



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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March 29, 2017

TO: Parties and Intervenors

FROM: Melanie Bachman, Executive Director *MAB*

RE: **DOCKET NO. 471** - Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a telecommunications facility located at Hamden Tax Assessor's Map 2826, Block 24, 208 Kirk Road (a/k/a 1075 Paradise Avenue), Hamden, Connecticut.

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Comments have been received from the State of Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality, dated March 29, 2017. A copy of the comments is attached for your review.

MB/RDM/lm

c: Council Members



COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Susan D. Merrow  
Chair

Janet P. Brooks

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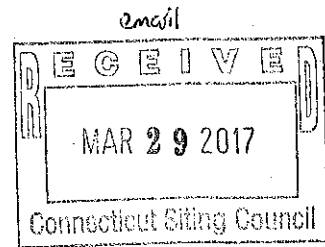
Matthew Reiser

Charles Vidich

Karl J. Wagener  
Executive  
Director

March 29, 2017

Ms. Melanie Bachman  
Acting Executive Director  
Connecticut Siting Council  
Ten Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051



Dear Ms. Bachman,

The Council on Environmental Quality offers the following comments on Docket 471, a telecommunications facility proposed for 208 Kirk Road in Hamden, in response to the Siting Council's request for written comments.

The applicant identified the primary environmental impact of the tower to be its visibility. Three hundred eighty five acres, nearly five percent (4.87%) of the study area, would have seasonal views of the tower. The majority of the places subject to seasonal views are the hills to the west of the proposed tower, which include the many hiking trails and scenic overlooks of West Rock Ridge State Park.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection reports approximately 100,000 visitors to West Rock Ridge State Park in 2015. Given such high visitation, the Council on Environmental Quality advises that location in such an area warrants "consultation with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection" as to whether it is "a relatively undisturbed area that possesses scenic quality of local, regional or state-wide significance" [16-50p(b)(1)(C)] and a determination as to whether the "proposed facility would substantially affect the scenic quality of its location" [16-50p(b)(1)(D)(iii)].

The Council On Environmental Quality recommends that such consultation take place after additional photo simulations are provided to illustrate the anticipated appearance of the tower from the trails and overlooks. The Council on Environmental Quality recommends that visual simulations be made from more points along the trails than currently provided in the application, especially from the eastern-most trails and the locations identified on DEEP's park map as "scenic vista" locations. In such photo simulations, possible "stealth" designs alluded to, but not committed to, by the applicant should be displayed.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Karl Wagener  
Executive Director

cc. Robert Klee, Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection