



OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT

VIA FACSIMILE AND US MAIL

ORIGINAL

September 9, 2011

Ms. Linda Roberts
State of Connecticut
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

RE: Docket No. 422 – North Atlantic Towers, LLC, and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC
-Proposed telecommunications facility located at 655 Bassett Road, Watertown, CT

Dear Ms. Roberts:

In response to your August 9, 2011 communication regarding the above telecommunications tower, the Town of Watertown offers the enclosed comments pursuant to General Statutes § 16-501.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Charles Frigon
Town Manager

Cf:lmc

Enc.

Cc: Ruth Mulcahy, Land Use Administrator, Town of Watertown



Town of Watertown Connecticut

51 Depot Square Business Center

Suite 502, Watertown Connecticut 06795-2200

Planning and Zoning, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission/Inland Wetland Agency

Telephone: (860) 945-5266

Fax: (860) 945-2704

Website: www.watertownct.org

June 7, 2011

Mr. Charles Frigon, Town Manager
Town of Watertown
424 Main Street
Watertown, CT 06795

Re: Telecommunications Tower Facility, 655 Bassett Road, Watertown, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Frigon:

Last Wednesday the Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed a report prepared for North Atlantic Towers, LLC and AT&T to construct and operate a 150-foot wireless telecommunications tower at the Gustafson property, 655 Bassett Road. Jurisdiction of the Commission is limited to municipal consultation. The State of Connecticut Siting Council determines the location of these facilities.

The Commission heard a brief presentation from Lucia Chiochio of Cuddy and Feder, LLP, White Plains, New York. She spoke in support of the Bassett Road property and said this is her client's preferred site. Ms. Chiochio said a nearby alternate location for a cellular tower at Crestbrook Park, 834 Northfield Road is acceptable to her client. This site is not currently available for a cellular tower and is the reason this is not the preferred site. Most of the 236-acre Crestbrook Park has an open space deed restriction that does not allow site improvements. Another area of Crestbrook Park that is not on deed-restricted land has been investigated. That location does not satisfy cellular tower standards.

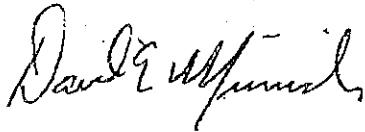
The 655 Bassett Road location is on undeveloped private property and in a residential zoning district having lots with a minimum 90,000 square feet. This R-90 zone is our community's largest residential district designed for premier home development. The Watertown zoning regulations encourages placement of telecommunication towers on existing buildings and structures, and in the alternative, on public property. The preferred site on Bassett Road does not meet these criterions. The tower proposed by North Atlantic Towers is to be in a densely wooded area of the parcel. The Commission

believes this tower facility may be a potential hindrance to future development of residential homes.

The Commission noted at its meeting, however, that the latest tower location on the 655 Bassett Road property is a more appropriate nonpublic location in the northern section of Watertown than was previously discussed with the Commission by other cellular companies in years 2006 and 2010.

I telephoned Ms. Chiochio following the June 1 Commission meeting to inquire if it remains possible that her client's preferred Crestbrook Park site could be presented to the Siting Council for approval. I stated the Town would need additional time to comply with State and Federal requirements to remove the open space deed restrictions. She said her client would likely accept a delay. She requested the Town inform her of the time estimate for postponement of their application. I discussed with the Town Council last evening that this task is critical to having a cellular tower at Crestbrook Park.

Sincerely,



David E. Minnich, Chairman
Watertown Planning and Zoning Commission

cc: P&Z Commission
Paul Jessell, Town Attorney
Lisa Carew, Director of Recreation