



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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November 12, 2013

The Honorable Laura L. Francis  
First Selectman  
Town of Durham  
30 Town House Road  
P.O. Box 428  
Durham, CT 06422

RE: Request for a Telecommunications Coverage Assessment of Durham

Dear First Selectman Francis:

In response to your request of August 28, 2013 and pursuant to Connecticut General Statute § 16-50ff, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) requested each of the carriers providing service in the Town of Durham perform a telecommunications assessment for the area. We received assessments from Celco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Verizon), New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T), and MetroPCS New York, LLC, MetroPCS Massachusetts, LLC and T-Mobile Northeast LLC (collectively referred to as T-Mobile). We requested but did not receive an assessment from Sprint Nextel to date.

AT&T and Verizon operate under cellular and Personal Communications Service (PCS) frequencies in Middlesex County. T-Mobile operates under PCS frequencies only. Coverage for each carrier is different, as cellular and PCS frequencies yield different coverage footprints from each telecommunications site based on antenna locations on different facilities and at different heights. Generally, the coverage footprint from a cellular antenna array would be greater than the coverage footprint from a PCS antenna array.

After reviewing the data provided by the telecommunications carriers, Council staff created this coverage assessment and the enclosed maps for the Town of Durham dated October 25, 2013. There are two maps: one showing general cellular coverage within the town, and the other showing general PCS coverage within the town. Each coverage assessment map assumes all existing towers and other structures were used by all carriers providing coverage to the area at the particular heights listed in the table on the plots in the column "Prop. Ht." The heights used to generate coverage are often below the top of the structure to take into account multiple carriers located on each structure since only one carrier can use a particular antenna mounting level on the structure. There is generally more coverage shown on the Council plot than any one particular carrier's system may have due to the Council's input parameters.

The sites used to generate the enclosed coverage maps are listed in the table on the bottom of the maps. The carriers listed on the table are those that we have record of locating on the given facility.

Telecommunications coverage is affected by distance from the site and topographic elevation differences. Coverage from any particular site may be lost if obstructed by a steep elevation. Likewise, coverage from a site at a high elevation may be lost in a nearby valley area.

Coverage within Durham has the potential to be adequate in the central and north-central portion of town. Carriers may provide reliable coverage to portions of Routes 147, 68, 17, 79 and 77 mostly where those roads are in the center of town. There are large portions of the eastern and western areas of town that have unreliable or non-existent coverage.

Carriers would likely need additional sites to provide coverage to the western portion of Route 68; Route 17 in the southwestern portion of town; the southern portion of Route 77 and the southern portion of Route 79.

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Additionally, some carriers have a gap in coverage in the northern portion of Durham in the area of Route 147 and Route 17. There appears to be one carrier search ring near the center of town, in the vicinity of Route 17 and Route 68.

We trust that this is a satisfactory response to your request of August 28, 2013.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me.

Very truly yours,



Melanie Bachman  
Acting Executive Director

MB/CMW

c: (Attachments via e-mail)  
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