

Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless
Folly Lane
Coventry, Connecticut

Coventry NW Facility

Site Search Summary

Section 16-50j-74(j) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies requires the submission of a statement that describes “the narrowing process by which other possible sites were considered and eliminated.” In accordance with this requirement, descriptions of the general site search process, the identification of the applicable search area and the alternative locations considered for development of the proposed Coventry NW Facility are provided below.

Site Search Process

To initiate its site selection process in an area where wireless service problems have been identified, Cellco first establishes a “site search ring” or “site search area”. In any search ring or search area, Cellco seeks to avoid the unnecessary proliferation of towers and to reduce the potential adverse environmental effects of the cell site, while at the same time maximizing the quality and reliability of service provided. These objectives are achieved by initially locating existing towers and other sufficiently tall structures within and near a site search area. If any are found, they are evaluated to determine whether they are capable of supporting Cellco’s telecommunications antennas and related equipment at a location and elevation that satisfies its technical requirements.

The list of available locations may be further reduced if, after preliminary negotiations, the property owners withdraw a site from further consideration. From among the remaining locations, the proposed sites are selected by eliminating those that have greater potential for adverse environmental effects and fewer benefits to the public (*i.e.*, those requiring taller towers; those with substantial adverse environmental impacts, or located in densely populated areas; and those with limited ability to share space with other public or private telecommunications service providers). It should also be noted that in any given site search, the weight afforded to factors considered in the selection process will vary depending upon the availability and nature of sites within the search area.

Need for the Coventry NW Facility

Cellco currently maintains seven (7) wireless telecommunications facilities within approximately six (6) miles of the proposed Coventry NW Facility. These facilities are identified as Cellco’s Coventry North, Bolton East, Bolton, Tolland 2, Tolland, Mansfield North and Columbia cell sites. Cellco’s Coventry North facility consists of antennas on a tower at 400 Riley Mountain Road in Coventry. Cellco’s Bolton East facility consists of antennas on a tower at 49 South Road in Bolton. Cellco’s Bolton facility consists of antennas on a tower at 130 Vernon Road in Bolton. Cellco’s Tolland 2 facility consists of antennas on a tower at 208 Reed Road in Tolland. Cellco’s Tolland facility consists of antennas on a tower at 56 Ruops Road

(a/k/a Barbara Road) in Tolland. Cellco's Mansfield North facility consists of antennas on a tower at 1725 Stafford Road in Mansfield. Cellco's Columbia facility consists of antennas on a tower at 104 Bunker Hill Road in Andover. These existing facilities currently provide wireless service in the area around the proposed Coventry NW Facility location.

Even with the service provided by these existing facilities, Cellco is experiencing significant gaps in wireless service in northerly portions of Coventry and southerly portions of Tolland and along portions of Routes 195 and 44 and Goose Lane in the area. The proposed Coventry NW Facility will also off-load service from its existing Coventry North (Gamma sector) and Tolland (Gamma sector) facilities.

There are no other existing towers or other sufficiently tall structures available in the Coventry NW search area that would satisfy Cellco service objectives. Construction of a new tower, therefore, is required to resolve Cellco's existing wireless service problems. Cellco established its Coventry NW search area and focused exclusively on the Skungamaug Golf Course parcel as its primary candidate for development of a new tower site. The golf course parcel is, conveniently, located directly within Cellco's search area and the landowner was willing to enter into a lease agreement with Cellco. Initially, Cellco was considering use of a portion of the golf course parcel north of Folly Lane but was concerned about visual impacts due to the open (non-vegetated) character of that parcel.

During the municipal consultation process, Town Manager John Elsesser also offered use of Laidlaw Park if the proposed facility at Skungamaug Golf Course is not approved.



Map labels include: Tolland, Weigold Rd, Pamela Court, Cassidy Hill Rd, David Dr, Deborah Dr, Ceregrine Dr, Folly Ln, Woodmont Dr, Merrow Rd, Merrow, Lancaster Rd, Brimfield, Spring Manor Rd, Brigham Tavern Rd, Mary Belle, Mountain Ridge Dr, River View Dr, Crystalis, Forest Rd, Broad Way, N Farms Rd, Hannah Ln, Bartsa Dr, Carpenter Rd, N River Rd, Riley Mountain Rd, Grant Hill Rd.