



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Date: September 13, 2016

RE: **Post-Construction Report - DOCKET NO. 439** – Message Center Management, Inc. Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at Bates Woods Park, New London, Connecticut.

On October 13, 2013, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) issued a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to Message Center Management, Inc. (MCM) for the construction maintenance, and operation of a monopole telecommunications facility located in Bates Wood Park, off Chester Street in New London. The Development and Management (D&M) Plan was approved on March 6, 2014. Two extensions were granted to complete this facility, extending project construction completion time to March 31, 2016. Site construction commenced in April 2014. On January 29, 2016, MCM indicated the site was complete and operational. Council staff conducted a post-construction inspection of the site on August 5, 2016.

The facility consists of a 115-foot monopole located at the edge of an athletic field in Bates Woods Park, a City-owned 124-acre recreational park located west of the New London High School. The new tower is designed to support two telecommunication carriers and municipal whip antennas, as well as two racks of athletic field lights. The tower and foundation were designed to accommodate a potential 30-foot tower extension for future telecommunications use, if needed.

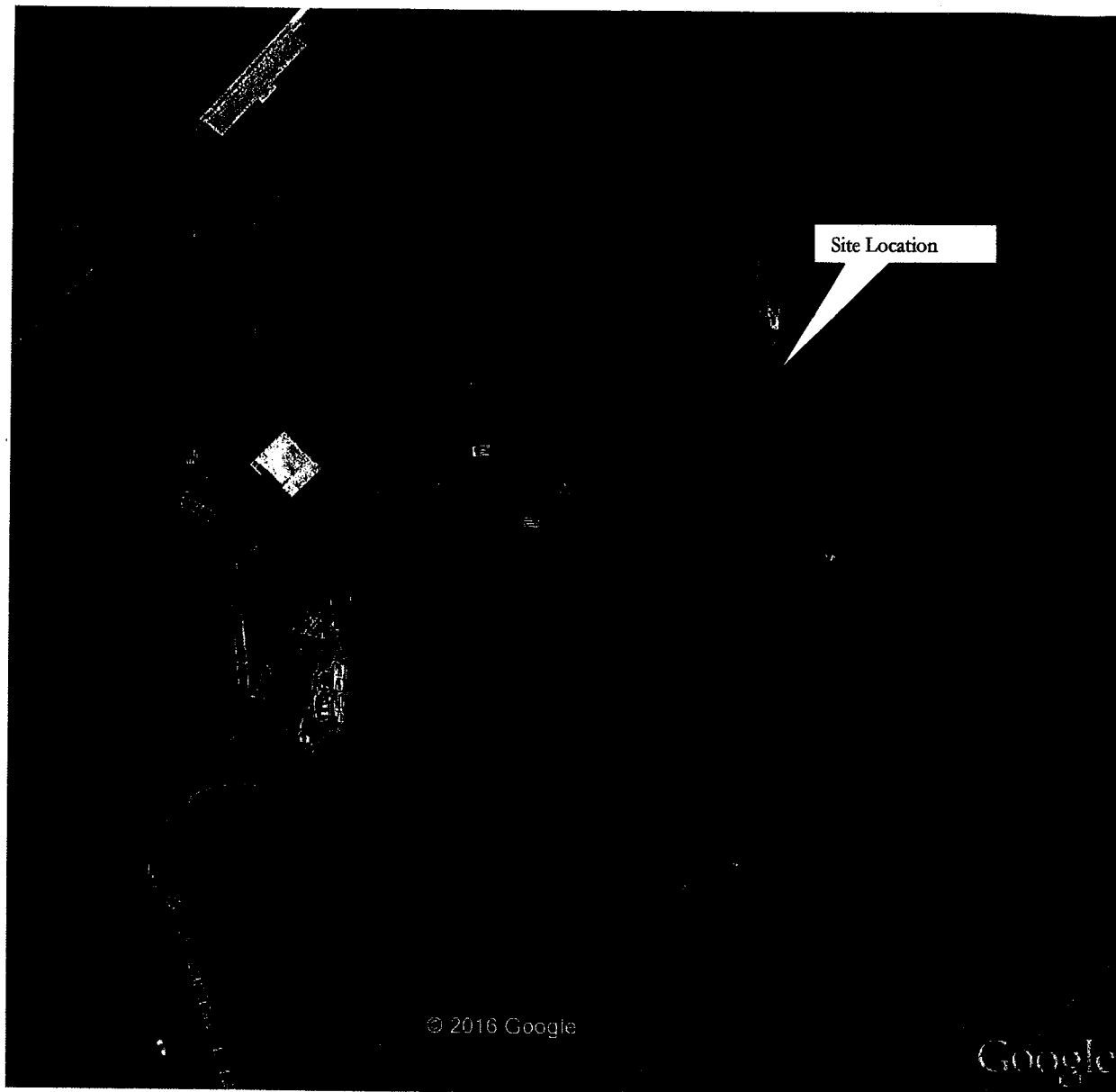
New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T) installed 12 panel antennas and associated equipment on an antenna platform at a centerline height of 111 feet above ground level. A 20-foot whip antenna, operated by the City, is located on top of the tower. No other telecommunication carriers are located at the facility at this time. An empty mounting platform is located at the 101-foot level (approx.) of the tower.

A 3,640 square foot facility equipment compound, irregular in shape, is located between the edge of the athletic field and a steep slope to the south. The compound encloses the base of the tower and AT&T's 12-foot by 20-foot equipment shelter. Access to the compound is from an existing gravel park maintenance road extending to a gate on the west side of the compound. Landscaping was installed along the north side of the compound. During the site visit, tall weeds were growing along the fenceline and in certain areas of the compound.

The tower has a galvanized finish, per the request of the City and as presented in the approved D&M Plan. Views of the facility from non-park locations are minimal due to the relatively low height of the tower and its location near a wooded area along the south edge of the park. Some views are attained from Davis Farm Way, a short residential street 900 feet west of the tower location.

During the proceeding for this facility, concern was expressed regarding potential use of the tower by nesting ospreys. No nests were observed on the tower but a nest was observed on a nearby park light stanchion.

No construction-related issues were evident at the time of the inspection. The physical conditions observed during the site inspection conform to the approved D&M Plan. The final cost of the tower and associated equipment totaled \$340,000.



Site Location – Bates Woods Park, New London



View from edge of parking lot.



View from Davis Farm Way.



View of tower from athletic field.



Compound entrance area. Weeds need trimming.