



## DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Isiah Leggett  
County Executive

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### MINUTES OF TFCG MEETING

**To:** Distribution

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

A meeting of the Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TFCG) was held on March 2, 2011. The following people were in attendance:

#### MEMBERS

Marjorie Williams		DTS
Dave Niblock		DPS
Martin Rookard	(via phone)	WSSC
Mary Pat Wilson		MCPS
Carlton Gilbert	(via phone)	M-NCPPC

#### STAFF

Bob Hunnicutt	CTC
Eric Wirth	CTC

#### OTHER ATTENDEES

Mitsuko Herrera	DTS
Amy Byrd	NB&C, LLC for T-Mobile
Hillorie Morrison	NB&C, LLC for T-Mobile
Jay Schapiro	NB&C
Mustasque Mohamed	AT&T
Linda Leibermann	Bechel
Jim Michal	Jackson and Campbell for IMF

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

#### **Action Item – Consent Agenda Applications:**

1. T-Mobile application to add equipment at multiple monopole locations. Application #201103-08 Minor Modification
2. T-Mobile application to add equipment at multiple self-supporting structure locations. Application #201103-09 Minor Modification

3. T-Mobile application to add equipment at multiple water tank locations.  
Application #201103-10 Minor Modification
4. T-Mobile application to add equipment at multiple building rooftop locations.  
Application #201103-11 Minor Modification
5. T-Mobile application to add equipment at multiple PEPCO locations.  
Application #201103-12 Minor Modification
6. T-Mobile application to add equipment at the base of the tower located at 17335 Donora Road. Application #201103-13 Minor Modification

**Motion:** Dave Niblock moved items number 2 through 6 be recommended as recommended and conditioned by the Tower Coordinator.

**Discussion:** Mary Pat Wilson asked that item #1 be pulled from the consent agenda. Mitsuko Herrera suggested that the recommendation from the TFCG for all of the Consent Agenda applications reflect in that the work is performed by Comcast to provide backhaul service for T-Mobile.

Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** T-Mobile application to add equipment at multiple monopole locations. Application #201103-08 Minor Modification

Mary Pat Wilson noted that there were several errors on the attached listing of locations where facilities were cited as having already been done or to be installed. She said that the monopole located at Sligo Middle School was not yet built and is presently under review by the Board of Appeals but approval has not yet been granted for the special exception to construct it. The location cited at 7100 Whittier Boulevard has not been approved and will not be built. The site on Emery Grove Road is located within the City of Gaithersburg and does not require TFCG action. Further, Ms. Wilson noted that installation by Comcast has not yet been approved by the Board for any of the public school sites.

Mr. Hunnicutt noted that the Tower Coordinator's recommendation is conditioned on the applicant providing written documentation of approval from the public schools.

**Motion:** Martin Rookard moved the application be recommended conditioned on approval by the public schools and as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion and it was approved with Mary Pat Wilson abstaining.

**Action Item – Agenda Item #7:** T-Mobile application to attach antennas at the 35'-high level atop a 24'-high building on National Children's Center property located at 410 University Boulevard West in Silver Spring (Application #200908-22).

*Conditioned on the Board of Appeals approving a Special Exception, Administrative modification to the existing Special Exception or whatever other applicable action may be deemed appropriate by the Board for placement of these facilities.*

Mr. Hunnicutt summarized the application.

**Motion:** Dave Niblock moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item – Agenda Item #9:** T-Mobile application to attach antennas at the 147' level on a 155'-high monopole on Ammerman property located at 19100 Wasche Road in Dickerson. (Application #201103-07).

*Conditioned on approval of a Special Exception by the Board of Appeals.*

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application, noting that since the TFCG originally reviewed the application, as described in the Tower Coordinator's recommendation, a number of changes have occurred: To meet M-NCPPC interests, T-Mobile has relocated the monopole approximately 800' from Wasche Road to the back of the property, where it no longer meets the required setback from the side yard; T-Mobile redesigned the monopole to a slim line structure to meet the interests of the Rustic Roads Committee; and the redesigned monopole is now 5' taller than originally proposed because it is located on ground lower than where originally proposed.

Carlton Gilbert asked what the setback is at the new location. Mr. Hunnicutt replied that it was 44' according to the new plans and consequently, in addition to the recommendation being conditioned on approval of a special exception, it is also conditioned on approval of a reduction in meeting the setback requirements.

**Motion:** Martin Rookard moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Dave Niblock seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert and Mary Pat Wilson abstaining.

**Action Item – Agenda Item #/8:** IMF application for an AT&T 155'-high monopole with panel antennas at the 150level on IMF property located at 15700 River Road in Germantown (Application #201103-02).

*Conditioned on applicant being granted a special exception by the Board of Appeals for a monopole not to exceed 130 feet in height or lower.*

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that the construction of the monopole will require approval of a special exception as explained Planning Board's meeting minutes and as determined by the County and is so conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. He also noted that because the IMF coverage objective, from the engineering perspective, can clearly be met with antennas at a much lower elevation above ground, a 155'-high monopole is not needed. Based on the RF maps provided with the application, and the AT&T maps provided with the original application for this monopole, a structure as low as 130' at the maximum can provide coverage to the Bretton Woods golf course area to meet the stated coverage objective.

Mr. Rookard asked if the services were to be provided just for emergency purposes. Ms. Herrera replied that according to the IMF, this property would be used for IMF staff in an emergency situation at such time as they may have to evacuate their downtown D. C. offices.

Jim Michal noted that the Planning Board attorney has determined that the construction of the monopole does not require a special exception.

Ms. Herrera replied that at the Planning Board meeting, it was explained that the monopole is not subject to a special exception as it relates to the work of the IMF on the property, but it is subject to a special exception to provide cell phone service.

Mr. Michal stated that AT&T has been contacted by T-Mobile and Verizon Wireless expressing interest in co-locating their antennas on the monopole. He provided copies of AT&T's RF contour maps showing the calculated coverage at signal levels of -77dBm (in blue color), which he said show that the entire IMF property is not fully served with antennas at the 130 level above ground, adding that the C&O Canal is also not served.

Mr. Hunnicutt noted that the map Mr. Michal provided only shows the calculated coverage for signals illustrated in blue at the -77dBm level, which is typically sufficient to provide coverage in the clubhouse as well as a larger area both on and off the IMF property. Mr. Michal, he explained, was not showing the TFCG copies of other maps which show that the proposed antennas coverage with other signal levels is sufficient to provide reliable for in-vehicle and on-street services to a very wide area around the property. Mr. Hunnicutt added that he had those maps but could not provide them in the meeting because they are confidential; only AT&T could provide those maps. If Mr. Michal would let the group see those maps, Mr. Hunnicutt said, it would be clear that signals sufficient to provide reliable service in those areas and further away could be provided. Mr. Hunnicutt also noted that, based on the technical specifications of the antennas, the area where indoor coverage signal levels may be provided would be greater if the antennas were mounted at a certain lower elevation.

Ms. Herrera stated because the IMF is seeking approval of the monopole through the Mandatory Referral process, they have chosen to limit the coverage objectives to serving the IMF property and that the County has the special exception process in place to address placement of the monopole as proposed, where it would serve the general public across a wide area in this vicinity. Mr. Hunnicutt recalled that he understood that the IMF had already obtained approval for three special exceptions on the property—one for the golf course, one for the swimming pools, and one for the clubhouse.

Mr. Michal explained that now the IMF doesn't want to subject the approval of this monopole to a special exception review because it may not be approved so they are pursuing approval through the Mandatory Referral process. He said that due to environmental interests, for example, approval through the special exception process may drag approval out for years.

Ms. Herrera reiterated that to avoid special exception review, the IMF has chosen to limit the need for the facility to serve just the IMF property for which a 155'-high monopole is not needed. She asked Mr. Hunnicutt how short a structure could be used and still meet IMF's coverage

objective. Mr. Hunnicutt stated that antennas on a monopole no higher than 130' tall would meet the stated coverage objective and provide more than adequate space for co-location of other carriers' antennas, but because AT&T did not provide any documentation illustrating what the calculated service coverage may look like with antennas at lower elevations, he could not say how low might be feasible.

Ms. Herrera noted that the Tower Coordinator's recommendation is conditioned on approval for a monopole at 130'-high or lower.

Mr. Michal noted that broadband capacity is also a consideration and the IMF may relocate up to 1,000 people to work at Bretton Woods in the event of an emergency. Ms. Herrera objected to Mr. Michal's statement that the IMF may move that many IMF staff to what is, after all, a golf course, to conduct the business of the IMF. She noted that, even if that were the case, there were other options, such as temporary cell sites, available to provide additional capacity. She added that no such plan has been indicated by the IMF in the letters they submitted; only that "in the event of any catastrophe or terrorist act that renders both IMF Headquarters buildings in Washington, D. C. unusable, the Executive Board and management will relocate to the facility [sic: Bretton Woods] and run the business of the IMF from there until the Headquarters buildings are restored," according to the letter from George Brookings, Assistant Director, Administrative Section, Technology and General Services Department. The accuracy of that statement was affirmed by the Director of Technology and General Services Department, Frank Harnischfeger, in his letter.

**Motion:** Martin Rookard moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert abstaining.

**Discussion Item:** Mr. Hunnicutt advised the group that he had been informed that the RAD center for Fiber Tower antennas have not yet been installed as reviewed by the TFCG last month (application # 201103-030) but their elevation on the monopole has been revised from 125' AGL to 130' AGL. He finds no problems with that revision. No further action is needed by the TFCG and he will note the change in the file.

**The next meeting of the TFCG is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6 at 2 p.m. in the second floor conference room #225 of the COB.**