



DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

E. Steven Emanuel
Chief Information Officer

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 May 4, 2011. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Marjorie Williams	DTS
Dave Niblock	DPS
Mary Pat Wilson	MCPS
Carlton Gilbert	M-NCPPC
Joan Cole (via phone)	DTS

STAFF

Bob Hunnicutt	CTC
Martin Liebman	CTC

OTHER ATTENDEES

Mitsuko Herrera	DTS
Sean Hughes	for T-Mobile
Paul Ellington	NB&C for T-Mobile
Mona McKenzie	CCAC
Charles Salamone	NB&C for AT&T

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

Action Item – Consent Agenda Applications:

1. AT&T application to add three 72"-high panel antennas at the 141' level on the monopole at the Shady Grove Post Office property located at 16501 Shady Grove Road in Gaithersburg (Application #201105-02). Minor Modification
2. AT&T application to add three 72"-high panel antennas on the 113'-high level on the monopole on at the Super Fresh Shopping Center property at 3901 Aspen Hill Road in Wheaton (Application #201105-03). Minor Modification
Conditioned on submission of a structural analysis report to the DPS with a copy to the Tower Coordinator which states that the antennas and related cabling can be safely attached.

Motion: Dave Niblock moved the Consent Agenda items be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to attach nine 59"-high panel antennas at the 105'-high level on the tower at the Faiola property located at 17335 Donora Road in Silver Spring (Application #201105-04).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that it was reviewed by the TFCG in 2010, at which time the TFCG voted to not recommend the application because the tower was illegal, does not meet setback requirements, and has structural issues.

Since that time T-Mobile has decided to file for approval of a Special Exception to permit the illegal tower and T-Mobile's attachment to it; the Special Exception necessitates a recommendation from the TFCG that is no more than 90 days old.

Mr. Hunnicutt added that American Tower Corporation (ATC), which manages the tower, provided a structural analysis report with this new filing that shows that the tower has been extended and is now a total of 218' high. Mr. Hunnicutt noted that because of its height, the tower should be marked and lit to meet FAA requirements. Further, the extensions have not been reported to the FCC per the FCC's requirements. Additionally, neither the plans nor the structural analysis report identify all the antennas on the tower, making the application incomplete.

Mr. Hughes asked how it was determined that the height of the tower is 218'. Mr. Hunnicutt replied that the ATC documents show that information, which is different than what the TFCG reviewed when this application was considered in 2010.

Dave Niblock noted that because the tower is illegal it cannot be approved for any changes or attachments. Carlton Gilbert agreed.

Motion: Dave Niblock moved to not recommend the application. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to construct a 125'-high monopole and attach six 59"-high panel antennas, three at the 120'-high level and three at the 110'-high level, on Twin Farms Club, Inc. property at 1200 Fairland Road in Silver Spring (Application #201103-04).

Mr. Hunnicutt explained that this application, initially reviewed in 2008, has also been filed again by T-Mobile to obtain a current recommendation from the TFCG because T-Mobile is ready to file for a Special Exception and needs a TFCG recommendation that is no more than 90 days old to meet current code requirements. He said that the TFCG voted to not recommend the application in 2008 and, because there have been no changes in the circumstances of this application since then, the Tower Coordinator's recommendation is the same.

Marjorie Williams noted whereas in the past the TFCG sometimes voted to not recommend an application that did not meet all the zoning requirements necessary for a Special Exception, more current practice for the TFCG on these kind of applications is to recommend conditioned approval on approval by the Board of Appeals for a Special Exception and a reduction in setback requirements. To be consistent, the TFCG favored the latter approach in this case.

Motion: Marjorie Williams moved to recommend the application conditioned on approval by the Board of Appeals for a special exception and a reduction in setback requirements. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert abstaining.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to construct a 115'-high monopole and attach four 59"-high panel antennas at the 115' level on Gibson property at 2815 Cabin Creek Drive in Burtonsville (Application #201103-06).

Conditioned on the applicant meeting the requirements of 59-G-2.58 and obtaining a Special Exception from the Board of Appeals.

Mr. Hunnicutt noted that this is another application which was reviewed previously and has been re-filed by T-Mobile because it is prepared to file for a Special Exception and needs a current recommendation from the TFCG. Based on his review, there have been no changes to the circumstances related to the application since the application was originally reviewed in 2008, so his recommendation is the same as at that time, when the TFCG voted to recommend.

Motion: Dave Niblock moved to recommend the application as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert abstaining.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to construct a 120'-high monopole and attach nine 59"-high panel antennas at the 120' level on Sunshine Farm property located at 22611 Georgia Avenue in Brookeville. (Applications #201103-01 and 201002-01)

Due to unusual circumstances, Marjorie Williams asked that the TFCG consider action on another T-Mobile application which, though not on today's agenda, requires, for the second time, a current recommendation from the TFCG. The TFCG reviewed this application in February 2011 (when it was resubmitted to obtain a current recommendation based on the first TFCG review of the application, in 2008), but the February recommendation has expired. She said that the unusual circumstances are that the check to accompany T-Mobile's Special Exception application, which they are now ready to file, is near expiration and could not be accepted, and that a new check could not be obtained from T-Mobile in time to also have a current TFCG recommendation to accompany their application for the Special Exception. Consequently, in this case only, Ms. Williams agreed to add this to the agenda to address this administrative problem which is beyond the TFCG's control so as to not further delay the process for T-Mobile.

Motion: Mary Pat Wilson moved the application be recommended as conditioned on meeting screening requirements for the equipment area and approval of a Special Exception by the Board of Appeals. Joan Cole seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert abstaining.

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