

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

IN RE:

APPLICATION OF SBA TOWERS II LLC  
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR  
THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND  
OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
FACILITY AT 44 GAVITT ROAD,  
BARKHAMSTED, CONNECTICUT

DOCKET NO. 387

Date: December 2, 2009

**PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF ERNEST LACACSSE**

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

A. I am the project director for the northeast region for SBA Towers II, LLC (“SBA”) where I am in charge of site development and site acquisition activities. My responsibilities include site selection and design, municipal and community relations associated with SBA’s efforts to develop new tower sites in Connecticut and Massachusetts, and coordination and support during the approval process. I have been part of the telecommunications industry for two years and have been involved in all aspects of the development of telecommunications facilities. Prior to working for SBA, I worked for Centerline Communications, LLC. I have also worked at Unison Site Management.

Q2. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A. My testimony provides background information relating to SBA’s application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the proposed Barkhamsted facility at 44 Gavitt Road in Barkhamsted. In addition, I will address the

specific site search resulting in the proposed site as well SBA's activities prior to initiation of this application.

Q3. How does SBA conduct a site search?

A. SBA maintains close relationships with the licensed wireless carriers in Connecticut, follows the development activities of others and has an in-depth understanding of the fluctuating market conditions. When a wireless carrier contacts SBA regarding the need for a new facility, SBA conducts an extensive review of the area. The first activity after assignment of a search ring to site acquisition personnel is a review of the area for suitable existing structures, such as existing telecommunications facilities, transmission lines available for co-location and other, existing tall structures. Only once SBA 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. When looking for a suitable location for a new facility, SBA first studies the area to determine whether industrial, commercial areas or town-owned parcels which have appropriate environmental and land use characteristics are present. In addition, SBA focuses its search on larger parcels of property that provide screening of the potential facility from nearby properties. 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.

Q4. Please describe SBA's search for the proposed Barkhamsted wireless facility.

A. SBA commenced a search for a site in this area of Barkhamsted in November, 2008. At that time, SBA personnel were personally aware of the lack of wireless

coverage in this area. When SBA commenced its site search, it found no existing towers within the search area. The nearest tower(s) suitable for use as a wireless communications facility are located outside of the search area, and are not useable due to existing terrain in the area. In addition, SBA identified no other existing tall structures which were suitable for use.

Turning to locations for a new tower proposal, SBA found that site selection in the area was limited by several large parcels of land unavailable for the development of a telecommunications facility, including the Tunxis State Forest, Enders State Forest and the Barkhamsted Reservoir. In addition, there are several parcels owned by MDC that consist of protected Class I and Class II water company land and not available for the development of a telecommunications facility. There are no other large areas of commercial or industrial development in the site search area. Therefore, SBA focused its site search of larger tracts of residential property those properties that, while residentially zoned, are used for non-residential purposes. These included several parcels on Gavitt Road and on Legeyt Road. In addition, at the request of the Town of Barkhamsted, SBA investigated the possibility of locating the proposed facility at the Barkhamsted East Fire Department. The proposed Site is uniquely suited for the development of a telecommunications facility given its size (36 acres) and existence of natural screening.

Q6. Has SBA consulted with municipal officials with regard to their plans?

A. Yes. In compliance with Section 16-50l(e), consultation with municipal officials was undertaken by SBA. On June 30, 2009, SBA provided technical information to the First Selectman of Barkhamsted. In follow-up, SBA and its representative met with First Selectman Donald Stein, Debbie Brydon, from the Town's building department and other

representatives from town agencies. During that meeting, the First Selectman suggested that SBA investigate the possible use of the Barkhamsted East Fire Department property on North Canton Road for the proposed Facility. SBA investigated that property. As indicated in follow-up correspondence to the First Selectman, both AT&T and Verizon indicated that the fire department site did not fill their respective coverage needs in this area.

Q7. Has SBA offered co-location to the Town of Barkhamsted so it can locate its emergency service equipment at this Site?

A. As is its customary practice, SBA will make space available for the Town's emergency service equipment, free of charge and has already offered to do so. To date, the Barkhamsted Fire Department has indicated that it may be interested in locating its emergency equipment on the proposed Facility. Correspondence from the Town is attached to which is included in SBA's November 17, 2009 interrogatory responses at Exhibit 1.

Q8. Pursuant to statutory requirements, did SBA post a sign giving the public notice of the hearing on this Application?

A. Yes, on November 23, 2009, SBA posted a sign at the Site giving the public notice of the hearing on this Application. Photographs of the hearing sign are attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

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

12/2/09  
Date

Ernest Lacasse  
Ernest Lacasse

Subscribed and sworn before me this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2009.

By: Carol  
Commissioner of the Superior Court

# **EXHIBIT 1**

# PUBLIC NOTICE

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SBA Towers II, LLC has

filed an application with the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) for construction of a telecommunications facility on this site. The maximum height of said facility shall not exceed 170 ft. The council will hold a public hearing on December 10, 2009 at the Barkhamsted Senior Center, 109 West River Road, Barkhamsted at 3 & 7 pm.

A copy of the application can be reviewed at the town hall or at the Council offices in New Britain Ct.

For more information, please contact the Council by telephone at 860-827-2935, electronically at [www.ct.gov/csc](http://www.ct.gov/csc), or by mail at 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, Ct 06051.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC  
The Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) is currently conducting a project to improve the safety and efficiency of the road network in the State of Georgia. This project involves the construction of a new road interchange at the intersection of State Route 100 and State Route 1000. The project is currently in the planning phase and is expected to be completed by the end of 2010. The DOT is currently seeking proposals for the construction of the interchange. The project is located in the State of Georgia, near the intersection of State Route 100 and State Route 1000. The DOT is currently seeking proposals for the construction of the interchange. The project is located in the State of Georgia, near the intersection of State Route 100 and State Route 1000.





**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
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