

To: Distribution

From: Bob Hunnicutt, Tower Coordinator, Columbia Telecommunications

A meeting of the Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TF CG) was held on August 5, 2009. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Marjorie Williams	OCCS	(240) 777-3762
David Niblock	DPS	(240) 777-6252
Carlton Gilbert (via phone)	M-NCPPC	(301) 495-4577
Helen Mu	DTS	(240) 777-2804
Mary Pat Wilson	MCPS	(240) 314-4707

STAFF

Bob Hunnicutt	CTC	(301) 933-1488
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David Doulong	CTC	(301) 933-1488
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OTHER ATTENDEES

Hillorie Morrison	NB&C/T-Mobile
Charles Salamone	NB&C/Verizon Wireless
Alecia Vogel	NB&C/T-Mobile
Carmen Charalambous	NB&C/T-Mobile

Action Item Meeting Minutes: Mary Pat Wilson moved the minutes be approved as written. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Action Item Consent Agenda Applications:

1. T-Mobile application to attach antennas at the 116' level atop a 114' monopole at the Super Fresh shopping center located at 3901 Aspen Hill Road in Wheaton (Application #200907-21).
2. AT&T Wireless application to replace panel antennas at the 153' level of a 230' lattice tower on Kenwood Country Club property located at 5601 River Road in Bethesda (Application #200908-17).
3. Cricket application to attach panel antennas at the 95' level atop the 93' WSSC Airpark water tank located at 20511 Woodfield Road in Gaithersburg (Application #200908-50).
4. Cricket application to attach panel antennas at the 88' and 97' levels atop an 8-story Walkers House apartment building located at 18700 Walkers Choice Road in Gaithersburg (Application #200908-52).

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

Action Item: AT&T Wireless application to attach a dish antenna on the penthouse walls at the 190' level of the Democracy Center building located at 6903 Rockledge Drive in Bethesda (Application #200907-12).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that the antennas were near to where people could be

walking on the roof and perhaps subject to aggregate RF emission hazards; therefore the Tower Coordinators recommendation was conditioned on meeting the requirements of FCC OET 65 regarding rooftop antenna sites.

Motion: Dave Niblock moved the application be recommended conditioned on meeting the requirements of FCC OET 65 regarding rooftop antenna sites. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: T-Mobile Application to attach antennas at the 135' level of an existing 155' monopole on Bretton Woods Golf Course property located at 15700 River Road in Germantown (Application #200908-20).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that this application is to attach antennas to a monopole that was pending approval for a Special Exception.

Carlton Gilbert reported that he understood the Special Exception had been withdrawn because the attorney representing AT&T argued that a Special Exception was not needed and that construction of the monopole could be approved through Mandatory Referral. However, he said he understand that the Planning Commission had determined that a Special Exception was required for this site. Dave Niblock added that the country club itself was permitted by Special Exception, as is the swimming pool, the tennis courts, and the golf course.

Motion: Carlton Gilbert moved the application be tabled until a Special Exception was filed to construct the monopole. Helen Mu seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to attach panel antennas at the 105' and 120' levels on the penthouse walls and penthouse roof on Holy Cross Hospital located at 1500 Forest Glen Road in Silver Spring (Application #200908-54).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that this was the third attempt to place antennas on the hospital property. He stated that the first two attempts by Nextel had been reviewed by the TFCG in prior years but Nextel had never actually placed their antennas on this property. He said one Nextel application was to attach antennas on the rooftop and the other was to place antennas on the smokestack on the property. Dave Niblock recalled there had been structural issues with placement of antennas on the smokestack-like structure, which was actually an energy vent.

Mr. Hunnicutt stated that since he recalled that the hospital itself is permitted by Special Exception, the Tower Coordinators recommendation was conditioned on approval by the Board of Appeals.

Motion: Helen Mu moved the application be recommended conditioned on approval by the Board of Appeals. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to attach antennas at the 35' level of an existing 24' National Childrens Center building located at 410 University Boulevard West in Silver Spring (Application #200908-22).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that it appeared that this attachment would require a Special Exception because the building did not meet the 50' height requirement for rooftop placement of antennas on residentially-zoned property.

Dave Niblock said that he thought this may be permitted by a waiver rather than a Special Exception. Carlton Gilbert replied that he did not think the zoning code permitted a waiver from the height limits and that a Special Exception would be required.

Mr. Hunnicutt reminded the group that this was similar to another building reviewed by the committee recently and he recalled that one was conditioned on obtaining a Special Exception.

Carlton Gilbert suggested that someone check with Clifford Royalty to determine how this application would be processed.

Mary Pat Wilson noted that the plans called for an equipment room but did not see on the plans that the equipment would be placed in the room. The applicant explained that the equipment would be placed on the ground alongside the building and the property line. Dave Niblock asked if the equipment area was at least five

feet from the property line as required for setback on this property. Mr. Hunnicutt confirmed that according to the plans, the equipment area did meet setback requirements.

Mary Pat Wilson noted that the plans should be revised to make it clear that it is not an equipment room but rather an equipment area on the ground.

Motion: Dave Niblock moved the application be tabled until the applicant can obtain an understanding from the Board of Appeals as to whether they would accept this application either as a Special Exception, a waiver, or a variance. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to construct a new 150' monopole and attach antennas at the 147' level on Wildlife Club property located at 26430 Mullinex Mill Road in Mount Airy (Application #200907-14).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting there are approximately thirteen pending applications from T-Mobile to place new monopoles in the upper part of Montgomery County -- mostly in agricultural zones. He distributed a map (copy attached) showing the approximate locations of the applications received.

Mr. Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that the site for the monopole was immediately adjacent to Pepco 500kV transmission line towers. He reminded the group that although Pepco no longer permits antennas attached across their 500kv line towers, it had recently permitted antennas attached to the towers as long as they are sufficiently below the transmission lines to meet their standards for a safe separation from the electric lines -- approximately 12 to 14 feet as he understood from PEPCO staff. He added that T-Mobile reportedly ruled out that option because of RF reasons that Mr. Doulong would explain.

Mr. Hunnicutt said the monopole was designed to support antennas from at least two additional carriers, but based on the plans submitted with the application, there may not be adequate ground space for the equipment of future carriers as is required by the zoning ordinance. Mr. Hunnicutt explained that typical plans submitted for new monopoles show an equipment area that is approximately 50' x 50' with spaces illustrated as reserved for equipment for the second and third carriers. This application only shows a 25' x 35' equipment area. He added that if additional carriers placed a standard 10' x 12' equipment shelter in the area, there would not likely be enough space for equipment from all carriers in the designated equipment area as shown on the plans. He added that there appears to be sufficient ground space at the site to accommodate expansion of the equipment area. Mr. Hunnicutt also noted that if requested by the applicant, under certain conditions set out in 59-G-2.58, the Board of Appeals may consider reducing that requirement to permit a monopole designed to accommodate fewer carriers as part of the Special Exception review process. He said that the Tower Coordinators recommendation was conditioned on approval of a Special Exception by the Board of Appeals.

David Doulong explained that based on his review of the RF maps submitted by the applicant it appeared that T-Mobile had been approved to attach antennas to a monopole not far from this site on Damascus Road but had opted not to do so. That decision had an impact on the selection of this site and the height of the tower that would be required to support antennas to meet T-Mobiles coverage objective. Mr. Hunnicutt added that the applicant had advised him that the Sprint monopole at Grace Fellowship Church had not been constructed to support three carriers. He noted that the monopole approved for Sprint was a three bay flagpole-type design and Sprint had occupied the top two bays leaving only one bay for collocation. He said T-Mobile claimed that the monopole was structurally incapable of supporting T-Mobiles antennas, citing that the bays were too small to enclose their large antennas and, the tower owner, TowerCo, was unwilling to reconstruct the monopole to accommodate T-Mobiles antennas.

Mr. Doulong noted that based on the RF maps submitted for this site by T-Mobile, it appeared that the antennas likely need to be at the 130' level to meet T-Mobiles coverage objectives for indoor service to residences in the area (including areas that may have otherwise been served by antennas at the Grace Church location). He noted however, that there were few residences in this rural area and the land was comprised mostly of farmland or parkland.

Mr. Hunnicutt asked if T-Mobile had obtained approval from Grace Church for reconstruction of that monopole. Hillorie Morrison replied that she did not know if that had been covered in the discussions for use of that site, but that T-Mobile had worked very hard with the pole owner at the church to try to make use of that existing structure in lieu of constructing this monopole.

Motion: Dave Niblock moved the application be recommended conditioned on approval of a Special Exception by the Board of Appeals. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert abstaining.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to construct a new 100' monopole and attach antennas at the 85' and 95' levels on Cedarbrook Church Property located at 23700 Stringtown Road in Gaithersburg (Application #200907-15).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that the location for this monopole was near Allegheny Power transmission line towers. However, T-Mobile had ruled out use of one of those towers in lieu of a new monopole because the owner of the property beneath the Allegheny towers was unwilling to lease ground space for T-Mobiles equipment and permit easement across the property to the Allegheny towers. Mr. Hunnicutt noted that the monopole was designed to accommodate at least three sets of antennas in the bays of this structure, a uni-pole or slimline design style. He added that because T-Mobile proposed using the top two bays for their antennas, the monopole would not actually be constructed to accommodate at least two additional carriers. He added that the equipment area shown on the plans is a 50' x 50' space within which T-Mobile has allocated areas for the equipment of future carriers.

Hillorie Morrison distributed copies of the photo simulations for this structure.

Mr. Hunnicutt noted that a tree design may work well for this site since the monopole backed to a wooded area. He added that the tree design typically has triangular platforms which could accommodate all of T-Mobiles antennas at a single elevation, leaving space for at least two additional carriers antennas. He added that a tree monopole may be somewhat taller than proposed to allow for the faux top of the pine tree design. He said that based on his site visit, it appeared the view of a tree monopole in the surrounding community may not appear out of character with the overall view of the church and adjacent wooded area because the trees may appear about the same size as the monopole as seen from various directions. He stated another alternative design would be a four bay uni-pole to provide for up to two additional bays for collocation though that may result in the monopole being 10' taller than proposed. He said he did not believe the additional height would have a significant visual impact overall to the appearance of the structure in the community.

Dave Niblock stated he thought it was important that structures meet the requirement to support at least two additional carriers, especially in areas that have no existing structures. Marjorie Williams added that she thought it is especially important in this case because she expected that many carriers may be seeking to place antennas in the Clarksburg area due to significant residential growth. She added that, in this case, collocation is an important consideration even though it may result in a somewhat taller structure to meet the requirement. Mr. Niblock asked if it would be appropriate for the group to recommend a taller structure than proposed by the applicant. Mr. Hunnicutt suggested that issue be left to the Board of Appeals to decide but he would note the discussion in the minutes to serve as a matter of record for the Board of Appeals to consider in their determination of the zoning requirements.

Motion: Dave Niblock stated that as long as the minutes reflected the interest of the TFCG for this application to meet zoning requirements for the ability of the structure to support additional carriers, he moved the application be recommended conditioned on approval of a Special Exception by the Board of Appeals. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert abstaining.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to construct a new 100' monopole and attach antennas at the 85' and 95' levels on Church of the Nazarene property located at 8921 Warfield Road in Gaithersburg (Application #200907-16).

Bob Hunnicutt explained that, as noted in the Tower Coordinators recommendation for this application, the plans submitted by the applicant do not reflect the site as it actually appears today. The plans show the monopole in a parking area which has not yet been constructed by the church. He added that he had been contacted by one of the Trustees on the Board of the church who had advised him that the church had not yet approved a final design for the use of the property. He stated the church was still considering whether or not they would approve the equipment area as shown on the plans or if it would be someplace on the property. Consequently, he recommended that the group table this application until the church had signed off on the plans and the application had correct documentation for review by the TFCG. Mr. Niblock agreed that it was

premature to review this application.

Motion: Mary Pat Wilson moved the application be tabled until the application had the correct approved design documents. Helen Mu seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to construct a new 120' monopole and attach antennas at the 117' level on the Brown property located at 3101 Damascus Road in Brookeville (Application #200908-24).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting this was another application for a new monopole in a rural area. He said this application was for a monopole immediately adjacent to PEPCO transmission line towers, and in this case, use of that existing structure was ruled out by the carrier for RF reasons. He stated that when asked about use of a tree design, the applicant suggested that a typical monopole design may better blend with the surrounding large transmission line towers than a 120' tall faux tree would appear against the shorter trees. Mr. Hunnicutt said he somewhat agreed with that conclusion, noting that the monopole would be plainly visible to many residents in the vicinity of this property. He added that the location for the monopole does not meet setback requirements and when asked how T-Mobile planned to address that requirement, the applicant explained that they planned to request a waiver from setback requirements from the Board of Appeals. Mr. Hunnicutt noted that the zoning ordinance has provisions for that alternative under certain conditions.

David Doulong summarized his review of the technical issues. With regard to the use of the PEPCO towers, he said that although T-Mobile did not provide an RF map at the exact elevation that may be available on a PEPCO tower, he thought it may be around the 80' level above ground. Based on the map T-Mobile provided illustrating the calculated coverage with antennas at the 80' level, it appeared that antennas at that elevation may not provide signal levels for indoor service--the target objective for this site--across the entire target service area. He said that it appeared the coverage with antennas at the 100' level may meet the target objectives and that antennas at the 120' level may cover a larger area with signals strong enough to provide the desired indoor service. He noted, however, that based on his site visit, there did not appear to be very many homes in this rural agricultural area.

Mary Pat Wilson asked why the access road was designed to drive among sheds and barns on the property where there may be livestock. Carmen Charalambous explained that the property owner said there was no longer any livestock on that portion of the property and that access along that path was already partially in place as a dirt and grass driveway.

Motion: Dave Niblock moved that the application be recommended conditioned on T-Mobile addressing screening requirements, and obtaining approval of a Special Exception and a waiver for setback by the Board of Appeals. Helen Mu seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert abstaining.

Mary Pat Wilson stated that an aerial view of properties with future applications would be helpful to the group in their review. Marjorie Williams added that photo simulations provided with applications before the meeting would be helpful as well. Mr. Hunnicutt said he would ask the carriers to provide additional copies of photo simulations for the members packets prior to each meeting. Ms. Williams replied that if additional copies were not available, those provided could be scanned and sent to the committee prior to the meeting.

Discussion Item Design Changes for Previously Recommended Applications:

Bob Hunnicutt noted that, in accordance with TFCG policy for notification of changes to an application for sites that had not yet been constructed, he had the following changes to application previously recommended by the TFCG:

- **200505-07 Verizon Wireless new monopole to be constructed at the Trolley Museum:** Verizon Wireless reports that the original plans showed twelve antennas at that site but they have decided to install fifteen antennas. Mr. Hunnicutt asked if that would be a problem for DTS in approving the permit for construction of that site. Dave Niblock said that would not have a significant impact on their review and approval for the permit.

Mr. Hunnicutt suggested that the Board of Appeals might like to know that the design was somewhat changed as they often condition their approval for Special Exception on the plans submitted with the application and

that it may be important to show fifteen antennas rather than twelve.

Mr. Salamone explained that the Special Exception had already been approved and would at this point be a matter for permitting. Mr. Hunnicutt said he will note the design difference in the records for that application as reviewed by the TFCG.

- **200407-09 T-Mobile antennas to be added at Tilden Middle School:** Mr. Hunnicutt explained that Mary Pat Wilson had asked him to review that application from the past to see if there were any issues that needed to be addressed at this time as T-Mobile was just now seeking approval to site facilities there. Mr. Hunnicutt reported that the minutes from the TFCG review of that application in 2004 noted a concern the Planning Commission had that the expanded equipment area not be within the drip area of the trees adjacent to the monopole. Consequently, T-Mobile had redesigned the expansion of the equipment area so that it would not be within the drip line of the trees on the property. He said he would file those revised plans with the original application in the TFCG files.

The next meeting of the TFCG is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, 2009 at 2 p.m. in the second floor conference room #225 of the COB.