In The Matter Of:

Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility

Public Hearing May 2, 2017

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1	STATE OF CONNECTICUT
2	CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
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5	Docket No. 471
6	Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless
7	Application for a Certificate of Environmental
8	Compatibility and Public Need for the
9	Construction, Maintenance, and Operation of a
10	Telecommunications Facility Located at 208 Kirk
11	Road, Hamden, Connecticut
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13	
14	Public Hearing held at Memorial Town Hall,
15	2372 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut, on
16	Tuesday, May 2, 2017, beginning at 3:01 p.m.
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19	
20	Held Before:
21	ROBERT STEIN, Chairman
22	
23	
24	
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1	Appearances:
2	
3	Council Members:
4	SENATOR JAMES J. MURPHY, JR.,
5	Vice Chairman
6	ROBERT HANNON
7	MICHAEL HARDER
8	DR. MICHAEL W. KLEMENS
9	LARRY LEVESQUE, ESQ.
LO	
L1	Council Staff:
L2	MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ.
L3	Executive Director and
L 4	Staff Attorney
L5	
L6	ROBERT MERCIER
L7	Siting Analyst
L8	
L9	For Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon
20	Wireless:
21	ROBINSON & COLE LLP
22	280 Trumbull Street
23	Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3597
24	BY: KENNETH C. BALDWIN, ESQ.
25	

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    Appearances: (Cont'd.)
1
 2
         For Patricia Sorrentino:
 3
 4
              MURTHA CULLINA LLP
              265 Church Street
 5
              P.O. Box 704
 6
 7
              New Haven, Connecticut 06503-0704
 8
                    BY: BURT B. COHEN, ESQ.
 9
                         BRIDGET D'ANGELO, ESQ.
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1 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to call to order this 2 hearing of the Connecticut Siting Council on 3 Docket 471, today, Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at 4 approximately 3 p.m. My name is Robin Stein. 5 Chairman of the Siting Council. Other members of 6 7 the Council present are Senator Murphy, our Vice 8 Chairman; Mr. Hannon, designee from the Department 9 of Energy and Environmental Protection; Mr. 10 Levesque, designee from the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority; Mr. Harder; Dr. Klemens; 11 12 members of the staff present are Attorney Melanie 13 Bachman, our executive director; and Robert Mercier, our siting analyst. 14 15 This hearing is held pursuant to the provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General 16 Statutes, and of the Uniform Administrative 17 18 Procedure Act upon an application from Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for a 19 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and 20 Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and 21 22 operation of a telecommunications facility located at 208 Kirk Road in Hamden, Connecticut. 23 24 application was received by the Council on March

25

3, 2017.

As a reminder to all, off-the-record communication with a member of the Council or a member of the Council staff, upon the merits of this application is prohibited by law.

The parties and intervenors to the proceeding are as follows: Cellco Partnership/
Verizon, Attorney Baldwin, Robinson & Cole;
Patricia Sorrentino, Attorney Burt Cohen and
Bridget D'Angelo.

We will proceed in accordance with the prepared agenda, copies of which are available here to my left. Also available are copies of the Council's Citizens Guide to Siting Council Procedures. At the end of this afternoon session, we will recess and resume again at 7 p.m. for the public comment session.

The 7 p.m. public comment session will be reserved for the public to make brief oral statements into the record. I wish to note that parties and intervenors, including their representatives and witnesses, are not allowed to participate in the public comment session. I also wish to note for those who are here, and for the benefit of your friends and neighbors who are unable to join us for the public comment session,

1 that you or they may send written statements to the Council within 30 days of the date hereof; and 2 such written statements will be given the same 3 weight as if spoken at the hearing. If necessary, 4 5 party and intervenor presentations may continue after the public comment session, if time remains. 6 7 A verbatim transcript will be made of this hearing and deposited with the Town Clerk's Office in 8 9 Hamden for the convenience of the public. 10 Is there any public official that would like to speak at this time? 11 12 (No response.) 13 THE CHAIRMAN: We have two motions. The Council received a request from Elena 14 15 Geanuracos. I apologize, and I guess apologize in 16 the evening, too, if I mispronounce people's

Also, the applicant objected to Items 1 through 4 of Ms. Sorrentino's April 6, 2017 interrogatories. And Attorney Bachman may wish to comment.

status in this proceeding. However, this request

It's dated April 25, 2017, for intervenor

MS. BACHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
The responses to interrogatories Number 1 to 4

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names.

was withdrawn yesterday.

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submitted to the applicant by Ms. Sorrentino, the
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    applicant did provide limited responses to those
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    interrogatories that are sufficient, given the
3
    scope of the proceeding, and therefore staff
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5
    recommends that the objection be sustained.
               THE CHAIRMAN:
                               Do I have a motion?
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7
               DR. KLEMENS: So moved.
8
               THE CHAIRMAN:
                               Second?
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                SENATOR MURPHY:
                                 Second.
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               THE CHAIRMAN: Any discussion?
11
               All those in favor of the motion,
12
    signify by saying aye?
13
               THE COUNCIL:
                              Aye.
               THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed? Abstention?
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15
                (No response.)
                               The motion carries.
16
               THE CHAIRMAN:
               I wish to call your attention to those
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    items shown on the hearing program marked as Roman
    Numeral I.D, Items 1 through 67. Does the
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    applicant or any party or intervenor have any
    objection to the addition of Items 1-67 the
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22
    Council has administratively noticed?
23
               MR. BALDWIN: No objection,
24
    Mr. Chairman.
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MR. COHEN: No objection, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seeing none, these will be administratively noticed, as well as all the existing documents, statements, and comments.

SENATOR MURPHY: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to indicate for the record that at the field review I ran into Robert LaSaracina who I've known for years. He was a very successful CPA.

THE COURT REPORTER: I'm having a little trouble hearing you. Do you have your mike?

SENATOR MURPHY: I'll start over for you.

THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

SENATOR MURPHY: At the field review today I ran into Mr. Robert LaSaracina who I have known for years who practiced accounting as a CPA in Norwich, and I was practicing law. During that time I represented that he did work for me, and vice-versa. I know of no instance in my recollection where we had opposition, or got involved in litigation against each other, or any reason that I feel prejudiced for or against Mr. LaSaracina. Apparently he's a good friend of the intervenor, Patricia Sorrentino. Notwithstanding, my personal feelings on it, I leave it to the

- 1 parties and the Council to determine whether or
- 2 not they might feel a potential conflict and ask
- 3 me to excuse myself. I'd be happy to do so. So
- 4 at this point I just want it reflected in the
- 5 record, Mr. Chairman.
- 6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Do either of
- 7 the parties --
- 8 MR. COHEN: If I may be heard,
- 9 Mr. Chairman? Mr. LaSaracina is a friend, a
- 10 | long-time friend of my client, and we certainly
- 11 have no objection. There's nothing improper. And
- 12 I commend Mr. Murphy for just disclosing that.
- 13 But just a friend. Thank you.
- 14 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So since there's
- 15 no objection, we'll continue.
- Oh, Attorney Baldwin.
- 17 MR. BALDWIN: Thank you. I thank
- 18 Senator Murphy for disclosing that information.
- 19 Given our experience over the years, we believe
- 20 Mr. Murphy is of the highest integrity, and we
- 21 have no problem with him continuing in his role as
- 22 an active Council member in this proceeding.
- 23 Thank you very much for disclosing that.
- 24 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Will the
- 25 applicant now, Attorney Baldwin, present your

1 witness panel for the purpose of taking the oath? Certainly, Mr. Chairman. 2 MR. BALDWIN: Good afternoon again. Kenneth Baldwin on behalf 3 of Cellco Partnership, doing business as Verizon 4 Wireless. Our witness panel consists of the 5 following members: First to my left, far left, to 6 7 your right, Mr. Jaime Laredo. Mr. Laredo is a radio frequency engineer with Verizon Wireless 8 responsible for the Hamden 8 search area. To my 9 immediate left I have Mr. Anthony Befera, manager 10 of real estate and project implementation for 11 Verizon Wireless. To my right is Richard Couch 12 13 with Martinez Couch, a professional civil engineer working on this project. To Mr. Couch's right is 14 15 Dave Weinpahl, also a professional engineer with 16 On Air Engineering. To Mr. Weinpahl's right is 17 Mr. Libertine, and Dean Gustafson with All-Points 18 Technology. Mr. Libertine, as you know, is the director of siting and permitting for All-Points 19 20 Technology, and is responsible for all environmental reviews. Mr. Gustafson is a senior 21 wetland scientist, and professional soil scientist 22 with All-Points Technology Corporation. And I 23 24 offer them at this point to be sworn in, 25 Mr. Chairman.

- 1 ANTHONY BEFERA,
- 2 RICHARD COUCH,
- 3 DEAN GUSTAFSON,
- 4 JAIME LAREDO,
- 5 MICHAEL LIBERTINE,
- 6 DAVID WEINPAHL,
- 7 called as witnesses, being first duly sworn
- 8 by Attorney Bachman, were examined and
- 9 testified on their oaths as follows:
- MS. BACHMAN: Thank you.
- MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Chairman, we have
- 12 eight exhibits that are listed in the hearing
- 13 program under Roman II, Section B, listed as
- 14 Exhibits 1 through 8. And we offer them at this
- 15 time for identification purposes, only subject to
- 16 verification by the witness panel. And I would
- 17 also submit that these include, as Items 7 and 8,
- 18 there are two exhibits that we submitted to the
- 19 Council electronically yesterday, copies of which
- 20 have been brought with us today and provided
- 21 electronically to Attorney Cohen on behalf his
- 22 client, Ms. Sorrentino. And that includes the
- 23 Natural Diversity Data Base determination letter,
- 24 and a plan showing the alternative access that we
- 25 talked about a little bit today in the field walk.

DIRECT EXAMINATION 1 MR. BALDWIN: I would ask the witness 2 panel to confirm. Did you prepare, or assist in 3 the preparation, of the exhibits listed in the 4 5 hearing program under Roman II, Section B, Items 1 through 8? 6 7 Mr. Laredo? 8 THE WITNESS (Laredo): Yes, I did. 9 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Befera? THE WITNESS (Befera): Yes, I did. 10 11 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Couch? 12 THE WITNESS (Couch): Yes, I did. 13 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Weinpahl? THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes, I did. 14 15 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Libertine? THE WITNESS (Libertine): Yes. 16 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Gustafson? 17 18 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes. 19 MR. BALDWIN: Do you have any corrections, modifications, or clarifications that 20 you'd like to make to any of those exhibits at 21 22 this point? 23 Mr. Laredo? 24 THE WITNESS (Laredo): No, I don't. 25 MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Befera?

1 THE WITNESS (Befera): No, I don't. MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Couch? 2 3 THE WITNESS (Couch): No, I don't. MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Weinpahl? 4 5 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): No, I don't. MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Libertine? 6 7 THE WITNESS (Libertine): I do have one correction to point out to the Council. 8 Exhibit 6, attachment 1, which are the responses 9 10 to the interrogatories by the intervenor, we took photographs, as requested, from locations within 11 12 the proposed development area. Unfortunately, I 13 happened to catch these last night when I was reviewing the photo locations that are shown on 14 15 the first attachment graphic, which is the map. 16 The photo locations are actually incorrect that are shown here. What we did in photo location 1 17 18 where we are showing it, and indicating this is the proposed tower location, that's actually 19 20 closer to the home than is depicted. actuality, it is generally in the location of the 21 southerly-most location shown on that graphic map. 22 So it would be essentially at the fence line of 23 24 the compound. And then similarly, we would be

moving even further south to about the edge of the

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clearing of the road. So I just wanted to point
1
    that out that those photos are actually closer
2
    than what is depicted on the photo key map, but
3
    they would represent the closest locations to the
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5
    clearing to the adjacent properly owner.
               MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Gustafson, any
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7
    corrections or modifications?
8
               THE WITNESS (Gustafson): No
9
    corrections or modifications.
               MR. BALDWIN: And is the information
10
    contained in those exhibits with those corrections
11
    and clarifications true and accurate to the best
12
13
    of your knowledge?
14
               Mr. Laredo?
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               THE WITNESS (Laredo): Yes.
16
               MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Befera?
               THE WITNESS (Befera): Yes.
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18
               MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Couch?
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               THE WITNESS (Couch): Yes.
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               MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Weinpahl?
               THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes.
21
               MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Libertine?
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23
               THE WITNESS (Libertine): Yes.
24
               MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Gustafson?
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THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes.

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MR. BALDWIN: And do you adopt the
1
    information contained in those exhibits as your
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3
    testimony for this proceeding?
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               Mr. Laredo?
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               THE WITNESS (Laredo): Yes, I do.
               MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Befera?
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7
               THE WITNESS (Befera): Yes.
8
               MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Couch?
9
               THE WITNESS (Couch): Yes, I do.
10
               MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Weinpahl?
11
               THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes.
               MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Libertine?
12
               THE WITNESS (Libertine): Yes.
13
               MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Gustafson?
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15
               THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes.
16
               MR. BALDWIN: Mr. Chairman, I offer
    them as full exhibits.
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18
               THE CHAIRMAN: Does any party or
19
    intervenor --
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               MR. COHEN: Mr. Chairman, may I be
21
    heard on this? I'm sorry.
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               THE CHAIRMAN: No. Let me finish,
23
    please.
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               MR. COHEN: I'm sorry, sir.
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               THE CHAIRMAN: I'm in the middle of a
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sentence.

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Does any party or intervenor object to the admission of the applicant's exhibits?

4 MR. COHEN: Thank you. I'm sorry, sir.

5 I forgot about that line. Ms. Sorrentino has a

6 limited objection to Exhibit 8, which was filed

7 yesterday, first of all, with respect to the

8 timeliness of it. It certainly limits our ability

9 to prepare for this. But most importantly,

10 there's representations made in the cover letter

in that exhibit that I'm sure would not

12 intentionally mislead the Council, but they

certainly seem to imply that this response to the

concerns of Ms. Sorrentino is not the access road

15 involved in this that is the concern of Ms.

16 Sorrentino, it's the fact that a tower was

proposed to be sited a mere several hundred feet

18 from her property. The cover letter implies

19 otherwise.

So therefore, I would ask that the sentence in the cover letter, or the cover letter, be stricken from the application and not be accepted, admitted into the record in this

24 proceeding.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does Attorney Baldwin

wish to respond?

MR. BALDWIN: Yes, Mr Chairman. First of all, the exhibits themselves are the exhibits in the hearing docket in the proceeding. The cover letter is simply a transmittal.

The second point. I would point out that in the cover letter it says that it was intended to address some of the concerns of Ms. Sorrentino, clearly not all, and it represents that. So that's my response.

MR. COHEN: Your Honor, with all due respect, it does not identify which concerns. So therefore it's ambiguous, and I claim that it should be stricken from the record. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you.

First, to one of your points, we will have a continuation June 13th, so there will be ample time to review any of these filings. And I'm going to recommend that we accept these exhibits for what they're worth. And we'll continue.

So we're now going to go to cross-examination --

MR. COHEN: I have to take an exception to that just for the record, sir. Thank you very much.

1 (Applicant's Exhibits II-B-1 through
2 II-B-8: Received in evidence - described in
3 index.)

THE CHAIRMAN: We'll now begin with cross-examination. We'll start with Mr. Mercier.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

MR. MERCIER: Thank you.

I'm just going to go over some of the items we talked about in the field today. While we were at the field review today, there was some red paint marks on some of the bottoms of several large trees, in addition to ribbons on trees that were marked for removal. Can anybody tell me what the red marks on the base of the large trees are?

THE WITNESS (Couch): Since we walked the site, I contacted our survey department, and our survey flagged the trees, tied ribbons on the trees. We use red survey paint. And we didn't paint that red mark on the bottom of the tree. We don't have knowledge as to what that indicates.

MR. MERCIER: Thank you. Now, given the new plan that was presented today, is Verizon submitting this new site driveway to the compound as a preferred route, or are there two options to get to the site at this current time?

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1
               THE WITNESS (Couch): It is being
    submitted as a preferred route.
2
               MR. MERCIER: So I'll call it the
3
    southern route, the original route is no longer in
4
5
    consideration?
               THE WITNESS (Couch): Yes.
6
7
               MR. MERCIER: Thank you. I'm looking
8
    at the site plan, and I see it basically goes due
9
    north from the access road and the cul-de-sac
10
    facing a westerly track towards the compound.
    in the area of a sharp hill there's a -- that's a
11
12
    hillside is how it was explained in the field
13
    today, you'd be lowering the road?
14
               THE WITNESS (Couch): That's correct.
15
               MR. MERCIER: How many feet?
16
               THE WITNESS (Couch): Approximately 3
    feet.
17
18
               MR. MERCIER: Three feet from the crest
19
    of the hill?
               THE WITNESS (Couch):
20
                                     Yes.
               MR. MERCIER: Do you have any idea what
21
22
    type of substrate is under the soil at the top of
    the hill?
23
24
               THE WITNESS (Couch): There has been a
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25

test pit on that location.

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1
               MR. MERCIER: Assuming it's shallow
    bedrock, what type of procedure should be taken to
2
    remove rock that might be just below a few inches
3
    of soil to get it 3 feet below the crest of the
4
5
    hill?
               THE WITNESS (Couch): There's the
6
7
    ability to be able to modify, I believe, the route
8
    to get to that point, or there will be eventually
9
    a change to a certain property coming up to that
10
    elevation to accommodate -- eliminate the need for
11
    blasting.
12
               MR. MERCIER:
                             Okay. So you would not
    do any blasting. Would there be rock chipping?
13
14
               THE WITNESS (Couch): Yes.
15
               MR. MERCIER: And I'm just looking at
16
    that cut area. It shows on either side, I
17
    believe, that's riprap. Is that stabilized with
18
    riprap?
19
               THE WITNESS (Couch): On the
20
    stabilizing it's riprap, correct.
               MR. MERCIER: And I see on the south
21
    side of the cut area there's two trees that are
22
23
    going to be removed.
24
               THE WITNESS (Couch): Yes.
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MR. MERCIER: And I assume there's

Then

1 obviously small shrubbery, an understory layer, along that edge also? 2 THE WITNESS (Couch): 3 MR. MERCIER: Is it possible to shift 4 5 the road a little bit north to avoid moving the two large trees from the edge of the shrub layer? 6 7 THE WITNESS (Couch): Yes. 8 MR. MERCIER: Kind of push it into the 9 Christmas tree farm? THE WITNESS (Couch): 10 MR. MERCIER: Now, as we proceed 11 12 westerly towards the compound, at the south edge 13 of the compound, now that you have the new 14 accessway, there's the parking area. And I see a 15 note for a retaining wall in the southwest corner, and that retaining wall, I believe, that covers 16 westerly, and then due north for its distance? 17 THE WITNESS (Couch): Yes. 18 19 MR. MERCIER: How tall would that be --20 or it's sloped down, is that correct, to the left side of the lower elevation on the right? 21 22 THE WITNESS (Couch): As you come down the driveway in the southerly corner, where you 23 24 start the retaining wall, the wall is shown as top

and bottom 294. So that would be at grade.

1 it goes to a 4-foot high wall from the top of 294, bottom of wall 290, which is at the westerly edge 2 of that short section. 3 MR. MERCIER: Okay. 4 5 THE WITNESS (Couch): And then it runs to the north, and along the northern length it 6 7 maintains a 4-foot height. 8 MR. MERCIER: Okay. 9 THE WITNESS (Couch): There's both a 10 northerly point, and it has a 90-degree easterly turn. At that point it's still approximately 4 11 feet, 3.8 feet. And then as it takes its easterly 12 13 turn for that short leg, it then comes back to flush grade at an elevation of 294. 14 15 MR. MERCIER: Now, on the southwest 16 corner where it starts, there's a line on, let's 17 say, it's probably the edge of the parking area, 18 the south edge of the compound. Would there be trees there along that south edge of the parking 19 20 area? THE WITNESS (Couch): 21 MR. MERCIER: There would be? 22 23 THE WITNESS (Couch): Yes. 24 MR. MERCIER: And how far down would it

25

go?

1 THE WITNESS (Couch): In the southwest corner? Oh, this is in the first one. 2 3 MR. MERCIER: Yes. THE WITNESS (Couch): There would need 4 5 to be -- now we won't need to clear the large trees that are marked there. So realistically if 6 7 we were to look at that area just because the --8 MR. MERCIER: Understood. So the three 9 large trees that are marked south of the parking 10 area probably would remain? 11 THE WITNESS (Couch): They would 12 remain. That's correct. I would estimate maybe a 13 5-foot distance from the edge of that parking area. 14 15 MR. MERCIER: Okay. Inside the compound there's a box with an X with a circle. 16 I'm not sure what that notation is. I didn't see 17 18 any type of identification of what that was. 19 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Just outside 20 the compound or --Inside the compound 21 MR. MERCIER: No. 22 south of the tower. It's a strange looking box. 23 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): I believe that 24 was the original tower location before it shifted 25 north. That's all.

1 MR. MERCIER: Thank you. Now, looking at this plan, for the parking area I see about 2 five or four large trees that have to be cleared 3 and some understory. Is it possible to shift that 4 5 parking area over to the east side of this compound instead of building on the south side? 6 7 THE WITNESS (Couch): Yes. I don't see 8 in the face of it why that couldn't be done. 9 MR. MERCIER: Okay. Is it also 10 possible to, now that the tower is in the northeast corner of the compound, to actually move 11 the compound up so that the tower is now in the 12 13 southeast corner, move the compound to the north basically, and keep the tower in the same 14 15 location? I can certainly 16 THE WITNESS (Couch): 17 move the compound. Where the compound would go 18 may be a decision that goes beyond my ability to be able to design that. If somebody said that 19 20 would be a good place for the compound to go, I can design it for that location. 21 MR. MERCIER: Okay. So you're saying 22 it would be a landlord issue, or something of that 23 24 nature?

THE WITNESS (Couch):

Correct.

- THE CHAIRMAN: Is that perhaps

 something you can provide since we're continuing

 the hearings?
- MR. BALDWIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. We can confirm it.
- MR. MERCIER: On page 14 of the 6 7 application it had a notation that the Sorrentino 8 property was 240 feet to the south. So I was 9 looking at the responses to Ms. Sorrentino's 10 interrogatories. That was response 10 on page 7. However, I didn't see the figure 240 feet listed 11 12 in any of the values given. So would you please 13 clarify what the exact distance from the tower, as presented on this plan, is to the Sorrentino home? 14 15 I'm not sure if it's 240 or 270.
- MR. BALDWIN: I'm sorry. What was the response referenced?
- MR. MERCIER: That was Question 10 on page 7.

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THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): There were several setbacks that were requested, one from the tower to the home, and one from the tower to the property line. Those were estimated off aerial photos, to the best ability we had to that. So that's listed in the response, I believe. We have

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220 feet to the property line from the tower, 270
1
    feet from the house to the tower. And there were
2
    additional distances from the compound fence to
3
    the property line, and the compound fence also to
4
5
    the home.
               Those are responded to in this filing.
               THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): The 240-foot
6
    doesn't seem to indicate the exact dimension as to
7
8
    where it was taken from, so I would go with the
9
    interrogatory response in terms of the distances.
10
               MR. MERCIER: Okay.
                                     Thank you.
11
    said you used aerial photography. What type of
12
    aerial photography did you use?
13
               THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): That was done
    with online mapping to get us the dimensions.
14
15
               MR. MERCIER: Is that Google Earth
16
    or --
               THE WITNESS (Weinpahl):
17
18
               MR. MERCIER: How accurate are those
    dimensions do you believe?
19
20
               THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): They're fairly
               I would say within, in this instance, 5
21
    accurate.
22
    feet, perhaps.
               MR. MERCIER:
23
                              How many?
24
               THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Five feet.
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MR. MERCIER: So plus or minus 5 feet

for each of these?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes.

MR. MERCIER: So there's never been a tape measure from that, or anything, just to clarify?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): No, there was not. We didn't have the benefit of a survey as well, or those could have been perhaps compiled, but for the responses we used approximate dimensions.

MR. MERCIER: Thank you. Now, one of the things that was discussed at the field review was the emergency power system. Now, I understand you'll have a battery and a generator on a metal frame, as presented in the application. Just so I understand, the battery will go on if the power is lost at the site and provide service. Do you know how long that battery will last under normal conditions?

THE WITNESS (Befera): If power is lost to the site, then the generator would kick on.

The battery system is to soften the charge going to the sensitive radial equipment so that when commercial power is on, they maintain the batteries so that the site can run off the

battery, which is a softer current than direct AC.

In the event of loss of power, the generator would kick in as the alternate AC source to maintain the batteries charged so that the site can still run off of the softer power provided by the batteries to the sensitive equipment, and only in the case of lost power would the generator run.

MR. MERCIER: Thank you for that clarification. And it's listed as a diesel tank within the generator unit. Can you please tell me what type of protection measures are in place, if any, on the tank, or site for that matter?

THE WITNESS (Befera): It's a belly tank. The generator is fairly self-contained where it sits on top of it. It is a double-wall fire marshal approved tank. So it has a detection system. In that outside tank should there be a leak from the inside tank, we are notified at our switching office that there is leak detection sensed within that second tank, the outside tank being the second tank.

MR. MERCIER: Thank you. Some other providers used to use batteries. Does Verizon use just battery power at any of their sites; and if so, can you just use two batteries here, or some

larger battery to power the site instead of using
the two?

THE WITNESS (Befera): Well, the problem just using the batteries is one set of batteries would only provide four hours of back-up power; two sets, eight hours. And depending upon how busy the site is, that those two sets of batteries providing eight hours could be, if the site gets busy during the power outage, could lessen to as little as four hours. And for a generator, a 20-kilowatt generator to be used as the substitute, you're talking about being able to run almost three days before needing a refill for that generator to maintain the site.

Now, in the recent storms that we've seen, whether they be Sandy or Irene, or the October snowstorm, our outages were extended, I think, for the October snowstorm some ten days throughout a lot of Connecticut. So in those instances we could have that compound filled with batteries, and we would still lose the site over an extended outage of that nature, which is not out of the realm of the weather we've seen in New England.

Another point about this size

generator. On previous applications when the equipment that ran our sites was larger and drew more power, we used to use larger generators storing more than twice the amount of diesel fuel here that's proposed. We have hundreds of these facilities backed by diesel generators of sizes ranging from 60 kW to 20 kW. We've never had a spill from a leak from a belly tank in any one of these diesel generators throughout New England that I'm aware of.

The other thing is, for people that use back-up generators at their home, if you're going to back up a 200 amp panel, which is consistent with the majority of electric services to homes, this is the size generator you would need if you wanted to run your home as if you still had commercial power. So it is used in residential applications for people who want to use back-up generators at their home. That's all.

MR. MERCIER: Thank you. Just out of curiosity, if you know, when they're filled, is there a large type of nozzle, or some type of spill features for the filling portion of the generator? I know there's tanks. But is there some other mechanism to catch any leaks, if the

hose is not hooked up properly, or something like that?

that. There are spill containments at the nozzle. There's a 12 gallon, a 2-and-a-half gallon for containment also. If the nozzle is left on by accident, another alarm will go off, and it's an audible alarm, to tell the operator the diesel is running. There's numerous features of the Generac design for just that purpose.

MR. MERCIER: Thank you. I just have a couple questions regarding the tower visibility analysis that was conducted. First, I guess, the Council on Environmental Quality had submitted some comments recently. So if you could tell me, Mr. Libertine, if you can just please provide a response to those comments, which officially said that they were concerned about visibility from West Rock State Park during leaf-on and leaf-off conditions?

THE WITNESS (Libertine): Certainly. I point to behind Tab 9 where the visibility analysis is presented. As usual, we've marked a 2-mile radius in black surrounding the site in the center of the map. In the western quadrant, if

you'll see a fairly steep ridge line about a mile and a half or so west of our location. That's essentially the West Rock State Park ridge line.

We did walk portions of that in the winter when we did our balloon float. There are few opportunities for eastern views. There are a few outlooks. With leaf-off conditions, we were not able to see the balloon in what I'll call that southern or central portion of West Rock Ridge.

As you get up to the northern portion, photos 19 and 25 are a little bit off of the ridge line itself. Well, actually 25 is at the northeastern most portion of the ridge line on one of the actual trails. We do have a shot there.

are looking east, and you do have a view of the valley, certainly you will see all the features of development that are out there. Primarily along that ridge, though, the predominant view and viewscapes and opportunities for outlooks are primarily to the west. There are I believe two locations that do jut out and allow you to look out to the east, but again, most of them are to the west.

It's evident that from some of those
locations that you can see eastward, if you know
what you're looking for down in the valley, to be
able see the tower. I'd offer that there are
several man-made structures that can be seen from
those locations as well.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. Klemens, I believe, has a question.

DR. KLEMENS: I actually have my list of questions, but it seemed an appropriate time to bring this up, having read the CEQ memo also.

Looking at your topographic map with your radius on it, and if you look at point number 19, and then you go sort of south, there's a large purple area in the topo map. It looks to me like that could be a large open-pit gravel quarry. Because I'm wondering if that is what we're seeing on photograph number 25. There's two areas. Are those open-pit quarries we're looking at?

THE WITNESS (Libertine): In the foreground of photo number 25 that is correct. I'm not sure if it's an active quarry or not. It's private. I didn't drive all the way in there, but it certainly is cleared land, yes.

25 DR. KLEMENS: And so actually I'm

seeing from this viewpoint two quarries. And I'm 1 seeing behind the quarry in the central part, I'm 2 3 seeing that as the monopole you have there, the proposed monopole? 4 5 THE WITNESS (Libertine): That's 6 correct. 7 DR. KLEMENS: Okay. And this is 8 probably just a value judgment. If you look upon 9 the visual disruption between that quarry versus 10 the monopole, what would you say professionally is the most visually disturbing and intrusive to the 11 12 landscape? THE WITNESS (Libertine): We are 13 talking about photo 25? 14 15 DR. KLEMENS: Photo number 25 proposed. THE WITNESS (Libertine): Well, 16 certainly the foreground is dominated by a couple 17 18 of open cleared areas. So I think those are more or less what I would consider to be the prominent 19 20 portions of the viewscape from that particular 21 location. DR. KLEMENS: So it's not in that 22 viewscape in any means. Answer one more question. 23

What is that red thing in the picture toward the

very right? I was trying to figure out what that

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1 is. THE WITNESS (Libertine): In the very 2 3 foreground? DR. KLEMENS: Yes. Is that the 4 5 balloon? THE WITNESS (Libertine): No. 6 It's 7 actually just a remnant leaf on the tree. 8 DR. KLEMENS: Okay. Thank you. 9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 10 MR. MERCIER: Staying with those topo 11 maps, we just looked at the photo simulation for 12 number 25, which actually went to the trail maps, 13 the Quinnipiac trail? THE WITNESS (Libertine): Correct. 14 15 MR. MERCIER: But photo location 19 is 16 if you go slightly southwest, there's a trail that climbs a ridge line? 17 18 THE WITNESS (Libertine): Correct. 19 MR. MERCIER: And it kind of extends in 20 a switchback manner. According to the state park map issued by the DEEP, there is an overlook there 21 22 that goes, it appears to be eastward. Given the 23 similar distance to the tower and the similar 24 height as photo 25, based on the topo map, would 25 you expect a similar type of view, that is,

1 looking down at the tower, not something that's
2 silhouette against the sky?

absolutely have a backdrop similar to this. I think it's a little bit lower in the elevation; but yes, I would offer that. That would be a very similar view, and actually almost might be the exact same elevation now that I'm looking at this topo. It's slightly closer, but a different aspect as well. So it would if you were looking at photo 25 and actually way off to the right, looking back at that, so I do believe you'd still have the backdrop similar to what you're seeing in this photograph. But it certainly would not be silhouetting against the sky.

MR. MERCIER: Now, looking at the aerial photograph in the visibility analysis, looking at the residential area around Country Club Drive, I didn't see any photographs taken within 1,000 foot radius along Country Club Drive. Is there any particular reason why there wasn't a closer photograph taken?

THE WITNESS (Libertine): Not really, just other than the fact that most of the homes within the 1,000 feet are on private property, and

- 1 those roads kind of skirt that 1,000-foot radius.
- 2 What we will always try to do is to get as many
- 3 photos that are representative of any given
- 4 location. So if it's visible, we're showing it
- 5 essentially. So there's no rhyme or reason to
- 6 that, other than the fact that we probably just
- 7 didn't have an opportunity to get within that
- 8 range where we can get an actual shot, other than
- 9 on the actual property owner's parcel.
- 10 MR. MERCIER: Now, if you would just
- 11 please turn to Exhibit 6, Ms. Sorrentino's
- 12 interrogatories, some the photographs we talked
- about earlier where some corrections were made. I
- 14 guess I'm looking at the aerial photograph of
- 15 Country Club Drive. Since photograph 5 was taken
- 16 at the Corner of Bear Path Road and it says Hume
- 17 Drive, if you'd just kind of review what you think
- 18 visibility would be on some of the residences
- 19 along this Country Club Drive? Obviously, you
- 20 have abutters and a couple down the street as you
- 21 go towards Bear Path, if you'd just review your
- 22 sense of visibility.
- THE WITNESS (Libertine): Well, I
- 24 certainly think with respect to photo location
- 25 number 5, when you're back at that intersection

where essentially Country Club Drive southern end is intersecting with Bear Path Road, when you're back a little bit, I think there are going to be some very similar views that are kind of through the trees when the leaves are off the trees. think as you probably noticed as you drove up Country Club itself and got to the cul-de-sac, you're so close to the site that those intervening trees are actually doing a fairly good job of screening to a certain degree a direct view, so you're getting some obscure or some obstructions. Then you really have to look up through the trees and above the trees to really get a sense of the top of the tower where if you step back a bit in this neighborhood, you obviously have a little different perspective. It's lower on the horizon, so to speak.

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So I think 5 is probably a fairly good representative shot from that general area. But as you move north towards the site, the actual height of the tower gets a little bit -- I don't want to use the word "compressed," but the perspective changes pretty dramatically, so that certainly when the leaves are on the trees, I don't think you're going to see much of that tower

- 1 at all from the cul-de-sac on Country Club Road.
- 2 I think this time of year, and obviously when the
- leaves are off the trees, through the trees
- 4 itself, a good portion of the tower, most of the
- 5 lower portion of the tower, is really going to be
- 6 the focal point, as opposed to the actual top, but
- 7 again, you've got that canopy -- well, not canopy
- 8 this time of year, but certainly the mast of the
- 9 trees themselves are doing a fairly good job at
- 10 breaking up the direct line of sight.
- 11 MR. MERCIER: So the abutters at the
- 12 end of Country Club Drive, they'll probably see
- 13 the mast of the monopole through the trees. Is
- 14 that what you --
- 15 THE WITNESS (Libertine): I think --
- 16 MR. MERCIER: -- the lowest portion of
- 17 the monopole?
- 18 THE WITNESS (Libertine): I think when
- 19 the leaves are off the trees, and certainly the
- 20 one at the end of the road, yes.
- MR. MERCIER: Okay. Will there be any
- 22 benefit to having a brown application paint or
- 23 some other surface covering up the monopole?
- 24 THE WITNESS (Libertine): A surface
- 25 color other than just kind of the standard steel

that does weather to kind of a soft gray, some sort of modeling might work. I always hesitate when we talk about brown sticks in a wooded setting, only because in New England, and in most of the deciduous forests that we have around, certainly in Connecticut, it's not just a straight brown that we tend to see. There's a lot of different types of trees. So we get kind of that

gray through brown tone.

- So to answer your question, yes, I think certainly some sort of -- I hate to use the word camouflage -- but some sort of paint other than the dull steel gray could certainly help benefit where we've got something set in the woods like this. Sure.
- MR. MERCIER: And for the compound itself, what would your sense be on Ms. Sorrentino's home -- that's number 46, obviously -- and the one in front? I don't have the address offhand, but the one that's due east of Ms. Sorrentino's residence. So they're the two closest residences to the structure, according to this diagram. So I just want to know if you feel the compound would be visible through the trees during leaf-off conditions.

THE WITNESS (Libertine): I think

during leaf-off with the new preferred route that

we've put forward, from my perspective,

aesthetically, I pushed for that just because I

felt if we could minimize trees coming out, or

being removed, it was obviously going to retain

that kind of natural screen that's there today. I

think if you know what you're looking for, and

you're looking with the leaves off the trees from

those two homes in their backyards, I would be

remiss if I stood here and said, oh, they'd be

absolutely invisible. It won't be. But I think

it will be softened considerably by not removing

all of those trees.

We have some options in terms of what we can do in terms of the -- instead of it just being a steel fence, we might want to consider either privacy slats, or maybe even a type of weave of the actual fence itself, so to kind of create a little bit more of a muted tone. The benefit now of Verizon going away from the shelters is that we have much less overt equipment in terms of bulk inside the actual compound. So we're really talking about a cabinet or two, and the monopole itself. So we don't have some of the

- larger appurtenances that you were more or less
 used to seeing up until about a year ago. So that
- 3 will help as well.
- 4 MR. MERCIER: Now, for the ground
- 5 equipment that you have proposed, offhand I don't
- 6 recall what the height of the canopy was, the
- 7 canopy roof? Do you have that?
- 8 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): I believe that
- 9 will be about 10 feet, 10 foot 6 above grade.
- 10 It's typically raised up on piers.
- 11 MR. MERCIER: And is an 8-foot fence
- 12 proposed right now?
- 13 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): An 8-foot
- 14 fence is proposed right now.
- 15 MR. MERCIER: And you said you could do
- 16 a weave. How about a wood-type architectural
- 17 fence. Is that something that you would consider?
- 18 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): CHECK reach
- 19 fence type at all (Inaudible.)
- 20 MR. MERCIER: If it remained a weave on
- 21 the fence, I would assume that's a chain-link
- 22 2-inch mesh fence that's proposed?
- 23 THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): I think
- 24 proposed right now is a 2-inch with privacy slats.
- 25 The slats could come out. The fence could be

- darkened, and the weave tightened up. It wouldn't
 require any privacy slats.
- MR. MERCIER: Is the fence with the
 weave on it climbable? Say someone gets inside
 the compound. Is that easily climbed or --
- THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): It's less

 easily climbed if we keep it at the tighter fence

 down to a one-inch where we'll lose the privacy

 slats, but it will be less climbable.
- MR. MERCIER: If you did a one-inch mesh?
- THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes, we can tighten up the mesh.
- MR. MERCIER: Could you put a weave on the one-inch mesh also?
 - THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): I'd have to confirm that, but if that will help to add to the aesthetics and block off the equipment, we can try to do that.
- THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hannon has a question.

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MR. HANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaking of aesthetics, are you better off going

in and trying to put in a natural buffer instead

of trying to figure out what slats do or don't

work? I mean, I know that the size of a

chain-link fence can be important as far as

keeping people out. But from the aesthetic, I'm

just wondering if going with a natural buffer

isn't better.

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): I think a combination may work nicely here, especially with the adjustment to the access road and discussions of relocating the turnarounds on the eastern portion of the compound. That will free up the south end to provide evergreen plantings along that border, which previously was not available because the road was coming in that way. So I think the balance of keeping the compound safe with a difficult fence to climb over. We haven't proposed barbed wire. It's been done, but we haven't proposed it on this particular application. But those two combinations, I think, will satisfy both of those issues.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. Klemens.

DR. KLEMENS: To follow up on that,
have you ever considered placing screening
shrubbery actually inside the compound? Because
when I see talking about planting shrubbery, I
think about deer eating the shrubbery. And then I

thought, well, if you put it inside the compound, rhododendrons, or mountain laurels, things like that that are natural and thrive there, that may be the best of both worlds. You don't have to worry about the deer eating them, and you can hide your equipment. Is there enough room in the compound to put inside the fence shrubbery? THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): The compound

fence -- it becomes a very desired real estate over time if other carriers are to locate equipment there. This is my 28th year of designing telecommunication facilities, and I haven't -- I don't recall ever seeing someone planting, intentionally, trees in a compound to block the equipment. Usually the fence would be the first buffer to that. And certainly the tree selection to keep the deer away is going to be critical.

DR. KLEMENS: I'm not talking about trees. I'm talking about shrubs. I'm talking about native shrubbery, such as rhododendron, that wouldn't take up a lot of space, maybe 5 feet along the fence, that by being inside the fence would not be subject to deer browse, would make a very very good natural screen. I'm not talking

about trees. I'm talking about a small segment of the interior fence, maybe 5 feet, and that might achieve the goals of screening the equipment, and also get away from the whole problem of trying to -- the maintenance of trying to keep deer from browsing the shrubbery. It's not trees I'm talking about.

I can't speak to the safety and reliability issues in terms of inside the compound, but if we were going to consider that which I think has a lot of merit in terms of the screening that it could provide in terms of trying to keep the deer out, you might want to consider like a 5-foot expansion of the compound so we could still accommodate future carriers as they become interested, but at the same time establish what you're suggesting, which I think makes some good sense.

The other option would be to create a second fence line to protect deer, but that just seems kind of overkill for something like this.

DR. KLEMENS: No. And I think the second you put the second fence line, what you have then is an area that's a maintenance nightmare invasively. If it's inside the

compound, you can control invasive plants. And I certainly, for one, wouldn't mind seeing a bit of a bigger compound to achieve that goal. But that's my opinion.

THE WITNESS (Libertine): From an aesthetic standpoint. I don't know what their options are, you know, reliability, and that type of issue.

THE CHAIRMAN: Of course, this also argues to the Council's position that if space, as somebody said, is valuable real estate and a premium, that just as carriers have to share the tower, they would share the generator and share the tank, you wouldn't need the space.

SENATOR MURPHY: Let me ask the question on the compound talking about the space. The amount of leased space in these applications is always quite a bit more than the compound. So value, I assume, is based upon the square footage of the lease, not necessarily of the compound. But if you make the compound larger, you're going to get extra costs, with a few minor exceptions, some more fencing. That makes a difference. But I can't remember seeing a lease that was the same size as the compound. The compound is always

quite a bit smaller, what I've seen. And I assume, and you can correct me if I'm wrong, that it's the square footage of the lease and not the compound that drives the cost.

THE WITNESS (Libertine): I think you're absolutely right. But in this case we certainly have more room outside of the compound that has been leased. So it wouldn't really affect the lease. It doesn't matter whether we expand this compound slightly to accommodate some shrubs on a couple of sides which, again, from an aesthetic standpoint could work very well to keep the deer browse to a minimum.

SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you.

THE WITNESS (Befera): If I may, the leased area is 2,750 square feet, which is shaped 55 feet by 50 feet. So that is the leased area. So the size of our compound and parking area, as it currently exists, is what size? 55 by 50. And the parking area is considered part of the access. Right?

THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): Yes.

THE WITNESS (Befera): Okay. So we've already made it the size that we technically leased for. Now, we can accomplish what you're

- suggesting, Dr. Klemens, by planting inside the fence on that one side. Now, it's fine with us. Our stuff is still going to fit.
- Now, if another carrier -- I know that AT&T is interested in this area. Maybe not this year but in the future they want to be here too. Now, if they can't fit in that compound, and the fence needs to be bumped out for their use, that's going to be their issue. Maybe they need to go talk to our landlord about leasing an extra 50 square feet to bump that fence out, or bump one of the other sides out, if they can't fit.

- So it's not a problem for us to take 10 -- you know, to take the 5 to 7 feet in it would take to accomplish what you're suggesting. It's in the future when someone else wants to go there. It might not be a problem for the next person. The third person, I don't know. So it certainly can be accomplished. The size compound we're proposing is what we have rights under our lease agreement, which is under Tab 17 of the package. That's the only point I wanted to make, and that we could do it.
- THE CHAIRMAN: I'm going to just make a point because this conversation -- I would like

- 1 for the next hearing to get a sense of what are we
- 2 screening, and how important is this, the
- 3 compound, to do what Dr. Klemens -- versus the
- 4 tower. I mean, I'm just not sure that the
- 5 compound, I understand with the 10-foot canopy,
- 6 obviously how visible that is, compared to
- 7 everything we're talking about, which seems to me
- 8 the more we talk about it, the more complicated it
- 9 is. But if you could provide that information,
- 10 the Chair would appreciate that?
- 11 Mr. Levesque has a question.
- MR. LEVESQUE: Dr. Klemens' suggestion,
- 13 I just want to clarify that you didn't mean it has
- 14 to be on all four sides, only where the most
- 15 visibility is. So it may only take one side to
- 16 bump out.
- THE WITNESS (Befera): (Nodding head in
- 18 the affirmative.)
- 19 THE WITNESS (Libertine): Well, just to
- 20 Mr. Befera's point, I don't think we're in a
- 21 position to bump anything out. We're going to
- 22 have to plant within the confines of what we have,
- 23 which is a good clarification. So we're confined
- 24 by that. We're really talking about the southern
- 25 | side, and maybe just moving along the east and

west edge slightly to kind of create a little bit of a U-shape from the cul-de-sac from the screen.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mercier.

MR. MERCIER: Thank you. Going back -THE CHAIRMAN: Wait a minute. Yes, Mr.

Harder.

MR. HARDER: The Chairman's comment made me think. We have several photographs showing simulated locations of the tower. Would it not be reasonable to provide -- I assume it's technically feasible -- to provide a simulated photograph of the compound at least from the nearby residences. We keep talking and imagining things in our mind what it's going to look like with vegetation, with a fence of this color -- or a tower of that color. Why not provide at least a simulated photograph, a sketch, something that's going to look as real as you can make it so we have an idea what it looks like so the residents also --

THE CHAIRMAN: I think that's what I was aiming for. Can you do that for our next meeting?

THE WITNESS (Libertine): We certainly can. I'm not sure what we have for photos. Well,

I know we don't have photos that give a clear view from the cul-de-sac to the compound just because we have intervening trees. But I think we can do something that would certainly be a good representation of what we're talking about. just not sure it's going to be a traditional photo simulation just because I don't know if we have that ability with the amount of trees that we have in that area.

THE CHAIRMAN: Which may answer the question that it's not an issue.

Let's go on.

MR. MERCIER: Thank you. I'm going to move to some of the photo simulations where you have a tree tower. The photographs are at the end of that exhibit. I was looking through the photographs, and I didn't really see any areas where the tower was well above the existing tree canopy. I just want to know what your thought was if actually a tree tower is a suitable application for this site given the photo simulations provided?

THE WITNESS (Libertine): Well, you're correct in that there's only a few locations, and they're fairly close to the Country Club where you

- get a low profile against the sky without some

 type of backdrop or whether or not the facility is

 actually in the woods. So the simple answer is,

 yes, a faux tree here would probably work really

 well, yes. Not much more to say. I think it
- would be very effective from a lot of nearbylocations certainly.

- MR. MERCIER: Now, I understand the tower is going to be designed to support a 20-foot extension. Is that correct?
- THE WITNESS (Libertine): I think these days that's pretty standard that the foundation is designed to be able to extend the tower 20 feet.
- MR. MERCIER: Although no photographs were given. What's your sense of extending the tree tower by 20 feet?
- THE WITNESS (Libertine): Well, my general rule of thumb is 10 or 15 feet, or even more in the 10 to 12 feet range doesn't usually make a big difference. Once you start pushing 20 feet or above, it starts to open views up from, I guess I'll call it, a general footprint of visibility. In other words, it will probably start to expand the amount of visibility.

In terms of the character of those

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    views, it's going to really depend upon where you
    are. I think you start pushing a faux tree tower
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    into the 170 or 180-foot range, that starts to get
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    pretty out of scale, out of context. I always
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    point to the Winchester tree just because that's
    the one that is kind of the poster child for
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    probably the max that we'd want to do, that type
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    of facility. At that point you might as well just
    do a tower because you're going to know what it is
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    as soon as you see it.
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               MR. MERCIER: Thank you. Are there any
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    structural challenges to the tree tower with the
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    20-foot extension on it, or it can just be
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THE WITNESS (Weinpahl): That could be designed for an extension.

MR. MERCIER: Thank you.

designed to support such an application?

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THE WITNESS (Befera): And just to be clear, we're not looking to extend this 20 feet. The 160-foot proposed is what we're looking for here.

MR. MERCIER: Will you just design the tower to support that then, rather than having a beefier tower and foundation?

THE WITNESS (Befera): Sure, we'd be

- 1 willing to do that, certainly.
- 2 MR. MERCIER: I don't have any other
- 3 questions at this time.
- 4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
- 5 Senator Murphy. We'll have questions
- 6 now from the Council members.
- 7 SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you. That
- 8 surprised me. Did I hear you right that Verizon
- 9 is willing to design this tower so that it would
- 10 not be able to go up based upon the base that's
- 11 put in there now?
- 12 THE WITNESS (Befera): Yes, we would be
- 13 willing to design this tower so that it would not
- 14 be extendable, and that the height would be capped
- 15 at --
- 16 SENATOR MURPHY: And so if we were to
- 17 approve this, and we put that in our decision that
- 18 by agreement that it be capped off at this height,
- 19 that would be acceptable to Verizon?
- 20 THE WITNESS (Befera): Yes, that would
- 21 be acceptable to Verizon. We're here for 160
- 22 feet. And the other carriers will just have to go
- 23 below us.
- 24 SENATOR MURPHY: Okay. Well, we're
- 25 aware that you can bump it up without us doing a

1 heck of a lot about it if you've done the base.

2 And when Mr. Libertine mentioned disguising

3 something at 170 and 180 feet when you're talking

4 about 160-foot tower I was thinking whoops -- but

5 I guess I was wrong on that. Fine. I'm sure

6 other members of the Council wouldn't have any

7 objection to you capping this off at 160 feet.

I'd like to talk about the need for this tower. You know, we haven't had any real tower carriers in quite sometime, the last, I believe, in Killingly, and out there the need, as we examined, is a lot different than here. There it was basically a coverage problem, whereas now we're running into capacity, and probably most that we see here would be capacity is the issue with the carrier as to why they need this tower. How did you decide that Verizon needed to put up this tower?

In the old days when I first came on here, when you came in with your propagations, I mean, you showed us where you cover, give or take, 2 or 3 miles around the tower, and there were all kinds of spaces outside of that where there was no coverage, and it was very clear that it was under that umbrella, or whatever you want to call it,

- 1 there was a need, and we went on from there.
- 2 Today it's a lot different. If you look at
- 3 propagation maps, everything is really covered,
- 4 and it's probably covered multiples of times.
- 5 And in your interrogatory response to
- 6 one of the questions you indicated dropped calls
- 7 is one of the items you used. Is that correct?
- 8 THE WITNESS (Laredo): That is correct.
- 9 SENATOR MURPHY: And you indicate that
- 10 in the Hamden 8 area, that's one of the
- 11 verifications of where there's a tower that's near
- 12 this one, that during April 9th of this year there
- 13 were 341 dropped calls. So my question to you is,
- 14 during that week how many calls did Hamden 8
- 15 receive?
- 16 THE WITNESS (Laredo): I actually do
- 17 not have the exact data for the number of calls,
- 18 but I have the percentage of those that were
- 19 dropped for Voice over LTE, which is 0.75 percent
- 20 based on this --
- 21 SENATOR MURPHY: Let's say at what
- 22 level of calls attempted in a given area were
- 23 dropped does Verizon feel they need to do
- 24 something to brace up their capacity? I know it's
- 25 a give or take, it's not 13.6 or something. Give

me a ballpark.

THE WITNESS (Laredo): Basically we're following the 0.5 percent. Anything above that we consider as a problematic area. For this case it's 0.75 percent. We're basically finding a 0.95 percent, on average, in most of the areas, even on a similar subscriber density similar to this specific site.

SENATOR MURPHY: So you have a threshold in dropped calls that you use?

THE WITNESS (Laredo): That's correct.

12 Like --

SENATOR MURPHY: Is it possible? Can you not provide us with the statistics for the rest of the towers that will be serviced by this proposed pole to indicate how many calls they have, and how many dropped calls they have, which really, I think, should be part of these capacity applications to show to us in numerical form that here's the number of calls we get, here's what we are handling, and this is what we can't, and that's why we need this new tower. Could you give

that to us as a late filing?

THE WITNESS (Laredo): Actually what I

exactly did is I identified the area where this proposed facility will be effectively serving, and take whatever issues is within that. Certainly we can provide each neighboring sector's performance, if that's the actual request. But for us to see the actual problem, we need to somehow identify where exactly we'll be solving these issues, as oppposed to generally showing the statistics that combines both good service and bad service.

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SENATOR MURPHY: I'm not really here to talk to Verizon because my experience has always been very good with Verizon. I'm really talking in terms of what I really think should be in an application that's primarily a capacity tower. And I'm thinking in terms of when AT&T shows up with something like that, and somebody else, the same type of criteria, to give us some statistical basis as to why the determination was made to spend this kind of money to put a tower on this particular location. And I'm sure you're not spending it just as a whim, but by the same token, I think that there should be -- that there is a way to try to almost codify showing us what it took for Verizon to come to that corporate decision to invest in this tower.

Also, you indicate in the response to the interrogatory that dropped calls is just one of the items analyzed. What else is there?

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THE WITNESS (Befera): Now, like what we talk about in the site search summary section of the responses to the Siting Council's interrogatories talks about the facilities that we have in Hamden, where they're located, and which ones are having the problem. Now, the Hamden 8 site doesn't exist, so the data that Jaime collects can only be collected from the adjacent sites. And because each site that surrounds the target area for this proposed location, each of those have three sectors each, we're able to tell the direction on where the problem is from those surrounding sites. For instance, the site that we have at Hamden 2, which is at 265 Bender Street in Hamden, the Alpha face is pointing directly towards the location that we're proposing. that face is too far away to provide the quality service, and is probably one of the major contributors of the 341 dropped calls during that week tested.

Then we have the site that is to the east, and we call that one our Hamden North site,

and that one is at the Connecticut Agricultural Station at 890 Evergreen Avenue. Now, the problem with that site is the Gamma face, which is facing directly west at this proposed location, that's a capacity issue. That's a capacity issue, meaning a customer can't get on the network. It's in exhaust. It runs out of capacity. So that whether you can't make a call because you have a low signal, or you can't make a call because you can't get a channel makes no difference to the customer. They can't make a call. This is a combination of a coverage and capacity need.

And I could also mention two other sites that are to the southeast of this proposed location that has a coverage issue because it's in between the Alpha and Gamma. It's in the null facing this proposed location, and that null of coverage contributes to the coverage problem. And then we have one other site that is kind of southeast of this proposed location, and that's the Alpha face, again, the one that's pointing north, that one is a capacity issue, and that's approaching exhaust.

SENATOR MURPHY: Why is it you can't lay it out for us? And I assume that if this is

approved, you're going to make certain changes in your sector and your antenna. But I just think there should be a better way for you to equate or pass onto us the basis upon which Verizon made the decision to put a tower here. It used to be easy in the old days. And I understand it's hard, and things change with some developments, and population shifts, there are changes there too. I

MR. BALDWIN: Senator, Murphy, perhaps

I could just add --

don't know if anybody else has that problem.

SENATOR MURPHY: Go ahead.

MR. BALDWIN: -- that the pieces that

Jaime and Tony were testifying to are in different

places. And perhaps what we can do prior to the

follow-up hearing is put them into one more

concise document so that it's clearer for the

Council as to the justification for the facility.

SENATOR MURPHY: Right. Thank you.

And what I'm really talking about is the next time you gather together to do a capacity site, I'd like to see it.

MR. MERCIER: Just a follow-up on some things that were discussed. So Mr. Laredo, as you present in the application, this is a service gap

1 site, as well as it's a capacity site. Is that 2 correct? 3 THE WITNESS (Laredo): That's correct. MR. MERCIER: Does one take precedence 4 5 over the other? Is there a particular site or sector that's exhausting that you need to have 6 7 relief to, or is a coverage gap just as important? 8 THE WITNESS (Laredo): Actually the --9 well, all the issues are important, although this 10 one was originally designed to alleviate all gaps as soon as possible. Certainly there are specific 11 12 sectors that are calling for more capacity than 13 the rest of the exhausting ones. It's worth mentioning Hamden North Connecticut Gamma sector. 14 15 It's the one that really needs special attention 16 as well. 17 MR. MERCIER: Okay. That's the one 18 that was listed in Interrogatory 5? 19 THE WITNESS (Laredo): That's correct. MR. MERCIER: And there's three others 20 that are listed there. There's Hamden North 2, 21 22 700 Beta; Hamden 700 Beta, and Hamden 2100 Beta. And those three were just listed as exhausting, 23 24 but there was no time frame given. So that's 25 information that we could have also. I don't know

if you have that information now or not. 1 THE WITNESS (Laredo): I can certainly 2 3 prepare that for those. MR. MERCIER: And also to continue on 4 5 in that interrogatory response, it states that the new site proposed here today will provide "some" 6 7 capacity relief to those three sectors I just 8 listed, but it doesn't really say what "some" is. 9 Is that a significant portion of the sector? 10 it 50 percent? To have some type of qualification as to what "some" means would be helpful. 11 12 THE WITNESS (Laredo): I can guarantee 13 at least 30 percent offload for the Hamden North Gamma sector, and quite a small portion of offload 14 15 for the other two sectors. 16 MR. MERCIER: The other two are Hamden 700, and Hamden 2100? 17 18 THE WITNESS (Laredo): I'm sorry? 19 MR. MERCIER: Your response said Hamden 700, and Hamden 2100 in Interrogatory 5. 20 THE WITNESS (Laredo): That's correct. 21 MR. MERCIER: So I think you just gave 22 23 me 30 percent for Hamden North too.

THE WITNESS (Laredo): That's right.

MR. MERCIER: So now we have the two

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others, Hamden 700 and Hamden 2100.

THE WITNESS (Laredo): I cannot definitely give a specific number because it requires optimization of the site as well.

MR. MERCIER: Okay. Now, when you designed the site, right now you have some coverage gaps, which you outlined, and also you stated that the Hamden North Gamma sector is already exhausted, or just about to be. When you designed the site, how far into the future do you plan to provide the relief; that is, how long will this site work and keeping the Hamden North Gamma working without exhausting again? Would that be a problem if this site was built, if Hamden North Gamma exhaust again in some future time, maybe five years or --

THE WITNESS (Laredo): At this point it's so far in advance, but based on how the traffic trend is growing right now, it's more than enough to provide capacity for all the neighboring sectors that it intends to help in the next three to four years. Although the one thing I cannot guarantee is how traffic is being -- I mean, services are being utilized by our subscribers. Based upon what we see in the past years, it's

growing a little similar to exponential so --1 MR. MERCIER: Okay. Just one other 2 3 question. You provided these coverage maps. by providing capacity relief to the proposed 4 5 service area, would it actually be smaller than shown, you know, effective service area because if 6 7 this proposed site overlaps with a good portion of 8 Hamden North, would the actual service area of 9 this site be smaller on this plan? THE WITNESS (Laredo): 10 That's correct. It will be somewhere in between. But of course 11 12 factors like topography and the location of the 13 proposed facility, it tends to cover more, as opposed to Hamden North's existing coverage, so it 14 15 will eventually shrink as part of our 16 optimization. MR. MERCIER: It will shrink right 17 18 after you turn it on and optimize it? 19 THE WITNESS (Laredo): Yes. 20 MR. MERCIER: So by saying it will provide service to 5 square miles, but really once 21 22 you turn it on and optimize it, it's going to be a lot smaller, I'll just say two-and-a-half square 23 24 miles, just throwing figures out there just

randomly. I mean, it will shrink.

So it's not

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really servicing 5 square miles?

THE WITNESS (Laredo): I cannot say the majority it will shrink, but definitely there's a significant reduction, yes.

> MR. MERCIER: Thank you.

SENATOR MURPHY: 6 I have a question, 7

Mr. Chairman.

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THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Harding.

MR. HARDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to just try to pin down a couple of loose ends on the visibility issue. I know the Council on Environmental Quality had included a comment in their letter, a suggestion, I guess, that additional photographs be provided that they felt would be more meaningful. I know there's some photographs in the proposal from Country Club Road, but I believe they're further down Country Club Road. They're not right at the cul-de-sac.

And I know you had indicated that just generally one of the reasons why some photographs hadn't been taken closer was because to do that you'd have to go on private property. So I'm wondering, I guess, two questions: One, in any of the submissions have you provided, or could you provide, photographs that are more responsive to

is, have you requested permission from the
property owners to go on their property to take
photographs that would be a little more

the CEQ comment and request? And the other thing

5 meaningful, a little more demonstrative, I guess,

of what the views would be from those properties?

THE WITNESS (Libertine): To answer your question, we have on some dockets, once we're into the process, gone to folks' properties. As a matter of course, we do this at the direction of Verizon. And, of course, we can't -- we really don't have an application at that point, so we really don't have a mechanism other than to really go knock on somebody's door. So we don't as a matter of right go on private property.

What we do try to do is to evaluate those properties as best we can basically standing at the edge of their driveway. If there's a shot that's worth taking, we will. We have lot of photos we often take that don't make it into the report that are essentially looking into the woods or into obstructed areas. That's helpful for us to go back and take look at so we can kind of characterize a view.

But I guess to answer your question as

- honestly as possible, there's just no mechanism to go and request to get onto folks' properties. what we try to do, again, is just do the best we can in terms of trying to characterize it either from the edge of our property looking back into their property, or again from the public rights-of-way, and try to make some -- get as good a factual opinion as we can as to what the views might be from those backyards.
 - So yes, we don't really -- again, we don't -- unless we're asked during the process to do it, that's about the only time we've really gone onto private properties.

MR. HARDER: I can see in some situations taking a photograph and doing a simulation from the driveway, or end of the driveway, might be representative, but I guess thinking specifically of the Sorrentinos, the end of the driveway really isn't representative.

THE WITNESS (Libertine): Absolutely.

MR. HARDER: The other thing is, you say you don't have a mechanism. Isn't the mechanism just knocking at the door and asking for permission?

THE WITNESS (Libertine): Well, we've

- 1 run into problems in the past with that in that
- 2 there are legal issues. I'm representing Verizon
- 3 to step onto somebody else's property without
- 4 protection for both the property owner, as well as
- 5 myself and my company. It gets a little bit
- 6 sticky. So we've been doing this for about 20
- 7 years. And so that's become kind of the standard
- 8 procedure. It has its limitations. You bring up
- 9 a good point, but they are limitations, and
- 10 | they're ones we have to live with. So that's kind
- 11 of where we've gotten to this point.
- 12 SENATOR MURPHY: You should do a
- 13 survey. You have statutory authority to do that.
- 14 THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. Klemens.
- 15 DR. KLEMENS: I just want to follow up
- 16 on that. And I've seen the problems in the past
- 17 when people have come out on private property.
- 18 But that doesn't preclude the intervenor from
- 19 doing a photo simulation from her driveway and
- 20 submitting it to the Council.
- 21 THE WITNESS (Libertine): Certainly.
- 22 Absolutely.
- DR. KLEMENS: Thank you.
- MR. HARDER: I have a couple of
- 25 questions, I guess, to get to the visibility issue

- 1 somewhat. I understand from the petition
- 2 regarding wetlands that I think the closest
- 3 wetland to the tower location is about 600 feet.
- 4 Is that -- or is it 300? I recall a couple
- 5 different numbers.
- 6 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): It's
- 7 approximately 280 feet off the property to the
- 8 south is the closest wetland resource.
- 9 MR. HARDER: So there's no wetland on
- 10 the property itself?
- 11 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): That's
- 12 correct. There are no wetlands on the subject
- 13 property or in close proximity to the proposed
- 14 tower along the property boundary.
- 15 MR. HARDER: So I guess I'm wondering
- 16 just in general thinking of wetlands or other
- 17 issues, one question, are there any residences or
- 18 structures, residential structures, I guess, on
- 19 the property immediately to the north of the
- 20 subject property?
- 21 THE WITNESS (Libertine): No, that's
- 22 undeveloped wooded land.
- 23 MR. HARDER: So I'm wondering, I think
- 24 you addressed a point raised by Mr. Mercier
- 25 earlier about the possibility of moving the

1 facility slightly north. Would anything be gained

2 by moving it east, north and then east, so it's

3 further from the properties on Country Club? The

visibility from there isn't as much of an issue.

5 That's why I was wondering was there any

6 residences on the northerly property, does it

7 raise or bring up any issues related to wetlands

on those properties, visibility from those

9 properties, or anything else?

THE WITNESS (Libertine): We certainly are not constrained moving to the north, or the northeast, by any kind of a wetland resource, or any natural feature, nor do we push it really towards any residences, or much closer to any residences because, again, we have some buffer to the north.

This site has kind of a long history in that AT&T was interested in this particular property years back, and this is essentially the same exact location that the property owner had executed a lease with AT&T at that time. So now we fast forward, AT&T, for whatever reason, still has a need in this area, but it wasn't in their build plan, they stepped out, and Verizon came in. And the property owner said, well, here's where we

were, why don't we just do this. So that's kind of basically how we got here.

aesthetically, moving the compound and tower to the northeast to get it essentially along the wood edge into the field so we're not really disturbing a lot of trees, solely from my perspective, aesthetically, that's a win/win, because we're maintaining the buffer. We are impacting the property owners operation. I think that's probably his main reason for wanting to kind of just push it into the woods slightly. But certainly from an aesthetic standpoint for the neighbors to the south, there is certainly an advantage to consider that type of a shift. We certainly have no other constraints.

MR. HARDER: Thank you. No more questions.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. Klemens.

DR. KLEMENS: Following up on that question, I was amazed when we went on the site today, and we walked up the hill, and then we walked down to what I call the monopole in the hole, and it just seems to me that it's terribly inefficient. Let me back up. What is the

elevation where the current compound is being ground ASL?

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So where I'm going with this is I'm going to ask you what the ASL is on the basalt ridge to the north behind the residence of the house and what the difference in feet is.

THE WITNESS (Libertine): I'm going to have to defer to the site plan here.

DR. KLEMENS: Let me tell you where I'm going with this. I'd like to get the figures. mean, we walked out down the second alternative. We walked up what is basically a basalt ridge. Amazing you see Christmas trees blasted into little holes growing into that basalt ridge. it occurred to me is how many feet of this tower would we save if we put it up on that ridge? mean, I just looked at it. I think it would probably cut 20, 30 feet off the tower, just my -and then I looked who would be impacted most, and there was a gray house. And I realize now looking at your application that that's the leaseholder's house. So that to me seems a logical place to put a tower. It makes the tower shorter. It obviates the need for a massive road that goes through woodland, and it just seems a much more sensible

place to put a tower. And yes, you've cut down a few stunted Christmas trees which are struggling to grow in the traprock there. It just seems so silly to see what we're doing.

THE WITNESS (Libertine): Dr. Klemens, since we're coming back, and this is going to require probably everyone at this table's input, could we maybe table that, and come back to that when we come back on the 13th?

DR. KLEMENS: Sure.

THE WITNESS (Libertine): We can have a more comprehensive answer. I think you're putting a lot of us on the spot. I'm not sure we have the exact elevation. I know Jaime would have to look at it. And I don't want to speak for him, but my understanding typically it's not just a matter of if you had an X value here, and we gain 20 feet here, we could drop 20 feet. But your point is a valid one, and we should look at that, and come back with an educated answer for you.

DR. KLEMENS: I mean, to me just from my layman's perspective, you should try to put your tower at a higher spot nearby, and not a lower spot and make up for it in the structure.

That's just my -- I'd like you to look into that.

- 1 I'd also like you to not have to take down all those trees.
- THE WITNESS (Libertine): It's a good point.
- DR. KLEMENS: To me you've got a field there, and it seems logical to put it in a field, as opposed to putting it in a known forest.

- THE WITNESS (Befera): And that's certainly something, Dr. Klemens, that we would have to discuss with the owner of the property too.
- DR. KLEMENS: I could see the owner might like to like it as far away from his house as possible. I can understand, but I'd like you to at least consider that, because I think that, to me, looked like a logical place.

Let's get to capacity because I struggle with the same thing that Senator Murphy did is, I looked at the propagation maps and saw except for the 2100 megahertz that really it's a capacity issue. And I struggle with the same thing. You're supposed to determine need, and yet how do you -- you really don't have any data, comparative data, to determine need. You say you have X number of dropped calls as a percentage,

but that's such a huge part of the state. I have no idea what that means in terms of the overall number of calls that are happening. You're in a very densely populated part of the state. It doesn't seem like that many dropped calls, but that's just, again, my perspective. But I don't know how we can measure need.

And I come from part of the state where I can drive down my road -- and I'm a Verizon customer -- and I have dropped calls two or three times by the time I get to the end of my road. So I guess what I see is we're building capacity in the dense parts of the state. We're doing very little to improve basic voice service in rural parts of the state. That's just a comment.

Monopole collapse. Do you have any data on monopole collapse? We keep hearing about having to put the pole a certain distance from a house because the pole can collapse. Do we have any data, have monopoles collapsed?

THE WITNESS (Befera): There's very limited data on it because it is something that really doesn't happen. The way that monopoles are designed, you notice they taper as they go higher up. The reason for that is in the case of serious

weather, and designs and standards vary based on counties, based on average wind speeds. design for a coastal county would have to be much more substantial than a design for say an inland county, for example. Meaning that the coastal tower would have to be more fortified to hold the same amount of equipment than the inland one would. Right.

Now, they're tapered like that because should there be something beyond the normal hurricane, tornado, they're designed -- the highest winds are higher up typically -- they're designed to bend and fall into themselves, not to fall over from the base. That's why you don't hear about towers falling over from the base. You might hear about a failure towards the upper portion where it's tapering, and it just bends into itself, but still remains upright.

DR. KLEMENS: So one of the intervenor's concerns is that the proximity and was it 220 feet from the property line, 270 feet from her home, that if a tower were to collapse, or partially collapse, that would also set off potentially trees collapsing toward her house. Do you have any data on such an event happening?

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               THE WITNESS (Befera): No, sir.
          I have no data on any of our towers
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    sir.
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    collapsing, not even bending over. I mean, we
    stress these things out for a minimum of four
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    carriers, and we make sure that our towers are
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    well fortified.
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               DR. KLEMENS: So this tower is going to
    be 160 feet tall?
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               THE WITNESS (Befera): As the proposal
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    stands, yes.
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               DR. KLEMENS: And her property is 220
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    and 270. So even if it were to fall over
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    completely, which you say has never happened, it
    still would not reach her property?
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               THE WITNESS (Befera): That's correct.
               DR. KLEMENS: Has there ever been a
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    monopole bent over collapsed in Connecticut?
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               THE WITNESS (Befera): I'm not aware of
    any, sir.
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               DR. KLEMENS: Could you look to see if
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    it's happened? Because we hear about this a lot.
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    People bring this up. And I'd like to know if
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    there's been any data on that where if you could
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    for the next hearing see if there's any
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    information on that because it just would be
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- 1 helpful to me.
- THE WITNESS (Befera): Okay. I only
- 3 know that none of ours have ever, but we'll see if
- 4 we can find something. You know, maybe in the
- 5 midwest where they get a lot of tornadoes,
- 6 something like that. I don't know.
- 7 DR. KLEMENS: Well, I'm more interested
- 8 in right in this region. I mean, I lived in
- 9 Florida for a time, and I see how they reinforce
- 10 them in Florida. It's different than here because
- 11 of hurricanes. But I'd like to know here, here,
- 12 if you have information here from New England of
- any of this happening.
- 14 THE WITNESS (Befera): Should we limit
- 15 our search to the State of Connecticut?
- 16 DR. KLEMENS: Connecticut,
- 17 Massachusetts, New England. I mean, within our
- 18 region. There's no reason to go down. I'm just
- 19 curious if there's ever been any instance of it,
- 20 because we hear about it all the time as a reason
- 21 to move it away from residences, and people don't
- 22 want it near their residence. I'd just like to
- 23 get some information, if it exists. Thank you. I
- 24 think I've covered pretty much --
- 25 The trees that you propose to take down

- are primarily red oaks, I presume. Is that correct?
- THE WITNESS (Gustafson): That is

 correct. It's predominantly an oak-beech dominant

 forest. So the majority of trees to be removed

 are oak, red and black oak.
- 7 DR. KLEMENS: Do you have any sense of 8 the age of those trees, and how long it took them 9 to get to that size? It's, I presume, a 10 second-growth forest?

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- THE WITNESS (Gustafson): It certainly is a second-growth forest. There are a lot of factors that go into determining tree age without actual sampling. Some of that area is pretty thin soiled. So the larger trees are probably older than trees that would be in a comparable forest that had more rich soils. But I would probably estimate that some of those trees are 60, 80 years old, maybe a little bit older, but probably in that range, but definitely it's a second-growth forest.
- DR. KLEMENS: Would you

 characterize this -- we'll get to the box turtle.

 Would you characterize this as a fragmented

 suburban habitat, or more of an intact forest

habitat? 1 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Essentially 2 there's -- including the subject property and then 3 properties to the north -- there's a small core 4 5 forest that's probably classified as a small core forest habitat that's been heavily fragmented 6 7 along the margins by the golf course, and then 8 residential developments that essentially surround 9 that area. So it's not a large intact forest 10 block. It's probably a small fragmented core forest. 11 12 DR. KLEMENS: Can you just again for 13 the next hearing give us a sense of what the size of that forest block is, if it's more than 500 14 15 acres, or more than 1,000 acres? 16 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): Yes, we'll 17 provide that information. 18 DR. KLEMENS: Thank you. 19 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): You're 20 welcome. 21 DR. KLEMENS: No further questions, Mr. 22 Chairman. 23 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hannon. 24 MR. HANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 25 To follow up on the wetlands and the mapping, Tab

1 11 shows the wetlands, and they're delineated as
2 Connecticut DEEP wetlands. Was there any specific
3 soil testing done on the site?

THE WITNESS (Gustafson): There was

- 5 soil testing done on the subject property. We did a thorough investigation of the property, 6 7 particularly in locations within 200 feet of the 8 proposed development activities. No wetland soils 9 were identified on the subject property. 10 in order to try to identify the nearest wetland resource to the proposed project, we relied on the 11 state wetland data provided by DEEP. 12
- MR. HANNON: Thank you.
- 14 THE WITNESS (Gustafson): You're
- 15 welcome.

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- 16 MR. HANNON: Actually in the
 17 introduction, the executive summary on page 22,
 18 are the estimated cost and schedule. The first
 19 item is the overall scheduling. It looks like
 20 you're saying roughly 8 to 12 weeks after the D&M
 21 plan would be submitted to the Council and
- MR. BALDWIN: Can you give us that page reference again? I'm sorry.
- MR. HANNON: Page 22.

approved. Is that correct?

1 MR. BALDWIN: Of the application? THE WITNESS (Libertine): Executive 2 3 summary. MR. HANNON: It's actually under 4 5 Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer. And I don't understand why it's there, but it's 6 7 dealing with the overall scheduling, capital D1. 8 THE WITNESS (Befera): Yes, that's 9 Yes. accurate. MR. HANNON: And that is after the --10 assuming this gets approved and the D&M plan comes 11 12 in, it's roughly two to three months after the 13 approval of the D&M plan? THE WITNESS (Befera): Yes. 14 There 15 might be a gap there up to 30 days to obtain the actual building permit because we can't apply for 16 17 the building permit without the approved D&M. 18 building inspectors have up to 30 days once they're in receipt of all materials requested to 19 issue that. 20 That's fine. Thank you. 21 MR. HANNON: 22 Going between C-2 and C-2, meaning the old map and 23 the new map. The old map was submitted in the 24 original application. There was a line of silt

fence that was proposed to the southwest portion

- 1 of the drive, and there was also a level spreader.
- 2 In looking at the map that was just recently done
- 3 relocating the road to the north, none of that
- 4 seems to have also been incorporated in the plan.
- 5 And I'm assuming, based on the topography that
- 6 I've seen on the original submittal, is that you
- 7 are going to need to put in a level spreader
- 8 there, and you probably still need to do the silt
- 9 fence as a precautionary measure. But is that
- 10 something you can go back and make sure that that
- is addressed for the next meeting?
- 12 THE WITNESS (Couch): Yes, sir. The
- 13 alternate plan is shown -- or we'd like to be able
- 14 to provide an alternate. It's not being proposed
- 15 as at that time was the final design solution. So
- 16 the silt fence, to the extent that grading, the
- 17 sedimentation erosion control, and the storm
- 18 drainage measures around it still need to be
- 19 addressed to be able to accommodate that driveway,
- 20 and however that compound and that driveway
- 21 interacts with the compound. So yes.
- MR. HANNON: Understood.
- MR. BALDWIN: I mean, we've got some
- 24 time to do that now. And we'll take care of that
- 25 between now and the 13th.

MR. HANNON: That's fine. I just want to make sure that's addressed. And the numbers probably changed. You may not have had a chance to look at this. I had asked the question out at the site as far as what was the net fill volume, net material that needed to be brought into the site. That was given the original load location. I'm just wondering if you by any chance worked out the numbers in terms of the amount of material, amount of fill that has to be brought to the site, if you're using the northern-most route proposed.

THE WITNESS (Couch): Yes. With the joys of texting, I contacted the office, and they told me through text that the original was 330 cubic yards, and the alternate was 410 cubic yards.

MR. HANNON: 400 what?

THE WITNESS (Couch): 410.

MR. HANNON: Thank you.

Also, it looks like -- another question I had out at the site was at approximately station zero plus 80. It looked like there was a drainage swale out there. It looks as though the road, by relocating it to the north, it may circumvent a large portion of that area, but that's something

- that could be looked at. You can see by the 1 grading that's out there, the current topography, 2 being out on the site, you can see it actually 3 draining from the northeast towards the southwest. 4 5 And I just want to make sure that what's being done, both in terms of the drainage that may be 6 7 picked up by the fill that's going in on the 8 roadway, is not going to have an adverse impact on 9 any property to the south? THE WITNESS (Couch): Yes, that would 10 be looked at, absolutely. 11 12 MR. HANNON: Actually some of my other 13 questions have been asked and answered, so I actually believe that is about it. Thank you. 14 15 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Levesque. MR. LEVESQUE: If Verizon acquires 16
 - the facilities? Has Verizon acquired any
 equipment?

 THE WITNESS (Befera): I'm sorry. I
 didn't catch that.

Cellco, what kind changes would result in some of

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- 22 MR. LEVESQUE: Do you have a proposed acquisition of another company?
- 24 THE WITNESS (Befera): Our proposed 25 acquisition -- oh, in the media you may have heard

1 of something that we're looking at, Yahoo.

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MR. LEVESQUE: Right.

THE WITNESS (Befera): Well, that would be so that we could expand the service that we provide to a whole new set of customers, perhaps, or expand the services that we provide to our existing customers. I mean, we need to -everybody who wants a cell phone these days has a cell phone pretty much. Right? So other than taking customers from T-Mobile, or T-Mobile taking customers from us, for the company to continue to grow and be profitable, we need to expand our areas of business. That's why you might have heard about them talking about Disney, you heard them talking about Yahoo, different types of media that I'm sure the company wants to get into because the company needs to continue to grow. MR. LEVESQUE: Would there be more equipment that would have to be installed at antenna sites?

THE WITNESS (Befera): That's really hard to say at this point. What we are familiar with is the next generation of wireless, and it's the 5G, and I think that's taken on as it has evolved from the original days of wireless

- 1 technology. Everything seems to be getting a little smaller. It doesn't necessarily mean that 2 the structure is going to get shorter, but in some 3 instances that could be the case if you have, you 4 5 know, different types of frequencies, or different types of services, if we were to add additional 6 7 types of services that we don't currently offer as a result of an acquisition, it might be an 8 additional equipment on the ground, it might be an 9 additional or substitution of the equipment on the 10 existing structures. Those are the only forms it 11 really could take, if it's going to be delivered 12
 - MR. LEVESQUE: Thank you. And as far as when you do your analysis of loading or failure, isn't the biggest danger in New England ice on the facility and a wind storm where there's ice on it?

in a wireless fashion.

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- THE WITNESS (Befera): They are designed with assuming it is coated in so much of an inch of radial ice around the whole thing.

 That's all worked into the conservative design.

 And those standards are very conservative.
- MR. LEVESQUE: And actually they might
 be more resistant to ice, wind storm, than lattice

towers?

THE WITNESS (Befera): Once again, I think it all depends on what it's designed for because there are lattice towers out there that are designed to hold a whole lot more than monopoles and vice-versa. It depends on the design. The difference with the monopole versus the lattice tower in terms of structural integrity is when you get to the point where you're at 90 percent of the tower's capacity, it's a lot easier to beef up a lattice tower's capacity than it is a monopole's capacity.

MR. LEVESQUE: Thank you. On the generator you have, you know, a 4 cylinder diesel generator. And you fairly stated that some of the homeowners have other brands generators also. Is there a generator model or type that you could choose that would be quieter?

THE WITNESS (Befera): I'm not aware of a different model or type of generator that would run quieter. What we do know is that we get, in applications like this, we get the -- they have different grades of muffler systems. Whether it be in a commercial area, or residential area, or industrial area, they have different grades of

sound attenuating enclosures that go over these units. And what we do on all of ours, regardless of where they go, is we get the best sound attenuating enclosure that they call the residential, we get the residential muffler on it, so that sound is minimized. And these units, as you've seen many applications of ours in the past, are one-third of the size of units we've got in hundreds of locations throughout the State of

MR. LEVESQUE: So if approved, you'd make efforts to get the best cabinets, and the latest model that's quieter?

Connecticut.

THE WITNESS (Befera): We do. We do
that. And we also have when it comes to the
concern for the tank systems and the double wall
nature of the fire marshal approved double wall
tank systems and belly tanks. Right? We also
have a program that we replace our older
generators every year. Every year we allocate,
let's call it, a million dollars in the State of
Connecticut for us to look at the statistics, the
servicing statistics of each and every unit from
the operations team, and those generators that
required the most amount of service calls in the

- prior calendar year, in addition to those that
 have been in service for the longest length of
 time, we target those each and every year to be
 replaced with new units. So we have an ongoing
 generator maintenance program and replacement plan
 so that we don't have units out there for longer
- 8 MR. LEVESQUE: Okay. Thank you.

than they should be.

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- 9 THE CHAIRMAN: We're going to recess
 10 now. We'll resume deliberations at 7 p.m., at
 11 which time we'll commence the public comment
 12 session.
- MR. COHEN: Mr. Chairman --
- 14 THE CHAIRMAN: I haven't even gotten my
 15 chance to go yet.
 - MR. COHEN: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a procedural question? With respect to the continued hearing, which is a term that I use anyway, June 13th, there were a lot of great questions that the Council members and staff asked today, generated. My cross-examination could be very lengthy. My suggestion is if the Council is amenable, I'm happy to send a supplemental set of interrogatories, and perhaps minimize that cross.

But I don't want to do that without your

permission. 1 2 THE CHAIRMAN: We'll develop the schedule. And we appreciate that. 3 4 MR. COHEN: Thank you. 5 THE CHAIRMAN: We'll provide the 6 procedure on when --7 MR. COHEN: It would also be helpful, respectfully, if we could get the responses that 8 9 the applicant was asked to provide today a little bit earlier than the day before the hearing. 10 11 don't mean to be facetious, but the sooner we can get that --12 THE CHAIRMAN: There will be a 13 schedule. 14 MR. COHEN: Thank you. 15 (Whereupon, the witnesses were excused 16 and the above proceedings were adjourned at 5:06 17 18 p.m.) 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

1	CERTIFICATE
2	I hereby certify that the foregoing 93 pages
3	are a complete and accurate computer-aided
4	transcription of my original stenotype notes taken
5	of the Public Hearing in Re: DOCKET NO. 471,
6	CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS
7	APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
8	COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR THE
9	CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF A
10	TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY LOCATED AT 208 KIRK
11	ROAD, HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT, which was held before
12	ROBERT STEIN, CHAIRMAN, at Memorial Town Hall,
13	2372 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut, May 2,
14	2017.
15	
16	
17	Lisa Wally
18	_ Marie to act
19	Lisa L. Warner, L.S.R., 061
20	Court Reporter
21	
22	
23	
24	

				75
1		INDEX		
2	WITNESSES	ANTHONY BEFERA	PAGE 11	
3		RICHARD COUCH		
4		DEAN GUSTAFSON		
5		JAIME LAREDO		
6		MICHAEL LIBERTINE		
7		DAVID WEINPAHL		
8	EXAM	INERS:		
9		Mr. Baldwin		
10		Mr. Mercier		
11		Mr. Murphy		
12		Mr. Klemens		
13		Mr. Levesque		
14		Mr. Harder		
15		Mr. Hannon		
16				
17		APPLICANT'S EXHIBITS		
18		(Received in evidence)		
19	EXHIBIT	DESCRIPTION	PAGE	
20	II-B-1	Application and bulk file	18	
21	Exhi	bits A-E		
22	II-B-2	Applicant's affidavit of	18	
23	publ	ication, dated March 13, 2017		
24				
25				

1	APPLICANT	'S EXHIBITS (Cont'd):		
2			- 200	
3	EXHIBIT	DESCRIPTION	PAGE	
4	II-B-3	Applicant's responses to	18	
5	Counc	cil's interrogatories, dated		
6	April	l 6, 2017		
7	II-B-4	Applicant's sign posting	18	
8	affic	davit, dated April 21, 2017		
9	II-B-5	Applicant's pre-hearing	18	
10	submi	ission, dated April 24, 2017		
11	II-B-6	Applicant's responses to	18	
12	Patri	icia Sorrentino's pre-hearing		
13	inte	rrogatories, dated April 24, 20)17	
14	II-B-7	Letter from Dawn M. McKay,	18	
15	Dept	. of Energy and Environmental		
16	Protection to Dean Gustafson,			
17	All-I	Points Technology Corporation,		
18	Re:	Natural Diversity Data Base		
19	Dete	rmination and Turtle Protection	ı	
20	Plan	, dated April 27, 2017		
21	II-B-8	Applicant's Alternate access	18	
22	road	site plan (Sheet C-2)		
23				
24				
25				