



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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Post-Construction Report

Date: December 6, 2011

Re: **DOCKET NO. 374** - 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 199 Town Farm Road, Farmington, Connecticut.

In this docket, Cellco proposed building a 110-foot monopine tower within a 60-foot by 60-foot compound on a 9.9-acre property owned by the Town of Farmington and leased for agricultural purposes to the Simmons Family Farm. With its branches in place, the overall height of the monopine tower was to be 117 feet above ground level. In addition to Cellco, Susan Edelson and Claude Brouillard, owner of the Farmington Polo Grounds, participated as parties in this proceeding. The Council approved this facility on August 13, 2009. The Council's decision was subsequently challenged in court. The Development and Management Plan was approved on January 6, 2011.

I visited this site on December 5, 2011. At the time of my visit, all site construction work was completed. The tower was erected. The compound was well graveled and enclosed by an eight-foot chain link fence topped with three strands of barbed wire. All utilities appeared to have been hooked up. There were six meter placements on the compound's utility board. Although one meter slot was labeled as Verizon's, there was no meter in place so it is unlikely that this site is online at this point. However, Verizon's antennas were in place at the top of the tower and the coax cables were also in place. There was a pre-fabricated equipment shelter and a propane tank to fuel Verizon's emergency generator in place inside the compound. There were no erosion control issues apparent.

During the hearing on this tower, there was considerable controversy over its proposed presence in this flat valley next to a farm and not far from a town park to the north in Avon. Opponents of the tower alleged that it would be a very obtrusive intrusion in a scenic area. Now that the tower has been erected, however, its visibility proves to be minimal. There are no views of the tower to the south from Town Farm Road because it is shielded by a small hill covered with mature trees. It is also shielded from views from the town park to the north by an intervening stand of trees. It is really only visible for a short distance along Town Farm Road, and for most of this distance, it is seen against a backdrop of trees behind it, which serves to further reduce its visual impact. In addition, the nearest homes in Devonwood, the pricey development to the west of the site that was the source of much of the opposition to the tower, cannot be seen from the site's compound, even at this time of year when the leaves are down. In my judgement, this is one of the Council's most successful tower placements.

Conditions observed at the site at the time of my visit conformed to the approved D&M plans.

View of tower and compound



Close up view of tower



Tower compound



View of site from Simmons Farm entrance



Photosimulation from application



View of tower from Town Farm Road, looking southwest



Photosimulation from application



View from further north on Town Farm Road



Photosimulation from application

