



DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

E. Steven Emanuel
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 December 1, 2010. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Marjorie Williams		DTS
Dave Niblock		DPS
Mary Pat Wilson	(via phone)	MCPS
Carlton Gilbert	(via phone)	MNCPPC
John Cuff	(via phone)	OMB

STAFF

Mitisuko Herrera	DTS
Bob Hunnicutt	CTC
Marty Liebman	CTC

OTHER ATTENDEES

Nathan Campbell	Smartlink for T-Mobile
Jack Andrews	Dynis for Light Squared

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

Action Item - Consent Agenda Applications:

1. BG&E application to attach five antennas—four omni-directional and one dish—at the 127' and 122' levels on a 170'-high monopole located on the Quail Hill Farms property at 18743 New Hampshire Avenue, Brinklow. (Application # 201011-11) Co-location
2. T-Mobile application to add two panel antennas at the 71' level atop the five-story Phillips Office Building located at 9420 Key West Avenue, Rockville. (Application #201012-05) Minor Modification

Motion: Carlton Gilbert moved the consent agenda items be recommended. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Regular Agenda Applications

Action Item: T-Mobile application to add two panel antennas at the 120' level on a 122'-high PEPCO transmission line tower located at 13622 Travilah Road in Gaithersburg. (Application # 201012-06) Minor Modification

Conditioned on screening the equipment area at the base of the tower to meet the requirements of §59-A-6.14 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application, noting the Tower Coordinator's condition. The applicant, Nathan Campbell, said that T-Mobile would not have any problem meeting that condition.

Mary Pat Wilson asked if there should have been plans submitted with the application. Mr. Hunnicutt replied that since this is an application to modify antennas at an existing site all that is required are the photos that were provided with the application.

Motion: Dave Niblock moved the application be recommended as conditioned. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to add two panel antennas at the 155' level on a 310'-high lattice tower located at 2647 University Boulevard in Wheaton. (Application #201012-07) Minor Modification

Conditioned on submission of a structural analysis report based on current standards and including all current antennas and loading on the tower to the DPS at the time of permitting with a copy to the Tower Coordinator.

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application, noting the Tower Coordinator's condition.

The applicant, Mr. Campbell, said T-Mobile had already ordered the structural analysis and it would be submitted with the permit application.

Mitsuko Herrera asked about the DPS review of the structural analysis reports. Mr. Niblock replied that the DPS structural engineer reviews all applications and a permit would not be issued without a review.

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

Action Item: Light Squared application to attach six panel antennas and two dish antennas at the 105' level on a 127'-high monopole on the Bethesda Country Club property located at 7601 Bradley Boulevard in Bethesda. (Application #201101-01) Co-location

Mr. Hunnicutt summarized the application, noting that the applicant is a new carrier to place facilities in the County and introduced Jack Andrews to explain Light Squared services.

Mr. Andrews discussed Light Squared's activities in the region noting that they plan to activate services in Baltimore soon with services in Montgomery County to follow. He explained that Light Squared provides wireless service for broadband, data, and Internet users. Sites will be equipped with panel antennas and, at some locations, dish antennas or fiber optic cables for backhaul.

Mr. Hunnicutt asked if Light Squared would be pulling any of their own fiber. Mr. Andrews replied that they will likely be using fiber cables from exiting providers. Ms. Williams noted that if they plan to place any fiber cables in the County right-of-way, they will need a telecommunications franchise approved by the County to do so.

Ms. Herrera asked why a structural analysis was not noted for this attachment. Mr. Hunnicutt replied that the monopole to which the antennas are proposed to be attached is one of two at this location; that existing antennas had been removed, making space for these additional antennas; and that it did not appear that there were any structural issues for this application. Mr. Niblock noted all applications would be reviewed by the DPS structural engineer. Mr. Andrews asked if the County only accepts structural analysis reports or if a PE letter will meet their requirements. Mr. Niblock replied that a letter signed and stamped by a licensed State of Maryland PE is acceptable.

Motion: Dave Niblock moved the application be recommended. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion Item: The group approved the 2011 meeting schedule to continue meeting on the first Wednesday of each month.

The next meeting of the TFCG is scheduled for Wednesday, January 5th at 2 p.m. in the second floor conference room #225 of the COB.