

**To:** Distribution

**From:** Bob Hunnicutt, Tower Coordinator, Columbia Telecommunications

A meeting of the Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TF CG) was held on September 3, 2008. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Carlton Gilbert	M-NCPPC	(301) 495-4577
Mary Pat Wilson	MCPS	(240) 314-4707
Helen Mu (via telephone)	DTS	(240) 777-2804
Marjorie Williams	OCCS	(240) 777-3762
Martin Rookard	WSSC	

STAFF

Bob Hunnicutt	CTC	(301) 933-1488
Shivani Gandhi	CTC	(301) 933-1488

OTHER ATTENDEES

Charles Ryan	Cricket	(301) 526-7342
Amy Bird	T-Mobile	
Carmen Charalambous	T-Mobile	
Andrew Martin	Verizon	(410) 474-9081
Robert M. Neely	Verizon	(301) 793-5548
Sean Hughes	Donohue and Blue	
Elizabeth C Wilkes	Resident	
Ms. Galvin	Resident	
Jim Galvin	Resident	
Jay O'Neill	Sprint/Nextel	

**Action Item – Meeting Minutes:** Martin Rookard moved the minutes be approved as written. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Action Item – Consent Agenda Applications:**

1. Verizon application to install twelve antennas at the 115' level of existing 118' monopole-type power pole #628N on PEPCO property at the intersection of Travilah and Dufief Rd in Gaithersburg (Application #200809-12).
2. Verizon application to install twelve antennas at the 121' level of an existing 126' monopole-type power pole #621S on PEPCO property at Falconbridge Drive in North Potomac (Application #200809-13).
3. Verizon application to install twelve antennas at the 160' level of an existing 227' lattice tower on Issac Walton League property at 18301 Waring Station Road in Germantown (Application #200809-14).
4. Verizon application to install twelve antennas at the 122' level of an existing 127' monopole-type power pole #651S on PEPCO property at Farms Fall Road in Potomac (Application #200809-15).
5. Verizon application to install twelve antennas at the 123' level of an existing 128' monopole-type power pole #646N on PEPCO property at Lloyd Road in Potomac (Application #200809-16).
6. T-Mobile application to mount nine antennas to the penthouse of a building at an antenna centerline of 155' on Brandywine Wisconsin Avenue LLC property at 7101 Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda (Application #200809-18).

**Motion:** Carlton Gilbert moved the Consent agenda be recommended. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved

**Applications for By-Right Attachment:**

7. Cricket application to attach three antennas at the 149' level of an existing 149' lattice tower on Ferguson Farm property located at 14825 Comus Road in Clarksburg (Application #200809-01).
8. Cricket application to attach three antennas at the 133' level of an existing 133' monopole on Seneca Ayr Farm property at 13100 West Old Baltimore Road in Boyds (Application #200809-06).
9. Cricket application to attach three antennas at the 117' level of an existing 120' monopole on Baptist Home for Children property at 6301 A Greentree Rd in Bethesda (Application #200809-09).
10. Cricket application to attach three antennas at the 100' level of an existing 100' monopole on Norbeck Memorial Park property in Silver Spring (Application #200809-10).

**Motion:** Martin Rookard moved that items 7 and 8 be recommended conditioned on completion of the modifications described in the structural analysis before the antennas and cabling are attached, and that items 9 and 10 be recommended conditioned on submission of a structural analysis that states that the addition of new antennas and cabling may be safely attached. Gilbert Carlton seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** T-Mobile application to install six panel antennas inside a 64.5' steeple structure at an antenna centerline of 47' on Faith Baptist Church property at 12907 Connecticut Avenue in Silver Spring (Application #200809-19).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that the church, which appears to be a former single family home converted for that use, presently has a small steeple atop the roof. T-Mobile proposed to construct a new taller steeple at the end of the house and place their antennas inside that structure. Mr. Hunnicutt noted that since this proposal is not like other steeple installations where the antennas are placed inside an existing steeple, he had checked with Dave Niblock to understand how DPS would regard this construction. Mr. Niblock said that T-Mobile should first file for a permit to construct the steeple, and then once the steeple construction was completed and inspected by the County, the antennas could be placed inside it as a colocation to an existing structure. Mr. Hunnicutt reminded the group that there had been past applications involving new construction that had been handled in a similar fashion.

Marjorie Williams suggested the group table the application until the steeple was constructed.

Sean Hughes remarked that the group could act on the application now by making the recommendation conditioned on the steeple being permitted and constructed prior to attachment of the antennas.

Amy Bird, representing T-Mobile, stated that they planned to construct the steeple and install the antennas all as part of the same construction work.

Martin Rookard moved the application be recommended.

Ms. Wilkes asked if the neighbors had been notified of the proposed construction, and asked how high the steeple would be compared to the existing steeple. Mr. Hunnicutt replied that the plans show that the new steeple would be approximately 65' high and the roof of the building was 27' high. Marjorie Williams asked about the height of the existing steeple. Upon review of the plans, (though not specifically noted), it was determined that the existing steeple appeared to be approximately 35' high. Martin Rookard asked if the nearby residents had been notified about the proposal for the new steeple. Ms. Bird replied that they had not been notified.

Mr. Rookard withdrew his motion to recommend the application.

After discussion, it was agreed among the group that since this appeared to be new construction for a telecommunications facility that would be quite noticeable in the community, albeit disguised as a steeple, additional information about this proposal was required before action could be taken. Questions the group would like to have answered included:

- What is the DPS process on permitting a project like this and is there public notice?
- Can the work of constructing the steeple and installing the antennas be permitted to be performed simultaneously?
- Are there height limitations on steeples in residential zones?
- What exactly is the height of the existing steeple?
- Should this be considered a new structure requiring a Special Exception instead of a colocation?

**Motion:** Mary Pat Wilson moved the application be tabled. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion and it was approved with Martin Rookard voting to oppose the motion.

**Action Item:** T-Mobile application to construct a new 100' "unipole" monopole on the Good Hope Gardens property located at 14911 Good Hope Road in Silver Spring (Application #200808-05).

Mr. Hunnicutt summarized the application and noted the past attempts to place telecommunications facilities in this neighborhood as cited in the Tower Coordinator's recommendation. He also noted that since the monopole would be adjacent to a wooded area, a monopole disguised as a tree may better blend in with the surroundings than the "unipole" design proposed by T-Mobile for this site. Mr. Hunnicutt said that since the location of the monopole does not meet code requirements to be 300' from any off-site dwellings, he did not recommend the application.

Ms. Williams, noting that the applicant may seek relief from that requirement at the Special Exception hearing, asked how that requirement was addressed by the last applicant to site a monopole on this property. Mr. Hunnicutt explained that in that case, Sprint had claimed that since the nearest dwelling within the 300' limit was owned by the property owner on which the monopole was to be constructed, it met code requirements. Based on the location for that monopole, which was different than the site for the T-Mobile monopole, the other dwellings were over 300' away.

Mary Pat Wilson asked if the applicant could still file for a Special Exception if the TFCG voted not to recommend the application. Mr. Hunnicutt said that they could file for a Special Exception at any time.

In response to questions about the increase of impermeable ground surface on this property, which is in a conservation area, Mr. Hunnicutt noted that T-Mobile plans to remove existing concrete and asphalt from some areas of the property so the conservation requirements will be maintained.

Carlton Gilbert suggested that the applicant discuss this proposal with Bill Barron at the Planning Commission to determine if T-Mobile's plan to meet the conservation requirements would be acceptable before they proceed with the Special Exception.

Shivani Gandhi summarized her review of the RF contour maps submitted by the applicant and said she concurred that the 100' height of the antennas appeared to be necessary to meet T-Mobile's coverage objective to provide indoor service to the residential areas in the vicinity of the site. She also noted that future carriers may have to place antennas at levels above the top of the tall trees around the property to be effective.

**Motion:** Martin Rookard moved the application not be recommended because it does not meet code requirements. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert Abstaining.

**Discussion Item:** Ms Galvin asked how the public was notified of proposed antenna sitings in general. Ms. Williams and Mr. Hunnicutt explained the TFCG process, noting that although the meetings dates and times were public information and the meetings were open to the public, the formal opportunities for public comment would be at the Board of Appeals or Planning Commission hearings on new telecommunications structures being placed in the County. They noted they were not aware of any formal notice requirements for applications to attach antennas to existing structures, other than TFCG agendas.

Ms. Wilkes and Mr. and Mrs. Galvin remarked that they objected to Verizon's proposal to place telecommunications facilities on the Pepco tower at St. James Road in their neighborhood. They displayed photographs of graffiti that covered another installation near the one proposed and said they expected that the site at St. James would look have similar markings after it is installed. Mr. Galvin added that he was concerned about having power supplies unlocked because of the hazard it creates for the potential of electrical shock.

Ms. Bird said she would notify the carriers of Mr. Galvin's concern. Mr. Hunnicutt added that he would check with his contact at Pepco about those conditions as it seemed like a matter for Pepco to address since it is their property.

**Discussion Items - Notice of Design Changes for Previously Recommended Applications:**

- **T-Mobile #200707-24 - 21000 Father Hurley Blvd, Gaithersburg**

Mr. Hunnicutt advised the group that T-Mobile had changed the number of antennas to be placed inside the cupola at this location from three to six.

- **AT&T #200205-04 - Mullinix Mill Road at Long Corner Road**

Mr. Hunnicutt explained that although AT&T had obtained a permit for this attachment it had expired and DPS requires a current recommendation (within one-year) on that application.

**Motion:** Carlton Gilbert moved the application be recommended. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

- **Renewal of Recommendation- NextG/Sprint 200704-24- 9404 Falls Rd, Potomac**

Mr. Hunnicutt explained that since a Special Exception is now required for the Sprint equipment shelter at Fire Station #30 in Potomac (which was part of this application) Sprint must have a TFCG recommendation no more than one-year old in order for the Board of Appeals to consider the Special Exception.

**Motion:** Mary Pat Wilson moved to reaffirm the application as previously recommended on May 2, 2007 (*conditioned on 1) NextG resolving any signal interference with County communications services or cease transmissions from the sites causing the interference; and 2) obtaining any approvals that may be needed from the Historical Preservation Committee relative to any historic structures near the antenna locations or the National Park Service for poles next to any park land*), and added a condition of being granted a Special Exception by the Board of Appeals should it is determined to need a Special Exception. Martin Rookard seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert abstaining.

**The next meeting of the TFCG is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1, 2008 at 2 p.m. in the second floor conference room #225 of the COB.**