TTFCG Meeting Minutes  January 6, 2010

To: Distribution

From: Bob Hunnicutt, Tower Coordinator, Columbia Telecommunications

A meeting of the Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TFCG) was held on January 6, 2010. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS
Marjorie Williams OCCS (240) 777-3762
Helen Mu DTS (240) 777-2804
Carlton Gilbert M-NCPCC (301) 495-4577
David Niblock DPS (240) 777-6252
Steve Batterden DGS, ORE (240) 777-6063
Mary Pat Wilson MCPS (240) 314-1071

STAFF
Mitsuko Herrera OCCS (240) 777-3762
Bob Hunnicutt CTC (301) 933-1488
David Doulong CTC (301) 933-1488

OTHER ATTENDEES
Carmen Charalambous NB&C/T-Mobile (301) 775-5826
Charles Ryan SCE cryan@sceorg.com
Bill OBrien Smartlink LLC william.obrien@smartlinkllc.com
Todd Turner Clearwire todd.turner@americantower.com
Rob Neely SCE meely@sceorg.com
Hillorie Morrison NB&C/T-Mobile hillorie.morrison@t-mobile.com
Amy Bird NB&C/T-Mobile amy.bird@t-mobile.com
Michael Bortz NB&C/T-Mobile mbortz@nbcllc.com

Action Item Meeting Minutes: David Niblock moved the minutes be approved as written. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Action Item Consent Agenda Applications:

1. Verizon Wireless application to attach antennas on a PEPCO transmission line tower #23-N, 19997 Beallsville Road, Beallsville (Application #200912-08).

2. T-Mobile application to attach antennas atop the Maplewood Condo building, 9707 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda (Application #201001-01).

3. Clearwire application to attach dish antennas atop the Rock Creek Terrace Apartments building, 12630 Veirs Mill Road, Rockville (Application #201001-04).

4. T-Mobile application to modify antennas on PEPCO transmission line tower #163-N, 1301 Ashton Road, Ashton (Application #201001-08).

5. T-Mobile application to modify antennas on the monopole on Old Burtonsville VFD property, 15430 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville (Application #201001-09).
6. T-Mobile application to modify antennas on the tower on Troop 52 property, 16100 Damestown Road, Dawsonville (Application #201001-10).

7. T-Mobile application to modify antennas on PEPCO transmission line tower #10-S, 21000 Dickerson Road, Dickerson (Application #201001-11).

8. T-Mobile application to modify antennas on the monopole at Quail Hill Farms, 18743 New Hampshire Avenue, Brinklow (Application #201001-12).

9. T-Mobile application to modify antennas on the monopole on the McDonnell property, 20315 Georgia Avenue, Brookeville (Application #201001-13).

10. T-Mobile application to modify antennas on the Milestone monopole, 12450 Milestone Center Drive, Germantown (Application #201001-14).

11. T-Mobile application to modify antennas on the Laytonsville monopole, 4301 Brookeville Road, Brookeville (Application #201001-15).

12. Cleanwire application to attach antennas on a 150' monopole on Sandy Spring VFD #40 property, 16911 Georgia Avenue, Olney (Application #201001-06).

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

**Action Item:** T-Mobile application to construct a 140'-high monopole and attach antennas at the 135' level on the Breland property, 22900 Old Hundred Road, Barnesville (Application #200907-13).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that since the time the application had been filed the design had been changed from a traditional monopole with triangular platforms supporting the antenna arrays to a unipole design. The height of the monopole had been increased by 20' due to the design change since the top two bays in the slender monopole would be needed to maintain T-Mobile's antenna radiation center. Mr. Hunnicutt noted that the Tower Coordinators recommendation was conditioned on approval of a Special Exception and any necessary reduction in setback by the Board of Appeals.

David Doulou explained that based on his review of the RF maps submitted with the application, it appeared that antennas at elevations lower than those proposed by the applicant may not meet the coverage objective in the vicinity of the intersection of Old Hundred Road and Comus Road.

Mr. Hunnicutt noted that the design plans did not show the setback requirements but after checking with Carlton Gilbert and Katherine Freeman, he was advised that when the application is submitted for Special Exception, all setback requirements must be shown on the plans.

Hillorie Morrison stated she had new plans which showed that the location of the monopole on the property now meets all setback requirements and provided a copy for the members to review.

Mitsuko Herrera asked if other carriers could use the unipole design. Mr. Hunnicutt replied that the each bay on the unipole will support three antennas and that this monopole is designed to include four bays at the top – two of which will be occupied by T-Mobile's antennas. So others could add antennas as long as they attach their antennas at the lower elevations in the same three antenna per bay configuration.

Steve Batterden asked if antennas in the lower bays would have problems meeting coverage objectives as it
appeared was the case with T-Mobile. Mr. Doulon replied that whether or not other carriers could use the bays at lower elevations depended on their coverage objective for their networks, which may be different from that of T-Mobile. He stated that antennas at the lower elevation may be able to blanket the vicinity with signals, but in some areas the signals may not be strong enough to provide reliable uninterrupted service as travelers drive through the service area. Mr. Hunnicutt added that drive test results could better determine whether antennas at lower elevations would be capable of meeting the carriers target coverage objective.

**Motion**: Steve Batterden moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. David Niblock seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert abstaining.

**Action Item**: T-Mobile application to construct a 120'-high monopole and attach antennas at the 107' and 117' levels on Wesleyan Church property, 11210 Bethesda Church Road, Damascus (Application #200908-02).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that the original location for the monopole had been closer to Bethesda Church Road which is a designated rustic road. Based on comment by the Rustic Road Committee, the location for the monopole had been moved to the back of the property and the design was changed from a traditional monopole to a unipole.

Mr. Hunnicutt noted that due to the lower ground elevation at the rear of the property, T-Mobile had increased the height of the monopole by 20' to obtain the same elevation as where their antennas would have been on the original location on the property. Mr. Hunnicutt said that the monopole did not meet the setback requirement from the rear perimeter property line. The applicant has said they will address any setback issues with the Board of Appeals. He recommended the application conditioned on approval of the Special Exception and any necessary reduction to setback by the Board of Appeals.

Mr. Doulon summarized his review of the RF maps submitted by the applicant and confirmed that antennas at a lower elevation than proposed by T-Mobile may not meet the stated coverage objective for these antennas.

Carlton Gilbert asked if there were multiple parcels on this property and if they had the same property owner.

Mr. Hunnicutt confirmed that was the case. Hillorie Morrison added that the T-Mobile representatives would be meeting that evening with the Historic Preservation Committee, noting that even if the monopole was approved by all other processes the Historic Preservation Committee still may not grant a permit for the monopole on this property.

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

**Action Item**: T-Mobile application to construct a 120'-high monopole and attach antennas at the 117” level on Good Hope Gardens property, 14911 Good Hope Road, Silver Spring (Application #201001-05).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that there had been repeated attempts by various carriers over the years to site antenna facilities in the vicinity of the Good Hope Gardens property. Mr. Hunnicutt briefly summarized the past TFCG reviews noting that copies of the recommendation forms for those prior applications and excerpts from minutes of those meetings were attached for reference. He noted that the TFCG had not recommended T-Mobile’s last application (200808-05) for a monopole at this location because it did not meet the code requirement for setback. He said that with this revised approach to this siting it appears as though the monopole now meets all setback requirements except for the distance from one resident on the other side of Murphy Drive which happens to be owned by the owners of the Good Hope Gardens.

David Niblock asked if Murphy Drive was a right-of-way or an easement and Mr. Hunnicutt stated he believed it was an easement. Mr. Niblock said in that case the Gardens and the house could be considered the same property and therefore it may be determined that it meets the setback requirements in that regard as well.

Mr. Hunnicutt noted that he had asked T-Mobile to provide new RF contour maps because T-Mobile had activated another site north of the Good Hope property since the last RF analysis had been conducted when T-Mobile filed the earlier application for this property. He stated that the new site had some impact on the coverage of the area to the north but agreed with Mr. Doulon that there was still a need for antennas at the elevations proposed by T-Mobile. He added that by increasing the height of the monopole to accommodate
co-locators, T-Mobile also benefited from slightly improved in-building coverage to the northwest of the property.

Mr. Hunnicutt stated that the monopole had been moved to a new location on the property and had been disguised as a tree which addressed the TFCGs concerns which resulted in not recommending the last T-Mobile application. He noted that T-Mobile had increased the height of the monopole by 20' to accommodate antennas from additional carriers. He added that considering a number of other carriers interested in placing antennas in this vicinity, it seemed to make sense that if they could all attach to this one monopole it may preclude attempts to place another structure in this community. He recommended the application conditioned on approval of the Special Exception or modification to the existing Special Exception, and a reduction in the 300' setback from the nearest offsite dwellingby the Board of Appeals.

Motion: David Niblock moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Steve Batterden seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert abstaining.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to construct a 120'-high monopole and attach antennas at the top on Sunshine Farm property, 22611 Georgia Avenue, Brookeville (Application #201002-01).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that the TFCG had recommended an earlier T-Mobile application this past summer for a 120' monopole right around the corner from this location. The applicant has now reported that the property owner for that location changed their mind about permitting the monopole on that property and T-Mobile had found the Sunshine Farm property would work in lieu of the original location. Mr. Hunnicutt said that since the new property is so close to the original one, the findings and conclusions of the Tower Coordinator for the first property are the same as that for the second property. He did note some minor differences between the two sites as mentioned in the Recommendation Form. He recommended the application conditioned on approval of the Special Exception by the Board of Appeals and meeting the screening requirements in §59-A.6.14 of the zoning code.

Motion: Helen Mu moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Steve Batterden seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert abstaining.

The next meeting of the TFCG is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at 2 p.m. in the second floor conference room #225 of the COB.