

TTFCG Meeting Minutes May 2, 2001

To: Distribution
From: Bob Hunnicutt, Tower Coordinator, Columbia
Telecommunications

A meeting of the Telecommunications Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TTFCG) was held on May 2, 2001. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Dave Niblock DPS (240) 777-6252 (FAX) 777-6241
Willem Van Aller DIST (240) 777-2994 (FAX) 777-2950
Gene Dombrowski DPWT (240) 777-6086 (FAX) 777-6109
Pat Hanehan MCPS (301) 279-3609 (FAX) 279-3737
Tracey Williams WSSC (301) 206-7171 (FAX) 206-7199

STAFF

Robert Hunnicutt CTC (410) 964-5700 (FAX) 964-6478
Julie Modlin CTC (410) 964-5700 (FAX) 964-6478
Amy Rowan OCA (240) 777-3684 (FAX) 777-3770

OTHER ATTENDEES

Lee Jarmon Nextel (301) 625-4907 (FAX) 625-5502
Deane Mellander VoiceStream (240) 264-8658 (FAX) 264-8610
Jim Michal Jackson & Campbell (202) 457-1652 (FAX) 457-1678
M.G. Diamond Verizon Wireless (301) 951-1564
Carolyn Mitchell Cingular Wireless
Pam Peckham Bechtel/AWS
Tom King Darnestown Assoc. (301) 417-9789
Kwasi Bosompem WFI/Verizon (410) 309-0556
Bill O'Brien VoiceStream
Deborah Broderick Nextel
Janet Brown Jackson, Campbell
Valerie Grigg Davis WFI/Verizon

Action Item: Approval of April 4, 2001 Minutes: Pat Hanehan noted that Michael Ma's name had been misspelled and asked that the minutes be corrected in this regard. Pat Hanehan moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Dave Niblock seconded and the minutes were approved as amended.

Discussion Item: Bob Hunnicutt announced that Jane Lawton was out of town and that he was asked to chair today's meeting in her absence.

Consent Agenda Items:

- VoiceStream Wireless application to replace 6 existing 54" antennas with 6 new 72" antennas at the Oakmont Tower at 16801 Oakmont Avenue in Gaithersburg (Application #200104-14).
- VoiceStream Wireless application to replace 6 existing 54" antennas with 6 new 72" antennas at The Chateau Apartments at 9727 Mt. Pisgah Road in Silver Spring (Application #200104-15).

- VoiceStream Wireless application to replace 6 existing 54" antennas with 6 new 72" antennas at 962 Wayne Avenue in Rockville (Application #200104-24).

Bob Hunnicutt noted that at the last meeting the group agreed that the three VoiceStream applications discussed at that meeting would be put on today's agenda as consent agenda items. He reminded the group that in the past, there had been discussions about using a consent agenda format for applications that were fairly straight forward and, unless a group member wished to discuss one of the applications, they could be handled in the expeditious manner afforded by a consent agenda.

Dave Niblock noted that the antennas were 54" not 54' as indicated on the agenda. Julie Modlin noted these three applications were to replace existing antennas with new antennas which were slightly larger and more powerful. She stated she had received applications for all three sitings and was satisfied with the documentation provided by VoiceStream.

Motion: Pat Hanehan moved the applications be recommended. Dave Niblock seconded the motion and the applications were unanimously approved.

Action Items:

- airBand Communications application to pole mount antennas on the roof at the 93' level of a 90' Mellon Bank building located at 1901 Research Boulevard in Rockville (Application #200105-04).
- airBand Communications application to pole mount antennas on the roof at the 83' level of an 80' Scientific Hospital Supply building located at 6900 Medical Center Drive in Rockville (Application #200105-05).

Bob Hunnicutt stated that at the last meeting, Ms. Lawton had asked the Tower Coordinator to consider two applications from airBand Communications to meet immediate service requests from their clients for Internet service because they had lost service from their former ISP. He stated he was asked to obtain complete information from airBand and to bring these two applications to the group for consideration as by-right attachments. He reminded the group that these were user site antennas and both applications were for the same type of attachment. However, he noted at the last meeting that there was a question as to whether or not a building permit would be required. Dave Niblock stated he believed a building permit would be required for these applications. Mr. Hunnicutt added that in his interpretation of the code and the Executive Regulation, any antenna is a telecommunications facility and, as such, requires a building permit.

Jim Michal took issue with the need for TTF CG approval in these cases because there were many businesses, such as gas stations, which had attached satellite dishes to their buildings for transmission of their business and did not go through the TTF CG process. Mr. Hunnicutt stated that FCC regulations preempt local zoning authority over satellite dishes less than 2 meters in

diameter, and that may be the reason why those locations did not have to go through the TTF CG process. Dave Niblock stated those cases used different kinds of antennas than airBand's and he did not believe they needed to go through the TTF CG review process. Mr. Hunnicutt concluded the discussion by stating he did not wish to debate the issue but just wanted to bring his opinion to the group's attention. He noted that when the airBand user site antennas had first come before the TTF CG, the County Attorney's opinion had been that they did have to go through the review process.

Willem Van Aller stated that he was concerned about establishing a guideline for which type of antenna the group needed to review. He stated he would develop a proposal for a definition for this purpose and bring it to the next TTF CG meeting. Dave Niblock also noted there were many antennas attached to residential chimneys which did not need a building permit. Mr. Van Aller asked whether these user site antennas were inside or outside of the building. Mr. Hunnicutt stated that the group had determined if the antennas were inside the building they did not need review by the TTF CG, but if they were exterior attachments, they did. Kwasi Bosompem stated the kind of load the antennas were carrying may also be important to consider in this regard.

Motion: Pat Hanehan moved the applications be recommended. Dave Niblock seconded the motion and the applications were unanimously approved.

Action Items:

- Verizon Wireless application to attach antennas at the 200' of an existing NRC Building located at 11555 Rockville Pike in Rockville (Application #200103-04).
- Verizon Wireless application to attach 6 antennas to the existing antenna mounts at the 100' level on an existing 190' Rockville Measuring Station lattice tower located at 15030 Frederick Road in Rockville (Application #200104-03).
- Verizon Wireless application to attach 6 antennas to the existing antenna mounts at the 130' on an existing 175' Spectrasite monopole at the Bethesda Country Club located at 7601 Bradley Boulevard in Bethesda (Application #200104-04).
- Verizon Wireless application to attach 6 antennas to the existing antenna mounts at the 111' level on an existing Naval Surface Warfare water tank located at 9500 MacArthur Boulevard in Bethesda (Application #200104-05).
- Verizon Wireless application to attach 6 antennas to the existing antenna mounts at the 65' level on an existing 65' building at Maplewood Park located at 9707 Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda (Application #200104-06).
- Verizon Wireless application to attach 6 antennas to the existing antenna mounts at the 95' level on an existing 150' Tri State Quarry monopole located at 8200 Seven Locks Road in Bethesda (Application #200104-07).

- Verizon Wireless application to attach 6 antennas to the existing antenna mounts at the 125' level on the roof of an existing 125' Democracy Plaza II building located at 6707 Democracy Boulevard in Bethesda (Application #200104-08).

- Verizon Wireless application to attach 9 dual band antennas on the roof at the 240' level and replace 9 existing 850 MHz antennas at the 197' & 213' level with a dual band antenna on the approximately 200' Grosvenor Station Building located at 10301 Grosvenor Place in Rockville (Application #200104-09).

- Verizon Wireless application to attach 6 antennas at the 125' level, replacing the existing antennas on the Oakmont monopole located at 16801 Oakmont Avenue in Gaithersburg (Application #200104-10).

- Verizon Wireless application to attach 6 antennas to existing sled mounts on the roof at approximately the 150' level of the Rock Creek Terrace Apartments Building located at 12630 Viers Mill Road in Rockville (Application #200104-11).

Julie Modlin stated the first items on the regular agenda for by-right applications were from Verizon Wireless. She stated agenda items #1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 were all basically the same kind of application as the VoiceStream applications, and were to attach additional or replacement antennas to existing Verizon structures. She stated she had reviewed all of the applications and was satisfied with the technical aspects of the attachments. She noted that in some cases, a few antennas would be attached to the existing support structure at 1900 MHz and, in other cases, dual band antennas would be attached to existing support structures to replace the existing 850 MHz antennas. She added that the group may wish to take action on these applications in a consent agenda format as well, and approve all of the Verizon applications with one motion.

Motion: Dave Niblock moved the applications be recommended. Willem Van Aller seconded the motion and they were unanimously approved.

Action Item: Nextel Communications application to attach 12 panel antennas at the 116' level on an existing 124' PEPCO transmission line tower #59-N located at 17125 Germantown Road in Germantown (Application #200104-01).

Julie Modlin summarized the application and noted that Nextel would attach below AT&T's antennas on the powermount at this PEPCO transmission line tower.

Motion: Gene Dombrowski moved the application be recommended. Willem Van Aller seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: VoiceStream Wireless application to attach 6 panel antennas on the roof at the 79' level on an existing 79' Potomac Water Filtration Plant located at 12200 River Road in Potomac (Application #200104-02).

Julie Modlin summarized the application. Tracey Williams

commented that WSSC had been working with VoiceStream to site its antennas on this building and had no objections to this siting. Motion: Pat Hanehan moved the application be recommended. Tracey Williams seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: Nextel Communications application to attach antennas at the 60' level on an existing 145' PEPCO transmission line tower #652-N located at 12200 Falls Road in Potomac (Application #200104-12).

Julie Modlin summarized the application and noted that Nextel would join Metricom on this PEPCO transmission line tower. Pat Hanehan noted that the application stated that it was an Allegheny pole, not a PEPCO pole. Ms. Modlin stated that had been pointed out to Nextel and it was actually a PEPCO transmission line tower. Mr. Hunnicutt added that the diagrams did not show the Metricom equipment shed. He stated the equipment shed was to the left of the PEPCO transmission line tower and Nextel proposed to put its equipment shed behind the PEPCO transmission line tower. He stated that Metricom had not yet attached to this facility. Mr. Van Aller asked who was on the adjacent PEPCO transmission line tower. Mr. Hunnicutt stated it was AT&T.

Motion: Willem Van Aller moved the application be recommended. Gene Dombrowski seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: Nextel Communications application to attach antennas at the 107' level on an existing 111' PEPCO transmission line tower #663-S located at 10999 Seven Hill Lane in Potomac (Application #200104-13).

Julie Modlin summarized the application. Pat Hanehan asked if this location was a substitute for the monopole which was approved some time ago at the nearby County Maintenance Facility on Tuckerman Lane which he did not believe had ever been constructed. M.G. Diamond stated that may have been because, at that time (1997) PEPCO had not permitted attachments to its transmission line facilities, and now they do.

Motion: Dave Niblock moved the application be recommended. Willem Van Aller seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: Cingular Wireless application to attach antennas on the penthouse walls at the 170' level of an 18 story building at Park Ritchie Apartments located at 7600 Maple Avenue in Takoma Park (Application #200104-16).

Julie Modlin summarized the application and noted there were two other carriers on this rooftop. Pat Hanehan asked if there were any concerns about cumulative RF emissions at this location. Ms. Modlin stated that RF emissions were not a concern in this case. Mr. Hunnicutt added that there were few carriers on this building. He stated RF issues had been a factor for other sitings, such as The Washingtonian and The

Chateau because of the large number of existing antennas on the roof.

Motion: Gene Dombrowski moved the application be recommended. Pat Hanehan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: Nextel Communications application to attach antennas at the 135' level on an existing PEPCO 500 kV transmission line tower #57-L located at 24730 Halterman Road in Gaithersburg (Application #200104-17).

Julie Modlin summarized the application.

Motion: Dave Niblock moved the application be recommended. Tracey Williams seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: Sprint PCS application to replace an existing 40' lightpole with a 75' unipole, placing antennas at the 70' level, at Tilden Middle School located at 11211 Old Georgetown Road in Rockville (Application #200104-18).

Julie Modlin summarized the application. Mr. Hunnicutt distributed specification sheets Sprint had provided on the "unipole" design proposed for this site. He stated Sprint had advised him that the unipole would be capable of accommodating another set of antennas similar to Sprint's. He explained that the unipole was designed for two sets of antennas concealed behind RF friendly material. He added that even though the unipole added 30' to the height of the existing lightpole, he believed this was an excellent siting and did not think there would be objections from the community because the pole was far removed from nearby residential areas, there was a line of trees between the property line and the nearest residences, and it was behind the school building itself.

Jim Michal noted that this siting was much less objectionable than the utility lines along Old Georgetown Road. Pat Hanehan added that the school had been involved in the selection of the pole placement. He added that they were pleased that Sprint was so cooperative in providing a sidewalk to meet the school's evacuation plan needs as well, and commended Sprint's efforts in helping out the school. Mr. Van Aller asked if the Board of Education had approved this siting. Mr. Hanehan explained that only the school had been involved with Sprint in developing this proposal. He noted that once the TTFCG recommended this application, the formal MCPS process would begin. The application would be submitted to the Superintendent, who would review it and forward it to the Park and Planning Commission for Mandatory Referral and to the Principal of the School for review. He stated that when recommendations came back from those two entities, then the Superintendent would make a decision on the application. He stated this was the same process used in siting the monopole at Sherwood High School.

Motion: Willem Van Aller moved the application be recommended. Tracey Williams seconded the motion and it was approved with

Pat Hanehan abstaining.

Discussion Item - Proposed Tower Process Changes from a Citizen Group: Bob Hunnicutt reminded the TTFCG that Jane Lawton had promised the group that she would distribute copies of a letter from citizens which suggested revisions to the zoning text to address concerns they had. He said she wanted the members to review the letter and be prepared to discuss it at the next TTFCG meeting. Jim Michal asked which citizens had submitted the letter. Mr. Van Aller replied it appeared to be the citizens in the Briggs Chaney area.

Mr. King asked if he could be given a copy of the letter. Mr. Hunnicutt stated since he was asked only to distribute the letter to the group members, he was not comfortable distributing the letter to anyone else. He added that if Mr. King wished to get a copy of the letter, he could contact Marilyn Praisner's office. Mr. Hunnicutt explained that the letter had been transmitted to Ms. Praisner, who asked Ms. Lawton to provide comments on the proposed amendments after discussing them with the TTFCG members.

Discussion Item - April 27 TTFCG minutes: Bob Hunnicutt distributed draft copies of the minutes from the April 27 meeting and a letter to the Park and Planning Commission regarding AT&T's Brink Road monopole which was the focus of the April 27 meeting. He noted that due to the timing of the Park and Planning Commission's hearing (mid-May) and the Special Exception hearing (May 30), it was important that the group review the minutes and the letter and provide suggested revisions to him as soon as possible so Ms. Lawton may provide information to the Park and Planning Commission prior to their hearing.

Discussion Item - Proposed Meeting Dates: Mr. Hunnicutt distributed a list of tentative TTFCG meeting dates for the remainder of the year. He asked the group to review the dates for any potential schedule conflicts and be prepared to approve or modify the dates at the next TTFCG meeting. Tracey Williams stated she would prefer morning meetings due to traffic issues with the afternoon meetings. Mr. Van Aller stated that he could not attend morning meetings on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays.

The next meeting of the TTFCG is scheduled for Tuesday, June 5, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. in the Consumer Affairs Conference Room #225 of the COB.