



DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY & ENTERPRISE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Gail M. Roper
Chief Information Officer/Director

May 3, 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 May 3, 2023. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Table with 3 columns: Name, Participation Method, and Agency. Includes Marjorie Williams (TFCG Chair), Amy Zou (DPS), Daryl Braithwaite (City of Takoma Park), Wayne Anderson (WSSC), Ben Berbert (M-NCPPC), Lynn Lewis (M-NCPPC), Seamus McNamara (OMB), Thomas Williamson (DGS), and Boyd Lawrence (MCPS).

STAFF

Table with 3 columns: Name, Participation Method, and Agency. 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 Agency. Includes Bahareh Inanloo (DPS) and Patricia Wolford (DPS).



Action Item: Meeting Minutes April 5, 2023

Motion: Seamus McNamara moved that the April minutes be approved. Ben Berbert seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda

1. **Application Number:** 2022122049 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 12/27/2022
Revised: 2/23/2023
Revised: 4/21/2023
Applicant: mastec on behalf of Verizon Wireless
Site Name/Location: Pepco 628-N/ Dufief Mill Rd & Quince Orchard Rd, Gaithersburg
Zoning Standard: RE-200 **Property Owner:** Pepco
Description: Replace/Modify existing telecommunicaiton facility exipment to include: Remove 6 antennas and add 9 new antennas; Remove 6 radios and add 9 new radios.
Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.
<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2022122049+Application.pdf>

2. **Application Number:** 2023012067 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 1/5/2023
Revised: 3/27/2023
Revised: 4/10/2023
Revised: 4/11/2023
Applicant: Smartlink LLC on behalf of AT&T Wireless
Full Corporate Name of the Facility Owner: New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC
Site Name/Location: Olney Water Tank/17710 Buehler Rd, Olney
Zoning Standard: RT-12.5 **Property Owner:** WSSC
Description: AT&T proposes to REMOVE (3) existing antennas and (1) UMTS cabinet and INSTALL (6) new NOKIA antennas and (4) new rectifiers.
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/MC2023012067+Application.pdf>

3. **Application Number:** 2023022109 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 2/9/2023
Revised: 3/7/2023
Revised: 4/10/2023
Revised: 4/24/2023
Applicant: Crown Castle on behalf of Verizon Wireless
Site Name/Location: Seneca Ayr Farm/13100 Old Baltimore Rd West, Boyds
Zoning Standard: IL-1.0 H-50 **Property Owner:** Linthicum Properties Management LLC

Description: Verizon proposes to remove (9) RRHs, (6) diplexers and (1) hybrid cable. Install (3) C-Band antennas and (6) RRHs. Miscellaneous Groundwork.

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

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023022109+Application.pdf>

4. **Application Number:** 2023032124 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 3/8/2023

Revised: 3/21/2023

Revised: 4/13/2023

Revised: 4/19/2023

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

Full Corporate Name of the Facility Owner: New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC

Site Name/Location: Sandy Spring VFD 40/16911 Georgia Ave, Olney

Zoning Standard: RE-2 **Property Owner:** Sandy Spring Vol. Fire Dept.

Description: AT&T proposes the removal of (6) antennas and the installation of (12) antennas. AT&T also proposes the upgrade and modification of proposed and existing ancillary equipment as needed.

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

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023032124+Application.pdf>

5. **Application Number:** 2023032125 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 3/8/2023

Revised: 3/29/2023

Revised: 4/13/2023

Revised: 4/19/2023

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

Full Corporate Name of the Facility Owner: New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC

Site Name/Location: Argyle Country Club/14600 Argyle Country Club, Silver Spring

Zoning Standard: RE-2 **Property Owner:** Argyle Land Company

Description: AT&T proposes the installation of (12) antennas and the removal of (9) antennas. AT&T also proposes the upgrade and modification of ancillary equipment as needed.

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

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023032125+Application.pdf>

6. **Application Number:** 2023032130 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 3/9/2023

Revised: 4/14/2023

Revised: 4/18/2023

Applicant: Smartlink LLC on behalf of AT&T Wireless

Full Corporate Name of the Facility Owner: New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC

Site Name/Location: Westlake Towers/7420 Westlake Terr, Bethesda
Zoning Standard: R-H **Property Owner:** Westlake Park Condo
Description: AT&T proposes to REMOVE (3) existing antennas, (2) cabinets, (6) rectifiers, (8) converters, RELOCATE (3) existing RRHs and INSTALL (3) new stacked antenna units for a total (6) new NOKIA antennas, (11) new rectifiers and (2) new converters.
Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.
<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023032130+Application.pdf>

7. **Application Number:** 2023032133 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 4/12/2023
Revised: 4/24/2023

Applicant: SmartLink Group on behalf of Verizon Wireless
Site Name/Location: Pepco 674-E/5200 Olney-Laytonsville Rd, Olney
Zoning Standard: RE-1 **Property Owner:** Pepco
Description: Verizon Wireless is removing (12) antennas, (3) TMAs and (3) Diplexers from the tower and (6) RRHs from the shelter. They are installing (9) antennas and (9) RRHs on the tower.
Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.
<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023032133+Application.pdf>

8. **Application Number:** 2023032137 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 3/31/2023
Revised: 4/19/2023

Applicant: Site Link Wireless LLC on behalf of T-Mobile
Site Name/Location: Quail Hill Farms/301 Quailhill Drive, Brookeville
Zoning Standard: R **Property Owner:** Andrew Austin
Description: Remove (1) MW dish antenna, (2) ODUs, and (1) .41" LMR400 line. Install (1) new MW dish antenna, (2) ODUs, (2) .51" hybrid cables, and (1) .51" control cables.
Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.
<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023032137+Application.pdf>

9. **Application Number:** 2023032138 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 3/31/2023
Revised: 4/21/2023

Applicant: Site Link Wireless LLC on behalf of T-Mobile
Site Name/Location: McDonnell Property/20315 Georgia Ave, Brookeville
Zoning Standard: RC **Property Owner:** Timothy McDonnell
Description: Remove (1) MW Dish Antenna, (1) ODU, and (1) Coax Cable. Install (1) new MW Dish Antenna, (2) ODU(s), (2) Control Cables, and (2) Hybrid Cables.
Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended. Recommendation is subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023032138+Application.pdf>

10. **Application Number:** 2023042140 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 4/3/2023
Revised: 4/11/2023

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

Full Corporate Name of the Facility Owner: New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC

Site Name/Location: Baptist Home/6301 Greentree Rd, Bethesda

Zoning Standard: R-60 **Property Owner:** Baptist Home for Children

Description: AT&T proposes the removal of (3) antennas and the installation of (6) antennas. AT&T will also look to upgrade ancillary equipment as needed.

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

<https://montgomerycountytfcg.s3.amazonaws.com/Applications/MC2023042140+Application.pdf>

11. **Application Number:** 2023042141 **Type:** Minor Modification **Received (date):** 4/4/2023
Revised: 4/19/2023

Applicant: Jacobs Telecommunications on behalf of Verizon Wireless

Site Name/Location: Public Storage Prosperity/12355 Prosperity Dr, Silver Spring

Zoning Standard: CR-0.75 C-0.75 R-0.25 H-75 **Property Owner:** Public Storage LP

Description: Remove (12) Antennas and (6) RRHs. Install (9) Antennas and (9) RRHs on new Mount. 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/MC2023042141+Application.pdf>

Ben Berbert made a motion to recommend all applications on the consent agenda. Amy Zou seconded the motion, and the motion to recommend the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Regular Agenda

Marjorie Williams asked Shawn Thompson to speak to several questions received by the TFCG concerning RF emissions at wireless sites. Shawn Thompson explained that questions received concerned the ERP values and how it is calculated and the significance. ERP stands for Effective Radiated Power, and every antenna has a certain amount of power delivered to that antenna in watts. He summarized that cell phone devices operate on a single- or single-digit watt, cell sites tend to be in the kilowatt or 1000 watts, and radio stations operate in the MW or 1 million watts. A cell phone signal is operating in all directions, whereas cell sites use antennas that go in a certain direction but are typically installed in sectors. This focuses that power in a particular direction. The ERP is how much power, in what direction and to what effect. Cell sites today, mobile networks are broadcast on multiple frequencies. We can calculate the ERP in each of the frequency bands. How does this relate to applications? When an application is filled out, there is a question for each

antenna model what is the maximum ERP? This question actually comes from the county's regulations. An antenna may be operating on multiple frequency bands, and we are looking for, of all the different ERPs of the different frequencies, which one is the highest. So, if an antenna is operating on the 700 and 850 bands, and the 700 band has an ERP of 1000, and 850 has an ERP of 2000, we're looking for the 2000 as that's the maximum ERP.

The reason why this is asked is because that is how we determine if an application is categorically excluded. We take the 2000W max ERP and look it up in the FCC's OET 65 bulletin to see if it can be categorically excluded. When it cannot be categorically excluded, we have been asking applicants to submit an RF report. There is nothing in the regulations that require it to be submitted, but we have been asking for it when an application is not categorically excluded.

A question was also received as to how the committee can recommend an application that may have areas that exceed FCC exposure limits and sign off on the application being categorically excluded. In other words, there are areas around an antenna that exceed FCC exposure limits, but it is also categorically excluded. How can that be? Shawn explained that virtually all antennas out there will have areas that will exceed the FCC's exposure limits, usually right up at the antenna face. Only some of those will be categorically excluded. The providers are still mitigating those issues, but they are not required by the FCC to submit a report.

Marjorie Williams asked, and Daryl Braithwaite confirmed that a follow-up discussion concerning DPS post-installation inspections could be moved to the June TFCG meeting when a representative from that division of DPS could be present to speak to the question.

1. ***Application Number:*** 2023032135 ***Type:*** Colocation ***Received (date):*** 3/28/2023

Revised: 4/11/2023

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

Site Name/Location: Pepco 806432-5346/10149 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring

Zoning Standard: CRT-1.5, C-1.0, R-1.0, H-75 ***Property Owner:*** State Highway ROW

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/MC2023032135+Application+and+Report.pdf>

Julie Elias summarized the application. Boyd Lawrence made a motion to recommend, and Thomas Williamson seconded the motion. The motion to recommend was unanimously approved.

2. **Application Number:** 2023042143 **Type:** Colocation **Received (date):** 4/10/2023
Revised: 4/21/2023
Revised: 4/24/2023

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

Site Name/Location: PEPCO 803430-770360/9709 E Light Dr, Silver Spring

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

Description: -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/MC2023042143+Application+and+Report.pdf>

Julie Elias summarized the application. Seamus McNamara made a motion to recommend, and Wayne Anderson seconded the motion. The motion to recommend was unanimously approved.

3. **Application Number:** 2023042144 **Type:** Colocation **Received (date):** 4/10/2023
Revised: 4/21/2023

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

Site Name/Location: PEPCO 799422-243180/ Corner Hudson Ave & Flower Ave, Takoma Park

Zoning Standard: R-10 **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/MC2023042144+Application+and+Report.pdf>

Julie Elias summarized the application. Amy Zou made a motion to recommend, and Seamus McNamara seconded the motion. The motion to recommend was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next TFCG meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2023, at 2 p.m.