

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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October 18, 2012

Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq.
Robinson & Cole LLP
280 Trumbull Street
Hartford, CT 06103-3597

RE: **DOCKET NO. 402** - Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 16 Bell Road Extension, Cornwall, Connecticut. Development and Management Plan.

Dear Attorney Baldwin:


At a public meeting of the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) held on October 18, 2012, the Council considered and approved the Development and Management (D&M) Plan submitted for this project on September 6, 2012 and revised October 10, 2012, with the condition that any erosion controls blankets used at the site be composed of 100% biodegradable organic material.

Any changes to the approved D&M Plan require advance Council notification and approval.

Please be advised that deviations from this plan are enforceable under the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes § 16-50u. Enclosed is a copy of the staff report on this D&M Plan, dated October 18, 2012.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Very truly yours,


Robert Stein
Chairman

RS/RDM/laf

Enclosure: Staff Report, dated October 18, 2012

c: Parties and Intervenors
The Honorable Gordon M. Ridgway, First Selectman, Town of Cornwall
Karl Nilsen, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Town of Cornwall

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October 18, 2012

**Development and Management Plan
Staff Report**

On October 21, 2010, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Cellco) for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a 110-foot wireless telecommunications facility located at 16 Bell Road Extension in Cornwall, Connecticut. As required in the Council's Decision and Order, Cellco submitted a Development and Management (D&M) Plan for the approved facility on September 6, 2012. A revised D&M Plan was submitted on October 10, 2012 in response to Council questions.

The site is located in the eastern portion of a 41-acre parcel owned by Ralph Gulliver, Jr. The tower site is located within a 100-foot by 100-foot lease area on the wooded, east slope of Mine Mountain. Cellco will construct a 34-foot by 70-foot fenced compound within the lease area. Retaining walls will be installed on the east and west sides of the compound area, topped with a six-foot fence. Underground utilities will be installed along the access drive from a utility pole on Bell Road.

Consistent with the Council's Decision and Order, Cellco will construct a 110-foot monopole capable of supporting three levels of platform-mounted antennas at the site. Cellco will install 15 panel antennas on an antenna platform at a centerline height of 110 feet above ground level. The tower and foundation will be capable of supporting a 20-foot extension.

The facility will be accessed by a 12-foot wide gravel road originating from Bell Road. Approximately 1,420 feet of the access road will follow an existing driveway that serves two residences (Gulliver and Haller properties). The remaining portion of the access road follows an old road/logging path that ascends the east slope of Mine Mountain on the Gulliver property. Wood guiderails would be installed along the lower curve of the drive, at the base of Mine Mountain.

Cellco will widen the existing driveway from 10 to 12 feet, requiring the filling of 1,370 square feet of wetlands and the temporary disturbance of 800 square feet of wetlands adjacent to the driveway. Seventy-seven trees will be removed for construction of the access drive and site compound.

Two culverts will be replaced during the reconstruction of the existing driveway. One of the culverts serves as the outlet of a small pool and conveys flow from the pool to the south side of the driveway. The new culvert at this location is designed to maintain the existing hydrology of the pool and related outflow. The outflow area will be armored to prevent scouring and current outlet flow characteristics into a downstream swale will be maintained.

The existing driveway is located along the south property line, abutting the Thaler property. Consistent with the Council's Decision and Order, Cellco performed an A-2 survey of the south property line along the existing driveway. The A-2 survey determined the existing driveway is contained within the Gulliver and adjacent Haller properties and does not extend onto the abutting Thaler property. All specified work will be contained within the site property and will not extend onto Thaler property.

Cellco will utilize a reinforced gravel design for the portion of the driveway that ascends Mine Mountain, at a grade of 20 percent. This design prevents washouts and erosion on the road surface and allows for some water infiltration. Runoff along the steep portion of the access road will be controlled through the installation of drainage swales with check dams and level spreaders. Runoff along the lower portion of the access road, below Mine Mountain, will be dispersed through sheet flow.

Erosion and sedimentation controls will be installed in the construction areas. Consistent with the Council's Decision and Order, Cellco will retain an independent erosion control monitor to inspect the site on a biweekly basis and after heavy rainstorms. Additionally, construction of the access road will not occur during the period of March 1 to May 15 to avoid potential impacts to vernal pool obligate species. .

Consistent with the Council's Decision and Order, the cumulative worst-case radio frequency power density level at the base of the tower is calculated to amount to 35% of the Federal Communication Commission's Maximum Permissible Exposure.

Staff recommends approval with the condition that any erosion controls blankets used at the site be composed of 100% biodegradable organic material.

