STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE:	:	
	:	
APPLICATION OF CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF A WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT 199 TOWN FARM ROAD, FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT	:	DOCKET NO. 356
	:	MARCH 25, 2008

RESPONSES OF CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS TO CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL PRE-HEARING INTERROGATORIES, SET ONE

On March 4, 2008, the Connecticut Siting Council ("Council") issued Pre-Hearing Interrogatories to the Applicant, Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless ("Cellco"), relating to the above-captioned docket. Below are the Cellco's responses.

Question No. 1

What are the frequencies Cellco is licensed to use in Hartford County?

Response

In Hartford County, Cellco is licensed to operate in both the cellular (Transmit ("Tx"): 869-880, 890-891.5 MHz; Receive ("Rx"): 824-835, 845-846.5) and PCS F Block (Tx: 1970-1975 MHz; Rx: 1890-1895 MHz) frequency bands. Cellco plans to install both PCS and cellular antennas at the Farmington North 2 Facility. Copies of Cellco's current licenses for Hartford County are included behind Tab 1.

Question No. 2

Would Cellco's antennas comply with E911 requirements?

Response

Yes.

Question No. 3

Identify distances and directions to the adjacent sites with which the proposed site would hand off signals? Include addresses of these sites.

Response

Cellco's proposed Farmington North 2 Facility will hand-off calls with the following existing Cellco sites in the area:

1. Cellco's Avon cell site on Darling Drive in Avon, Connecticut, which is located approximately 3.45 miles to the north of the proposed Farmington North 2 Facility;

2. Cellco's Avon 2 cell site at 24 Ridgewood Road in Avon, Connecticut, which is located approximately 2.72 miles to the west of the proposed Farmington North 2 Facility;

3. Cellco's Talcott Mountain cell site on Talcott Mountain in Bloomfield, Connecticut, which is located approximately 4.19 miles to the northeast of the proposed Farmington North 2 Facility;

4. Cellco's Talcott 2 cell site at 3114 Albany Avenue in West Hartford, Connecticut, which is located approximately 3.15 miles to the northeast of the proposed Farmington North 2 Facility;

5. Cellco's Farmington 3 cell site at 1371 Farmington Avenue in West Hartford, Connecticut, which is located approximately 1.88 miles to the southwest of the proposed Farmington North 2 Facility;

6. Cellco's Farmington North cell site at 263 Farmington Avenue in Farmington, Connecticut, which is located approximately 2.76 miles to the southeast of the proposed Farmington North 2 Facility; and

7. Cellco's New Britain 5 cell site at 130 Birdseye Road in Farmington, Connecticut, which is located approximately 3.06 miles to the south of the proposed Farmington North 2 Facility.

Question No. 4

Provide the following information: number of channels per sector for each antenna system that would be installed on the proposed tower, ERP per channel for each antenna system, and frequency at which each antenna system would operate.

Response

Alpha Sector – 110 ft.	**Beta Sector – 110 ft.**	**Gamma Sector – 110 ft.**
Antenna Type: LPA – 185063/8CF	Antenna Type: LPA – 185063/8CF	Antenna Type: LPA – 185063/8CF
Frequency: Tx: 1970-1975 MHz; Rx: 1890-1895 MHz	Frequency: Tx: 1970-1975 MHz; Rx: 1890-1895 MHz	Frequency: Tx: 1970-1975 MHz; Rx: 1890-1895 MHz
No. Channels: 3	No. Channels: 3	No. Channels: 3
ERP/Channel: 420 W Max	ERP/Channel: 420 W Max	ERP/Channel: 420 W Max

Alpha Sector – 110 ft.	**Beta Sector – 110 ft.**	**Gamma Sector – 110 ft.**
Antenna Type: LPA – 80063/4CF	Antenna Type: LPA – 80063/4CF	Antenna Type: LPA – 80063/4CF
Frequency: Tx: 869-880,890-891.5 MHz; Rx: 824-835, 845-846.5 MHz	Frequency: Tx: 869-880,890-891.5 MHz; Rx: 824-835, 845-846.5 MHz	Frequency: Tx: 869-880,890-891.5 MHz; Rx: 824-835, 845-846.5 MHz
No. Channels: 9	No. Channels: 9	No. Channels: 9
ERP/Channel: 263 W Max	ERP/Channel: 263 W Max	ERP/Channel: 263 W Max

Question No. 5

What is the lowest height at which Cellco's antennas could achieve its coverage

objectives from this site? Submit propagation maps showing the coverage at ten feet below this height.

Response

Cellco's PCS and cellular antennas are located at the lowest level needed to achieve its coverage objectives in this area. Plots showing Cellco's PCS and cellular coverage ten feet below (i.e., at 100 feet) the proposed antenna heights are included behind Tab 2.

Question No. 6

Of the letters sent to abutting property owners, how many certified mail receipts did Cellco receive? If any receipts were not returned, which owners did not receive their notice? Did Cellco make additional attempts to contact those property owners?

Response

All certified mail receipts have been returned.

Question No. 7

What is the signal strength for which Cellco designs its system? For in-vehicle coverage? For in-building coverage?

Response

Cellco's signal coverage threshold is -85 dBm for in-vehicle coverage and -75 dBm for in-building coverage.

Question No. 8

What is the existing signal strength in those areas Cellco is seeking to cover from this site? How were these signal strengths determined?

Response

Cellco's signal strength in the area around the proposed Farmington North 2 facility ranges from -86 dBm to -95 dBm. These signal levels are determined through the use of

Cellco's propagation modeling tool and are confirmed using baseline drive data that Cellco receives for its existing network.

Question No. 9

What is the size of the coverage gap on Route 10 that Cellco is seeking to cover from the proposed sites at cellular frequencies? At PCS frequencies?

Response

Cellco currently experiences a 2.65 mile gap at cellular frequencies and a 5.5 mile gap at PCS frequencies along Route 10.

Question No. 10

How many trees with a diameter of 6" or greater at breast height would be removed to develop the proposed facility?

Response

Cellco anticipates the need to remove twelve (12) trees with a diameter of 6" or greater at breast height.

Question No. 11

Quantify the amounts of cuts and fills that would be required to develop the proposed facility.

Response

Cellco anticipates that 2.1 cubic yards of cut and 4.5 cubic yards of fill will be required.

Question No. 12

How many antenna placements would the tower be designed to accommodate?

Response

Four. The top antenna location is reserved for Cellco antennas, and the remaining locations are available to other carriers.

Question No. 13

When was Cellco's search ring for this area first issued? How large was the ring? Where was it centered? Submit a map showing the search ring (with compass and scale).

Response

Cellco's Farmington North 2 (formerly known as Avon 3) search ring was first issued in August 2000. The search ring was approximately 0.4 miles east to west and 1.3 miles north to south and initially centered on an area north of the proposed Farmington North 2 site. However, AT&T had identified the Simmons Family Farm property as a potential location for a facility and was discussing a lease with the Town of Farmington ("Town"). Due to the Town's willingness to lease land for a tower site and, based on its review of the coverage that could be achieved from this location, Cellco felt comfortable that the municipal property provided it with an appropriate location for the proposed cell site. A copy of the map showing the search ring is included behind Tab 3.

Question No. 14

Has Cellco contacted any other carriers about the possibility of using this site? If so, have any other carriers shown a potential interest in this site? Provide any supporting documentation.

Response

Yes. Cellco originally asked other carriers if they were interested in this site in November 2007 and asked again in March 2008. The only response received to date was from T-Mobile representatives who stated that T-Mobile was not interested at this time. Representatives of AT&T and Sprint Nextel did not respond.

Question No. 15

Would any blasting be required to develop the site?

Response

At this time, Cellco does not anticipate that any blasting will be required for the development of the site.

Question No. 16

Did any of the boards or commissions of the Town of Farmington conduct any meetings about this proposal or issue any statements or recommendations regarding it? If so, provide such documentation.

Response

Yes. Cellco is leasing the property from the Town of Farmington, which required approval of both the Town Plan and Zoning Commission and the Town Council. Accordingly, at a July 23, 2007 public meeting, the Town Plan and Zoning Commission issued a report pursuant to section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes referring the lease to the Town Council for approval and, at an August 14, 2007 public meeting, the Town Council authorized the Town Manager to sign and enter into the lease. The agendas and minutes of those meetings are included behind Tab 4.

Question No. 17

Why would Cellco use a propane-fueled generator at this site?

Response

Given the use of the site for farm operations, including the farm's storage and use of diesel fuel, Cellco decided that it would utilize a propane-fueled generator at the site. By doing so, Cellco and the Town will be better able to distinguish between fuel supplies used at the site and identify more quickly the source of any unintended release.

Question No. 18

Who owns the nearest residential property to the proposed facility?

Response

According to the Town's records, the nearest residential property, which is located approximately 640 feet to the west of the proposed Farmington North 2 site compound, is owned by Susan R. Edelson. The residence on this parcel is located approximately 760 feet west of the proposed tower.

Question No. 19

How would Cellco mount its antennas at the proposed site?

Response

Cellco proposes the installation of a low profile antenna platform.

Question No. 20

Would the tower's setback radius encroach on any adjoining properties?

Response

The tower radius would extend slightly beyond the limits of the Simmons Family Farm property to the south and to the north onto other property owned by the Town.

Question No. 21

Does Cellco operate fuel cells at any of its Connecticut sites? If so, at which sites?

Response

Cellco does not currently operate fuel cells at any of its Connecticut cell site locations.

Question No. 22

What is Cellco's corporate position on employing fuel cells as a power source or emergency back-up power?

Response

Cellco has an Internal Maintenance Engineering Organization whose responsibility it is to explore alternative power sources for existing cell sites. This organization is currently

exploring the use of fuel cells, BioFuels for the fueling of generators, solar power and wind power as alternative energy sources at cell site locations.

Question No. 23

Is Cellco proposing the use of fuel cells at any of its planned, approved, or existing facilities?

Response

As discussed in recent dockets, Cellco has recently deployed an "in the field" test, of a 12 kilowatt hydrogen fuel cell at a cell site in West Milford, New Jersey. This installation is currently being monitored to determine if such systems of back-up power can be appropriately and reliably used throughout Cellco's network of cell sites.

Question No. 24

Are there any conditions attached to the sale of the Simmons Farm property to the Town of Farmington that would preclude the use of the property as a site for a telecommunications tower?

Response

No.