

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE:

APPLICATION OF NEW CINGULAR,
WIRELESS PCS, LLC FOR A
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION,
MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF A
TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT
95 BALANCE ROCK ROAD, HARTLAND,
CONNECTICUT

DOCKET NO. 408

January 27, 2011

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF
MICHAEL KOPERWHATS

Q.1. Please summarize your professional background and experience.

A. I am a Planner and Task Manager with the Environmental Services Group at Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB). I have worked on various permitting of over five hundred telecommunications sites involving the major wireless service providers and tower builders currently operating in the northeast. I conduct visual impact assessment, Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis, coordinate NEPA correspondence and compliance and provide other regulatory support services. I have provided expert testimony before the Connecticut Siting Council and other regulatory bodies. My resume is attached which details my qualifications and experience.

Q.2. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A. The purpose of my testimony is to provide information regarding AT&T's proposed wireless telecommunications facility in Hartland. Specifically, I am providing information regarding the visual assessment of AT&T's proposed facility and the environmental assessment for NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) compliance of AT&T's proposed facility.

Q.3. Please summarize the methodology used to assess the visibility of Site A and Site B.

A. To represent the visibility of Site A and Site B, VHB used a two-step approach incorporating both a predictive computer model and in-field analysis. The predictive model is used to assess potential visibility throughout the 2 mile radius study area, including private property and/or areas inaccessible for field verification. A balloon float and study area drive-through reconnaissance area also conducted to obtain locational and height representations, back-check the initial computer model results and provide documentation from publicly accessible areas. Results of both activities are analyzed and incorporated into the visual assessment analysis.

AT&T's Exhibit 7 includes the Comparative Visual Resource Evaluation Report which further details the visual assessment methodology.

Q.4. Please describe the balloon float and study area drive-through reconnaissance conducted for the assessment of Site A and Site B.

A. VHB staff conducted a balloon float on December 30, 2010. VHB staff raised a red, four-foot diameter balloon to a height of 190 feet at Site A and a black, four-foot diameter balloon to a height of 190 feet at Site B. The balloons were raised at approximately 9:00 a.m. After the Site A and Site B balloons were secured, VHB staff conducted a drive-by reconnaissance along the roads within the study area to evaluate the visibility of the balloons. The field evaluation also included hiking along portions of the Tunxis Trail and the Falls Brook Trail.

The balloons at Site A and Site B remained afloat until approximately 4:00 p.m.

During the in-field reconnaissance, I was invited to obtain photographs from several private properties along Balance Rock Road. These views were incorporated into the visibility assessment and are depicted in Views 2 through 7 in the Comparative Visual Resource Evaluation Report.

Q.5 Please summarize the results of the Comparative Visual Resource Evaluation for year-round visibility for Site A and Site B.

A. The analysis demonstrates that the areas where the proposed 190-foot tall facility would be visible above the tree canopy comprise approximately 26 acres for Site A and 4 acres for Site B within the 8,042 acre study area. The viewshed map included in the Comparative Visual Resource Evaluation report shows that most of the anticipated year-round visibility associated with either site location would occur over open water on the west side of the Barkhamsted Reservoir and portions of the subject site. A brief view of either site is anticipated from an elevated portion of Route 20, west of the reservoir, approximately 1.5 miles away. Year-round views of Site A would extend to two nearby residential properties located at 72 and 88 Balance Rock Road. Year-round views of Site B are not anticipated from any residential properties located within the study area. Overall, potential year-round views will be limited as indicated by a combination of the intervening topography and vegetation found within the study area.

The Comparative Visual Resource Evaluation Report in AT&T's Exhibit 7 includes the full visual assessment, viewshed map, and photosimulations.

Q.5 Please summarize the results of the Comparative Visual Resource Evaluation for seasonal or "leaf-off" visibility for Site A and Site B.

A. The areas where the proposed 190-foot tall facility would be seasonally visible comprise approximately 21 acres for Site A and 7 acres for Site B within the 8,042 acre study area. The viewshed map included in the Comparative Visual Resource Evaluation report shows that most of the anticipated seasonal visibility associated with either site location includes select portions of Balance Rock Road with the immediate vicinity of the subject site and a small stretch of

Route 20 located approximately 1.6 miles to the northwest of the proposed sites. Seasonal views of Site A would extend to one residential property on Balance Rock Road (number 64). Potential seasonal views of Site B may extend to two residential properties located off Balance Rock Road (numbers 72 and 88). Existing evergreen vegetation located within this area will provide significant screening, even in leaf-off conditions.

The Comparative Visual Resource Evaluation Report in AT&T's Exhibit 7 includes the full visual assessment, viewshed map, and photosimulations.

Q.6. Please summarize the results of the Comparative Visual Resource Evaluation for potential visibility from the Tunxis Trail and Falls Brook Trail.

A. The visual assessment shows that there may be some seasonal visibility associated with Site A at the existing road in the woods to the Ski Cabin in Tunxis State Forest where it intersects with the Tunxis Trail. Site B will not be visible from this location. Site B will not be visible from the existing road in the woods leading to the ski cabin. From the Ski Cabin, neither site will be visible. No other visibility from the Tunxis Trail for either site is anticipated.

Visibility of either site is not anticipated from the Falls Brook Trail Vista.

Q.7. Please comment on the evaluations of Site A and Site B with respect to the FCC's regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 ("NEPA").

A. I have reviewed the data and evaluation materials and reports prepared in conjunction with the evaluation of Site A in accordance with the FCC's regulations implementing NEPA. In my opinion as a Planner, the evaluation of Site A demonstrates that it is categorically excluded from environmental processing by the FCC under NEPA.

Preliminary evaluations performed by VHB suggest that the same conclusion will be drawn for site B. The two potential sites are not physically separated by a substantial distance and from an environmental impact perspective, do not appear to possess any unique characteristics that would create an adverse impact. We are currently in consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office and Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to confirm this information. Based on the evaluations conducted to date, we anticipate that Site B will also be categorically excluded from environmental processing by the FCC under NEPA.

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

01/27/11
Date


Michael Koperwhats

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this day, a copy of the foregoing was submitted electronically and by overnight mail to the Connecticut Siting Council and to:

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Dated: January 27 2011


Lucia Chiocchio

cc: Michele Briggs, AT&T
David Vivian, SAI
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**Michael A.
Koperwhats**

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Planner

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Michael is a Task Manager within the Environmental Services group at VHB and has worked on various permitting aspects of over five hundred telecommunications sites involving the major wireless service providers and tower builders currently operating in the northeast region, including Verizon Wireless, AT&T, T-Mobile, SBA Towers and others. In this role, Michael conducts visual impact assessments, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis, coordinates NEPA correspondence and compliance and provides other regulatory support services that includes expert testimony before the Connecticut Siting Council and other regulatory bodies. The following summarizes Michael's project experience:

Verizon Wireless

Responsibilities include the preparation of visual impact assessments, various Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis, assisting in the site selection process and providing expert testimony before the Connecticut Siting Council, local planning and zoning commissions and other regulatory bodies that govern the siting of telecommunications facilities throughout the northeast. Other responsibilities include NEPA coordination and compliance with respect to historic and environmental resources.

AT&T Wireless

Project responsibilities include the preparation of visual impact assessments, various Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis and providing expert testimony before the Connecticut Siting Council, local planning and zoning commissions and other regulatory bodies that govern the siting of telecommunications facilities throughout the northeast. Other responsibilities include NEPA coordination and compliance with respect to historic and environmental resources.

T-Mobile, New England Market

Project responsibilities include the preparation of visual impact assessments, various Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis and providing expert testimony before the Connecticut Siting Council, local planning and zoning commissions and other regulatory bodies that govern the siting of telecommunications facilities throughout the northeast. Other responsibilities include NEPA coordination and compliance with respect to historic and environmental resources.

SBA Towers II, LLC

Project responsibilities include the preparation of visual impact assessments, various Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis and providing expert testimony before the Connecticut Siting

Mr. Koperwhats, a planner in Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.'s Environmental Services Group, has been involved with a wide range of environmental, land development and transportation planning projects. Most recently, Mr. Koperwhats has provided planning and permitting support to a number of the firm's telecommunications clients within the New England and New York markets.

Council, local planning and zoning commissions and other regulatory bodies that govern the siting of telecommunications facilities throughout the northeast. Other responsibilities include NEPA coordination and compliance with respect to historic and environmental resources.

All-Points Technology Corporation, P.C.

Project responsibilities include the preparation of visual impact assessments, various Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis and providing expert testimony before the Connecticut Siting Council, local planning and zoning commissions and other regulatory bodies that govern the siting of telecommunications facilities throughout the northeast. Other responsibilities include NEPA coordination and compliance with respect to historic and environmental resources.

Mariner Tower

Project responsibilities include the preparation of visual impact assessments, various Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis and providing expert testimony before the Connecticut Siting Council, local planning and zoning commissions and other regulatory bodies that govern the siting of telecommunications facilities throughout the northeast. Other responsibilities include NEPA coordination and compliance with respect to historic and environmental resources.

Homeland Towers

Project responsibilities include the preparation of visual impact assessments, various Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis and providing expert testimony before local planning and zoning commissions and other regulatory bodies that govern the siting of telecommunications facilities throughout the northeast.

Metro PCS

Project responsibilities included the preparation of photographic simulations and other regulatory support materials.

Pocket PCS

Project responsibilities included the preparation of photographic simulations and other regulatory support materials.

Clearwire

Project responsibilities included the preparation of photographic simulations and other regulatory support materials.

American Tower Corporation

Project responsibilities included the preparation of a visual impact assessment and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis.

Sprint/Nextel, New England Market

Responsibilities include the preparation of environmental site assessments, visual impact

assessments, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis as well as coordinating correspondence and compliance with various regulatory agencies such as the Connecticut Siting Council and State Historic Preservation Office.

Routes 6 and 72 Corridor Studies - Bristol and Plymouth, CT

Responsibilities included intersection capacity and queuing analysis, preparation of technical memorandums as well as the development of conceptual improvement plans for both the Route 6 and Route 72 transportation corridors in the City Bristol and Town of Plymouth.

Route 2/2A/32 EA

Project responsibilities have included the preparation of preliminary traffic evaluations of potential rail station sites as well as noise monitoring along both existing and proposed rail and roadway alignments. Additional tasks included the collection of 4(f) and 6(f) property information within the study corridors.

Capen Street Evaluation Study - Windsor CT

Developed a set of proposed improvements to address roadway deficiencies and local traffic concerns along Capen Street in the Town of Windsor.

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Education

- B.A. (History) Albertus Magnus College, New Haven, CT, 1994
- Study Abroad Program, Middlesex University, London, England
- Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning, City University of NY, Hunter College, School of Graduate Studies, NY, 1998

Honors/Awards

Howard Knepler Scholarship Award
League of Women Voters Scholarship Award for Community Service