

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 513

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
Parcel No. 258-10C-001, Mason Hill Road,
Litchfield, Connecticut

VIA ZOOM AND TELECONFERENCE

Public Comment Session held on Thursday,
May 4, 2023, beginning at 6:30 p.m.,
via remote access

H e l d B e f o r e:

JOHN MORISSETTE, Presiding Officer

Reporter: Lisa L. Warner, CSR #061



1 **A p p e a r a n c e s:**

2
3 **Council Members:**

4 **BRIAN GOLEMBIEWSKI**

5 Designee for Commissioner Katie Dykes,
6 Department of Energy and Environmental
7 Protection

8 **QUAT NGUYEN**

9 Designee for Chairman Marissa Paslick
10 Gillett, Public Utilities Regulatory
11 Authority

12 **ROBERT SILVESTRI**

13 **Council Staff:**

14 **MELANIE BACHMAN, ESQ., Executive Director and**
15 **Staff Attorney**

16 **ROBERT MERCIER, Siting Analyst**

17 **LISA FONTAINE, Fiscal Administrative Officer**

18 **For the Applicant, Cellco Partnership d/b/a**
19 **Verizon Wireless:**

20 **ROBINSON & COLE LLP**

21 280 Trumbull Street

22 Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3597

23 Phone: 860.275.8200

24 BY: **KENNETH C. BALDWIN, ESQ.**
25 **kbaldwin@rc.com**

26 **Also present: Aaron Demarest, co-host**

27 **Carlo F. Centore, P.E.,**
28 **Centek Engineering, Inc.**

1 MR. MORISSETTE: This remote public
2 hearing is called to order this Thursday, May 4,
3 2023, at 6:30 p.m. My name is John Morissette,
4 member and presiding officer of the Connecticut
5 Siting Council. Other members of the Council are
6 Brian Golembiewski, designee for Commissioner
7 Katie Dykes of the Department of Energy and
8 Environmental Protection; Quat Nguyen, designee
9 for Chairman Marissa Paslick Gillett of the Public
10 Utilities Regulatory Authority; and we have Robert
11 Silvestri.

12 Members of the staff are Melanie
13 Bachman, executive director and staff attorney;
14 Robert Mercier, siting analyst; Lisa Fontaine,
15 fiscal administrative officer.

16 If you haven't done so already, I ask
17 that everyone please mute their computer audio and
18 telephones now.

19 This is a continuation of the remote
20 public hearing that began today at 2 p.m. this
21 afternoon. A copy of the prepared agenda is
22 available on the Council's Docket No. 513 webpage,
23 along with the record of this matter, the public
24 hearing notice, instructions for public access to
25 this remote public hearing, and the Council's

1 Citizens Guide to Siting Council Procedures.

2 This hearing is held pursuant to the
3 provisions of Title 16 of the Connecticut General
4 Statutes and the Uniform Administrative Procedure
5 Act upon an application from Cellco Partnership
6 d/b/a Verizon Wireless for a Certificate of
7 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for
8 the construction, maintenance, and operation of a
9 telecommunications facility located on Mason Hill
10 Road in Litchfield, Connecticut. This application
11 was received by the Council on March 1, 2023.

12 This application is also governed by
13 the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which is
14 administered by the Federal Communications
15 Commission. This Act prohibits the Council from
16 considering the health effects of radio frequency
17 emissions on human health and wildlife to the
18 extent the emissions from towers are within the
19 federal acceptable safe limits standard, which
20 standard is also followed by the state Department
21 of Public Health.

22 The Federal Act also prohibits this
23 Council from discriminating between and amongst
24 providers of functionally equivalent services.
25 This means that if one carrier already provides

1 service for an area, other carriers have a right
2 to compete and provide services in the same area.

3 The Council's legal notice of the date
4 and time of this remote public hearing was
5 published in the Waterbury Republican-American on
6 March 18, 2023. Upon this Council's request, the
7 applicant erected a sign in the vicinity of the
8 proposed site so as to inform the public of the
9 name of the applicant, the type of facility, the
10 remote public hearing date, and contact
11 information for the Council, including the website
12 and phone number.

13 This remote public comment session is
14 reserved for the public to make brief statements
15 into the record. The deadline for the public to
16 sign up to speak during this public comment
17 session was Wednesday, May 3, 2023. No member of
18 the public signed up to speak. Please be advised
19 that written comments may be submitted by any
20 person within 30 days of this public hearing.

21 I request the applicant to make a
22 brief, very brief presentation to the public
23 describing the proposed facility.

24 Attorney Baldwin.

25 MR. BALDWIN: I'm going to ask our

1 project engineer, Carlo Centore, to make a brief
2 presentation of the application and its proposal.

3 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you, Attorney
4 Baldwin. Please continue.

5 CARLO CENTORE: Good evening. My name
6 is Carlo Centore with Centek Engineering.

7 Verizon Wireless is proposing to
8 install a wireless communications facility on
9 Mason Road, just west of Mason Road and east of
10 the Eversource right-of-way. The facility
11 consists of a 110-foot monopole tower structure
12 capable of carrying, accommodating four wireless
13 carriers with Verizon being the carrier at the top
14 of the tower at 105-foot centerline of antennas.

15 At the base of the tower is what's
16 called the compound area constructed of a gravel
17 pad at a 135-foot access road leading from Mason
18 Road to the tower facility.

19 This facility sits within a fenced
20 compound capable of carrying the -- accommodating
21 the equipment that Verizon is proposing, along
22 with its generator, propane tank and three
23 additional carriers.

24 MR. BALDWIN: Thank you, Mr.
25 Morissette.

1 MR. MORISSETTE: Thank you. Very good.
2 Before closing the evidentiary record of this
3 matter, the Connecticut Siting Council announces
4 that briefs and proposed findings of fact may be
5 filed with the Council by any party or intervenor
6 no later than June 3, 2023. The submission of
7 briefs or proposed findings fact are not required
8 by this Council, rather, we leave it to the choice
9 of the parties and intervenors.

10 Anyone who has not become a party or
11 intervenor but who desires to make his or her
12 views known to the Council may file written
13 statements with the Council within 30 days of the
14 date hereof.

15 The Council will issue draft findings
16 of fact, and thereafter parties and intervenors
17 may identify errors --

18 (AUDIO INTERRUPTION)

19 MR. GOLEMBIEWSKI: Is there a statement
20 one of us could read?

21 MS. BACHMAN: Unfortunately, yes, Mr.
22 Morissette has frozen completely, and so he just
23 dropped off.

24 But the rest of the statement is, the
25 Council will issue draft findings of fact, and

1 thereafter parties and intervenors may identify
2 errors or inconsistencies between the Council's
3 draft findings of fact and the record. However,
4 no new information, no new evidence, no argument,
5 and no reply briefs, without our permission, will
6 be considered by the Council.

7 Copies of the transcript of the hearing
8 will be filed at the Town Clerk's Offices in
9 Litchfield and Thomaston.

10 We hereby declare this hearing
11 adjourned. And thank you for your participation.

12 (Whereupon, the above proceedings
13 adjourned at 6:37 p.m.)
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE FOR REMOTE HEARING

I hereby certify that the foregoing 8 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original stenotype notes taken of the PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION before the CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL IN RE: DOCKET NO. 513, 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 PARCEL NO. 258-10C-001, MASON HILL ROAD, LITCHFIELD, CONNECTICUT, which was held before JOHN MORISSETTE, PRESIDING OFFICER, on May 4, 2023.



Lisa L. Warner, CSR 061
Court Reporter