

MINUTES OF TTFCG MEETING
AMENDED

To: Distribution

From: Bob Hunnicutt, Tower Coordinator, Columbia Telecommunications

A meeting of the Telecommunications Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TTFCG) was held on March 9, 2005. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Jane Lawton DTS (240) 777-3724

Pat Hanehan MCPS (301) 279-3609

Steve Batterden DPWT (240) 777-6063

Via conference call

Carlton Gilbert M-NCPPC (301) 495-4576

Jennifer Bryant OMB (240) 777-2761

STAFF

Margie Williams DTS (240) 777-3762

Robert Hunnicutt CTC (410) 964-5700

Matt Wolff CTC (410) 964-5700

OTHER ATTENDEES

CeeCee Middlebrooks for Nextel

Steven Weber T-Mobile

Bill O'Brien Cingular

Jim Michal Jackson, Campbell

Abiy Zewde T-Mobile

Discussion Item - Meeting Minutes: Carlton Gilbert moved the minutes be approved as written. Pat Hanehan seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda Items:

1. T-Mobile application to install nine 54" panel antennas at the 87' level atop an existing 78' building in the Wheaton Plaza shopping center located at 11160 Veirs Mill Road in Wheaton (Application #200502-02).
2. Cingular Wireless application to replace nine existing 48" antennas at the 107' level with up to nine 52" dual band panel antennas on the existing mounts on the Woodside Water tank located at 1945 Seminary Place in Silver Spring (Application #200502-04).
3. Cingular Wireless application to replace nine existing 48" antennas at the 150' level with up to nine 52" dual band panel antennas on the existing mounts on the Shady Grove Post Office located at 16501 Shady Grove Road in Gaithersburg (Application #200502-05).
4. Cingular Wireless application to replace nine existing 48" antennas at the 84' level with up to nine 52" dual band panel antennas on the existing mounts on the Manchester Towers building located at 75 E. Wayne Avenue in Silver Spring (Application #200502-06).
5. Cingular Wireless application to replace nine existing 48" antennas at the 110' level with up to nine 52" dual band panel antennas on the existing mounts on the Silver Spring YMCA monopole located at 9800 Hastings Drive in Silver Spring (Application #200502-07).
6. Cingular Wireless application to replace nine existing 48" antennas at the 130' level with up to nine 52" dual band panel antennas on the existing mounts on the Renaissance Apartment building located at 14000 Castle

Boulevard in Silver Spring (Application #200502-08).

7. Cingular Wireless application to replace nine existing 48" antennas at the 123' level with up to nine 52" dual band panel antennas on the existing mounts on the PEPCO transmission line tower #628-S located at 13801 Dufief Mill Road in Gaithersburg (Application #200502-09).

8. Cingular Wireless application to replace nine existing 48" antennas at the 138' level with up to nine 52" dual band panel antennas on the existing mounts on the PEPCO transmission line tower #683-W located at 18300 Bowie Mill Road in Olney (Application #200502-10).

9. Cingular Wireless application to replace nine existing 24" antennas at the 91' level with up to nine 52" dual band panel antennas on the existing mounts on the Maplewood Park building located at 9707 Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda (Application #200502-11).

10. Cingular Wireless application to replace nine existing 48" antennas at the 143' level with up to nine 52" dual band panel antennas on the existing mounts on a monopole on the Pyle property located at 211 Ednor Road in Silver Spring (Application #200502-12).

11. Cingular Wireless application to replace nine existing 48" antennas at the 115' level with up to nine 52" dual band panel antennas on the existing mounts on the monopole on Airpark Industrial Center monopole located at 7707 Airpark Road in Gaithersburg (Application #200502-13).

12. Cingular Wireless application to replace nine existing 48" antennas at the 68' level with up to nine 52" dual band panel antennas on the existing mounts on the Sunrise Apartments building located at 19310 Clubhouse Road in Gaithersburg (Application #200502-14).

13. Cingular Wireless application to replace nine existing 48" antennas at the 143' level with up to nine 52" dual band panel antennas on the existing mounts on the PEPCO transmission line tower #59-N located at 17125 Germantown Road in Gaithersburg (Application #200502-15).

14. Cingular Wireless application to replace nine existing 48" antennas at the 117' level with up to nine 52" dual band panel antennas on the existing mounts on the Verizon building located at 13100 Columbia Pike in Silver Spring (Application #200502-16).

15. Cingular Wireless application to replace nine existing 74" antennas at the 140' level with up to nine 52" dual band panel antennas on the existing mounts on a monopole on the Mullinix Farm property located at 11604 Piedmont Road in Clarksburg (Application #200502-17).

Jane Lawton summarized the consent agenda and noted that all but one of the consent items were for Cingular antenna change outs. She asked how many groups of applications Cingular submitted for committee review. Bob Hunnicutt stated that two batches of applications had been submitted: one group would add new outdoor equipment cabinets to the site, and the second group would locate equipment within the existing equipment shelter.

Motion: Jennifer Bryant moved the applications be recommended. Steve Batterden seconded the motion and it was approved with Pat Hanehan abstaining on all of the Cingular applications.

Action Item: Nextel Communications application to install up to 12 - 53" panel antennas inside the existing church steeple at the 55' level of the Memorial United Methodist Church located at 9226 Colesville Road in Silver Spring (Application #200502-01).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized Nextel's application to place antennas inside the church steeple. Jane Lawton asked how the antennas would be concealed within the open steeple structure. Mr. Hunnicutt explained that the antennas would be placed within the existing framework, and asked CeeCee Middlebrooks of Nextel to elaborate.

Ms. Middlebrooks distributed photos of the church. She said there would be two antennas per sector, the existing steel bars would be replaced with RF friendly material, and the antennas would be painted white to match the existing structure.

Ms. Lawton asked where the equipment would be placed. Mr. Hunnicutt distributed GIS site photos and explained that the shelter would be behind the church in an area next to the parking lot and an existing utility structure.

Motion: Carlton Gilbert moved the application be recommendation. Jennifer Bryant seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to construct a new 103' monopole and attach three 54" antennas at the 100' level on Daly Elementary School property located at 20301 Brandermill Drive in Germantown (Application #200502-03).

Matt Wolff summarized the application. He noted that the school property was on a large tract of land and that the monopole would be placed near the center of the property, which would minimize the visual impact on the surrounding community. He said a board-on-board fence would enclose the equipment shelter.

Ms. Lawton asked how the school would use the facility. Pat Hanehan said security lights would be attached to the monopole to illuminate the rear area of the modular classrooms.

Ms. Lawton requested that for future Mandatory Referral applications at public schools, the Tower Coordinator to show the applicant as Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) filing jointly with the carrier. She asked if MCPS would be filing this application for Mandatory Referral. Pat Hanehan replied that MCPS would be submitting the application for review by the Planning Board. He commented that since MCPS policy was to not officially approve an agreement for placement of these kinds of facilities until after the Planning Board provided an opinion on the Mandatory Referral, he did not think MCPS would agree to being listed as a co-applicant on TFCG applications. Ms. Lawton said she understood that position but she thought it important to note the public agency responsible for submitting an application for Mandatory Referral. She asked that the Tower Coordinator's recommendation be revised to include mention of the joint use.

Ms. Lawton noted that the siting of this facility meets all required setbacks. Mr. Hanehan said that is MCPS policy in considering these applications. She noted the Tower Coordinator's GIS photo, which indicated the distances of the residences from the proposed monopole site. Mr. Hanehan also noted that although the application shows the monopole is placed fairly close to the modular classrooms, the final location on the property may be a bit farther from the classrooms than is shown on the site plans.

Motion: Steve Batterden moved the application be recommended. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion, which was approved with Pat Hanehan abstaining.

Discussion Item - Blake High School Monopole (Application #200407-05): Bob Hunnicutt reminded the group that they had previously recommended a light pole replacement at the Blake High School and that the recommendation was conditioned on the Historical Preservation Committee's approval of the siting. He informed the group that T-Mobile's representative, Steve Weber had advised him that the Historical Preservation Committee had requested that the monopole location be place farther from the adjacent historical site. Mr. Weber explained that instead of the initial proposal to replace a light pole at the stadium, the new proposal would replace a light pole on the other side of the school property near the athletic field and track. He said the new location substantially exceeds the required setback from the nearest residence. Ms. Lawton asked if the group had any concerns about the new location. Hearing none, she asked the group to vote to approve the new location on school property for the monopole.

Motion: Steve Batterden moved to approve the new location for the monopole. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion, which was approved with Pat Hanehan abstaining.

Discussion Item - Sprint Application at WSSC Pumping Station: Jane Lawton said that Sprint's representative, Ed Donohue, had sent a letter to the TFCG requesting another review of Sprint's application to site a monopole on a small piece of WSSC property. She said Sprint's application did not meet setback requirements, was very close to nearby residences, and that the TFCG had tabled the application pending Sprint's consideration of options to reduce the monopole height and its impact on the community. She said that Mr. Hunnicutt had reported that Sprint had not yet responded to the TFCG's request. She also said that WSSC staff had notified her that WSSC would not exercise its exemption from zoning requirements because it did not need a 100' monopole for its antennas. She said she had prepared a response to Mr. Donohue that

had been distributed to the members for review. Ms. Lawton added that Park and Planning Board staff had informed her that unless the siting was submitted for Mandatory Referral by WSSC, the Planning Board would not consider the application.

Discussion Item - AM Radio Towers in Damascus: Jane Lawton reported that she had met with Sima Birach, the owner of a radio station that planned to construct four 400' towers near Damascus. She said she expected there would be considerable objection to these broadcast towers. She noted that Mr. Birach had stated he would submit an application for these towers in time to be reviewed at the May meeting.

Margie Williams noted that Mr. Birach originally planned to place seven towers on the agricultural property, but has since reduced the number to four towers for one station. Ms. Lawton noted that Mr. Birach's attorney at the time, Jody Kline, had submitted a letter to the Planning Board that the Mr. Birach understood this would be a Special Exception application as required by zoning code.

Ms. Lawton said the Council stated that they would revisit zoning changes for broadcast towers at a later date. She said that Councilmember Praisner was considering appropriate language for a new text amendment that she expected to introduce soon.

Carlton Gilbert requested a copy of Mr. Kline's letter. Bob Hunnicutt agreed to forward it to him.

Discussion Item - Fairfax County Approval Statement: Jim Michal distributed copies of a letter from Fairfax County, and reminded the group that at the February meeting he requested they consider issuing a similar statement stating that cellular antennas pose no harm to the community. He said this would be helpful to the MCPS in addressing RF emission concerns of parents at school sites.

Jane Lawton asked Pat Hanehan if this had been a problem. Mr. Hanehan replied that RF emissions had been a concern at a couple of schools. He noted that at a PTA meeting for the proposed monopole at Magruder High School, a physician had asked if the site could be tested for RF emissions once the site was activated to verify the emission levels did not exceed the carrier's engineering estimates. Mr. Hanehan said he had discussed this matter with Mr. Hunnicutt and he asked Ms. Lawton if the TTF CG would be interested in having CTC perform those tests.

Mr. Hanehan added that the MCPS was considering including an RF emission test as a lease agreement requirement with the carrier at Magruder High School. Ms. Lawton replied that she did not believe it would be appropriate for the County to perform those tests, but if the MCPS included such tests as a lease requirement, it would give them the right to request the carrier have those tests performed. Mr. Hanehan asked if the Tower Coordinator could either conduct the tests or oversee the testing by others. Ms. Lawton asked Mr. Hanehan to send a request for that work to her and she would forward his request as well as the letter from Fairfax County to the County Attorney for review and comment.

Mr. Hunnicutt stated that on reviewing Mr. Michal's handout, it appeared that the language "a monopole poses no harm to the County or its citizens" refers to a review of the County's Comprehensive Plan for placing a monopole at this location - not to RF emissions. He said the next paragraph discusses RF emissions and is unrelated to the "no harm" statement. Ms. Lawton agreed with Mr. Hunnicutt's interpretation of the statement in the Fairfax County Memorandum, and that she would contact Fairfax County to better understand the meaning of the Memorandum.

Discussion Item - Next Meeting: The next meeting of the TTF CG is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. in the second floor conference room #225 of the COB.