

ATTACHMENT 5

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Environmental Assessment Statement

I. PHYSICAL IMPACT

A. WATER FLOW AND QUALITY

MCM's environmental consultants and soil scientists evaluated the proposed tower site and surrounding area. One wetland area was delineated within the Study Area consisting of an intermittent stream system, hillside seep, and open water pond. No direct impact to wetlands or watercourses is associated with the proposed development of the tower/compound or gravel access. Minor temporary impacts may be associated with Message Center Management's construction activities due to the close proximity to wetlands and the proposed underground utility route. Proposed sedimentation and erosion controls will be designed, installed and maintained during construction activities in accordance with the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines For Soil Erosion and Sediment Control which will minimize temporary impacts. Notably, long term secondary impacts to wetland resources possibly associated with the operation of this Facility are minimized by the fact that the development is unmanned, it minimizes the creation of impervious surfaces with the use of a gravel access drive and gravel compound, it creates minimal traffic and the wetland system currently experiences a high level of human and agricultural activity associated with the horse farm. Development of the tower site is largely in previously disturbed areas of the site and no alternative locations for the tower site were identified.

B. AIR QUALITY

Under ordinary operating conditions, the equipment that would be used at the proposed facility would emit no air pollutants of any kind.

C. LAND

No tree removal will be required for the facility. Clearing and grading total area of disturbance will be 9,700 s.f. The remaining land of the lessor would remain unchanged by the construction and operation of the facility.

D. NOISE

The equipment to be in operation at the facility would not emit noise other than that provided by the operation of the installed heating, air-conditioning and ventilation system. Some construction related noise would be anticipated during facility construction, which is expected to take approximately four to six weeks. Temporary power outages could involve sound from the emergency generator which is tested weekly.

E. POWER DENSITY

The cumulative worst-case calculation of power density from AT&T's operations at the facility would be 5.59% of the MPE standard. Attached is a copy of a Power Density Report for the facility.

F. VISIBILITY

The Applicants' visual analysis indicates that the proposed Facility would be visible above the tree canopy year-round from total of approximately 71 acres. In leaf-off conditions seasonal views through intervening tree

trunks and branches are anticipated to occur over some locations within an area of 119± acres. Overall, year-round views of portions of the Facility appear limited to select locations within ±0.25 mile of the Property though that extends slightly farther to the west as demonstrated in photo location 15 in the attached Visibility Analysis. It is estimated that approximately 30 residential properties may achieve year-round views of at least a portion of the tower Facility.

II. SCENIC, NATURAL, HISTORIC & RECREATIONAL VALUES

There are no sites or districts included on the National Register of Historic Properties within one mile of the project area. MCM is currently consulting with the CT State Historic Preservation Office for review of its determination indicating the facility should be a monopole and not a monopine. SHPO did find that a monopole facility would not have an adverse effect on historic resources. No rare or significant habitat appears to exist on or proximate to the site. MCM is currently consulting with the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Natural Diversity Data Base to obtain an opinion from this agency regarding the potential for rare, threatened or endangered species to be present in the project area. The site is currently under evaluation in accordance with the FCC's regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 ("NEPA") and it is anticipated that the project is exempt from further federal environmental assessment.