TTFCG Meeting Minutes  September 2, 2009

To: Distribution

From: Bob Hunnicutt, Tower Coordinator, Columbia Telecommunications

A meeting of the Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TFCG) was held on September 2, 2009. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS
Marjorie Williams  OCCS  (240) 777-3762
David Niblock  DPS  (240) 777-6252
Helen Mu  DTS  (240) 777-2804
Mary Pat Wilson  MCPS  (240) 314-4707
Steve Batterden  DGS, ORE  (240) 777-6063
John Cuff  OMB  (240) 777-2762

STAFF
Bob Hunnicutt  CTC  (301) 933-1488
David Douloung  CTC  (301) 933-1488

OTHER ATTENDEES
Hollie Morrison  NB&C/T-Mobile  hillorie.morrison@t-mobile.com
Charles Salamone  NB&C/Verizon Wireless
Alecia Vogel  NB&C/T-Mobile
Carmen Charalambous  NB&C/T-Mobile  (301) 775-5826
Adam Knubel  NB&C/Clearwire  aknubel@nbcllc.com
Charles Ryan  for Verizon  cryan@wireless-enterprises.com
Mark Hulshout  Hulshout & Associates  hulshout@earthlink.net
Sean Hughes  Sean Hughes Law Offices

Action Item Meeting Minutes: Dave Niblock moved the minutes be approved as written. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Action Item Consent Agenda Applications:

1. Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 95' and 105' levels on an existing monopole on Super Fresh Shopping Center property located at 3901 Aspen Hill Road in Silver Spring (Application #200907-08).

2. Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 95' level atop an 11-story Summit Hills Apartment building located at 8484 16th Street in Silver Spring (Application #200907-22).

3. Clearwire application to attach one dish antenna at the 79' level atop a 55' Goldsboro Road office building located at 6400 Goldsboro Road in Bethesda (Application #200907-24).

4. Clearwire application to attach one dish antenna at the 34' level atop a 30' building located at 6800 Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda (Application #200907-25).

5. Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 98' level of an existing monopole on MDOT property located at I-495 & Connecticut Avenue in Chevy Chase (Application #200907-27).
6. Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 138' level atop a Naval Surface Warfare Center water tank located at 9500 MacArthur Boulevard in Bethesda (Application #200907-29).

7. Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 144', 145', and 162' levels atop Pavilion Apartments building located at 5901 Montrose Road in Rockville (Application #200908-03).

8. Clearwire application to attach one dish antenna at the 174' level on an existing lattice tower on Izaak Walton League property located at 18301 Waring Station Road in Germantown (Application #200908-08).

9. Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 68' level of an existing 65' Montgomery Towers apartment building located at 415 Silver Spring Avenue in Silver Spring (Application #200908-12).

10. Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 66' level atop a 5-story Century 21 office building located at 20010 Century Boulevard in Germantown (Application #200908-13).

11. Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 199' level atop a Grosvenor House Apartments building located at 10101 Grosvenor Place in Rockville (Application #200908-18).

12. Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 101' and 106' levels atop a 9-story Edinburgh Apartment building located at 7513 Maple Avenue in Takoma Park (Application #200908-19).

13. T-Mobile application to attach antennas at the 133' level of an existing guyed lattice tower on Shumaker property located at 16700 Barnesville Road in Dickerson (Application #200908-21).

14. Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 163', 165', and 167' levels on the penthouse walls atop an Atrium at Station Square building located at 1010 Wayne Avenue in Silver Spring (Application #200908-25).

15. Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 74' level atop the Ramada Inn at 7990 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring (Application #200908-26).

16. Clearwire application to attach one dish antenna at the 127' level atop a 12-story Battery Park building located at 7979 Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda (Application #200908-27).

17. Clearwire application to attach one dish antenna at the 58' level inside the steeple on the Washington Baptist Church located at 5144 Massachusetts Avenue in Bethesda (Application #200908-28).

18. Clearwire application to attach one dish antenna at the 167' level atop the Chevy Chase building located at 5530 Wisconsin Avenue in Chevy Chase (Application #200908-29).

19. Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 138' level atop a 16-story Park Montgomery Apartments building located at 8860 Piney Branch Road in Silver Spring (Application #200908-32).
20. Clearwire application to attach one dish antenna at the 83’ level atop a 6-story Parklawn building located at 11820 Parklawn Drive in Rockville (Application #200908-36).

21. Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 95’ level atop the 64’ Walkers House building located at 18700 Walkers Choice Road in Gaithersburg (Application #200908-37).

22. Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 116’, 119’, and 122’ levels atop an 11-story Renaissance Plaza Apartments building located at 14000 Castle Boulevard in Silver Spring (Application #200908-43).

23. Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 168’ and 180’ levels atop a 158’ Chateau Apartments building located at 9727 Mount Pisgah Road in Silver Spring (Application #200908-44).

24. Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 106’ level on an existing monopole on the Shady Grove Post Office property located at 16501 Shady Grove Road in Gaithersburg (Application #200908-46).

25. Clearwire application to attach one dish antenna at the 113’ level atop PEPCO transmission line tower #663-S located at 10999 Seven Hill Lane in Rockville (Application #200908-56).

26. Clearwire application to attach one dish antenna at the 136’ level atop PEPCO transmission line tower #6278 located at 14201 Quince Orchard Road in Gaithersburg (Application #200908-57).

27. Clearwire application to attach one dish antenna at the 147’ level atop PEPCO transmission line tower #652-N located at 12200 Falls Road in Potomac (Application #200908-58).

28. Clearwire application to replace three panel antennas with three dish antennas at the 100’ level on an existing monopole on Avenel Golf Course property located at 10010 Oaklyn Drive in Potomac (Application #200909-04).

29. Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 115’ level on an existing monopole on Bethesda Country Club property located at 7601 Bradley Boulevard in Bethesda (Application #200909-06).

30. Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 52’ level atop the 34’ Halle office building located at 2900 Linden Lane in Silver Spring (Application #200909-08).

Motion: Mary Pat Wilson moved the Consent agenda items be recommended. Helen Mu seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: AT&T application to replace three panel antennas with three new panel antennas at the 140’ level on an existing monopole on Sherwood High School property located at 300 Olney-Sandy Spring Road in Sandy Spring (Application #200909-11).

Bob Hunnicutt noted that this application is for AT&T to put an additional equipment cabinet at the base of the monopole. He added on first review, he did not catch that the plans show the ground space reserved for AT&T's equipment will be expanded somewhat to accommodate the additional equipment and maintain access.
to the electric panels, so the recommendation form is incorrect in that regard.

**Motion:** Dave Niblock moved the application be recommended. Helen Mu seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved with Mary Pat Wilson abstaining.

**Action Item:** T-Mobile application to attach antennas at the 74' level atop PEPCO transmission line tower #96-R located at 21612 New Hampshire Avenue in Brookeville (Application #200907-17).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that the plans did not show screening of the equipment area as required by 59A6.14. Consequently, the Tower Coordinator's recommendation is conditioned on meeting those conditions.

**Motion:** Mary Pat Wilson moved that the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Helen Mu seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** Clearwire application to attach one dish antenna at the 81’ level on an existing monopole on Baptist Home property located at 6301 Greentree Road in Bethesda (Application #200907-37).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that since the structure appears to be fully loaded, the Tower Coordinators recommendation is conditioned on submission of a structural analysis to the Department of Permitting Services with a copy to the Tower Coordinator that shows the structure can safely accommodate the additional antennas and related equipment.

**Motion:** David Niblock moved that the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** Clearwire application to attach one dish antenna at the 65’ level on a 62’ chimney attached to the Hilizarose apartment building located at 2100 Hilizarose Road in Silver Spring (Application #200908-04).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that since this support structure is a chimney attached to apartment buildings, the recommendation is conditioned on a structural analysis showing the attachment can safely be made and that the antennas be painted to match the color of the existing antennas.

**Motion:** Mary Pat Wilson moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Dave Niblock seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** Clearwire application to attach panel antennas and a dish antenna at the 80’ and 84’ levels on a Pepco transmission line tower located at MacArthur Boulevard & I-495 in Bethesda (Application #200908-05).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that since this Pepco tower is already fairly loaded, and it also supports 64 kV lines that cross I-495, the Tower Coordinator's recommendation is conditioned on PEPCOs approval of the attachment of the antennas and submission of a structural analysis to the Department of Permitting Services with a copy to the Tower Coordinator that shows the structure can safely accommodate the additional antennas and related equipment.

**Motion:** Dave Niblock recommended the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Steve Batterden seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** Clearwire application to attach one dish antenna at the 75' level inside a steeple of Hughes Methodist Church located at 10700 Georgia Avenue in Wheaton (Application #200908-07).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that the dish antennas would be placed on a church steeple where the existing panel antennas are concealed within the steeple. He said it was unclear from the application whether the dish antenna would be concealed or not. Consequently the Tower Coordinators recommendation was conditioned on this antenna being screened in the same way as the existing antennas.

Adam Knubel, the applicant for this application, stated that this antenna would be attached to the same mountings inside the steeple that hold the existing panel antennas.

**Motion:** Mary Pat Wilson moved that the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower
Coordinator. Helen Mu seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 269' level on an existing WWDC Radio 700' guyed lattice tower located at 9744 Brookeville Road in Silver Spring (Application #200908-31).

Bob Hunnicutt advised the group that the applicant had requested that this application be withdrawn from the agenda and placed on hold.

Adam Knubel said that the carrier was considering another location for these antennas since there were structural issues with the attachment as proposed in the application.

Mr. Hunnicutt noted that the Tower Coordinators recommendation had been conditioned on submission of a structural analysis that shows the structure can safely accommodate the additional antennas and related equipment, but he would now place the application on hold pending resolution of where these antennas would be placed.

**Action Item:** Clearwire application to attach dish antennas at the 88' level on an existing monopole on Argyle Country Club property located at 14600 Argyle Club Road in Silver Spring (Application #200908-35).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that since the structure is fully loaded the Tower Coordinators recommendation is conditioned on submission of a structural analysis to the Department of Permitting Services with a copy to the Tower Coordinator that shows the structure can safely accommodate the additional antennas and related equipment.

**Motion:** David Niblock moved that the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** Clearwire application to attach three panel antennas and one dish antenna at the 100' level on an existing lattice tower on DC Radio property located at 7115 Greentree Road in Bethesda (Application #200908-53).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that the plans did not show screening of the equipment area as required by 59A6.14; thus his recommendation was conditioned on meeting screening requirements.

**Motion:** Mary Pat Wilson moved that the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Helen Mu seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** Clearwire application to attach three panel antennas at the 90' level and five dish antennas at the 100' levels on an existing monopole on Bullis Prep School property located at 10601 Falls Road in Potomac (Application #200908-55).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that the Tower Coordinators recommendation is conditioned on submission of a structural analysis which includes the proposed antennas in the calculations. He said the structural analysis submitted with the application had not considered the same type and quantity of antennas as is proposed in this application.

Marjorie Williams asked how the Department of Permitting Services would know which antennas were correct. Dave Niblock said that DPS reviewed each application based on what was submitted with the permit applications.

**Motion:** Dave Niblock moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. John Cuff seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** Clearwire application to attach three panel antennas and one dish antenna at the 127' and 131' levels on PEPCO transmission line tower #659-S located at Gainsborough Road and Regency Drive in Potomac (Application #200909-10).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that the plans did not show screening of the equipment area as required by 59A6.14. Consequently, the Tower Coordinator's recommendation is conditioned on meeting those conditions.
Motion: Mary Pat Wilson moved that the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Helen Mu seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: Verizon Wireless application to attach 15 panel antennas at the 140’ level on an existing monopole on Gate of Heaven property located at 13801 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring (Application #200909-14).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that the plans did not show screening of the equipment area as required by 59A6.14. Consequently, the Tower Coordinator’s recommendation is conditioned on meeting those conditions.

Mary Pat Wilson noted that the site plan was wrong because it showed that access to this site was via Emory Grove Road. Mr. Hunnicutt said the plans should show Connecticut Avenue as the access road. The applicant said they would make that change before submitting the drawings to permitting.

Motion: Mary Pat Wilson moved that the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Helen Mu seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: Clearwire application to attach three panel antennas at the 110’ level and one dish antenna at the 115’ level on a PEPCO transmission line tower #683-E located at 18300 Bowie Mill Road in Olney (Application #200910-03).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that the plans did not show screening of the equipment area as required by 59A6.14. Consequently, the Tower Coordinator’s recommendation is conditioned on meeting those conditions.

Motion: Mary Pat Wilson moved that the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Helen Mu seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to attach three antennas at the 124’ level on a proposed 10’ extension atop an existing monopole on Goshen Church property located at 7700 Brink Road in Gaithersburg (Application #200908-23).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that this monopole, a flag pole disguise structure with three bays for antennas, is at full capacity because when AT&T attached antennas they took the only two open bays making extension of the structure the only option for T-Mobile as proposed in the application. He added that since the time this monopole was approved by Special Exception a new home has been constructed that is within 300’ of the monopole, thus it no longer meets the setback requirements of the zoning ordinance. Consequently, the Tower Coordinators recommendation is conditioned on approval of a modification to the Special Exception and resolution of the setback issue by the Board of Appeals, and submission of a structural analysis to the Department of Permitting Services with a copy to the Tower Coordinator that shows the structure can safely accommodate the extension and additional antennas and related equipment.

Dave Niblock noted that the Special Exception would also have to be modified to permit the extended 10’ in height to the structure since the original Special Exception only approved a 120’ monopole.

Motion: Helen Mu moved that the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Steve Batterden seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: MediaFLO/FLO TV application to attach one omni-directional antenna at the 333’ level of an existing guyed lattice tower and two dish antennas atop the equipment shelter on the Shumaker property located at 16700 Barnesville Road in Barnesville (Application #200909-15).

Bob Hunnicutt explained that since this recommendation was prepared, the applicant has submitted a request to use a different antenna than the one proposed. He said that the original antenna was a 25’ high omni-directional antenna which exceeds the size limits in the zoning ordinance. Consequently, it would have required a Special Exception to be approved for attachment to this tower. To avoid the lengthy Special Exception process the applicant had opted to use a 12’ antenna instead, and the applicant had submitted revised application drawings and cut sheets for the antennas. Mark Hulshaut, representing FLO TV,
distributed revised copies of these documents to the group.

Helen Mu asked if there were differences in the service from these antennas in the daytime and nighttime transmissions. Mr. Hulshaut explained that though FLO TV operates on the frequency formally assigned for broadcast television station channel 55, that spectrum had been reallocated by the FCC for other uses and those frequencies are no longer broadcast stations but licensed as wireless frequencies. He said that unlike a TV broadcast signal, FloTV’s signals can only be received by a small handheld reception device. He noted that the technology FLO TV uses provides a clearer picture on the small handheld cellular devices. Mr. Hulshaut added that FLO TV would provide multiple video channels through wireless services to handheld devices provided by AT&T or Verizon Wireless, for example.

Margie Williams explained that the size of antennas was the only reason this application would require a Special Exception and that it had nothing to do with the placement of the antennas, setbacks, or any other concerns.

Helen Mu asked about possible interference with other services. Mr. Hunnicutt replied that CTC had done an analysis of FLO TVs signal quality and concluded that it did not appear there would be any interference with public safety frequencies in the same bandwidth because there was significant separation in the frequencies. Based on CTCs measurements of the existing FLOTV transmitter in Germantown, it appeared the signals stay well within the bandwidth authorized for their use by the FCC.

Motion: Dave Niblock moved the application be recommended. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to construct a new 120’ monopole on Whites Farm property located at 22531 Wildcat Road in Germantown (Application #200908-01).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that the location of the property for the monopole is along a designated rustic road and that both the Tower Coordinator and applicant had advised the Rustic Road Advisory Committee of this application. He said that the piece of property on which the monopole is to be constructed is quite large and far from Wildcat Road and there are large sections of forested areas in the vicinity of the property which may somewhat screen views of the monopole from some directions around the site.

Mr. Hunnicutt said that at the time of the site visit, David Doulong met the property owner who advised him that all of the adjacent property owners were his relatives, implying that there would be no objections from them to the construction of the monopole.

Mr. Hunnicutt noted that the monopole did not meet setback requirements, an issue which would have to be addressed by the Board of Appeals through the Special Exception process.

Mary Pat Wilson asked how far the monopole was from Wildcat Road. Mr. Hunnicutt explained it was 600’ or more from that road.

Mr. Doulong explained that the property is located where the terrain rises to a ridge very near the property. Consequently, based on his review of the RF contour maps submitted, the terrain feature has an impact on the transmission characteristics of signals from this proposed structure. He said that based on his review of antennas at the 80’ level it appeared as though coverage is partially blocked by the ridge in that direction. He said the maps illustrating coverage with antennas at the 100’ level show portions of the target service area appear to be marginal as far as being able to provide indoor residential service in that direction, but based on the RF maps with antennas at the 120’ level, it appeared that there may be no problem in the coverage as a result of the ridgeline.

Margie Williams noted that the Rustic Road Advisory Committee, though they do not have formal approval process, provides comment on zoning issues in proximity to rustic roads for the Board of Appeals and the Planning Commission.

Dave Niblock noted that he thought that the 120’ height of the structure may also be necessary for co-location for other carriers who might have the same transmission problems with antennas at lower elevations.
Bob Hunnicutt said that if the height was an issue, drive test data could help determine if antennas at a lower elevation would work to meet the coverage objections. He added that if there were objections to the visibility of the top of the monopole which may be seen by some residents in the area, a tree pole disguise would work well given the forested nature of the surroundings of the proposed monopole.

**Motion:** Dave Niblock moved the application be recommended conditioned on approval of a Special Exception and a reduction in the setback requirements. John Cuff seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The next meeting of the TFCG is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at 2 p.m. in the second floor conference room #225 of the COB.