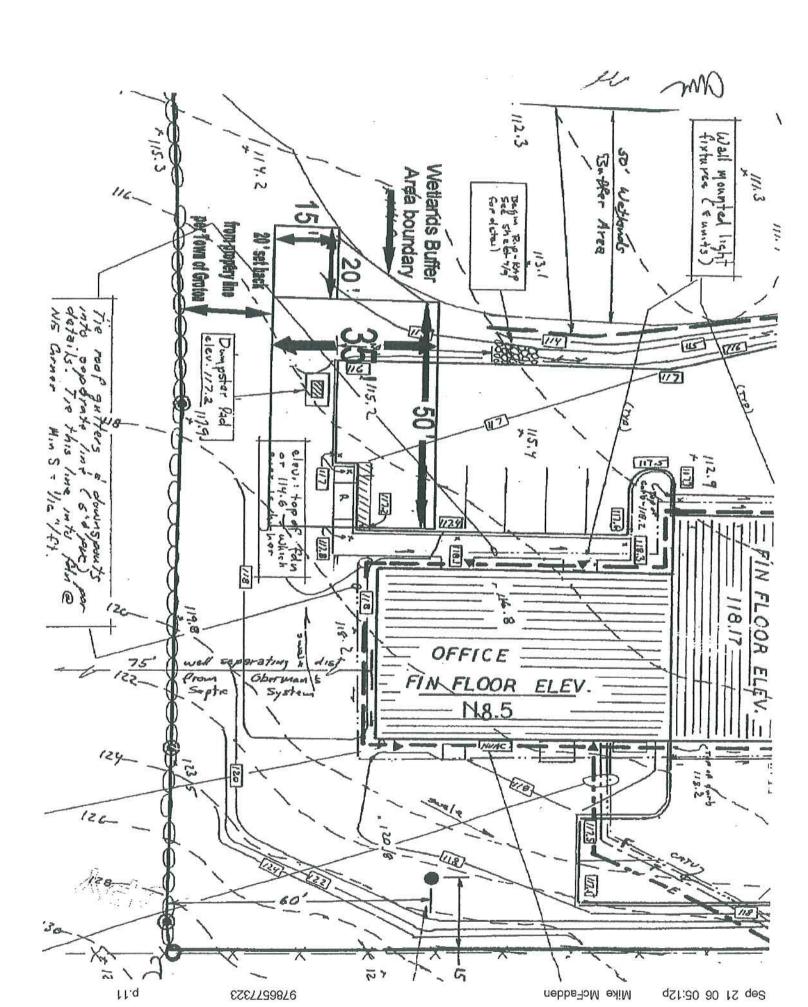
Date: 01/19/2006

Date: 1/31/06

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# Attachments Included:

C – Site Selection Report

# **Groton Tower Site Selection Process**

The primary goal was to locate a potential cell site to provide coverage connection to area residents and along Interstate 95 between the existing tower at the Transfer Station on Flanders Road (CT1044) to the West and the existing tower in Stonington near Exit 90 (CT1045) to the East. Based on existing and potential coverage shown in the RF data, the site needed to be very near exit 89 from Interstate 95.

As always we first look to locate on any existing tall structures in the area.

- The Smokestack on Oral School Rd was too far East to connect the existing gap.
- The Water Tank on Nantucket was too far North to connect the existing gap.
- The Church of God (500 Sandy Hollow Road) was too far West to connect the existing gap.
- The Fire Dept Tower (295 Cow Hill Rd) was too short and they did not want to lease space for us to build a taller tower.
- The Mystic River Ambulance Association was willing to lease space on their 3.35 acre wooded lot and the whole community would benefit from using the proposed tower to improve their communications. It was originally thought we could place the tower in the wooded portion of the lot, but then discovered it to be a wetland zone.

Most of the surrounding area is smaller residential parcels that were not considered for this use.

# Attachments Included:

D - Photo Simulations



September 18, 2006

Mr. Michael McFadden MCF Communications, Inc. 733 Turnpike Street, Suite 105 North Andover, MA 01845

RE: Visibility Study

Site: Groton

237 Sandy Hollow Road Groton, CT 06355

CHA # 14957-1004-1601

Dear Mr. McFadden:

Clough Harbour & Associates LLP (CHA) conducted a visibility study for the proposed 130'-0" monopole located at 237 Sandy Hollow Road, Groton, CT. The purpose of the study was to determine the visual impact, if any, that a proposed 130'-0" monopole would have on the surrounding community. The first portion of the study involved developing a computer model to estimate how the surrounding topography and vegetation within a 2 mile radius may obstruct the monopole's visibility. USGS topography maps were utilized to determine the ground elevations within the study area and 2004 aerial photographs were utilized to estimate the approximate limits of vegetation. The limits of vegetation were incorporated on the topography map and assumed to be 65' in height. The ground elevation at the base of the tower was determined from a 2C survey. The computer model developed hatched areas on the map indicating areas of potential visibility based on the surrounding topography, vegetation, and tower height.

Next, research of the surrounding study area was conducted to determine the locations of sensitive visual receptors such as historic sites, historic districts, schools, churches, cemeteries, parks, playgrounds, recreational areas, beaches, and scenic roads. Historic sites and districts were determined from national and state registers. Surrounding schools, churches, cemeteries, parks, playgrounds, recreational areas, and beaches were determined from street maps and town GIS data. Scenic roads were determined from the CTDOT list of designated scenic roads. All of the above sensitive visual receptors were added to the viewshed map.

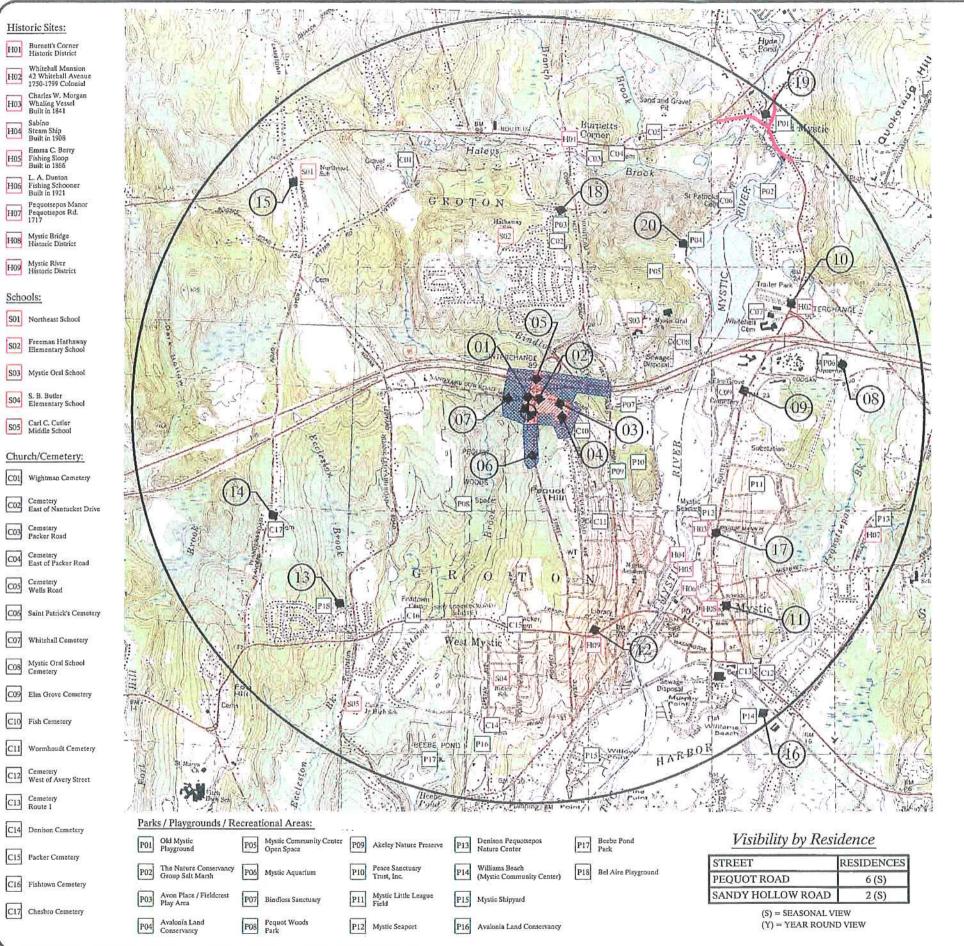
To further investigate the potential visibility prior to completing the field analysis, sight lines were generated from USGS topography maps. Eight sight lines were produced showing the visibility along a two mile radius from the proposed monopole. A sight line was produced from all directions. The sight lines supplement the computer generated viewshed map by further illustrating how the topography and trees around the site will affect the monopole's visibility within the two mile study area.

On July 25, 2006 a field visual analysis was conducted to verify the sensitive visual receptors and the limit of visibility determined from our research and computer model. Weather conditions were favorable on the date of the visibility study as it was a clear and sunny day with winds between 7 and 10 MPH; therefore, visibility of the balloon from surrounding areas was not affected. In general, the field visibility study was conducted as follows: A 60" diameter red balloon was flown at a height of 120'-0" above existing grade, which was the tower height at the time of the study. Once the balloon was flown, CHA completed a field drive of the surrounding area to determine the visibility of the balloon, and thus the proposed tower. Visibility from the sensitive visual receptors was our primary focus so photos were taken from each of these locations. Photos were also taken from major streets, intersections, and residential areas; from key areas where the balloon was visible; and from key areas where it was not visible. The limits of visibility determined from the computer model were field verified and adjusted as needed. Areas of potential seasonal visibility were field determined and marked on the viewshed map. Finally, the number of residences within the seasonal and year round visible areas was determined.

In conclusion, the year round visual impact to the surrounding community within a two mile radius is limited to the immediate area surrounding the proposed monopole. The red hatched areas on the viewshed map indicate the year round visual impact limit, which is approximately 0.25%, or 20 Acres, of the total study area. The limit of year round visibility includes the area surrounding the following public streets: a 1,300' stretch along Sandy Hollow Road, a 1,400' stretch along Route 614, a 300' stretch along I-95, and a 500' stretch along Pequot road. The proposed monopole will not be seen year round from any of the sensitive visual receptors listed on the viewshed map. Immediately outside this limit of year round visibility, trees start to screen the proposed monopole giving the potential for seasonal views. The blue hatched areas on the viewshed map indicate the seasonal visual impact, which is approximately 0.75%, or 56 acres, of the total study area. The limit of seasonal visibility includes the area surrounding the following public streets: an 800' stretch along Sandy Hollow Road, a 1,100' stretch along Route 614, a 2,600' stretch along I-95, and a 450' stretch along Pequot road. The area with seasonal visibility is mostly residential and will impact the following number of residences: 6 residences along Pequot Road and 2 residences along Sandy Hollow Road. The proposed monopole will not be seen seasonally from any of the sensitive visual receptors listed on the viewshed map. The remainder of the two mile radius study area is screened by topography & vegetation (7,977 Acres, 99%). Photos documenting the nonvisible and visible conditions described above have been included in the photosimulations with their locations marked on the viewshed map.

If you have any questions or comments pertaining to the manner in which CHA completed the visibility study, or our conclusions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.





## NOTES:

- 1. Only visible areas are shown on the map utilizing the process described in note 2. The remainder of the map has been estimated to be nonvisible utilizing the process described in note 3.
- 2. Seasonal and year round areas of visibility were estimated from a field visual analysis within public R.O.W. and
- 2. Seasonal and year round areas of visibility were estimated from a field visual analysis within public properties. Areas shown on private property were interpolated from the field visual analysis.

  3. Nonvisible areas were estimated from a computer generated topography & vegetation analysis and field verification of vegetation & building screening within public R.O.W and public properties. Vegetation limits were determined from 2004 aerial photos and is assumed to be 65' high. Verification of vegetation height, coverage, and type within private areas not visible from public R.O.W or public properties was not field verified.
- 4. Historical areas were determined from national and state historical registers.
- 5. Parks, schools, cemeteries, and churches were determined from street maps and field observations.
- 6. Scenic roads, if any, were determined from the CTDOT list of designated scenic roads and field observations.

## Legend



APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF PROPOSED MONOPOLE



COMPUTER SIMULATION PHOTOGRAPH LOCATION



APPROXIMATE LIMIT OF SEASONAL TOWER VISIBILITY



APPROXIMATE LIMIT OF YEAR ROUND TOWER VISIBILITY



P# PARKS/PLAYGROUNDS/ RECREATIONAL AREAS



s# SCHOOL

SCENIC ROAD

# Visibility by Acreage

| ITEM   | APPROXIMATE ACRES | % OF TOTAL AREA |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| 2 MILE RADIUS AREA                                 | 8,053             | 100%            |
| NOT VISIBLE DUE TO TOPOGRAPHY<br>AND/OR VEGETATION | 7977              | 99%             |
| YEAR ROUND VISIBILITY                              | . 20              | 0.25%           |
| SEASONAL VISIBILITY                                | 56                | 0.75%           |

# Distances from Photo Locations to Tower

| РНОТО | DISTANCE (FT) | РНОТО | DISTANCE (FT) | РНОТО | DISTANCE (FT) |
|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|
| 01    | 300           | 08    | 8,500         | 15    | 8,800         |
| 02    | 490           | 09    | 5,800         | 16    | 10,200        |
| 03    | 860           | 10    | 7,600         | 17    | 6,000         |
| 04    | 940           | 11    | 7,500         | 18    | 5,500         |
| 05    | 960           | 12    | 6,200         | 19    | 10,200        |
| 06    | 1,160         | 1.3   | 7,200         | 20    | 6,200         |
| 07    | 660           | 14    | 7,400         |       |               |

# 2 MILE VIEWSHED ANALYSIS MAP

# MCF GROTON VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

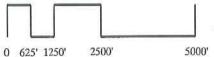
# MCF Communications, Inc.

733 TURNPIKE STREET, SUITE 105 NORTH ANDOVER, MA 01845 OFFICE: (978) 687-2536 FAX: (978) 258-8850

2129 Silas Dezne Highway, Suits 212 - Rocky Hill, CT 06067-2338

Main: (260) 257-4557 - www.idcugtherbour.com

JULY 2006







Photosim for conceptual purposes only - actual antenna & equipment locations to be determined based on final engineering design



DATE: SEPT 2006

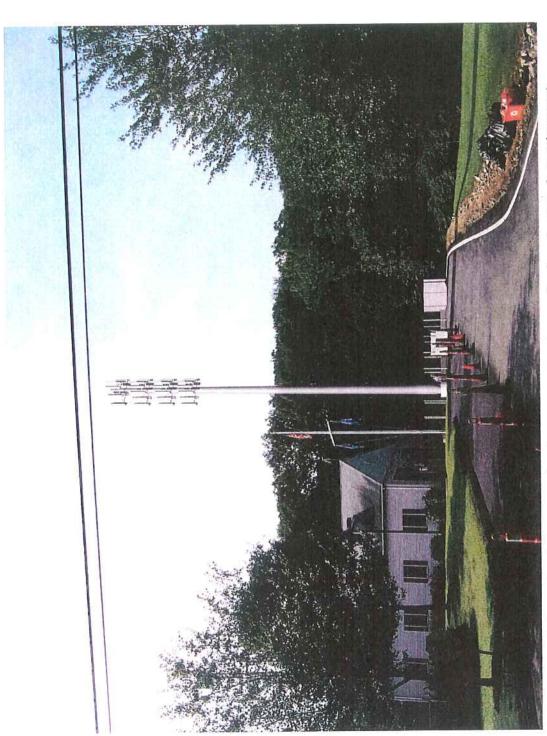
SITE: GROTON

# MCF Communications, Inc.

733 TURNPIKE STREET NORTH ANDOVER, MA 01845 (978) 658-7360

SANDY HOLLOW ROAD LOOKING SOUTH TOWARDS SITE

VIEW 1 - EXISTING



Photosim for conceptual purposes only - actual antenna & equipment locations to be determined based on final engineering design



SITE: GROTON

DATE: SEPT 2006

VIEW 1 - PROPOSED SANDY HOLLOW ROAD LOOKING SOUTH TOWARDS SITE

# MCF Communications, Inc.

733 TURNPIKE STREET NORTH ANDOVER, MA 01845 (978) 658-7360



Photosim for conceptual purposes only - actual antenna & equipment locations to be determined based on final engineering design



SITE: GROTON

DATE: SEPT 2006

VIEW 2 - EXISTING CORNER OF SANDY HOLLOW ROAD & ROUTE 614 LOOKING SOUTHWEST TOWARDS SITE

# MCF Communications, Inc.

733 TURNPIKE STREET NORTH ANDOVER, MA 01845 (978) 658-7360



Photosim for conceptual purposes only - actual antenna & equipment locations to be determined based on final engineering design



SITE: GROTON

VIEW 2 - PROPOSED CORNER OF SANDY HOLLOW ROAD & ROUTE 614 LOOKING SOUTHWEST TOWARDS SITE

# MCF Communications, Inc.

733 TURNPIKE STREET NORTH ANDOVER, MA 01845 (978) 658-7360

DATE: SEPT 2006



Photosim for conceptual purposes only - actual antenna & equipment locations to be determined based on final engineering design



DATE: SEPT 2006

SITE: GROTON

# MCF Communications, Inc.

VIEW 3 - EXISTING CORNER OF SANDY HOLLOW ROAD & PEQUOT ROAD LOOKING

WEST TOWARDS SITE

733 TURNPIKE STREET NORTH ANDOVER, MA 01845 (978) 658-7360



Photosim for conceptual purposes only - actual antenna & equipment locations to be determined based on final engineering design



DATE: SEPT 2006 SITE: GROTON

CORNER OF SANDY HOLLOW
ROAD & PEQUOT ROAD LOOKING
WEST TOWARDS SITE

# MCF Communications, Inc.

733 TURNPIKE STREET NORTH ANDOVER, MA 01845 (978) 658-7360



Photosim for conceptual purposes only - actual antenna & equipment locations to be determined based on final engineering design



SITE: GROTON

VIEW FROM 492 PEQUOT ROAD LOOKING WEST TOWARDS SITE

# MCF Communications, Inc.

733 TURNPIKE STREET NORTH ANDOVER, MA 01845 (978) 658-7360

DATE: SEPT 2006



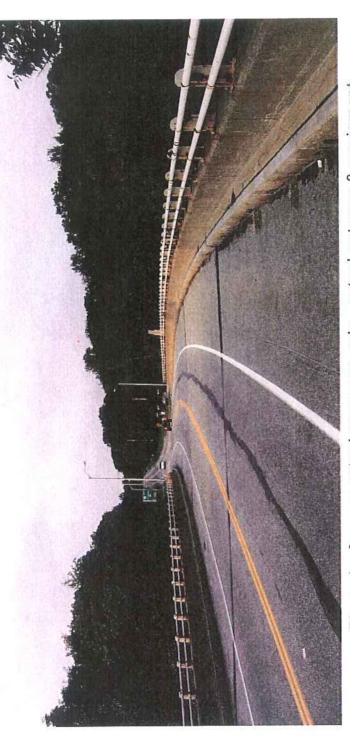


SITE: GROTON

DATE: SEPT 2006

VIEW 4 - PROPOSED VIEW FROM 492 PEQUOT ROAD LOOKING WEST TOWARDS SITE

# MCF Communications, Inc.





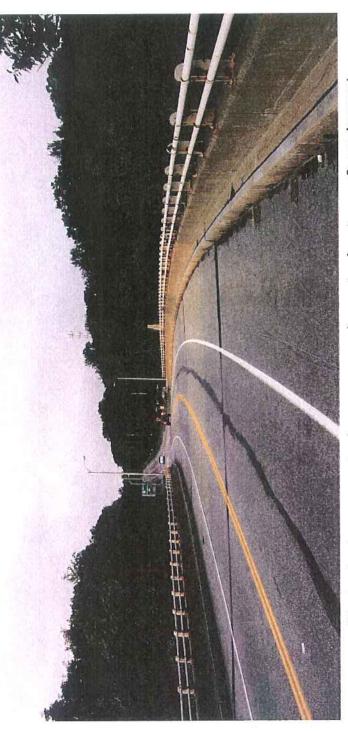
006 SITE: GROTON

VIEW 5 - EXISTING
VIEW FROM ROUTE 614 AT 1-95
SOUTH BRIDGE LOOKING
SOUTHWEST TOWARDS SITE

# MCF Communications, Inc.

733 TURNPIKE STREET NORTH ANDOVER, MA 01845 (978) 658-7360

DATE: SEPT 2006



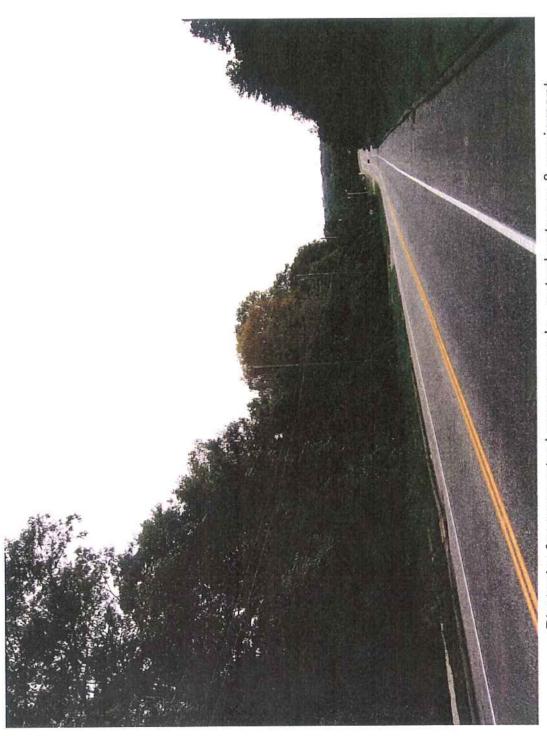


VIEW 5 - PROPOSED
VIEW FROM ROUTE 614 AT 1-95
SOUTH BRIDGE LOOKING
SOUTHWEST TOWARDS SITE

DATE: SEPT 2006

SITE: GROTON

MCF Communications, Inc.





DATE: SEPT 2006

VIEW FROM ROUTE 614 LOOKING
NORTHWEST TOWARDS SITE

# MCF Communications, Inc.



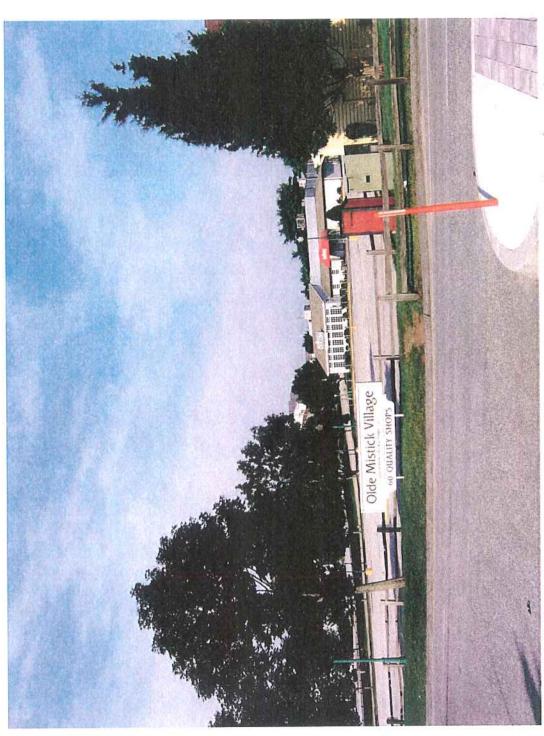


SITE: GROTON

DATE: SEPT 2006

VIEW FROM SANDY HOLLOW ROAD
LOOKING SOUTHEAST TOWARDS
SITE

# MCF Communications, Inc.



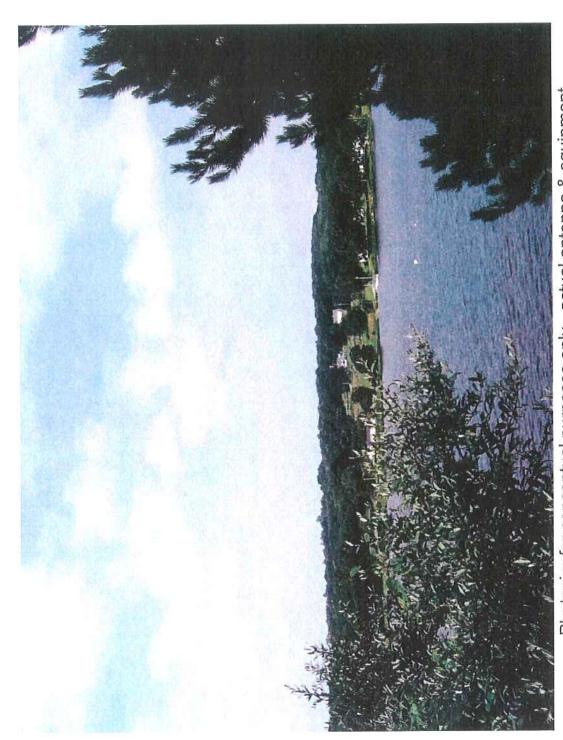


SITE: GROTON

DATE: SEPT 2006

VIEW 8 - NOT VISIBLE
VIEW FROM OLDE MISTICK VILLAGE
/ MYSTIC AQUARIUM LOOKING WEST
TOWARDS SITE

# MCF Communications, Inc.





VIEW 9 - NOT VISIBLE VIEW FROM ELM GROVE CEMETER LOOKING WEST TOWARDS SITE

SITE: GROTON

DATE: SEPT 2006

# MCF Communications, Inc.





DATE: SEPT 2006

SITE: GROTON

VIEW 10 - NOT VISIBLE
VIEW FROM WHITEHALL MANSION
LOOKING SOUTHWEST TOWARDS

# MCF Communications, Inc.





SITE: GROTON

# MCF Communications, Inc.

733 TURNPIKE STREET NORTH ANDOVER, MA 01845 (978) 658-7360

HISTORIC DISTRICT LOOKING VIEW FROM MYSTIC BRIDGE VIEW 11 - NOT VISIBLE

DATE: SEPT 2006





SITE: GROTON

VIEW 12 - NOT VISIBLE VIEW FROM MYSTIC RIVER HISTORIC DISTRICT LOOKING NORTH TOWARDS SITE

# MCF Communications, Inc.

733 TURNPIKE STREET NORTH ANDOVER, MA 01845 (978) 658-7360

DATE: SEPT 2006



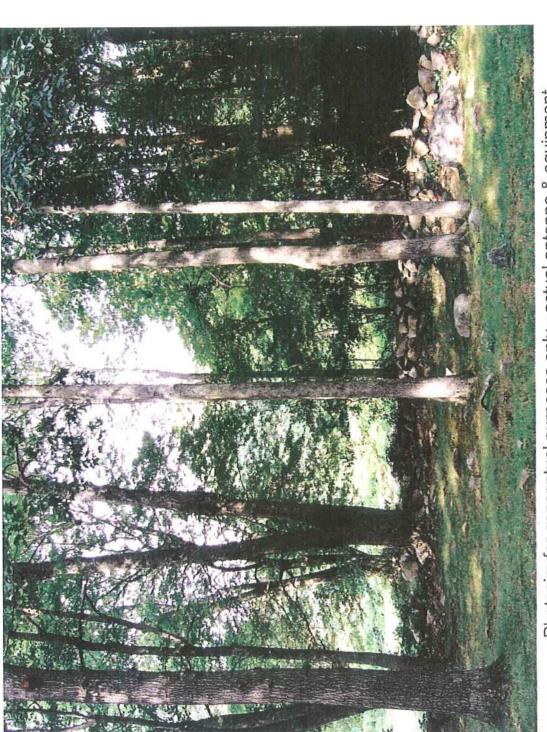


DATE: SEPT 2006 SI

SITE: GROTON

VIEW 13 - NOT VISIBLE VIEW FROM BEL AIRE PLAYGROUND LOOKING NORTHEAST TOWARDS SITE

# MCF Communications, Inc.



VIEW 14 - NOT VISIBLE FROM CHESBRO CEMETERY

LOOKING NORTHEAST



SITE: GROTON

# MCF Communications, Inc.

733 TURNPIKE STREET NORTH ANDOVER, MA 01845 (978) 658-7360

DATE: SEPT 2006



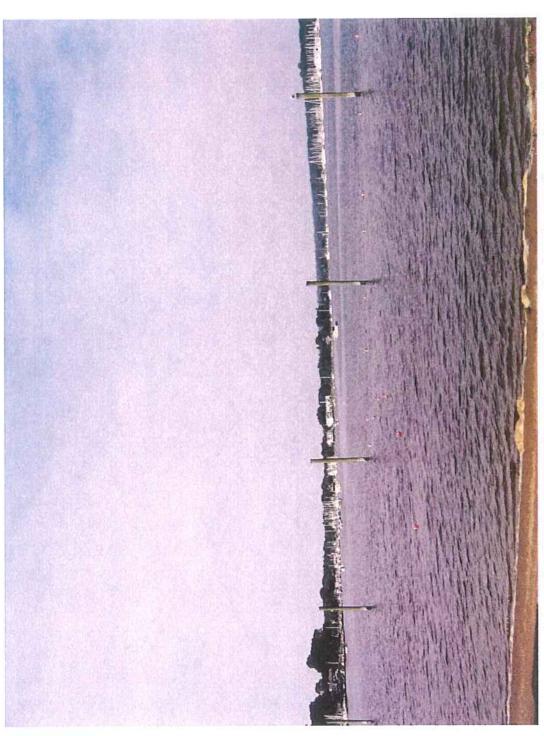


VIEW FROM NORTHEAST SCH LOOKING SOUTHEAST

DATE: SEPT 2006

SITE: GROTON

# MCF Communications, Inc.





DATE: SEPT 2006 SITE: GROTON

VIEW 16 - NOT VISIBLE
VIEW FROM WILLIAMS BEACH
LOOKING NORTHWEST
TOWARDS SITE

# MCF Communications, Inc.



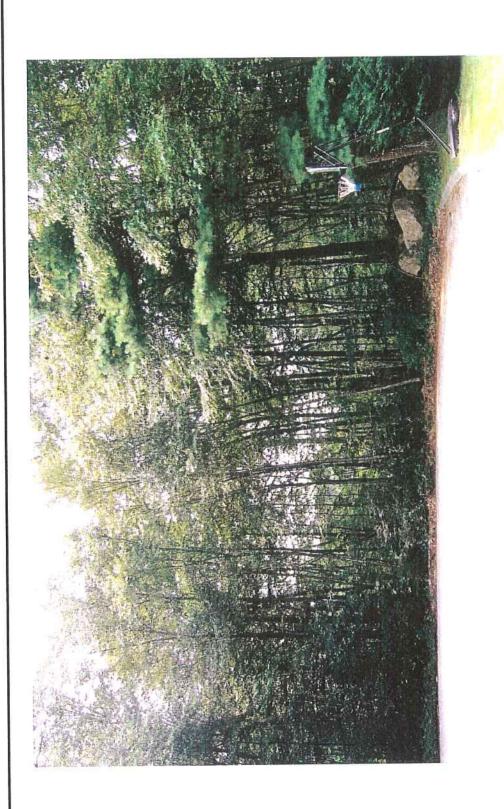


DATE: SEPT 2006

SITE: GROTON

VIEW FROM CHARLES W. MORGAN WHALING VESSEL LOOKING NORTHWEST TOWARDS SITE

# MCF Communications, Inc.





006 SITE: GROTON

VIEW 18 - NOT VISIBLE VIEW FROM AVON PLACE / FIELDCREST PLAY AREA LOOKING SOUTH TOWARDS SITE

## MCF Communications, Inc.

733 TURNPIKE STREET NORTH ANDOVER, MA 01845 (978) 658-7360

DATE: SEPT 2006





DATE: SEPT 2006 SITE: GI

SITE: GROTON

VIEW FROM OLD MYSTIC
PLAYGROUND LOOKING
NORTH ANDOR

# MCF Communications, Inc.



Photosim for conceptual purposes only - actual antenna & equipment locations to be determined based on final engineering design



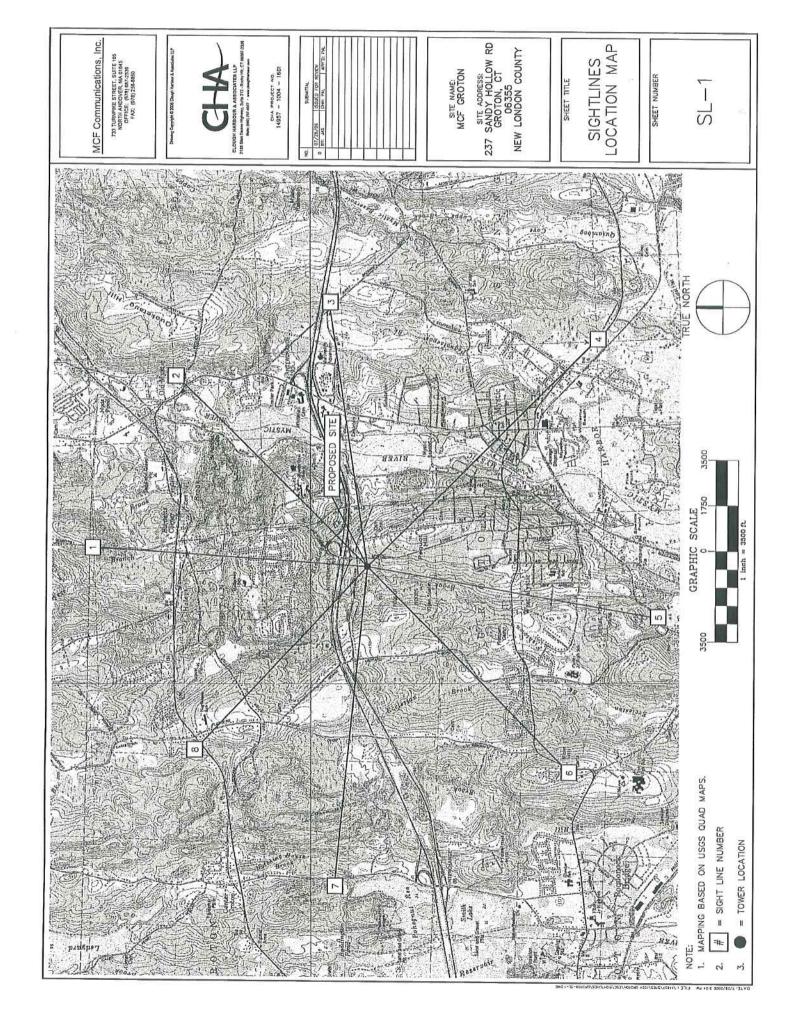
DATE: SEPT 2006 SITE: GROTON

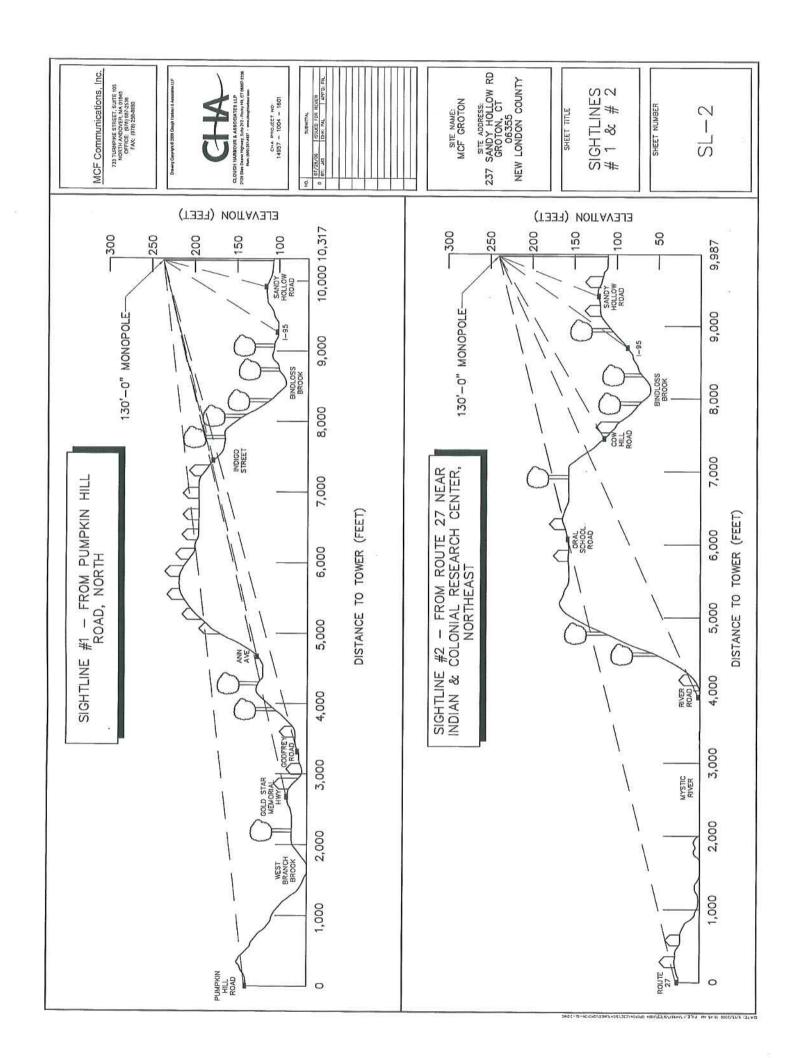
VIEW 20 - NOT VISIBLE
VIEW FROM AVALONIA LAND
CONSERVANCY LOOKING
SOUTHWEST TOWARDS SITE

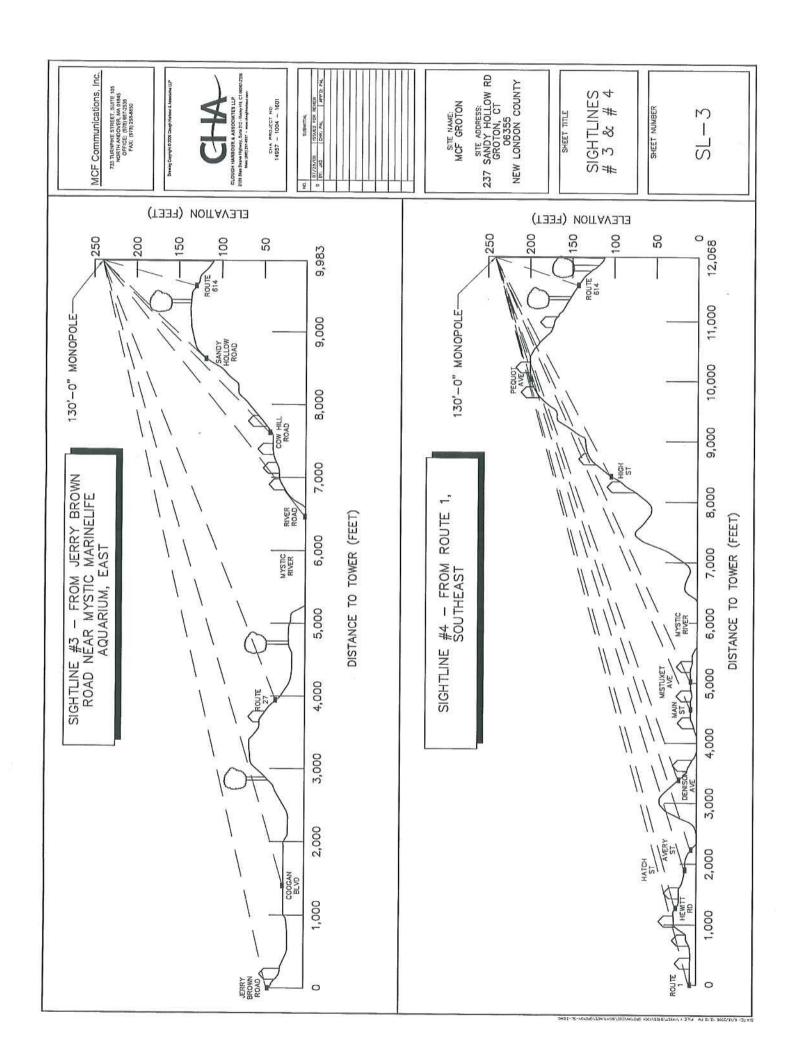
# MCF Communications, Inc.

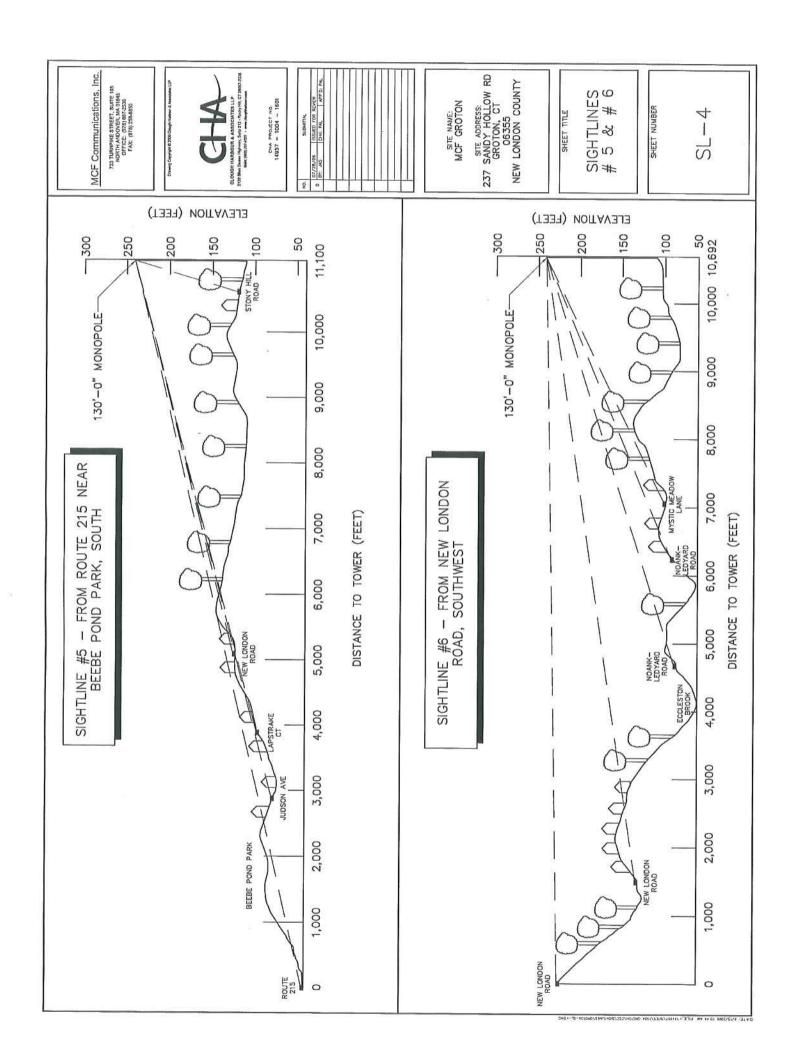
### Attachments Included:

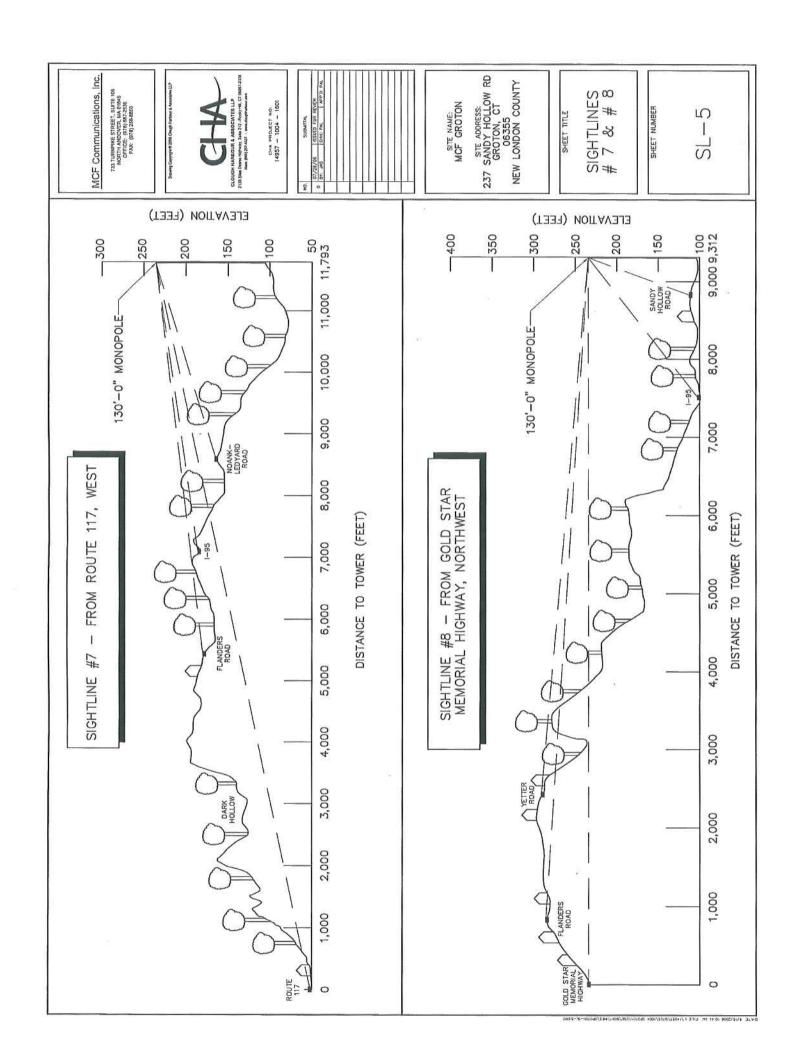
### **E** – Visual Resource Evaluation











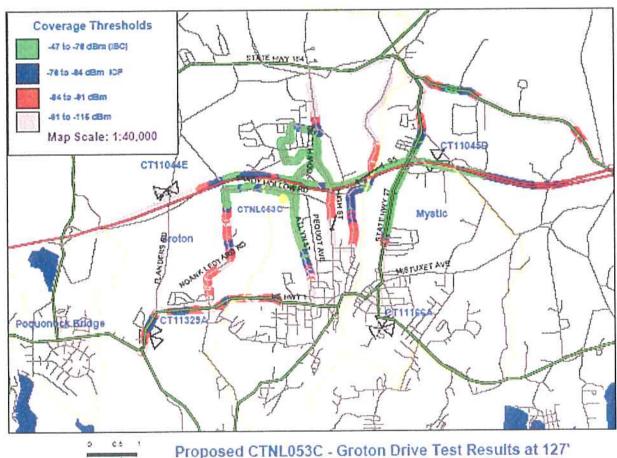
### Attachments Included:

F-Radio Frequency Information

### Results

The following plots (1 to 5) show the result from the drive test at the T-Mobile proposed facility at 237 Sandy Hollow Road in West Mystic, CT. For these, signal levels ranging from -10 dBm to -115 dBm are shown. T-Mobiles required lower limit threshold is -84 dBm, which is required for in vehicle coverage. The higher threshold level of -76 dBm is the minimum required to provide reliable in-building coverage. Levels below the -84 dBm threshold are shown to demonstrate routes driven and to show areas of unacceptable signal degradation

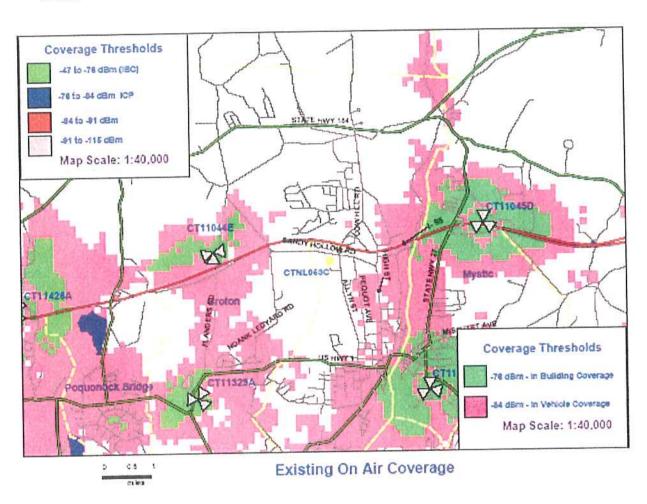
### Plots 1



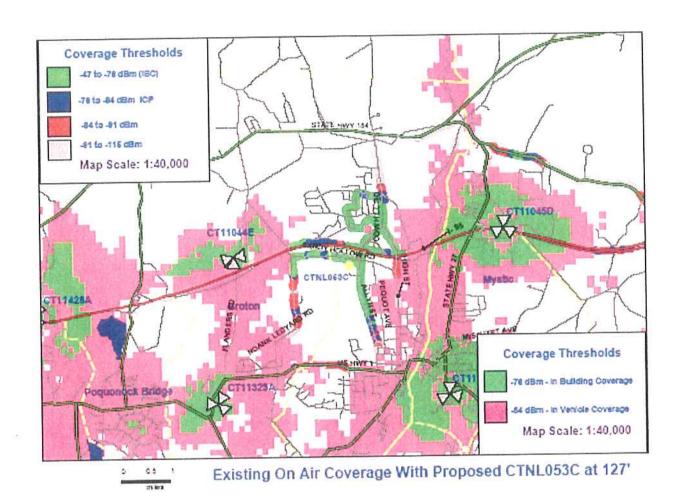
Plot 1 shows the results of the CTNL053C drive test at 127 feet AGL

Plots 5 through 9 show existing coverage and existing coverage with drive test data overlaid at the five test heights.

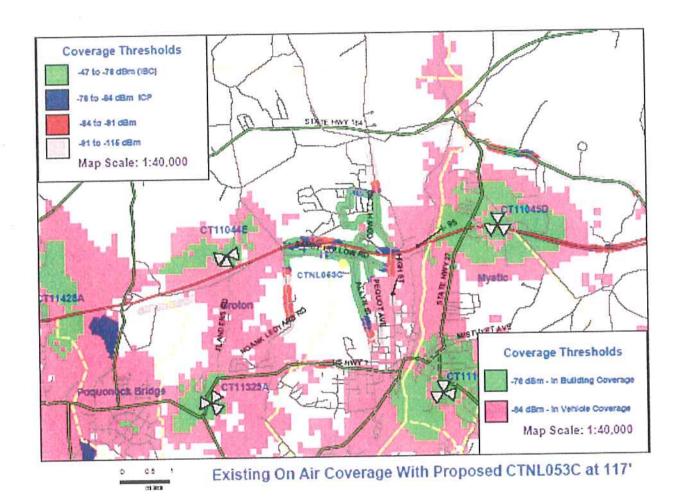
Plot 5



Plot 5 shows existing T-mobile on air coverage



Plot 6 shows existing T-mobile on air coverage with the test site at 127 feet AGL. At 127 feet AGL the coverage satisfies most of the objective area along Interstate 95 except for a small segment to the northwest of the proposed facility, roughly 0.10 miles in length, which briefly falls below -84 dBm. Within this small area the T-Mobile handset may experience some minor audio or data quality issues, but these occurrences will be undetectable to most and not cause any detriment to the network or the user's network experience



Plot 7 shows existing T-mobile on air coverage with the test site at 117 feet AGL. At 117 feet coverage is further degraded along Interstate 95 to the northwest from the proposed facility where the coverage level falls below -84 dBm. This area is extended to roughly 0.5 miles in length. This degraded level of service will most likely result in a noticeable poor quality to the user and increase the likelihood of dropped calls in these areas.

### Conclusion

Based upon the coverage plots produced from the drive test conducted at the proposed T-Mobile Groton facility, the minimum height required to provide reliable coverage to the intended objective is 127 feet AGL. At 127 feet AGL there is a small area of coverage less than 0.10 miles in length along Interstate 95 to the northwest of the proposed facility which falls below the T-Mobile minimum coverage threshold of -84 dBm. Within this small area the T-Mobile handset may experience some minor audio or data quality issues, but these occurrences will be undetectable to most and not cause any detriment to the network or the user's network experience. At heights below 127 feet, the radio signal from the proposed facility will experience further degradation from the existing tree canopy and terrain between the proposed facility location and the coverage objective. This will result in further signal attenuation in areas that are already marginal at 127 feet. Signal at this low level will yield areas of unreliable service to T-Mobile customers for voice and data services and additionally will not allow T-Mobile to provide reliable E-911 services as mandated by the federal government

### Attachments Included:

G-NEPA Report Summary

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

MCF Communications, Inc. is proposing to construct a telecommunications tower in New London County, Connecticut. The site is located at 237 Sandy Hollow Road in Groton, New London County, Connecticut. The proposed site will consist of a 2,050-square-foot fenced compound containing a 120-foot tall monopole telecommunications tower and a 15- by 15-foot lease area for associated equipment. The site currently consists of an asphalt driveway and undeveloped wooded area. The proposed compound will be accessed via an existing paved driveway and parking area associated with the Mystic River Ambulance facility, which extends from Sandy Hollow Road.

### PART II NEPA Checklist And Summary Report

### MCF Communications, Inc. FCC NEPA CHECKLIST (47 CFR Subpart 1. Chapter 1, Sections 1.1301-1.1319)

| Category      | Special Interest Item  |         | Potential<br>Effect |  |
|---------------|--|---------|---------------------|--|
|               |  | Yes     | No                  |  |
| 1             | Is the antenna structure located in an officially designated wilderness area?  |         | X                   |  |
| 2             | Is the antenna structure located in an officially designated wildlife preserve?  |         | Х                   |  |
| 3             | Will the antenna structure likely affect threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitats? (Ref. 50 CFR Part 402)  |         |                     |  |
| 4             | Will the antenna structure affect districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, or culture that are listed, or potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)? (Ref. 36CFR Part 800 regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act) |         |                     |  |
| 5             | Will the antenna structure affect Indian religious site(s)?  |         |                     |  |
| 6             | Will the antenna structure be located in a flood plain? (Ref. Executive Order 11988 and 40 CFR Part 6, Appendix A)   |         | X                   |  |
| 7             | Will construction of the antenna structure involve significant change in surface features (e.g. wetlands, deforestation, or water diversion)? (Ref. Executive Order 11990 and 40 CFR Part 6, Appendix A)   |         | Х                   |  |
| 8             | Is the antenna structure located in a residential neighborhood and required to be equipped with high intensity white lights?   |         |                     |  |
| 9             | a.) Will the antenna structure equal or exceed total power (of all channels) of<br>2000 Watts ERP (3280 Watts EIRP) and have antenna located less than 10<br>meters above ground level?  |         | Х                   |  |
|               | b.) Will the roof-top antenna project equal or exceed total power (of all channels) of 2000 Watts ERP (3280 Watts EIRP)?   |         | N/A                 |  |
| If any of the | Attach this Checklist to the NEPA Summary Report along with the response letter and the Informal Biological Assessment (IBA) documenting No. 3 above responses is "yes", an Environmental Assessment must be prepared and filed Construction can not start until the FCC issues a "Finding of No Significant Impact"   | with FO | CC                  |  |
| Preparer's 2  | Signature: Date: Date:   | 16      |                     |  |

Company Name: BL Companies

### MCF Communications, Inc. FCC NEPA Summary Report

(47 CFR Subpart 1, Chapter 1, Sections 1.1301-1.1319)

| Site Name: MCF Groton Site          | Site Number:       |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Site Address: 237 Sandy Hollow Road |                    |  |  |
| City: Groton, New London County     | State: Connecticut |  |  |

- 1. Is the antenna structure located in an officially designated wilderness area?

  According to the National Park Service GIS Database<sup>1</sup>, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System<sup>2</sup>, the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service<sup>3</sup>, the US Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management<sup>4</sup>, and the Connecticut Division of Parks and Recreation<sup>5</sup>, no officially designated forests, parks, grasslands, wild and scenic rivers, scenic trails, or other wilderness areas are located at or in the immediate vicinity of the action area.
- 2. Is the antenna structure located in an officially designated wildlife preserve?

  According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)<sup>1</sup> and the Connecticut Department of Natural Resources<sup>2</sup>, no officially designated wildlife preserves are located at or in the immediate vicinity of the action area.
- Will the antenna structure likely affect threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitats? (Ref. 50 CFR Part 402)
   A request for a threatened and endangered species review of this project was sent to the USFWS, Connecticut Natural Heritage Program on May 25, 2006.

In correspondence dated July 5, 2006 (attached), the USFWS indicated that no federally-listed or proposed, threatened or endangered species or critical habitat under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are known to occur in the project area.

In correspondence dated April 19, 2006 (attached), the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Natural Diversity Database stated that there are no known populations of Federal or State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern Species at the subject site.

4. Will the antenna structure affect districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, or culture that are listed, or potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)? (Ref. 36 CFR Part 800 regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act).

As part of the environmental review process for this project, a literature and records review was conducted to determine whether National Register listed or eligible historic structures or archaeological sites were located within the presumed area of potential effect (APE) for Visual effects—in this case, within a half-mile of the undertaking. Files researched in the literature and records review included the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database and the National Register eligibility files maintained by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office.

This review revealed that there are no known archaeological resources or NRHP listed or eligible historic structures located within a half-mile of the undertaking. Therefore, it was determined that the proposed undertaking will have no visual effect upon historic properties.

The physical attributes of the landform, namely its slope and the lack of previously recorded proximal archaeological sites at similar landforms, suggest that the site has a low probability as a potential location for prehistoric occupation or utilization. Additionally, due to the limited nature of the undertaking, disturbance of any intact subsurface archaeological deposits in the APE for Direct Effects is also unlikely. Additional archaeological survey is not recommended.

An opinion of no effect upon historic properties or archaeological resources was sent to the CT SHPO on May 22, 2006. The CT SHPO responded on May 26, 2006 and concurred with this finding.

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.2 (d), 800.3 (e), and 800.3 (f)(1), consultation was initiated with the Town of Groton and the Mystic River Historical Society (attached). To date, the Mystic River Historical Society responded on June 19, 2006 and expressed no concern with the project.

In addition, a Public Notice was advertised in the New London Day with the 30-day public comment period ending on June 25, 2006 (attached).

### 5. Will the antenna structure affect Indian religious site(s)?

Tribal consultation was initiated through the FCC's electronic Tower Construction Notification System (TCNS) on May 12, 2006 and was assigned TCNS number 15722. On May 23, 2006 the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe responded via TCNS and via letter dated June 14, 2006 and expressed to no concerns with the project (attached). In keeping with the Voluntary Best Practices Agreement of 2004, two tribes were notified in writing and invited to enter into consultation on March 30, 2006 (attached).

BL Companies notified the FCC about the Tribal Consultation status on June 29, 2006 and invited them to initiate government-to-government consultation. In a letter dated July 6, 2006, the FCC notified BL Companies that if no statement of interest were received from the Mohegan Indian Tribe and the Narangansett Indian Tribe by July 26, 2006, the tribal consultation process would be deemed complete (attached). On July 10, 2006 the Mohegan Indian Tribe responded via TCNS and expressed to no concerns with the project (attached).

As of July 26, 2006, no response was received from the Narnagansett Indian Tribe, therefore tribal consultation is complete.

### 6. Will the antenna structure be located in a floodplain? (Ref. Executive Order 11988 and 40 CFR Part 6, Appendix A)

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency<sup>1</sup>, the proposed action area is not located within the 100-year floodplain. A Federal Insurance Rate Map has been attached to serve as supporting documentation.

### 7. Will construction of the antenna structure involve significant change in surface features (e.g. wetlands, deforestation, or water diversion)? (Ref. Executive Order 11990 and 40 CFR Part 6, Appendix A)

According to the USFWS's National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Mapping (attached), no inventoried wetlands are shown within the action area. State level wetland mapping was not available for Tolland County, Connecticut. The Natural Resource Conservation Service's Hydric Soil Series Lists indicates that mapped hydric soils do not exist at or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project location. Additionally, on-site assessment of the site confirmed that hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydrologic characteristics conducive to the formation of wetlands were not present within the action area.

Topographically, the site is relatively flat and located at an approximate average elevation of 110 feet above mean sea level. Locally, ground water in the site vicinity is expected to mimic the

surrounding topography and flow to the southwest towards Fishtown Brook, which is approximately 1,200 feet from the subject site.

The action area site is located in the Newark (Hartford Basin) terrain of the New England Physiographic Province of Connecticut. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Web Soil Survey, soils mantling the site consist of the Canton and Charlton extremely stony loam with 3 to 15 percent slopes. These types of soils are generally found on upland hill landforms and the parent material consists primarily of schist, granite and gneiss.

Land use at the site currently consists of a wooded area associated with a larger property, occupied by a the Mystic River Ambulance facility. The land use in the vicinity of the site is predominantly occupied by residential properties and transportational uses.

Based upon the nature of the undertaking, it is also believed that the action area will be subject only to the effects of the direct impacts necessary to construct and maintain the proposed project. Indirect impacts such as runoff, noise, aesthetics, and fugitive dust are temporary in nature, and should only be realized during and shortly after construction.

- 8. Is the antenna structure located in a residential neighborhood and required to be equipped with high intensity white lights? No.
- 9a. Will the antenna structure equal or exceed total power (of all channels) of 2000 Watts ERP (3280 EIRP) and have antenna located less than 10 meters above the ground?

  No.
- 9b. Will the rooftop antenna project equal or exceed total power (of all channels) of 2000 Watts ERP (3280 EIRP)?

  Not applicable.

### Attachments Included:

H-FAA Information

### **TOWAIR Determination Results**

### \*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\*

TOWAIR's findings are not definitive or binding, and we cannot guarantee that the data in TOWAIR are fully current and accurate. In some instances, TOWAIR may yield results that differ from application of the criteria set out in 47 C.F.R. Section 17.7 and 14 C.F.R. Section 77.13. A positive finding by TOWAIR recommending notification should be given considerable weight. On the other hand, a finding by TOWAIR recommending either for or against notification is not conclusive. It is the responsibility of each ASR participant to exercise due diligence to determine if it must coordinate its structure with the FAA. TOWAIR is only one tool designed to assist ASR participants in exercising this due diligence, and further investigation may be necessary to determine if FAA coordination is appropriate.

### **DETERMINATION Results**

Structure does not require registration. There are no airports within 8 kilometers (5 miles) of the coordinates you provided.

### **Your Specifications**

### **NAD83 Coordinates**

| Latitude  | 41-54-59.6 north |  |  |
|-----------|------------------|--|--|
| Longitude | 071-49-39.1 west |  |  |

### Measurements (Meters)

| Overall Structure Height (AGL) | 36.6 |  |
|--------------------------------|------|--|
| Support Structure Height (AGL) | NaN  |  |
| Site Elevation (AMSL)          | NaN  |  |

### Structure Type

TOWER - Free standing or Guyed Structure used for Communications Purposes

Notify Tribes and Historic Preservation Officers of your plans to build a tower. Note: Notification does NOT replace

CLOSE WINDOW