



Transcript of the Hearing of

**Date:** February 3, 2015

**Volume:** 2

**Case:** SITING COUNCIL - DOCKET NO. 454 - PUBLIC  
MEETING

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 454

Tower Holdings, LLC, Application for a  
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility  
and Public Need for the Construction,  
Maintenance, and Operation of a  
Telecommunications Facility Located at  
Farmington Tax Assessor Parcel ID Maps 25 and  
26, Lots 3A and 3B, 199 Brickyard Road,  
Farmington, Connecticut

Public Hearing held at the Farmington  
Town Hall, Council Chambers, 1 Monteith  
Drive, Farmington, Connecticut, Tuesday,  
February 3, 2015, beginning at 7 p.m.

H e l d   B e f o r e :

ROBERT STEIN, Chairman

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 129</p> <p>1       A p p e a r a n c e s: 2           Council Members: 3                SENATOR JAMES J. MURPHY, JR., 4                Vice Chairman 5                COMM. MICHAEL CARON, 6                PURA Designee 7                PHILIP T. ASHTON 8                DR. BARBARA C. BELL 9 10          Council Staff: 11               MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ., 12               Executive Director and 13               Staff Attorney 14               ROBERT MERCIER, 15               Siting Analyst 16 17          For Tower Holdings, LLC: 18               UPDIKE, KELLY &amp; SPELLACY, P.C. 19               265 Church Street 20               New Haven, Connecticut 06510 21               By: JESSE A. LANGER, ESQ. 22 23 24 25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 131</p> <p>1       Uniform Administrative Procedure Act upon an 2       application from Tower Holding, LLC, for a 3       certificate of environmental compatibility 4       and public need for the construction, 5       maintenance and operation of a 6       telecommunications facility located at 199 7       Brickyard Road, Farmington, Connecticut. 8               This application was received 9       by the Council on November 20 -- November 7, 10       2014, and deemed complete by the Council on 11       November 12th, 2014. This application is 12       also governed by the Telecommunication Act of 13       1996, which is administered by the Federal 14       Communications Commission. 15               This act prohibits the Council 16       from considering the health effects of 17       radio-frequency emissions on human health and 18       wildlife, to the extent the emissions from 19       towers are within the federal acceptable safe 20       limit standards, which standard is also 21       followed by the State Department of Public 22       Health. 23               The federal act also prohibits 24       this Council from discriminating between and 25       amongst providers of functionally equivalent</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 130</p> <p>1               THE CHAIRMAN: Good evening, 2       ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to call to 3       order a meeting of the Connecticut Siting 4       Council, today, Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 5       approximately 7 p.m. 6               My name is Robin Stein. I'm 7       Chairman of the Connecticut Siting Council. 8       Other members of the Council present are 9       Senator Murphy, our Vice Chairman; 10       Commissioner Caron, our designee from the 11       Public Utilities Regulatory Authority; 12       Mr. Ashton; and Dr. Bell. 13               Members of the staff present 14       are our executive director and staff attorney 15       Melanie Bachman, and Robert Mercier our 16       siting analyst. 17               This is a continuation of a 18       hearing that began at 3 p.m. this afternoon. 19       Copies of the hearing program and the 20       Council's Citizen Guide to Siting Council 21       Procedures are available for members of the 22       public to -- to our left. 23               This hearing is held pursuant 24       to the provisions of Title 16 of the 25       Connecticut General Statutes and of the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 132</p> <p>1       services. This means that if one carrier 2       already provides service for an area, other 3       carriers have the right to compete and 4       provide service to -- in the same area. 5               The applicant published notice 6       of the filing of the application with the 7       Council in the Hartford Courant on 8       October 4th and October 6th of last year. 9       The Council's legal notice of the time and 10       date of the hearing was published in the 11       Hartford Courant on December 16, 2014. 12               Upon this Council's request, 13       the applicant erected a sign at the proposed 14       site so as to inform the public of the name 15       of the applicant, type of facility, hearing 16       date and location, and contact information 17       for the Council. This afternoon members of 18       the Council, staff and public personally 19       conducted a field review of the proposed site 20       in order to observe firsthand the potential 21       effects of the proposal. 22               This hearing session tonight 23       has been reserved for the public to make 24       short statements into the record. These 25       public statements are not subject to</p>

1 questions from the parties or the Council.  
2 And members of the public making statements  
3 may not ask questions of the parties or  
4 Council. These statements will become part  
5 of the record for Council consideration. A  
6 sign-up sheet is available for those who  
7 would like to participate. It's on the  
8 podium there.

9 As a reminder to all,  
10 off-the-record communication with a member of  
11 the Council or a member of the Council's  
12 staff upon the merits of this application is  
13 prohibited by law. I wish also to note that  
14 parties and intervenors, including their  
15 representatives and witnesses, are not  
16 allowed to participate in the public comment  
17 session.

18 I also wish to note for those  
19 who are here and for the benefit of your  
20 friends and neighbors who are unable to join  
21 us for the public comment session, that you  
22 or they may send written statements to the  
23 Council within 30 days of the day hereof --  
24 date hereof and such written statements will  
25 be given the same weight as if spoken at the

1 hearing.

2 We ask each person making a  
3 public statement in this proceeding to  
4 confine his or her statements to the subject  
5 matter before the Council and to avoid  
6 unnecessary repetition so that we may hear  
7 all of your concerns and -- and of your  
8 neighbors. Please be advised again that the  
9 Council cannot answer questions from the  
10 public about the proposal.

11 A verbatim transcript will be  
12 made of the hearing and deposited at the  
13 Farmington Town Clerk's Office for the  
14 convenience of the public. And before  
15 calling on the public, I'll ask the applicant  
16 to make a brief presentation to describe  
17 the -- the facility that's being proposed.

18 MR. LANGER: Good evening,  
19 Mr. Chairman, and Council members. Thank  
20 you. I'll ask that Mr. Robert Burns and  
21 Mr. Stephen Savino, Jr. give a brief  
22 presentation. Thank you.  
23  
24  
25

1 STEPHEN SAVINO, JR.,  
2 ROBERT C. BURNS,  
3 having been previously duly sworn,  
4 testified further on their oaths as  
5 follows:

6 THE WITNESS (Burns): The  
7 application is for a telecommunication  
8 facility in the rear of the parcel at 199  
9 Brickyard Road.

10 Just to warn everybody, on the  
11 map, north is in this direction. The  
12 property lines are approximately here, and  
13 the existing building is here.

14 Vehicular access to the site  
15 will be across the existing bituminous  
16 concrete driveway until you reach the rear of  
17 the site where it will be over the existing  
18 gravel driveway.

19 Utilities will serve the site  
20 commencing at the street, where a new utility  
21 pole will be placed, and then will commence  
22 underground to the rear of the parcel to the  
23 proposed utility area.

24 If I can do this without --  
25 the compound itself will be approximately

1 60-by-60-foot, with an area notched out of  
2 the northwest corner for a utility lay-down  
3 area. That area will consist of a meter  
4 board, proposed step-down transformer and  
5 telephone cabinets.

6 The compound itself will be an  
7 8-foot high chain-link anti-climb fence and  
8 will be accessed by two 12-foot swing gates,  
9 one on the north side and one on the east  
10 side.

11 The interior of the compound  
12 will have a precast concrete equipment  
13 shelter which will house AT&T's equipment in  
14 addition to an emergency backup generator,  
15 which will sit on a concrete pad. There will  
16 be if -- another precast concrete equipment  
17 shelter in there which will house the three  
18 private entities which are going to be on the  
19 tower, which are Dunning Sand and Gravel,  
20 Marcus Communications, and Radio Station  
21 WBMW. The compound is also sized for three  
22 additional future carriers.

23 The tower -- the center of the  
24 compound will be 180-foot triangular-based  
25 lattice tower. The -- AT&T will have panel

1 antennas at the 140 height, and there will be  
2 room for three additional carriers, future  
3 carriers, below, 130, 120 and at 110.  
4 Dunning Sand and Gravel will  
5 have a 20-foot dipole antenna at the 160-foot  
6 mark. Marcus Communications will have a  
7 10-foot dipole antenna at the 170-foot mark.  
8 And the radio station, WBMW, will have a very  
9 small antenna at 175.  
10 At this point, I want to turn  
11 it over to Steve Savino who can talk a little  
12 more about security.  
13 THE WITNESS (Savino): Well,  
14 in addition to the chain-link 8-foot tall  
15 anti-climb fence is security cameras that are  
16 currently in operation and will be there  
17 once -- once this compound is -- is built.  
18 THE CHAIRMAN: The first  
19 person on the list is Demetrios Giannaros.  
20 And I apologize if I mispronounced your name,  
21 but please go to the podium and spell your  
22 name for the -- so we get that accurately.  
23 DEMETRIOS GIANNAROS: Thank  
24 you. And you're not the first one who's  
25 having a hard time with a long Greek name in

1 a town like Farmington, that -- for the --  
2 and I'm not saying this because I -- I have  
3 been honored by this town to serve in the  
4 state legislature for 16 years, even though  
5 the name was Demetrios Giannaros.  
6 D-e-m-e-t-r-i-o-s, the last  
7 name, G-i-a-n-n-a-r-o-s. And I do live on 56  
8 Basswood Road. And I have been a resident of  
9 Basswood Road perhaps longer than most of the  
10 other people on that street, 32 years. I  
11 came to work at the University of Hartford as  
12 an economist and happened to notice that  
13 house and loved it and still loving it, and  
14 want to stay there for as long as I can, as  
15 long as we can have a good quality of life.  
16 I was the chairman, by the  
17 way, of the Energy and Technology Committee  
18 that has cognizance of issues relating to the  
19 Siting Council. So I'm very well -- very  
20 familiar, rather, with the subject matter.  
21 In fact, we had a number of hearings on  
22 topics relating to your charge at the time  
23 that I was in the state legislature and chair  
24 of the Energy and Technology Committee.  
25 Just for transparency, a

1 couple more things. I was present at the  
2 last meeting that took place, voluntary, I  
3 guess, hearing that was called to -- for  
4 comment on the proposed cell tower. And I  
5 was here with a number of my neighbors and  
6 perhaps friends from Farmington, with the  
7 exception of one gentleman who happened to  
8 be, as I recall, from Manchester and came  
9 here to comment on something that related to  
10 my neighborhood. I'll come back to that in a  
11 moment.  
12 I -- a couple more pieces of  
13 information before I make my statement, I  
14 guess, as to how I feel about this.  
15 THE CHAIRMAN: We want to hear  
16 from everybody, so if you could get to  
17 your --  
18 DEMETRIOS GIANNAROS: Yeah. I  
19 have like five more -- five more points and  
20 then I'll be done. I'm not going to take a  
21 long time.  
22 I am -- my elevation, the  
23 house is -- house -- my house's elevation is  
24 at 260, and I believe the property that is  
25 proposing this tower is at 236 or

1 thereabouts. So I have a good view. In  
2 fact, when I looked out from my bedroom  
3 yesterday -- no, today, I think it was, I did  
4 see the -- the balloon quite clearly. And  
5 there were no -- there are no trees that  
6 obstruct my view because mine are pine trees,  
7 and they have nothing to do with the seasons,  
8 by the way.  
9 The other comment that I'd  
10 like to make is that I -- I am a customer of  
11 AT&T for probably a minimum 15 years, out of  
12 my house, working the same service -- rather  
13 purchasing the same service for at least 15  
14 years. I, my wife and my two boys, four  
15 telephones that worked perfectly. We haven't  
16 had -- we have not had any problems relating  
17 to reception.  
18 And then -- their names, by  
19 the way, for the record, is Elizabeth  
20 Giannaros, Jason Giannaros and Edward  
21 Giannaros, and would be willing to confirm  
22 what I just said.  
23 On -- on the July 15th  
24 meeting, I spoke very, very clearly and  
25 questioned very clearly the intentions of the

1 individuals, and I got some answers that were  
2 not very clear then, and they're still not  
3 very -- they're not clear now, by the way.  
4 And I -- I was hoping -- maybe, perhaps, I  
5 will suggest that, as a bill to be proposed  
6 by my current state senator and state  
7 representative, that we should be under oath  
8 when we speak on importance of -- issues of  
9 importance of this level.

10 And I'm willing to go under  
11 oath, if this gentlemen would be willing to  
12 go under oath because there were some  
13 statements that were made that were -- that  
14 were false. One of them --

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Just -- I -- I  
16 normally don't interrupt, but they were. If  
17 you had been here this afternoon, you would  
18 have known that they were under oath. So  
19 that's --

20 DEMETRIOS GIANNAROS: Okay.  
21 Then I'm willing to go under oath and say the  
22 following. That I believe it was the  
23 Council -- I may have come in a little late  
24 perhaps. That's why I didn't notice. I'm  
25 sorry. The Council -- the gentleman who said

1 18 stories of a building, I believe, if I'm  
2 correct in my calculation. And it will be  
3 seen by everybody in my neighborhood and  
4 beyond that because we have -- we are a high  
5 elevation.

6 And when somebody is looking  
7 at this from a street level, you may not  
8 perhaps see as much. But if you look at it  
9 from your house, you will be able to see  
10 what's going on and how high this tower is  
11 and how interfering it is, both with  
12 environmentally and with quality of life in  
13 our neighborhood.

14 I haven't heard yet anything  
15 that relates to cellular needs. I have four  
16 telephones, and all of them have worked  
17 perfectly for at least 15 years. And I think  
18 that if that's what they are intending to do,  
19 I'd like to see the proof because there's  
20 nothing on record that shows that this area  
21 needs any additional cell towers.

22 And I will stop with that.  
23 I'm, obviously, against the proposal. Thank  
24 you.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very

1 that everything went well on July 15th, or it  
2 was fine, I think. He used the word  
3 everything went fine.

4 Well, I think there are other  
5 people here who may be speaking tonight that  
6 will tell you that's not how we presented  
7 ourselves. In fact, there was a Mr. Donald  
8 Doeg who very clearly challenged them and  
9 said the reason you're going before the  
10 Siting Council is because you proposed a  
11 training tower. And because the planning --  
12 director -- the director of planning or  
13 somebody on the commission showed --  
14 expressed concerns, you switched your project  
15 to include a telephone cell tower, and  
16 therefore to qualify possibly for  
17 consideration by the Siting Council, which I  
18 still have a problem with because this is,  
19 from what we heard tonight and what you may  
20 hear further, I believe this is a training  
21 tower, not a cell tower. And the cell was  
22 added simply to camouflage what their real  
23 intentions are.

24 The -- the final comment that  
25 I will make is that this is the equivalent of

1 much.

2 The next person is Jeffrey  
3 Hogan.

4 JEFFREY HOGAN: Good evening.  
5 My name is Jeffrey Hogan. I reside at 50  
6 Basswood. I actually live directly across  
7 the street from Demetrios, at 260 feet of  
8 elevation. Thanks for taking the time to  
9 consider our thoughts this evening.

10 By way of background, I'm a  
11 20-year plus neighbor to this property with a  
12 clear view to the balloon flying today. More  
13 importantly, and perhaps with a larger public  
14 policy perspective, until January of last  
15 year, I served as the chief elected official  
16 for the Town of Farmington. Prior to that, I  
17 served as an assistant fire chief for the  
18 Town of Farmington. Prior to that, I served  
19 as the president of the Winding Trails  
20 Recreation Organization, whose property abuts  
21 the project on the other side as well, just  
22 to give some perspective.

23 Let me say first that, as a  
24 neighbor, I am opposed to this project, and  
25 every neighbor that I've spoken with shares

1 my sentiment. There is no clear need for  
2 this tower. None of us suffer from  
3 inadequate cell coverage or dropped calls.  
4 The data doesn't substantiate a need for  
5 additional coverage. And I did come to those  
6 first two informal hearings as well.  
7 The applicant has proposed a  
8 huge and intrusive lattice tower which will  
9 be clearly visible from our homes. The tower  
10 will feature construction-like booms and  
11 other equipment to help facilitate training.  
12 This -- this application completely  
13 circumvents the town -- the Town of  
14 Farmington's planning process.  
15 I'd assert that the Siting  
16 Council doesn't have authority to serve as a  
17 de facto planning and zoning commission or  
18 authority.  
19 The Town's plan for  
20 conservation and strategic plan dictate our  
21 planning and zoning priorities in the Town of  
22 Farmington. The project is clearly not in  
23 keeping with those plans and priorities.  
24 This application has caused the Town to take  
25 intervenor status costing taxpayers money to

1 defend against.  
2 The Town has been very open to  
3 cell phone towers in the past, as long as  
4 they have been placed in appropriate  
5 locations where there was and is a proven  
6 need. Many of those are featured on Town of  
7 Farmington property. They have been  
8 constructed to blend in with the area and not  
9 to diminish neighborhoods.  
10 The proposed structure is an  
11 albatross. It is a significantly taller and  
12 wider than the minimum standard 140-foot  
13 monopole that would provide the same  
14 function, if a need was indeed shown.  
15 Pictures and renderings are shown from ground  
16 level, at least the ones that I've seen in  
17 the application.  
18 The visual impact of this  
19 proposed facility is much more substantial  
20 from the second floor of a residence, my  
21 residence, at 260 feet. Our homes are all  
22 uphill from the project. And as I said, my  
23 home is at 260 feet of elevation.  
24 Our neighborhood is well  
25 established, as is the large bordering

1 Highlands neighborhood. The East Coast  
2 Greenway Bike Trail is directly across the  
3 street from this project. This is a huge  
4 recreational asset for the Town.  
5 Lastly, and anecdotally, I  
6 heard that representations were made that  
7 this project will somehow improve emergency  
8 services in the Town of Farmington. I'll say  
9 that I don't believe that this is true. Our  
10 radio system and repeater system is  
11 established and functional using existing  
12 infrastructure.  
13 Thanks for considering my  
14 thoughts.  
15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.  
16 Next is Alex Kushner.  
17 ALEXANDER KUSHNER: Hello,  
18 Alex Kushner, 18 Michael Drive. I've been a  
19 resident of Farmington for almost ten years.  
20 I've been at 18 Michael Drive for about a  
21 year-and-a-half. I love Farmington. I love  
22 my neighbors. So I wanted to -- to be here  
23 to talk about three key issues that I heard  
24 today in this afternoon's meeting that I'd  
25 like the Council to consider further. Those

1 three issues are: The visual esthetics, the  
2 cellular coverage, and the training facility.  
3 In regards to the visual  
4 esthetics, I think that the lattice  
5 structure, as -- as Jeffrey just said, is --  
6 is an albatross. It's right next to what's a  
7 small -- really a small forest and there's a  
8 large amount of trees there. A lattice  
9 structure does not fit esthetically next to  
10 that.  
11 I think there's been  
12 discussions -- I presume there's going to be  
13 a light on top of the structure.  
14 No? Okay. I'm getting a  
15 headshake on that. Okay.  
16 Well, there's certainly  
17 airplanes that -- that I hear every once in a  
18 while flying over, so I don't know how we get  
19 away with no light. But if it does come to  
20 that, I'd be curious about the brightness of  
21 that.  
22 We talked about that there was  
23 a study that 3 percent of the surrounding  
24 area would have a year-round view -- or  
25 there's -- of a -- three percent of the study

1 area would have year-round views.  
2 And I know that this sounds  
3 low, but it does really affect the esthetics  
4 of the town because part of that area  
5 encompasses Winding Trails. And from Winding  
6 Trails, you'll be able to see it very  
7 clearly. And that's -- that's a recreational  
8 area where a lot of residents of Farmington,  
9 West Hartford, Avon, a lot of folks go to  
10 that area. So even though 3 percent of the  
11 area was covered in neighborhoods, and things  
12 like that, there's large gatherings of people  
13 in Winding Trails who clearly see this --  
14 this lattice structure -- this lattice  
15 structure whose height is 180 feet. We've  
16 established that that's more than -- than  
17 what's needed for AT&T.  
18 The folks have said that  
19 there's going to be plenty of space on this  
20 tower for additional items. I don't know  
21 what the oversight is for adding things  
22 like -- if there's going to be weathervanes  
23 added, more antennas, what the colors of that  
24 is going to look, how the structure is just  
25 going to keep expanding, so -- so that's just

1 some of my concerns.  
2 The second point I want to  
3 talk about is around cellular coverage. So  
4 the -- the reason that there's such a low  
5 visual area is that the large chunk of  
6 coverage that this would add would be towards  
7 forest. If you look at the map that was in  
8 the addendum and you -- you know, it's not  
9 scientific. I looked at, you know, what  
10 areas change colors from current coverage to  
11 new coverage. And I'd say 75 percent of that  
12 area is trees. I don't know why trees  
13 need -- need cellular coverage.  
14 So, in the current website, if  
15 you go online -- I think we've got a neighbor  
16 here who's got the data. It shows that  
17 there's plenty of coverage. You just heard  
18 from -- from folks who have AT&T, and they  
19 feel comfortable with it.  
20 One other -- one other thing  
21 that I've been thinking about is they -- they  
22 said that they looked at some sites. I saw  
23 there was a list, I think, of seven sites.  
24 So there's going to be a Mormon temple.  
25 This -- this fight has been fought. Right.

1 The Mormon temple is going to have a steeple.  
2 If you drove down Route 4, you saw it. You  
3 know, why don't we -- why -- if -- if AT&T is  
4 curious, why don't they chat with the Mormon  
5 temple and see if they could stick the -- the  
6 tower inside the steeple there. I know we've  
7 done that before in the area.  
8 The final thing is the  
9 training facility. So one thing I -- I  
10 didn't get at that meeting today, this --  
11 this sounded odd. So AT&T was ready to come  
12 and be a partner with -- with Tower Holdings  
13 when they asked to -- to help out with this,  
14 or however it came together fortuitously.  
15 But then, when -- when the  
16 question got raised of, well, why doesn't  
17 Tower Holdings go to a different tower and do  
18 trainings there, and all of a sudden, there's  
19 liability issues -- quote, liability issues  
20 and other issues, I believe, was one of the  
21 answers. So I just find that suspect that,  
22 you know, folks are ready to come and work  
23 together, but in this instance, it's a  
24 one-way street.  
25 Another point is that,

1 according to applicant counsel, this matter  
2 is within the jurisdiction of the Siting  
3 Council. I'm not an expert and, you know,  
4 obviously, we're all here, so it is within  
5 your jurisdiction. But from -- from the  
6 questioning, cross-examination that I heard  
7 this afternoon, it's clear that folks here  
8 have apprehensions. The Towns, in their  
9 seat, they have apprehensions. So I humbly  
10 and respectfully request that even though  
11 this is in your jurisdiction, from a legal  
12 perspective, that you work with the Town from  
13 a practical perspective. I think having our  
14 long-term interests in mind, I think this,  
15 this will benefit everybody.  
16 The last point is that,  
17 although I do appreciate the -- having Tower  
18 Holdings as -- as a neighbor, I -- you know,  
19 it's -- it's like a big soup of stuff, it  
20 sounds like, right, the training facility,  
21 the AT&T -- AT&T antenna, the Dunning  
22 antenna, the Marcus antenna, the FM radios.  
23 So all of this stuff is coming -- coming in  
24 front of you guys.  
25 The applicant counsel even



1 said that they were, quote, "trailblazers."  
2 He used that word from the way that this  
3 application is coming to you guys. And  
4 again, I respectfully request that -- that  
5 the Siting Council does not set a precedent  
6 for circumventing local jurisdictions in  
7 matters that begin to go beyond the scope  
8 of -- of merely a cellular tower.

9 Thank you for your time.  
10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.  
11 Josh Davidson.

12 JOSHUA DAVIDSON: Good  
13 evening. My name is Josh Davidson. I'm a  
14 resident in the area at 74 Basswood Road.

15 So I wanted to try to address  
16 my comments this evening, trying to keep it  
17 relevant to the Siting Council's role, by  
18 just briefly sort of summarizing my  
19 understanding of your role in this process.

20 So your -- your role, in  
21 brief, is to -- to ensure that facilities  
22 such as these -- and I'm quoting here --  
23 "properly planned and controlled in ways that  
24 will not adversely affect the environmental  
25 quality of the state and it's ecological,

1 scenic, historic, and recreational values."  
2 Pretty simple and straightforward, and make  
3 sense to me. So my comments will be to  
4 address some of those points.

5 So if properly planned, so  
6 pretty broad topic, but I guess, from my  
7 standpoint, I think I speak to sort of the  
8 need being properly planned. So is this  
9 tower truly needed?

10 From what I understand and  
11 from my experience, I don't see it. I don't  
12 see the evidence has been provided to  
13 demonstrate that there is a need.

14 So, as you know, we're not  
15 talking about just one network here. Right?  
16 So carriers operate multiple networks. So  
17 this isn't just the AT&T network. Is it 2G?  
18 Is it 3G? Is it 4GLT? What -- what exactly  
19 is being proposed here?

20 From my understanding of the  
21 propagation maps that were included in the  
22 application, is that what's being shown, as  
23 far as a gap, as a deficit in coverage, is  
24 2G, is the old school network, the network  
25 that AT&T has publicly declared they are

1 retiring, that that is the network that --  
2 that is being retired.

3 I would also say -- and I have  
4 screenshots of this as well -- the AT&T  
5 website itself, which is being used, sort of,  
6 after the fact to justify this training  
7 tower, reflects that their coverage is -- and  
8 let me get the terms that they use correctly  
9 here -- that all of the coverage is between  
10 moderate and their best, sort of, on their  
11 rating scale from a marketing standpoint.

12 So I'd like to ask AT&T, which  
13 I know I can't ask anyone questions if no one  
14 can answer, but I'll ask a rhetorical  
15 question: Is -- how can AT&T market its  
16 products, its services, stating that there is  
17 coverage in an area and then come before  
18 this -- this body and state that there is no  
19 coverage and there's a need for coverage.  
20 And then we have anecdotal evidence from  
21 neighbors saying there's no need for  
22 coverage.

23 So, you know, I am calling  
24 into question the credibility of what is  
25 being submitted to the Siting Council. I

1 would like to have more data. And when --  
2 when the Town ask for more data on dropped  
3 calls, on -- on service issues, they were --  
4 they were given the "It's proprietary."

5 So whether it's proprietary or  
6 not, I think that, you know, whether it's in  
7 a closed session with -- with this body and  
8 perhaps the Town, you know, certain town  
9 representatives, perhaps that information  
10 should be required to be disclosed to  
11 actually demonstrate a need. I don't  
12 understand the need as being described here,  
13 and I'd like to ask the Council to -- to  
14 review that.

15 So I would also say -- so,  
16 from the standpoint of where is this  
17 technology going -- right -- so if I'm  
18 correct in what they're proposing is 2G  
19 coverage deficit, they're getting rid of that  
20 network. All of the voice calls are going to  
21 be routed over LTE within a couple years  
22 maximum. They've already started trials of  
23 that, and I think, actually, already started  
24 commercially doing that last year or early  
25 this year.

1           There's no need for this.  
2       So -- so I ask the -- the commission, the  
3       Council here, really strongly consider the  
4       facts here and make sure that the data that's  
5       being purported is actually true and is  
6       actually demonstrating a need.  
7           So the second part I will  
8       address is sort of the scenic value and  
9       recreational value, other points that were  
10      part of the charter of the organization. So,  
11      as mentioned before, sort of, the Farmington  
12      Valley Greenway, so that encompasses the  
13      Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, which is an  
14      84-mile trail, the Farmington River Trail,  
15      which is 30 miles, a lot of that going  
16      through the town of Farmington. It attracts  
17      over 250,000 visitors a year in the  
18      Farmington Valley alone.  
19           This has got to be one of the  
20      number one or number two recreation  
21      destinations in this area. If maintaining  
22      the integrity of that recreational area and  
23      the scenic views from that area, which is  
24      part of the reason why people go on this  
25      trail, is not part of this Council -- then I

1       don't -- you know, the Council's  
2       responsibilities, then I don't know what  
3       would be.  
4           And similarly, Winding Trails,  
5       again, a regional destination for recreation,  
6       for scenic views, things like that. And  
7       this, again, encroaches on that. And to  
8       dismiss that as AT&T and the -- the -- I  
9       believe it was AT&T, or maybe it was Tower  
10      Holdings -- I apologize -- but someone who,  
11      in response to one of the interrogatories,  
12      just simply said, "Well, it's no different  
13      than other things in the area that -- that  
14      they already see." And I'd say, well, that  
15      that's not a good reason to further degrade  
16      scenic vistas or -- or recreational areas.  
17      So -- so I think that there's a need to  
18      preserve our scenic and recreational value.  
19      And this tower is located directly between  
20      those -- those two areas.  
21           So, as has been mentioned, so  
22      a tower height of 180 feet, AT&T is going to  
23      be at 140 feet. Why the extra 40 feet? You  
24      know, this is very much what it seems. This  
25      is a -- this is a training tower looking for

1       a reason to be built, looking for a  
2       justification, a legal method to be built.  
3           There's no need for this tower  
4       to be built where it is, in my view. There's  
5       no technical need. The need is a business  
6       need. And I completely respect and  
7       understand the business need of Tower  
8       Holdings, that they want to have a training  
9       tower that's closer, that they own, that they  
10      control. Totally get that.  
11           This business has been in  
12      business for quite some time. I don't know  
13      the exact time, but they've been in business  
14      and managed to -- managed to get where they  
15      are today to be, I believe, the number one  
16      company in the Northeast, if not in the  
17      country, in what they do. And, you know,  
18      kudos to them for that.  
19           But in all that, sort of, time  
20      and space and -- and all the areas that they  
21      work in, I see no reason why this is the one  
22      place where this is the perfect place where  
23      the tower must be built.  
24           Also, from an environmental  
25      impact standpoint, so my understanding, which

1       I don't think it was actually discussed much  
2       in the actual proposal itself, unless I  
3       missed it, but when you look at the  
4       schematics and the diagrams, there's a, I  
5       believe, a large diesel tank slated to be --  
6       to fuel a backup generator on the site.  
7           I didn't hear anything about  
8       special, you know, methods to contain leaks  
9       or spills. And it's -- it's a known fact.  
10      Right? So it's not about if a tank will  
11      leak, but when. Tanks leak. That's what  
12      they do. I believe this will be an  
13      aboveground tank.  
14           This site, while they're  
15      saying they're 350 feet from the nearest  
16      wetland, if you go out there -- and you may  
17      have seen it today -- just up the street,  
18      there's a wetland where there's standing  
19      water, just, I believe it's the two houses up  
20      from the property. There's also a small  
21      stream that runs behind there and connects to  
22      Walton Pond, which I believe is on Winding  
23      Trails property.  
24           So there's a real risk here.  
25      And that connects to -- to areas where people

Page 161

1 are fishing, are swimming, are recreating.  
2 There's real risk here of -- that I think  
3 needs to be cared for. So if this -- if this  
4 does go forward, which I don't believe it  
5 should, but if it does, I'd like to  
6 understand what is being done to ensure that  
7 the diesel is handled properly when, you  
8 know, whether it's for refueling or also just  
9 to ensure that, over -- over time, the  
10 integrity of that tank is pressure tested,  
11 is -- is maintained, and contained perhaps  
12 with linings or whatnot to make sure that  
13 those things are contained in the area.

14 From a process standpoint, so  
15 a variety of alternate sites are mentioned in  
16 the proposal from Tower Holdings, all of  
17 which are deemed unsuitable. And I don't  
18 believe there really are any details provided  
19 as to why any of those are unsuitable.  
20 They're simply stated and stated it's  
21 unsuitable. Stated unsuitable.

22 And then, in one of the  
23 interrogatories from the Town of Farmington,  
24 they asked AT&T what other sites did you  
25 consider. And I believe their answer was

Page 163

1 evaluation process is reprehensible. And,  
2 frankly, it's disappointing to see that --  
3 that they think that they can get away with  
4 this. And I -- I strongly urge the -- the  
5 Council to -- to deny this application on its  
6 merits.

7 I also think, you know, so  
8 there are no locations that they say that  
9 this will provide coverage in the Town of  
10 Avon as well. I didn't see any sites in the  
11 Town of Avon being even considered for  
12 this -- for this hold -- for this location.  
13 So again, I don't understand why this tower  
14 is needed. I don't think any of that  
15 evidence has been provided.

16 Excuse me.

17 Just one other thing, also,  
18 just to comment on the past meetings, as  
19 Demetrius had -- had alluded earlier. So  
20 while these meetings are voluntary, and I  
21 commend Tower Holdings for holding the  
22 meetings, many questions were asked by the --  
23 the Town and the neighbors, and none of those  
24 questions, to my knowledge, were ever  
25 answered.

Page 162

1 none. They did not -- they said, Tower  
2 Holdings said they were building this thing,  
3 so we said, Okay. That's what's happening  
4 here. This is not going through a process of  
5 "we have a need so we're going to go out and  
6 search all the available places." That would  
7 be what AT&T would do. That's what -- That  
8 is what a normal business would do, go  
9 evaluate your options, find which option is  
10 best, and make the decision.

11 Instead, this is Tower  
12 Holdings making a decision that they want a  
13 training tower and saying we need a  
14 justification for that. So AT&T, a company  
15 with which I'm sure they do a good deal of  
16 business, that has a relationship, which who  
17 knows what kinds of agreements are being made  
18 or have been made, whether the lease rates  
19 are being done at market value or not or  
20 submarket value, are they being compensating  
21 for -- for allowing them to put this tower up  
22 and giving them that justification. Who  
23 knows.

24 I think the lack of  
25 transparency of how this came to be of the

Page 164

1 They said, "Oh, yeah, we'll  
2 get back to you. We'll get back to you." We  
3 were never provided any kind of response, no  
4 answers. And some of these questions around  
5 some of which I'm still asking today of -- of  
6 how were -- how did they come to this  
7 decision? What is the true coverage needed?  
8 What's -- what are the RF levels? Which  
9 network are we talking about? No one has  
10 ever answered those questions.

11 So from a transparency  
12 standpoint, they get to stand before you and  
13 pretend to be "See, we're -- we're very  
14 informative, this is an open process," and I  
15 don't think it was, in this -- in this case.  
16 And I think that this -- this Council and its  
17 reputation should demand more.

18 So, with that, I thank you  
19 very much for your consideration.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21 Those are the only names we  
22 had of people who signed up.

23 Is there anyone who hasn't  
24 spoken, who came in late, who would like to  
25 speak?

1 If so, please go to the podium  
2 and both state your name and spell it for the  
3 record.  
4 SEAN HARRINGTON: I'm Sean  
5 Harrington, with my wife Susanne Harrington.  
6 We're at 34 Michael Drive. And we are new  
7 residents of Farmington. We've lived there  
8 for all of six weeks. And we were greatly  
9 disappointed to find out that this  
10 controversy was literally right at our  
11 doorstep.  
12 Tonight we watched the moon  
13 rise over the ridge, and we just have been  
14 struck day after day of the beauty of this  
15 area, sunrises and sunsets, and we watch the  
16 sunrise every morning over that. And coming  
17 from Simsbury, I just never noticed any of  
18 these radio tower, sort of, controversies.  
19 The answer is pretty much always no, no, no.  
20 I am not an expert. I haven't  
21 been to earlier meetings. I don't know  
22 what's been going on. But I just know that  
23 the Farmington Valley, you know, this is a  
24 special place. That's why I'm still in the  
25 Farmington Valley. And I just find it

1 disappointing that Farmington would allow  
2 this commercial enterprise to, you know,  
3 wreck my property values.  
4 To be honest, the reason I  
5 bought the house was the view. And six weeks  
6 after moving in, I found out that view could  
7 be obstructed by business. Now, those radio  
8 towers, or whatever the towers are on the  
9 ridge, they've always been there as -- as  
10 long as I can remember, but this is certainly  
11 something new. And I'm always concerned that  
12 once there's one, then it's expanded.  
13 It's like a prison. You know,  
14 prisons don't move to new towns. They only  
15 expand in old towns. And I'm concerned that,  
16 you know, this is just the beginning. And  
17 then, before you know it, I can, you know,  
18 you can already see the writing on the wall  
19 with the various uses of the tower, that this  
20 tower is going to be something much more than  
21 originally planned.  
22 So as a new resident of  
23 Farmington, I am opposed to this tower, and  
24 I'm disappointed that it's even a point of  
25 discussion.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Is there  
2 anybody else who -- yes, sir.  
3 NELSON REESE: My name is  
4 Nelson Reese, 28 Basswood. I'm also a new  
5 resident, and I'm not really prepared.  
6 Moved in December, and also  
7 was made aware of a tower being built. Now  
8 my property literally sits on the Rails to  
9 Trails property or right of way or greenway.  
10 And you can -- I can see Northeast Towers,  
11 especially in the wintertime with the  
12 spotlights that they have in their -- their  
13 parking lot. I can accept that. It's --  
14 it's part of their property.  
15 Now, if there's a lack of  
16 coverage, I have AT&T myself, and I have a  
17 pretty decent signal over there. If you're  
18 going to build a cell tower, that's one  
19 thing. I work in construction. To build a  
20 training facility for the purpose of training  
21 your employees, to build an extra 40 feet to  
22 have a tower, to me, it sounds like it's to  
23 generate income. It's not for anything else.  
24 You're -- you have AT&T and all these other  
25 companies piggybacking on -- on this tower.

1 And when I saw the balloon,  
2 it's just there. It's going to be sitting in  
3 my backyard. And the gentleman mentioned  
4 about the moonrise. He's absolutely right.  
5 It's -- it's a gorgeous view. And I see a  
6 lot of people walking that Rails to Trails.  
7 And as far as the beauty of  
8 the area, putting in a 180-foot tower  
9 compared to 140-foot mono tower or what --  
10 I'm sorry. I'm not familiar with the  
11 terms -- it's a big difference. And I just  
12 hope that other properties have been taken  
13 into consideration.  
14 Once again, I apologize for  
15 not being as prepared, but I just found out  
16 about this. Thank you.  
17 THE CHAIRMAN: No reason to  
18 apologize. We take into consideration all  
19 comments. Okay.  
20 Is there anybody else?  
21 (No response.)  
22 THE CHAIRMAN: If not?  
23 Okay. If we could just --  
24 we're going to close the public comment  
25 session of the hearing. And we will continue

Page 169	1 the evidentiary portion of the hearing on 2 Tuesday, March 17, 2015 -- this year, 3 obviously -- at 1 p.m. in our Hearing Room 1, 4 and it's -- the Council's offices are at 10 5 Franklin Square in New Britain. 6 Again, anybody who has not 7 become a party or intervenor but who desires 8 to make his or her views known to the Council 9 may written -- may file written statements 10 with the Council until the record closes. 11 Copies of the transcript of the hearing will 12 be filed at the Farmington Town Clerk's 13 Office. And thank you all for your 14 participation, and drive home safely. 15 (Whereupon, the witnesses were 16 excused and the above proceedings were 17 adjourned at 7:42 p.m.) 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Page 171	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25
Page 170	1 CERTIFICATE 2 I hereby certify that the foregoing 42 3 pages are a complete and accurate 4 computer-aided transcription of my original 5 verbatim notes taken of the Public Hearing In 6 Re: DOCKET NO. 454, TOWER HOLDINGS, LLC, 7 APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF 8 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED 9 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND 10 OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY 11 LOCATED AT FARMINGTON TAX ASSESSOR PARCEL ID 12 MAPS 25 AND 26, LOTS 3A AND 3B, 199 BRICKYARD 13 ROAD, FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT, which was held 14 before ROBERT STEIN, Chairman, at the 15 Farmington Town Hall, Council Chambers, 1 16 Monteith Drive, Farmington, Connecticut, on 17 February 3, 2015. 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	