

**To:** Distribution

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

A meeting of the Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TF CG) was held on May 6, 2009. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Marjorie Williams	OCCS	(240) 777-3762
Mitsuko Herrera	OCCS	(240) 777-3762
Carlton Gilbert	M-NCPPC	(301) 495-4577
Helen Mu	DTS	(240) 777-2804
Mary Pat Wilson	MCPS	(240) 314-4707
David Niblock	DPS	
Steve Batterden	DGS, ORE	(240) 777-6063

STAFF

Bob Hunnicutt	CTC	(301) 933-1488
David Doulong	CTC	(301) 933-1488
Martin Liebman	CTC	(301) 933-1488

OTHER ATTENDEES

Chris Blackburn	WEL/AT&T	
Michael Kelly	Cricket/Smartlink	(240) 274-7774
Carmen Charalambous	T-Mobile	(301) 775-5826
Alecia Vogel	NB&C/T-Mobile	
Sean Hughes	Sean Hughes Law Offices	

**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. Cricket application to attach three antennas at the 130' level of an existing 150' high monopole on Sherwood High School property at 300 Olney-Sandy Spring Drive in Sandy Spring (Application #200810-04).
2. Cricket application to attach one antenna at the 135' level and two antennas at the 171' level atop a 145' Rock Creek Terrace Apartments building at 12630 Veirs Mill Road in Rockville (Application #200904-05).
3. T-Mobile application to attach nine antennas at the 170' level of a 180' monopole on Dickerson Auto property located at 22210 Dickerson Road in Dickerson (Application #200904-09)
4. T-Mobile application to attach nine antennas at the 160' level of an existing 160' monopole on MDOT/State Highway Administration property at I-495 & Connecticut Avenue in Kensington (Application #200905-05).
5. T-Mobile application to attach nine antennas at the 127' level of a 129' PEPCO transmission line tower #23-N located at 19997 Beallsville Road in Beallsville (Application #200905-07).

6. T-Mobile application to attach nine antennas at the 127' level of a 129' PEPCO transmission line tower #43-S located at 18698 White Ground Road in Boyds (Application #200905-08).
7. T-Mobile application to attach nine antennas (six at the 53' level and three at the 68' level) on an existing seven-story Bedford Court apartment building located at 3701 International Drive in Silver Spring (Application #200905-09).
8. T-Mobile application to attach three panel antennas at the 75' level of an existing 100' monopole on Grace Fellowship property located at 8425 Damascus Road in Damascus (Application #200905-10).
9. Verizon Wireless application to replace three antennas with three new antennas at the same mounting location on the Verizon building located at 13100 Columbia Pike in Silver Spring (Application #200905-12).
10. Verizon Wireless application to replace three antennas with three new antennas at the same mounting location on a lattice tower atop the Verizon Central Office building located at 8670 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring (Application #200905-13).
11. Verizon Wireless application to replace three antennas with three new antennas at the same mounting location at the Palisades apartment building located at 4835 Cordell Avenue in Bethesda (Application #200905-14).
12. Verizon Wireless application to replace six antennas with six new antennas at the same mounting location on the monopole on Tri-State Quarry property located at 8200 Seven Locks Road in Bethesda (Application #200905-15).
13. Verizon Wireless application to replace three antennas with three new antennas at the same mounting location on the WDCA lattice tower located at 5202 River Road in Bethesda (Application #200905-16).
14. Verizon Wireless application to replace three antennas with three new antennas at the same mounting location on the WSSC Woodside water tank located at 1945 Seminary Place in Silver Spring (Application #200905-17).
15. Verizon Wireless application to replace three antennas with three new antennas at the same mounting location on the WSSC Bradley water tank #2 located at 7005B Radnor Road in Bethesda (Application #200905-18).
16. Verizon Wireless application to replace three antennas with three new antennas at the same mounting location on a monopole on the Rinaldi property located at 15700 Georgia Avenue in Olney (Application #200905-19).
17. Verizon Wireless application to replace three antennas with three new antennas at the same mounting location on a monopole on the Silver Spring YMCA property located at 9800 Hastings Drive in Silver Spring (Application #200905-20).

18. Verizon Wireless application to replace three antennas with three new antennas at the same mounting location on the Carver lattice tower located at 2647 University Boulevard in Wheaton (Application #200905-21).
19. Verizon Wireless application to replace three antennas with three new antennas at the same mounting location on the Colesville Center monopole located at 49 Randolph Road in Colesville (Application #200905-23).
20. Verizon Wireless application to replace three antennas with three new antennas at the same mounting location on the Parkside Plaza condominium building located at 9039 Sligo Creek Parkway in Silver Spring (Application #200905-24).
21. T-Mobile application to attach three antennas at the 45' level of an existing 30' Designer Gallery building located at 4218 Howard Avenue in Kensington (Application #200905-25).

**Motion:** David Niblock moved the Consent agenda items be recommended. Helen Mu seconded the motion and it was approved with Mary Pat Wilson abstaining from voting on Item number one.

**Action Item:** Cricket application to attach three antennas at the 77' level of a 119' PEPCO transmission line tower #628-N located at Travilah and Dufief Mill Roads in Gaithersburg (Application #200812-17).

Bob Hunnicutt explained that because the zone for this property is residential, the equipment must be screened in accordance with §59-A-6.14 of the zoning code and the recommendation was so conditioned.

Dave Niblock noted that the plans show there is a wooden fence to screen the equipment. Mr. Hunnicutt replied that there was no landscaping which is also a requirement.

**Motion:** Carlton Gilbert moved the application be recommended conditioned on meeting the equipment screening requirements in accordance with §59-A-6.14 of the zoning code. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** T-Mobile application to attach three antennas at the 127' level of a 140' monopole on the Lloyd property located at 21410 Beallsville Road in Dickerson (Application #200904-08); and

**Action Item:** T-Mobile application to attach nine antennas at the 80' level of a 126' monopole on the Barnhart property located at Hawkins Creamery Road & Laytonsville Road in Gaithersburg (Application #200904-10).

Bob Hunnicutt explained that since the Board of Appeals (BOA) has asked that, for applications that show a change in ownership of property with a monopole approved by special exception, the Tower Coordinator condition the recommendation on the applicant notifying the BOA of the change. Thus, that is a condition of his recommendation for these two T-Mobile applications (200904-08 and 200904-10).

Marjorie Williams remarked that the need for the applicants to file an ownership change with the BOA is so the BOA can record to whom they should send notices about the special exception. She added that she had to assist DPS last year to identify current owners of property where monopoles had been permitted by special exception based on the TFCGs files to bring the Countys records up to date.

Dave Niblock added that there are annual fees assessed for special exceptions and without knowing the correct party to whom to send the billing notices, the fees may not get paid in a timely manner. He noted that a number of assessment bills were long overdue.

**Motion:** Dave Niblock moved the applications be recommended conditioned on the applicants notifying the Board of Appeals of the change in ownership of the property. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** Cricket Communications application to attach three antennas at the 175' level of a 250' lattice tower on County property located at 26149 Ridge Road in Damascus (Application #200905-01).

Bob Hunnicutt noted that the Tower Coordinator recommendation for this attachment was conditioned on a structural analysis being completed for attachment of the antennas to this County-owned tower. He explained that he had been in contact with Steve Batterden about this application and that Mr. Batterden had agreed to let the application be placed on the agenda in the interest of moving the application through the TFCG process, but that Mr. Batterden stated he would not issue a lease until he had received a complete structural analysis which included consideration of the foundation.

Mr. Batterden explained that he had requested a structural analysis from the applicant but the report provided cited some problems with deterioration to the foundation, loose bolts, and rust problems on the tower. Consequently, he had requested a second, more detailed analysis which included the tower foundation.

Mitsuko Herrera asked when he asked for the analysis. Mr. Batterden replied that it had been about a month ago. Ms. Herrera remarked that she did not feel comfortable acting on this application until the analysis was completed and the County knew what may be necessary to address those problems noted. She added that the applicant had had been given ample time to provide a complete analysis.

Helen Mu added that the Tower Coordinators recommendation stated that the County had antennas on this tower which is incorrect. Mr. Hunnicutt said he would correct the recommendation.

Michael Kelly, representing Cricket, asked that the TFCG act on the application with a condition that no antennas be attached until the analysis had been completed and any necessary corrective work on the tower had been performed.

Ms. Mu stated that she thought that the group should table the application until the status of the tower was clear. Mr. Batterden said that he would agree to that option if proposed. Mr. Niblock agreed as well. Mr. Hunnicutt suggested that the group table the application until these concerns were addressed. He noted that since there would be no work until the analysis was completed, it would not necessarily hold up deployment of the antennas.

Carlton Gilbert remarked that the group often conditioned their recommendations on submission of a structural analysis. Mr. Hunnicutt agreed but noted that usually that is when there had not been an analysis provided. He noted that in this case, there was an analysis which noted deficiencies but with no recommendation as to how to correct them, which warranted delay on action until those questions are answered.

**Motion:** Helen Mu moved the application be tabled until the results of the analysis are provided to the County and the TFCG for reconsideration. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved with Mr. Batterden abstaining.

**Action Item:** T-Mobile Application to attach up to nine antennas at the 140' level of a 140' PEPCO transmission line tower #148-N located at 19800 New Hampshire Avenue in Brookeville (Application #200905-02).

Mr. Hunnicutt noted that as was the case with application #200812-17 on this agenda, the Tower Coordinators recommendation was conditioned on meeting the equipment screening requirements in accordance with §59-A-6.14 of the zoning code.

**Motion:** Dave Niblock moved the application be recommended conditioned on meeting the equipment screening requirements in accordance with §59-A-6.14 of the zoning code. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** T-Mobile application to nine attach antennas at the 155' level of a 195' monopole on the Weitzer property located at 14705 Sugarland Road in Poolesville (Application #200905-04).

Mr. Hunnicutt summarized the application and noted that since this is a very old and tall monopole with a lot of top loading he conditioned his recommendation on submission of a structural analysis.

**Motion:** Dave Niblock moved the application be recommended conditioned on submission of a structural

analysis that shows the monopole can accommodate the additional antennas and related cabling. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** AT&T application to attach up to nine antennas at the 105' level of a 140' monopole on M-NCPPC Trolley Museum property located at 1313 Bonifant Road in Colesville (Application #200905-11).

Mr. Hunnicutt noted that this recommendation was conditioned on construction of the monopole in a tree stealth design in accordance with the special exception that had been granted.

**Motion:** Carlton Gilbert moved the application be recommended conditioned on construction of the monopole in a tree stealth design in accordance with the special exception that had been granted. Helen Mu seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** T-Mobile application to attach six antennas at the 55' level of the 30' to 60' Rebecca building located at 10920 Connecticut Avenue in Kensington (Application #200905-26).

Mr. Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that on this residentially zoned property the building height is required to be greater than 50'. He explained that the building was three stories high on one end and six stories high on the other end. Based on his discussions with Dave Niblock about the height of the building, his recommendation was conditioned on a determination from DPS that the height meets the zoning requirement for attachment.

Dave Niblock said that the height would be determined on the average height across the front of the building and based on the information he had at this time and lacking detailed plans for review, he did not believe that the 50' height requirement could be met. He added that the building itself is permitted by a special exception, which at the time the special exception was approved, the maximum height for that type structure in a residential zone was 35' high, so he did not see how the structure could be now determined to be any different.

Ms. Herrera commented that she did not believe that applications that had not been completely researched and filed in accordance with the regulations should be approved until all the facts are known.

Carmen Charalambous said that the height issue was not clear to her since the antennas would be attached to the penthouse which may meet the height requirement. Mr. Niblock and Mr. Hunnicutt explained that a penthouse is not included in the building height determination.

There was discussion among the group as to whether the application may require either a special exception, a minor or major modification to the special exception, or a waiver or variance to the height requirements. It was determined that the applicant would have to check with the Board of Appeals (BOA) to ascertain what would be needed to approve this application and then the carrier would have to decide what they wanted to do according to the BOAs advice.

**Motion:** Dave Niblock moved the application be tabled until the applicant could determine the BOAs position on these questions and reported back to the TFCG along with what the carrier's position would be based on that determination. Steve Batterden seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**The next meeting of the TFCG is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at 2 p.m. in the second floor conference room #225 of the COB.**