



**DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

Isiah Leggett  
County Executive

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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 1, 2013. The following people were in attendance:

**MEMBERS**

Marjorie Williams		DTS
Dave Niblock	(via phone)	DPS
Bernie Fitzgerald		DGS
Carlton Gilbert	(via phone)	M-NCPPC
Joan Cole	(via phone)	DTS
Naeem Mia	(via phone)	OMB

**STAFF**

Bob Hunnicutt	CTC
Eric Wirth	CTC
Nancy Rodriguez	CTC

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

M. G. Diamond	Counsel for Verizon Wireless
Harold Bernadzikowski	NB&C for Verizon Wireless
Tracy Themak	Donohue and Sterns

**Action Item: Meeting Minutes**

Discussion: Bernie Fitzgerald asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect that he voted for application #201304-06; the minutes as written incorrectly reflected that he had abstained from voting.

**Motion:** Carlton Gilbert moved the minutes be approved as amended. Joan Cole seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item: Consent Agenda**

1. Clearwire application attach a 10"-wide dish antenna at the 140' level on the penthouse walls atop a 125'-high apartment building located at 2445 Lyttonville Road in Silver Spring (201304-02). *Minor Modification*

2. Verizon Wireless application to replace twelve at the 118' level on a 140' high monopole on the Seneca Ayr Farm located at 13100 West Old Baltimore Road in Boyds (201304-09). *Minor Modification*
3. Sprint application to add a dish antenna at the 161' level atop a 156'-high apartment building located at 12630 Veirs Mill Road in Rockville (201305-04). *Minor Modification*
4. Verizon Wireless application to add three panel antennas at the 120' level atop a 14-story apartment building located at 4853 Cordell Avenue in Bethesda (201305-05). *Minor Modification*
5. Verizon Wireless application to replace six antennas atop 15-story apartment building located at 9737 Mt. Pisgah Road in Silver Spring (201305-06). *Minor Modification*
6. Verizon Wireless application to replace six antennas at the 125' level atop an 11-story office building located at 6707 Democracy Boulevard in Bethesda (201305-07). *Minor Modification*.
7. Verizon Wireless application to replace six antennas at the 140' level on a 190'-high monopole located on Gate of Heaven Cemetery property located at 13801 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring (201305-08). *Minor Modification*
8. Verizon Wireless application to replace six antennas on a 199'-high monopole located at 16801 Oakmont Avenue in Gaithersburg (201305-09). *Minor Modification*

**Motion:** Bernie Fitzgerald moved the Consent Agenda items be recommended. Dave Niblock seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### **Regular Agenda**

**Action Item:** Verizon Wireless application to construct a 155'-high monopole and attach 12 panel antennas at the 150' level on M-NCPPC property located at Gladbeck Drive in Silver Spring (201304-08). *Special Exception. Conditioned on M-NCPPC approving a lease agreement and resolving the environmental issues related to the proposed monopole, and on approval of a special exception and a reduction in the setback requirements by the Board of Appeals.*

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application and the Tower Coordinator's recommendation, noting that this application was the most recent of numerous attempts by other carriers in the past to site facilities in the vicinity of this site. Prior attempts to construct new monopole sites had failed because the area is in an environmental protection zone. He added that there are environmental issues to be resolved by the M-NCPPC, including whether the 8% limit on impervious surfaces in the protected area where the monopole site is located would be exceeded with the addition of monopole site, and that the location of the monopole on the property did not meet required setback distances from the property line. He described the area around the site along the ICC as having single-family residential areas to the north and a forested area on the other side of the ICC from the site. He remarked that the monopole will be visible to residents in nearby neighborhoods, and that passers-by along the ICC would likely see the top of the

monopole. Mr. Hunnicutt also explained that when asked about disguising the monopole, the applicant had said that M-NCPPC staff had declared that they would prefer not to have a tree disguise like the one at the Trolley Car Museum because its appearance had been the source of complaints from residents using the ICC.

Eric Wirth explained his review of the RF maps provided by Verizon Wireless and reported that based on the maps that were provided, there did not appear to be a distinguishable difference between the coverage from antennas at the 150' level as proposed and coverage from antennas at 130' level above ground. He added that there was a slightly smaller area shown on the map that illustrated coverage from antennas at the 110' level.

Mr. Hunnicutt said that based on the RF findings, if there are objections to the height of the monopole, it is likely that a shorter one at least 130' high could be used and still enable Verizon Wireless's antennas to meet the coverage objective for this site.

Mr. Fitzgerald expressed interest in recommending the monopole as proposed at the 150' level to permit co-location of antennas from other carriers interested in placing antennas in this vicinity. Ms. Williams agreed.

Mr. Hunnicutt said that based on his experience he would expect that once constructed, even a 130'-high monopole would be attractive to potential co-locators, because of the difficulty in siting facilities in this vicinity because of the environmental issues.

Carlton Gilbert noted that the special exception provisions in the Zoning Code state that a facility may be approved up to 155 feet in height.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked if the property on the other side of the ICC could be used for the monopole site. Mr. Bernadzikowski said that access in that heavily forested area would be problematic and that the proposed site was relatively easily accessed. Mr. Fitzgerald agreed. Mr. Bernadzikowski added that their engineers estimated that only perhaps 4% of the area had impervious surfaces and that they had a site visit scheduled with Area 3 M-NCPPC planning staff for May 3rd to discuss the environmental issues.

**Motion:** Bernie Fitzgerald moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Dave Niblock seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert abstaining.

**Action Item:** T-Mobile application to replace three antennas at the 130' level on a 212'-high lattice tower on WSSC property located at 23720 Log House Road in Gaithersburg (201305-02). *Minor Modification. Conditioned on the applicant providing written authorization from WSSC at the time of permitting that WSSC has approved this work.*

Mr. Hunnicutt explained that for the next two applications, because WSSC had advised him that they had not approved the work proposed by T-Mobile on their property, the Tower Coordinator's recommendation for this application was conditioned on the applicant providing written authorization from WSSC at the time of permitting that WSSC has approved this work.

**Motion:** Bernie Fitzgerald moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** T-Mobile application to replace six antennas at the 36' level on a 38'-high water tank on WSSC property located at 24213 Ridge Road in Damascus (201305-03). *Minor Modification. Conditioned on the applicant providing written authorization from WSSC at the time of permitting that WSSC has approved this work.*

**Motion:** Bernie Fitzgerald moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** AT&T application to install a power generator within the existing fenced equipment area at the base of the monopole located on USPS property located at 16501 Shady Grove Road in Gaithersburg (201305-11). *Minor Modification. Conditioned on compliance with the County's Noise Ordinance.*

Mr. Hunnicutt explained that, as had been the case with other applications to place outdoor power generators at a site, the recommendation for this application was also conditioned on the noise from the generator being in compliance with the limits set by the County's Noise Ordinance.

**Motion:** Joan Cole moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Bernie Fitzgerald seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** AT&T application to install a 130KW generator within the existing fenced equipment area at the base of the monopole on the Clement Property located at 25217 Peach Tree Road in Clarksburg (201305-12). *Minor Modification. Conditioned on compliance with the County's Noise Ordinance and on any modification that may be needed to the special exception approved by the Board of Appeals.*

Mr. Hunnicutt noted that the recommendation for this application, also to place a power generator at the site, is also conditioned on compliance with the County's Noise Ordinance. He added that this monopole is permitted by special exception for a facility without a generator, and that he did not know whether the special exception would need to be modified to permit the generator. The applicant would have to check with the Board of Appeals to see if that would be required or not. Consequently, the recommendation is so conditioned.

**Motion:** Carlton Gilbert moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Naeem Mia seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the TFCG will be held on June 5 in Room #225 of the COB.