



DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY & ENTERPRISE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Gail M. Roper
Chief Information Officer/Director

June 7, 2023

MINUTES OF TFCG MEETING

To: Distribution

From: TFCG Staff (CTC Technology & Energy)

A meeting of the Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TFCG) was held on June 7, 2023. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Table with 3 columns: Name, Participation Method, and Organization. Includes Marjorie Williams (TFCG Chair), Amy Zou (DPS), Daryl Braithwaite (City of Takoma Park), Wayne Anderson (WSSC), Benjamin Berbert (M-NCPPC), Lynn Lewis (M-NCPPC), Thomas Williamson (DGS), Carina Gonzales (MCPS), and Gerry Adcock (TEBS - Public Safety Radio).

STAFF

Table with 3 columns: Name, Participation Method, and Organization. Includes Shawn Thompson (CTC), Julie Elias (CTC), Lisa Lewis (DTS), InSoon Oh (DTS), and Heather Elliot (DTS).

OTHER ATTENDEES

Table with 3 columns: Name, Participation Method, and Organization. Includes Javad Shayan (DPS), Patricia Wolford (DPS), and Debbie Spielberg (County Executive's Office).



Marjorie Williams introduced new committee members Carina Gonzales from MCPS and Gerry Adcock from Montgomery County Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions on behalf of Public Safety Radio.

Action Item: Meeting Minutes May 3, 2023

Motion: Daryl Braithwaite moved that the May minutes be approved. Thomas Williamson seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda

1. **Application Number:** 2023022106 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 2/8/2023

Revised: 2/13/2023

Revised: 5/2/2023

Revised: 5/11/2023

Applicant: General Dynamics on behalf of AT&T Wireless

Site Name/Location: Well Lane Water Tank/11400 Woodglen Dr & Executive Blvd, Rockville

Zoning Standard: CR-3.0 C-1.5 R-2.5 H-100 **Property Owner:** WSSC

Description: Install back-up self-contained 30kw diesel generator and 4'x10' concrete pad.

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended on condition the applicant provides written approval from WSSC at the time of permitting. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023022106+Application.pdf>

2. **Application Number:** 2023022107 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 2/8/2023

Revised: 5/3/2023

Applicant: Jacobs Telecommunications on behalf of Verizon Wireless

Site Name/Location: Rinaldi Property/15700 Georgia Ave, Olney

Zoning Standard: R-200 **Property Owner:** Patricia V Rinaldi

Description: Remove (6) Antennas; (9) Radios; (1) OVP; (18) Diplexers; and (1) Hybrid Cable. Install (6) Antennas; (6) RRHs and proposed mount modifications. Upgrade ground equipment within existing shelter.

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023022107+Application.pdf>

3. **Application Number:** 2023032118 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 3/3/2023

Revised: 3/14/2023

Revised: 3/28/2023

Revised: 4/21/2023

Revised: 4/25/2023

Revised: 4/28/2023

Revised: 5/4/2023

Applicant: Site Link Wireless, LLC on behalf of AT&T Wireless

Site Name/Location: AT&T Long Line Tower/12419 Middlebrook Rd, Germantown

Zoning Standard: IM-2.5 H-50 **Property Owner:** American Tower Inc.

Description: Removal of (5) existing antennas, (6) TMAs, and (3) T-Arm Mounts. AT&T proposes the installation of (8) antennas, (4) RRHs, (3) Sector Mounts and (3) Swivel Mounts. AT&T will also upgrade and modify ancillary equipment as needed.

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023032118+Application.pdf>

4. **Application Number:** 2023032131 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 3/16/2023

Revised: 5/11/2023

Applicant: General Dynamic on behalf of AT&T Wireless

Site Name/Location: Goldsboro Rd Site/6400 Goldsboro Rd, Bethesda

Zoning Standard: CRT-0.75 C-0.75 R-0.25 H-35 **Property Owner:** 6400 Goldsboro LLC

Description: Existing AT&T generator to be removed and replaced with proposed AT&T Generac compact 30kW diesel generator. Existing AT&T 8'-0" X 6'-0" concrete pad to be modified as needed.

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023032131+Application.pdf>

5. **Application Number:** 2023052149 **Type:** Colocation **Received (date):** 5/8/2023

Revised: 5/24/2023

Applicant: NB+C on behalf of Dish Wireless

Site Name/Location: Shady Grove Medical Center/9850 Key West Ave, Rockville

Zoning Standard: CR-1.0 C-0.5 R-1.0 H-150 **Property Owner:** HSRE-Cap Med Shady Grove Med Village LLC

Description: DISH proposes to co-locate on a pre-existing telecommunications facility - installing antenna mount, 3 antenna panels, 6 RRU's and install equipment cabinet on proposed rooftop.

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023052149+Application.pdf>

6. **Application Number:** 2023052151 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 5/10/2023

Revised: 5/15/2023

Revised: 5/16/2023

Applicant: Smartlink LLC on behalf of AT&T Wireless

Site Name/Location: Hampshire Towers/7401 New Hampshire Ave, Takoma Park

Zoning Standard: CRT-2.0, C-0.5, R-1.5, H-130 **Property Owner:** Oxon Equities Corp
Description: AT&T proposes to remove (3) existing antennas and (1) mount location, relocate (4) existing antennas and install (6) new antennas, (1) new wall mount, (4) new pipe-to-pipe mounts and (2) new rectifiers.
Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.
<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023052151+Application.pdf>

The application was moved to the regular agenda at the meeting.

7. **Application Number:** 2023052152 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 5/11/2023
Revised: 5/22/2023
Revised: 5/30/2023

Applicant: Smartlink LLC on behalf of AT&T Wireless
Site Name/Location: Glenmont Tank/12413 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring
Zoning Standard: CR-2.0 C-0.5 R-1.75 H-120 **Property Owner:** WSSC
Description: AT&T proposes to REMOVE (12) existing antennas and (9) RRHs, RELOCATE (6) RRHs and INSTALL (12) new antennas, (3) RRHs and (1) rectifier.
Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended on condition the applicant provides written approval from WSSC at the time of permitting. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.
<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023052152+Application.pdf>

Ben Berbert made a motion to recommend the modified consent agenda. Gerry Adcock seconded the motion, and the motion to recommend the modified consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Regular Agenda

1. **Application Number:** 2023052151 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 5/10/2023
Revised: 5/15/2023
Revised: 5/16/2023

Applicant: Smartlink LLC on behalf of AT&T Wireless
Site Name/Location: Hampshire Towers/7401 New Hampshire Ave, Takoma Park
Zoning Standard: CRT-2.0, C-0.5, R-1.5, H-130 **Property Owner:** Oxon Equities Corp
Description: AT&T proposes to remove (3) existing antennas and (1) mount location, relocate (4) existing antennas and install (6) new antennas, (1) new wall mount, (4) new pipe-to-pipe mounts and (2) new rectifiers.
Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.
<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023052151+Application.pdf>

Marjorie Williams summarized the minor modification application from Smartlink on behalf of AT&T to remove three existing antennas and add six new antennas.

Daryl Braithwaite advised that questions from citizens concerning the application had been received regarding the RF impacts on the rooftop and balconies and whether the RF EME report submitted was sufficient. Shawn Thompson noted that the County's requirements for the applicant were to provide an explanation on any steps that have been or will be taken to prevent aggregate RF from exceeding exposure limits. The review had accepted the RF EME Report as fulfilling the applicant obligations to demonstrate mitigation. This report shows what types of signs and barriers would be used to prevent the general public from accessing areas exceeding exposure limits, and advising workers what occupational hazards would be present. The report satisfied County requirements.

Debbie Spielberg inquired about the RF levels and would the location and direction of the antennas be changed. Shawn Thompson noted that the report showed the percentage of exposures levels per the FCC limits. If there were locations where the public cannot access, the report would only show occupational measurements. In this report, they did show the areas in relation to the general public limit. The review would take into account the amount and type of signs to be posted. Debbie Spielberg inquired about roof access and Shawn Thompson advised that it was a locked roof as the application stated a lock was present to prevent the general public from accessing the roof. Debbie Spielberg inquired if there was verification about any access to the roof by residents. Shawn Thompson advised that for the review, the residents were viewed as the public and the review confirmed that the plans demonstrated locks.

Lynn Lewis asked about an effective alternative to the exposure that was present at this site, including the outdoor balconies. Shawn Thompson advised that the FCC has licensed the frequencies at certain levels and practically all wireless sites generally have areas over the limits, especially at the face of the antenna. In order to bring the site into compliance, the warning signs or barriers are the FCC's required and appropriate measures to bring sites in compliance. The power of the antenna could be lowered, but that would then require even more sites. Lynn Lewis asked if the measurement of 212,000 percent over the limit was normal. Shawn Thompson advised that it was a normal level if a person was standing at the antenna.

Debbie Spielberg asked about general public and occupational limits. Shawn Thompson advised that since workers in the area should be aware of roof hazards, at the access point, there would be signs posted regarding the RF hazards. The workers would contact the carrier in order to temporarily bring the site down so they could work safely.

Daryl Braithwaite inquired about the impact on balconies and top floor of the apartment building. Shawn Thompson replied that the greatest exposure could be from one building to another as a review concern is the coverage pattern of antennas in relation to neighboring buildings. Very little of the signal from the antennas goes backward or down to impact the host building. These antennas are *highly* directional, and point outward away from the host building. This report shows that virtually all of the roof is below the general public limit, which would also imply that the areas below the roof are below the general public limit.

Gerry Adcock made a motion to recommend application 2023052151, and Thomas Williamson seconded the motion. The motion to recommend was unanimously approved.

Daryl Braithwaite asked if a condition can be made to the recommendation for an inspection of the site by DPS. Marjorie Williams advised that the TFCG did not have the authority to tell DPS it had to inspect the site.

2. ***Application Number:*** 2023042145 ***Type:*** Colocation ***Received (date):*** 4/10/2023

Revised: 5/3/2023

Revised: 5/17/2023

Applicant: Crown Castle Fiber LLC on behalf of T-Mobile

Site Name/Location: PEPCO 794417-390280/ Corner Baltimore Ave & Takoma Ave, Takoma Park

Zoning Standard: R-60 ***Property Owner:*** Takoma Park

Description: -Strand Cable

-Ericsson 6523 semi-integrated panel antenna (1)

-Ericsson 6525 semi-integrated panel antenna (1)

-Ericsson Diplex Filter B2+B66/B30 (4-2) Diplexer (2)

-Ericsson 4402 Radio (2)

-Ericsson 4435 Radio (1)

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023042145+Application+and+Report.pdf>

Julie Elias summarized the application. Debbie Spielberg noted a citizen had forwarded concerns regarding the application. Margie Williams advised that the subjects in those concerns would be directed to DPS. Debbie Spielberg noted the citizen had concerns with the Tower Coordinator's Report. Patricia Wolford advised the concerns were regarding off brand use by the antennas. Shawn Thompson noted that the TFCG review did not involve an electrical review. That matter would be looked at when the County reviewed it for an electrical permit. Debbie Spielberg noted the concerns were regarding possible overheating due to not abiding with manufacturer's specifications and asked how citizen concerns sent to the TFCG could be tagged or ensured to follow the application to DPS. Patricia Wolford advised that if a piece of equipment is to be installed and has manufacturer specifications for how that must operate, they must comply with that and that would be checked at the DPS review level.

Daryl Braithwaite asked and Shawn Thompson confirmed that this antenna is consistent with the other strand mount applications reviewed by the TFCG. Amy Zou noted that the setbacks are met and the size requirements are met, and that these applications are evaluated the same as other strand mount applications have been evaluated in the past.

Debbie Spielberg noted that residents thought that measurement confirmations were performed incorrectly and measured to the wrong point in this application. Amy Zou confirmed that proper DPS procedure measures setbacks from the nearest dwelling to the structure, in this case, the pole.

She reiterated that DPS does not measure setbacks to the antenna/wire, but to the structure. Based on the information provided, the preliminary review was fine. Debbie Spielberg asked Amy to meet with residents to review. Amy Zou reiterated that when the application comes into DPS, it will be reviewed for compliance with all relevant code requirements. If residents have concerns, they can reach out to the relevant DPS staff at that time with their concerns.

Amy Zou made a motion to recommend, and Gerry Adcock seconded the motion.

Prior to the vote, Debbie Spielberg asked for clarification on the recommendation conditions requested in the citizen's request as to whether they were DPS or TFCG requirements. Amy Zou affirmed that the application would be checked for full compliance when assigned to DPS.

The motion to recommend was unanimously approved.

3. ***Application Number:*** 2023052160 ***Type:*** Colocation ***Received (date):*** 5/17/2023
Revised: 5/30/2023

Applicant: Crown Castle Fiber LLC on behalf of T-Mobile

Site Name/Location: PEPCO 795421-180920/Corner of Silver Spring Ave & Carroll, Silver Spring

Zoning Standard: R-60 ***Property Owner:*** Montgomery County

Description: MNG-161m1

Install on existing wood utility pole.

-Strand Cable

-Ericsson 6523 semi-integrated panel antenna (1)

-Ericsson 6525 semi-integrated panel antenna (1)

-Ericsson Diplex Filter B2+B66/B30 (4-2) Diplexer (2)

-Ericsson 4402 Radio (2)

-Ericsson 4435 Radio (1)

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023052160+Application+and+Report.pdf>

Julie Elias summarized the application. Debbie Spielberg inquired about the residential setback and if this proposed site was within the zoning requirement. Amy Zou confirmed the setback is 30', and confirmed this site meets the setback requirement at 37'. Debbie Spielberg inquired about notification requirements to the residence. Amy Zou replied that there was no notification requirement. Debbie Spielberg asked if there was a notification requirement to the nearest residence located at 37'. Amy Zou confirmed that there was no notification requirement in the zoning ordinance for this type of installation.

Debbie Spielberg referenced the citizen concerns regarding Item 1 on the regular agenda also included this application. Marjorie Williams advised that DPS would do a full review.

Debbie Spielberg requested that the citizen concerns for Items 1 and 2 should be formally incorporated into what TFCG forwards to DPS. Marjorie Williams advised that the TFCG package that is sent to Amy and her team also goes to the Electrical group as well.

Amy made a motion to recommend, and Benjamin Berbert seconded the motion. The motion to recommend was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next TFCG meeting is scheduled for July 5, 2023, at 2 p.m.