



**DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

Isiah Leggett  
County Executive

Harash (Sonny) Segal  
Chief Information Officer

**MINUTES OF TFCG MEETING**

To: Distribution

From: Bob Hunnicutt, Tower Coordinator, Columbia Telecommunications Corporation (CTC)

A meeting of the Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TFCG) was held on August 6, 2014. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Marjorie Williams		DTS
Bernie Fitzgerald		DGS
Dennis Hetman	(via phone)	OMB
Dave Niblock	(via phone)	DPS
Carlton Gilbert	(via phone)	M-NCPPC

STAFF

Nancy Rodriguez		CTC
Bob Hunnicutt	(via phone)	CTC

OTHER ATTENDEES

Benjamin Pelletier		NB&C for Washington Gas
Orlando Spencer		Washington Gas

**Action Item: Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Bernie Fitzgerald moved the minutes be approved. Dave Niblock seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item: Consent Agenda**

T-Mobile application to add three 96"-high panel antennas at the 55' level on a 61'-high silo on Steven H. Steinberg property located at 15021 Dufief Mill Road in Gaithersburg (201407-28). *Minor Modification.*

**Motion:** Carlton Gilbert moved the Consent Agenda be approved. Bernie Fitzgerald seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### **Regular Agenda**

**Action Item:** Sprint application to add three 56"-high panel antennas at the 150' level on a 150'-high monopole on MCPS property located at 300 Olney Sandy Spring Road in Sandy Spring (201407-06). *Minor Modification. Conditioned on the applicant providing written approval from MCPS at the time of permitting that MCPS has approved the attachment of the antennas.*

Nancy Rodriguez summarized the application noting that because she had not received notice from MCPS that they have approved the modifications, the recommendation is conditioned on their approval.

**Motion:** Bernie Fitzgerald moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Bernie Fitzgerald seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** T-Mobile application to replace three antennas with three 96"-high panel antennas at the 93' level atop a 125'-high water tank on WSSC property located at 21701 Ridge Road in Germantown (201407-13). *Minor Modification. Conditioned on the applicant providing written approval from WSSC at the time of permitting that WSSC approves the attachment of the antennas.*

Nancy Rodriguez summarized the application noting that because she had not received notice from WSSC that they have approved the modifications, the recommendation is conditioned on their approval.

**Motion:** Bernie Fitzgerald moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Bernie Fitzgerald seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** T-Mobile application to add three 96"-high panel antennas on each of 9 monopoles. See attached list for property owners and addresses (201407-27). *Minor Modification. Conditioned on the applicant providing written approval from MCPS at the time of permitting that MCPS has approved the attachment of the antennas on monopoles located on MCPS property. One site is **Not Recommended**.*

Nancy Rodriguez summarized the application noting that because the County has not approved modification to the antennas on the monopole located at Fire Station #31, the Tower Coordinator does not recommend approval for those modifications. Additionally, two of the sites on the list—monopoles located at Watkins Mill and Blake High School—are conditioned on approval by MCPS at the time of permitting.

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

**Action Item:** Verizon application to attach 12 panel antennas, six at 95"-high and six at 48"-high, at the 91', 92', and 104' levels on an existing 85'-high hospital on Montgomery General Hospital property located at 18101 Prince Philip Drive in Olney (201408-01). *Co-location. Conditioned on compliance with section 59-A-6.14 for screening and exterior of the generator and equipment shelter.*

Nancy Rodriguez summarized the application noting that because the equipment area on the ground alongside the hospital is not shown to be properly screened, the Tower Coordinator's Recommendation is conditioned on compliance with zoning requirements for same.

**Motion:** Bernie Fitzgerald moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** Washington Gas application to construct a 145'-high monopole and attach two microwave dish antennas, one 4'-wide at the 109' level and one 3'-wide at the 140' level, on Washington Gas property located at 11801 Nebel Street in Rockville (201408-02). *New.*

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that a previous application had been filed for this site over a year ago. At that time, he added, the Tower Coordinator asked why several existing buildings could not be used to relay the microwave signals from the Nebel Street location but the request was never answered and the application was not completed. Since then, Washington Gas has provided engineering documentation supporting its decision to rule out a number of sites listed in the Recommendation because antennas on those sites could not attain the required direct line-of-sight for their connections with their sister facilities in Washington and Rockville. Summarizing the Washington Gas documentation, Mr. Hunnicutt said that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) building, which already contains many antennas within the façade of its top two floors, has no space to add the large dish antennas needed for Washington Gas; he also noted that use of a recently constructed nearby residential building was ruled out because of expected interference from a new high-rise being constructed across the street from the Nebel Street property.

Carlton Gilbert asked for clarification on why the rooftop of the recently constructed residential building across the street from the Washington Gas property was ruled out as an alternative to the new monopole. Mr. Hunnicutt explained that when Washington Gas filed for this monopole under a prior application over a year ago, that building was ruled out as an option because the landlord denied permission. Further, since that time, construction has begun on another tall building adjacent to that building; once that second building is completed, it will present interference issues with the line-of-sight needed for the microwave signal transmission path between the Nebel Street site and Washington Gas' Washington D. C. site. Orlando Spencer stated that is correct. Mr. Gilbert said he would expect that there may be some objection to the

monopole once constructed and he thought the discussion about that option should be noted in the minutes about this application.

Mr. Hunnicutt added that the monopole is permitted on this Industrial zone property but it will be quite noticeable by residents in the community as illustrated in the Tower Coordinator's Recommendation. He said that although there had been some community objection a year ago, Washington Gas now reports that before filing this application they had a community meeting and no objections were raised.

Based on the information provided by the applicant and Washington Gas with this application, it meets the TFCG requirements. The documentation supports the need for the monopole as designed for the two Washington Gas antennas and it will be available for co-location of other antennas once constructed. Marjorie Williams agreed and asked the Tower Coordinator to include a summary of this discussion in the minutes.

**Motion:** Bernie Fitzgerald moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Marjorie Williams seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** Clearwire application to replace remote radio heads at the 68' level on a 100'-high monopole located at Wheaton High School at 12501 Dalewood Drive in Silver Spring. *Minor Modification.*

Marjorie Williams summarized the application noting that it had been put on hold by a previous MCPS representative, because of anticipated school renovation work. However, MCPS has now advised the Tower Coordinator that these modifications will be permitted to proceed, so for that reason—and for this case only at the request of the applicant—it is being added to this agenda for action.

**Motion:** Carlton Gilbert moved the application be recommended. Bernie Fitzgerald seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Action Item:** Verizon application to replace six antennas with nine panel antennas—three at 72"-high, three at 69"-high, and three at 48"-high—at the 96' and 106' levels on a 112'-high water tank on WSSC property located at 17710 Buehler Road in Olney (201406-29). *Minor Modification.*

Marjorie Williams summarized the application noting that because at the last minute WSSC notified the Tower Coordinator that they had approved the proposed modifications, it was being included as part of today's agenda.

**Motion:** Bernie Fitzgerald moved the application be recommended. Dave Niblock seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Minutes of TFCG Meeting  
Held August 6, 2014  
Page 5 of 5

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the TFCG will be held on September 3, 2014 in Room #225 of the COB.