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T-Mobile Northeast, LLC	:	DOCKET #421
Application for a Certificate	:	
of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need	:	ORIGINAL
For a Telecommunications Facility Located	:	
at Edison Road, Trumbull, Connecticut. :	:	OCTOBER 05, 2011

**APPLICATION TO INTERVENE UNDER CEPA, §4-177a AND §16-50n**

The Citizens Against Trumbull Tower, ("CATT") a voluntary association, hereby moves and petitions the Connecticut Siting Council to become a party intervenor in the above application by T-Mobile Northeast, LLC, ("T-Mobile"), for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need for a telecommunications facility at the police station at Edison Road, Trumbull, Connecticut. The purpose of the intervention is to participate in these proceedings to prevent unreasonable impact to the natural resources of the State including scenic vistas and wetlands so that additional evidence of an alternative location and configurations of lesser visual impact may be entered into the record.

Pursuant to Conn.Gen.Stat. §22a-19 ("CEPA"), §16-50n and §4-177a, CATT is an entity which has a direct interest in the proceedings which will be specifically and substantially affected as it is a voluntary association who members include abutters and neighbors to the proposed facility and whose purpose is conservation of natural resources in the Town of Trumbull where the proposed facility is to be located. CATT seeks to intervene in the above proceedings for the purpose of submitting testimony, briefs and other evidence relevant to the consideration of the application under consideration; specifically the mitigation of environmental impact to scenic vistas by the use of alternate locations and tower configurations.

CATT's participation will be in the interests of justice and is proper under CEPA in that the evidence and testimony to be given will tend to show that the proposed activity for which Applicant seeks a certificate is likely to unreasonably harm the public trust in the air, water or other natural resources of the State of Connecticut in that, if granted, the proposed facility will, inter alia, unreasonably impair the visual quality of the environment in a residential area; and is reasonably likely to cause viewshed deterioration that is unreasonable because a feasible alternative of lesser impact exists.

In support of this application, the movant states the following:

1. CATT is a duly constituted voluntary association whose purpose includes the protection and conservation of natural resources in the Town of Trumbull.
2. The proposed tower will have a negative impact on the scenic vistas in Trumbull and it fails to meet the requirements of zoning in the Town in a way which fundamentally harms the general welfare of the community.
3. There exists at least one configuration which can provide adequate coverage for the applicant with less impact by utilizing a shorter tower because the height is driven by a speculative and baseless purported need of the Town communications; internally or flush mounted antennas; removing the Town whip antennas from the top of the pole; and utilizing other locations.
4. CATT intends to submit evidence to the record in the form of expert testimony which will substantiate the feasibility of alternatives to the proposed facility which will assist the Council in complying with its mandate to minimize impact as required by C.G.S §16-50g and 16-50p(3)(G)(b)(1).
5. The height requested is excessive and unnecessary to meet the public need and will be visible from sensitive residential receptors.
6. The design does not incorporate the best available technology for reducing the visual impacts of the facility in that it fails to consider alternative designs.

## DISCUSSION OF LAW

The Council must be mindful of the statutory requirements which apply to interventions under CEPA. The bar is quite low for filing an intervention and thus §22a-19 applications should not be lightly rejected. Finley v. Town of Orange, 289 Conn. 12 (2008) (an application need only allege a colorable claim to survive a motion to dismiss) citing Windels v. Environmental Protection Commission, 284 Conn. 268 (2007).

CEPA clearly and in the broadest terms indicates that any legal entity may intervene. Avalon Bay Communities v. Zoning Commission, 87 Conn. App. 537, 867 A.2d 37 (2005).

An allegation of facts that the proposed activity at issue in the proceeding is likely to unreasonably impair the public trust in natural resources of the State is sufficient. See, Cannata v. Dept. Of Environmental Protection, et al, 239 Conn. 124 (1996)(alleging harm to floodplain forest resources).

The Connecticut Appellate Court has noted that statutes "such as the EPA are remedial in nature and should be liberally construed to accomplish their purpose." Avalon Bay Communities, Inc. v. Zoning Commission of the Town of Stratford, 87 Conn.App.537 (2005); Keeney v. Fairfield Resources, Inc., 41 Conn. App. 120, 132-33, 674 A.2d1349 (1996). In Red Hill Coalition, Inc. V. Town Planning & Zoning Commission, 212 Conn. 7272, 734, 563 A.2d 1347 (1989) ("section 22a-19[a]makes intervention a matter of right once a verified pleading is filed complying with the statute, whether or not those allegations ultimately prove to be unfounded"); Polymer Resources, Ltd. v. Keeney, 32 Conn. App. 340, 348-49, 629 A.2d 447 (1993) ("*[Section] 22a-19[a] compels a trial court to permit intervention in an administrative proceeding or judicial review of such a proceeding by a party seeking to raise environmental issues upon the filing of a verified complaint. The statute is therefore not discretionary.*") See Also, Connecticut Fund for the Environment, Inc. v. Stamford, 192 Conn. 247, 248 n.2, 470 A.2d 1214 (1984).

In Mystic Marinelife Aquarium v. Gill, 175 Conn. 483, 490, 400 A.2d 726 (1978), the Supreme Court concluded that one who filed a verified pleading under § 22a-19 became a party to an administrative proceeding upon doing so and had "statutory standing to

appeal for the limited purpose of raising environmental issues." "It is clear that one basic purpose of the act is to give persons standing to bring actions to protect the environment." Belford v. New Haven, 170 Conn. 46, 53-54, 364 A.2d 194 (1975).

CATT is entitled to participate as a §22a-19 intervenor which allows for a right of appeal under that statute. Committee to Save Guilford Shoreline, Inc. v. Guilford Planning & Zoning Commission, 48 Conn.Sup. 594, 853 A.2d 654(2004) once any entity has filed for intervention in an administrative proceeding, it has established the right to appeal from that decision independent of any other party. Mystic Marinelife Aquarium v. Gill, 175 Conn. 483 (1978) stated quite clearly that "one who files a §22a-19 application becomes a party with statutory standing to appeal." Branhaven Plaza, LLC v Inland Wetlands Commission of the Town of Branford, 251 Conn. 269, 276, n.9 (1999) held that a party who intervenes in a municipal land use proceeding pursuant to §22a-19 has standing to appeal the administrative agency's decision to the Superior Court. The Court cited as support for this proposition, Red Hill Coalition, Inc. v. Conservation Commission, 212 Conn. 710, 715, 563 A.2d 1339 (1989)("because the [appellants] filed a notice of intervention at the commission hearing in accordance with §22a-19(a), it doubtless had statutory standing to appeal from the commission's decision for that limited purpose.")

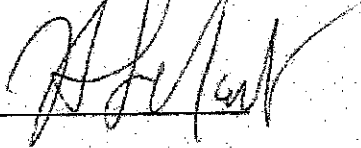
In Keiser v. Zoning Commission, 62 Conn. App. 600, 603-604 (2001) our Appellate Court stated that the Branhaven Plaza case is directly on point and held "the plaintiff in the present case properly filed a notice of intervention at the zoning commission hearing in accordance with §22a-19(a). Accordingly, we conclude that he has standing to appeal environmental issues related to the zoning commission's decision."

The rights conveyed by CEPA are so important and fundamental to matters of public trust that the denial of a 22a-19 intervention itself is appealable. See, CT Post Limited Partnership v. New Haven City Planning Commission, 2000 WL 1161131 Conn. Super. (Hodgson, J. 2000)(§22a-19 intervenors may file an original appeal for improper denial of intervenor status).

CATT's application for intervenor status should be granted so that it may participate by presenting evidence for the record and meaningfully assist the Siting Council in reaching a decision which minimizes impact to natural resources of the state while providing adequate coverage for wireless telecommunications.

VERIFICATION

The undersigned, Henry Lefort duly authorized, on behalf of Citizens Against Trumbull Tower, duly sworn, hereby verifies that the above application is true and accurate to the best of his knowledge and belief.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sworn and subscribed before me this 4 day of October, 2011.

  
Notary Public; My Commission Expires August 31, 2015

Respectfully Submitted,

Citizens Against Trumbull Tower,

By \_\_\_\_\_

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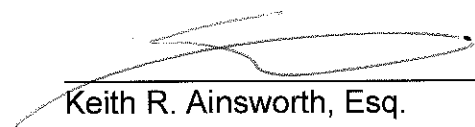
The intervenor requests copies of all filings made in the course of this docket to date and from this date forward and requests service by mail.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that a true copy of the foregoing was deposited in the United States mail, first-class, postage pre-paid this 5~~th~~ day of October, 2011 and addressed to:

Ms. Linda Roberts, Executive Director, Connecticut Siting Council, 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051 (1 orig, 15 copies, plus 1 electronic) (US Mail/electronic).

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