



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: siting.council@ct.gov

Web Site: portal.ct.gov/csc

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL & CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

June 12, 2026

Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq.
Robinson & Cole LLP
One State Street
Hartford, CT 06103
kbaldwin@rc.com

RE: **PETITION NO. 1703** – Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for modifications to an existing telecommunications facility and installation of associated telecommunications equipment located at 401 Chapel Hill Road in Montville, Connecticut. **Final Decision.**

Dear Attorney Baldwin:

At a regular meeting held on June 11, 2026, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) determined that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) § 16-50k, the above-referenced facility modification would not have a substantial adverse environmental effect, and issued a Declaratory Ruling with the following conditions:

1. Approval of any changes be delegated to Council staff;
2. Antennas and equipment shall be installed in accordance with the Mount Analysis prepared by Colliers Engineering and Design dated August 14, 2025 and stamped and signed by Grant Walters;
3. Prior to antenna installation, Cellco shall provide documentation certified by a Professional Engineer that its installation complied with the recommendations of the Mount Analysis;
4. RF access restriction and caution signage shall be installed at the site in compliance with FCC guidance;
5. Deployment of any 5G services must comply with FCC and FAA guidance relative to air navigation, as applicable;
6. The Council shall be notified in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of site construction activities;
7. Unless otherwise approved by the Council, if the facility modification authorized herein is not fully constructed within three years from the date of the mailing of the Council's decision, this decision shall be void, and the facility owner/operator shall dismantle and remove all associated equipment or reapply for any continued or new use to the Council before any such use is made. The time between the filing and resolution of any appeals of the Council's decision shall not be counted in calculating this deadline. Authority to monitor and modify this schedule, as necessary, is delegated to the Executive Director. The facility owner/operator shall provide written notice to the Executive Director of any schedule changes as soon as is practicable;

8. Any request for extension of the time period to fully construct the facility modification shall be filed with the Council not later than 60 days prior to the expiration date of this decision and shall be served on all parties and intervenors, if applicable, and the Town of Montville;
9. Within 45 days after completion of construction, the Council shall be notified in writing that construction has been completed **along with a representative photograph of the facility modification**;
10. Any nonfunctioning antenna and associated antenna mounting equipment on this facility owned and operated by Cellco shall be removed within 60 days of the date the antenna ceased to function;
11. The facility owner/operator shall remit timely payments associated with annual assessments and invoices submitted by the Council for expenses attributable to the facility under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v;
12. If the facility ceases to be used for signal transmission or reception in the electromagnetic spectrum pursuant to a Federal Communications Commission license for a period of one year, the facility owner/operator shall dismantle the tower and remove all associated equipment or reapply for any continued or new use to the Council within 90 days from the one year period of cessation of signal transmission or reception. The facility owner/operator may submit a written request to the Council for an extension of the 90 day period not later than 60 days prior to the expiration of the 90 day period;
13. This Declaratory Ruling may be transferred or partially transferred, provided both the facility owner/operator/transferor and the transferee are current with payments to the Council for their respective annual assessments and invoices under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v. The Council and the Town of Manchester shall be notified of such sale and/or transfer and of any change in contact information for the individual or representative responsible for management and operations of the facility within 30 days of the sale and/or transfer. Both the facility owner/operator/transferor and the transferee shall provide the Council with a written agreement as to the entity responsible for any quarterly assessment charges under Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-50v(b)(2) that may be associated with this facility, including contact information for the individual acting on behalf of the transferee; and
14. This Declaratory Ruling may be surrendered by the facility owner/operator upon written notification to the Council.

This decision is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Council and is not applicable to any other modification or construction. All work is to be implemented as specified in the petition dated February 6, 2026 and additional correspondence dated May 28, 2026.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the staff report on this facility modification.

Sincerely,



Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MAB/IN/dll

Enclosure: Staff Report dated June 11, 2026

c: The Honorable Leonard Bunnell Sr., Mayor, Town of Montville (lbunnell@montville-ct.org)

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)

: ss. Southington, Connecticut June 12, 2026

COUNTY OF HARTFORD)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Decision and Staff Report in Petition No. 1703 issued by the Connecticut Siting Council, State of Connecticut.

ATTEST:



Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council

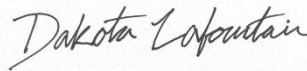
STATE OF CONNECTICUT)

: ss. New Britain, Connecticut June 12, 2026

COUNTY OF HARTFORD)

I certify that a copy of the Connecticut Siting Council Decision and Staff Report in Petition No. 1703 has been forwarded by Certified First Class Return Receipt Requested mail, on June 12, 2026, to each party and intervenor, or its authorized representative, as listed on the attached service list, dated February 4, 2026.

ATTEST:



Dakota LaFountain
Office Assistant
Connecticut Siting Council

LIST OF PARTIES AND INTERVENORS
SERVICE LIST

Status Granted	Document Service	Status Holder (name, address & phone number)	Representative (name, address & phone number)
Petitioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E-mail	Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless	Kenneth C. Baldwin, Esq. Robinson & Cole LLP One State Street Hartford, CT 06103 kbaldwin@rc.com (860) 275-8200



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Petition No. 1703
Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless
401 Chapel Hill Road
Montville, Connecticut

Staff Report
June 11, 2026

Notice

On February 4, 2026, the Connecticut Siting Council (Council) received a petition from Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (Cellco) for a declaratory ruling pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) §4-176 and §16-50k for the proposed modifications to an existing telecommunications facility located at 401 Chapel Hill Road, Montville, Connecticut (Petition). Specifically, Cellco proposes to collocate antennas on the existing self-supporting lattice tower and install ground equipment within an expanded compound at the site.

Pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) §16-50j-40, on or about February 2, 2026, Cellco provided notice of the proposed modifications to the existing telecommunications facility to abutting property owners and Town of Montville (Town) officials. No comments were received by Cellco since the filing of the Petition with the Council.

On February 4, 2026, the Council sent correspondence to the Town stating that the Council has received the Petition and invited the Town to contact the Council with any questions or comments by March 6, 2026. No comments were received.

Pursuant to CGS §4-176(e) of the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, an administrative agency is required to take an action on a petition for a declaratory ruling within 60 days of receipt. During a regular meeting held on March 19, 2026, pursuant to CGS §4-176(e), the Council voted to set the date by which to render a decision on the Petition as no later than July 4, 2026, which is within the 180-day statutory deadline for a final decision under CGS §4-176(i) and is the 150-day decision deadline for a modification to an existing telecommunications facility under Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations.

The Council issued interrogatories to Cellco on May 7, 2026. Cellco submitted responses to the Council's interrogatories on May 28, 2026.

Jurisdiction

Pursuant to CGS §§16-50i(a)(6) and 16-50x, the Council has exclusive jurisdiction over telecommunications towers, including associated equipment, owned or operated by the state, a public service company or a certified telecommunications provider or used in a cellular system.

Under RCSA §16-50j-2a (30), "Tower" means a structure, whether free standing or attached to a building or another structure, that has a height greater than its diameter and that is high relative to its surroundings, or that is used to support antennas for sending or receiving radio frequency signals, or for sending or receiving signals to or from satellites, or any of these, which is or is to be:

- a) Used principally to support one or more antennas for receiving or sending radio frequency signals, or for sending or receiving signals to or from satellites, or any of these, and
- b) Owned or operated by the state, a public service company as defined in Section 16-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes, or a certified telecommunications provider, or used in a cellular system, as defined in Section 16-50i(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The existing tower is used principally to support antennas and is used in a cellular system. Thus, the Council has jurisdiction over the proposed facility modifications and associated equipment. Pursuant to the tower sharing policy of the state under CGS §16-50aa, the Council must examine whether the existing tower may be shared with any public or private entity that provides service to the public, provided such shared use is technically, legally, environmentally and economically feasible and meets public safety concerns, to promote the immediate and shared use of telecommunications facilities and avoid the unnecessary proliferation of such facilities in the state. The existing tower can accommodate Cellco's proposed equipment installation.

Existing Facility and Site

This facility was approved by the Town of Montville and constructed in 1961.

The existing facility and parcel are owned by SubCarrier Communications, Inc. (Subcarrier) and consist of a 300-foot self-supporting lattice tower located on an approximately 1.9-acre host parcel zoned residential. The parcel is developed with the 300-foot tower and a 75-foot self-supporting lattice tower within the same compound, two vacant buildings, a driveway, and parking area.

The facility site is located in the central portion of the host parcel and is enclosed within an irregularly shaped fenced compound between the two existing buildings. The 75-foot tower is also owned by SubCarrier. Cellco explored collocation on the 75-foot tower, but it is too short to meet Cellco's wireless service objectives, and it is surrounded by mature trees that would interfere with wireless services. Land use surrounding the host parcel is utility, cemetery and residential.

The nearest residential property line is approximately 93 feet south of the existing 300-foot tower. The nearest residential structure is approximately 185 feet south of the tower at 377 Chapel Hill Road.

The 300-foot tower hosts T-Mobile at the 180-foot level, the U.S. Coast Guard at the 220, 255 and 280-foot levels and private entities at the 300-foot and 100-foot levels. The equipment compound is enclosed by an eight-foot chain link fence and consists of one existing equipment shelter and one existing equipment pad, which support cabinets and associated ground equipment of T-Mobile and other tenants on the tower. There is an existing Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) beacon light at the top of the tower.

Proposed Facility Modifications and Associated Equipment

The facility modification is needed to provide improved wireless service to Chapel Hill Road and Old Colchester Road and the surrounding area.

Cellco proposes to install nine 700/850/1900/2100/3700 MHz antennas and six remote radio units on a three sector antenna mount at a centerline height of 160 feet above ground level (agl). The proposed

antennas would be capable of providing 5G services. Tower mounted antennas and equipment will be painted as required by the FAA.

The proposed modifications would improve wireless coverage and provide service to Cellco customers along portions of Chapel Hill Road and Old Colchester Road and the surrounding area. It would handoff signals and provide capacity relief to existing Cellco sites within an approximately 3.5-mile radius.

Cellco proposes to expand the existing compound 10-feet by 26-feet (approximately 260 square feet) and install two equipment cabinets and other associated equipment on a new 12-foot by 20-foot concrete pad. The compound expansion would be a rectangle-shaped area in the southern corner of the compound and would be enclosed by a fence that matches the existing fence.

Cellco would install a 50-kilowatt diesel-fueled emergency backup generator on a new 12-foot by 20-foot concrete pad. The generator would have a 210-gallon double walled fuel tank with leak detection alarms. The generator run time under emergency conditions would be approximately 50 hours at full load before refueling is required. The generator would be remotely exercised during the day for 20 minutes once every two weeks.

Cellco would also install a battery cabinet within which would be capable of supplying power for approximately 8 hours before recharging is necessary.

Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) providers are licensed by and are under the jurisdiction and authority of the FCC. At present, no standards for backup power for CMRS providers have been promulgated by the FCC.

The nearest residential property line from the expanded fenced area is approximately 65 feet to the south at 377 Chapel Hill Road. Visibility of the existing tower generally occurs along the surrounding roads and neighborhood to the northeast. Cellco's antennas and equipment compound would be screened by existing vegetation.

Cellco would utilize existing underground electric and fiber connections. Cellco would connect to an existing electric meter and service disconnect outside the compound fence protected by bollards.

The estimated cost of the proposed facility modifications is \$350,000.

Neither the facility modifications, nor any portion thereof, is proposed to be undertaken by state departments, institutions or agencies, or funded in whole or in part, by the state through any contract or grant. Cellco is a private entity.

Public Health and Safety

The facility modifications would be constructed in accordance with the current Connecticut State Building Code, Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) 222-H Structural Standards for Steel Antenna Towers and Antenna Supporting Structures using a maximum wind speed of 125 miles per hour, the National Electrical Code, the Connecticut State Fire Safety Code, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards. Expansion of the existing compound would not impact or interfere with any existing nearby public utilities.

Expansion of the lease area would not impact or interfere with any existing public utilities as long as precautionary measures are undertaken, including but not limited to, contacting Call before You Dig for subsurface utility identification, locating, marking and protection of identified utilities and coordination with the Town.

A Professional Engineer duly licensed in the State of Connecticut has certified that the tower is structurally adequate to support the proposed loading with certain recommendations. Prior to Cellco's proposed antenna installation, tower modifications are required.

Cellco's proposed facility would be capable of supporting text to 911 and would comply with E911 requirements and the Warning, Alert and Response Network Act of 2006.

The expanded equipment compound would be enclosed by an eight foot fence accessed by a locked gate. All cabinets would have alarms to detect tampering. The fence would match the existing compound fence.

Timer controlled LED lighting would be installed on the proposed equipment cabinets for use during nighttime repair work.

Operational noise from the facility would comply with state noise control standards. The emergency backup generator is exempt from DEEP Noise Control Regulations §22a-69-1.8. In the event of a fire at the facility, Cellco would be able to remotely shut down its radio equipment and emergency backup generator.

The calculated cumulative worst-case power density after Cellco's installation would be 5.13% of the applicable exposure limit established by the Federal Communications Commission at ground level using a far field approximation.

Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

Construction would be limited to previously developed areas. No trees 6 inches or greater in diameter at breast height would be removed for the compound expansion; however, minor brush clearing may be required.

The site is not located within a flood zone or proximate to any wetlands. The nearest wetland is located outside of the host parcel approximately 120 feet south of the compound.

The site is not located within a Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Natural Diversity Database buffered area and is not within a DEEP designated Aquifer Protection Area.

Facility Modification Construction

Construction will disturb a total area of 260 square feet.

The facility modifications would take approximately 4 to 6 weeks to complete. Typical construction hours and workdays of the week are Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Saturday, if required.

Conclusion

If approved, staff recommends the following conditions:

1. Approval of any changes be delegated to Council staff;
2. Antennas and equipment shall be installed in accordance with the Mount Analysis prepared by Colliers Engineering and Design dated August 14, 2025 and stamped and signed by Grant Walters;
3. Prior to antenna installation, Cellco shall provide documentation certified by a Professional Engineer that its installation complied with the recommendations of the Mount Analysis;
4. RF access restriction and caution signage shall be installed at the site in compliance with FCC guidance; and
5. Deployment of any 5G services must comply with FCC and FAA guidance relative to air navigation, as applicable.

Figure 1 –Existing Facility Location

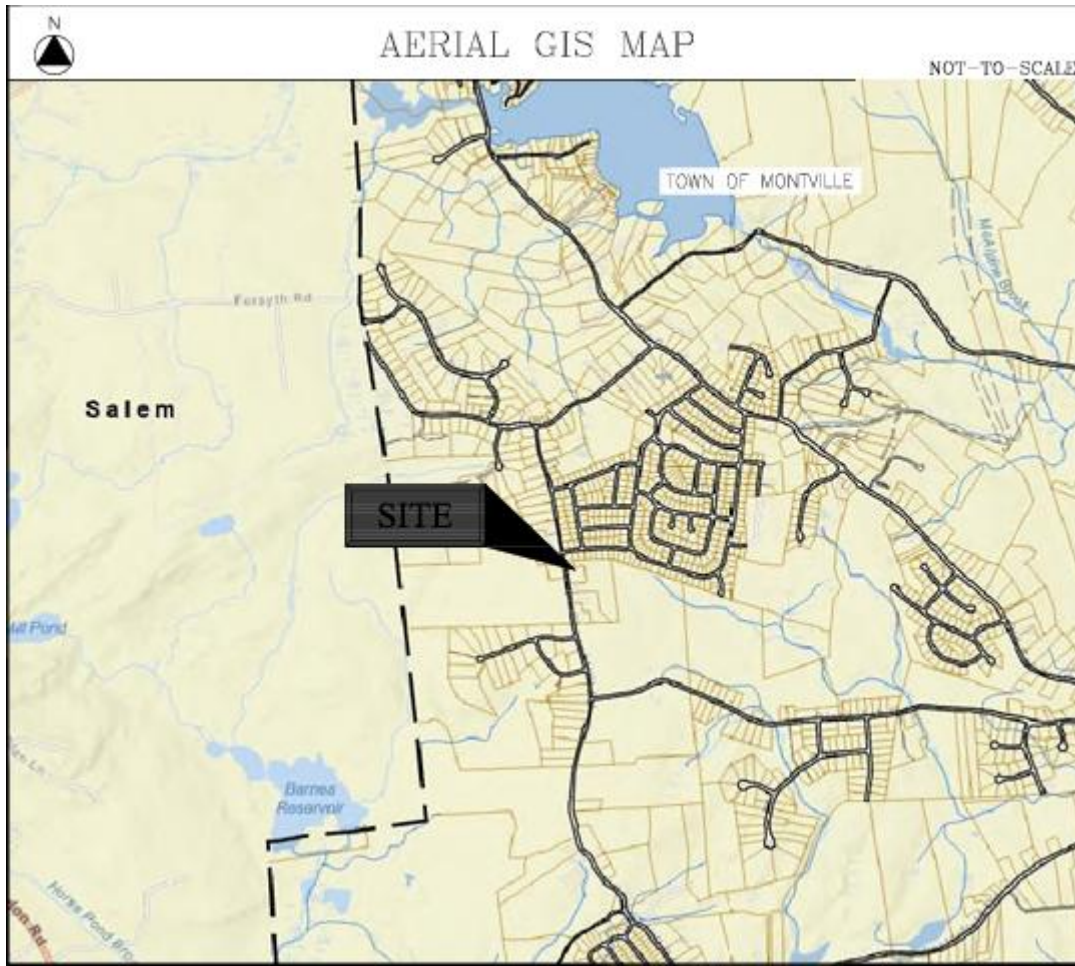


Figure 2 - Proposed Site Layout

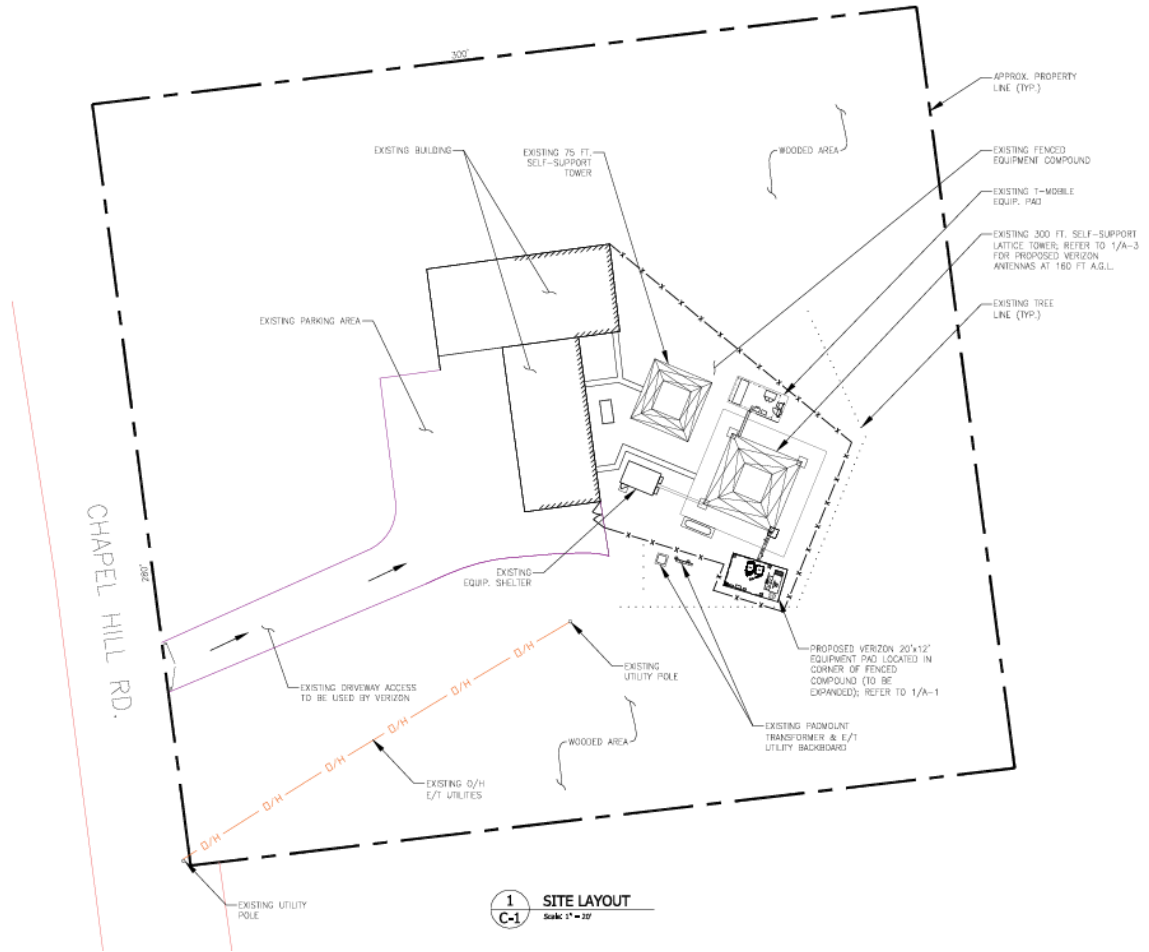
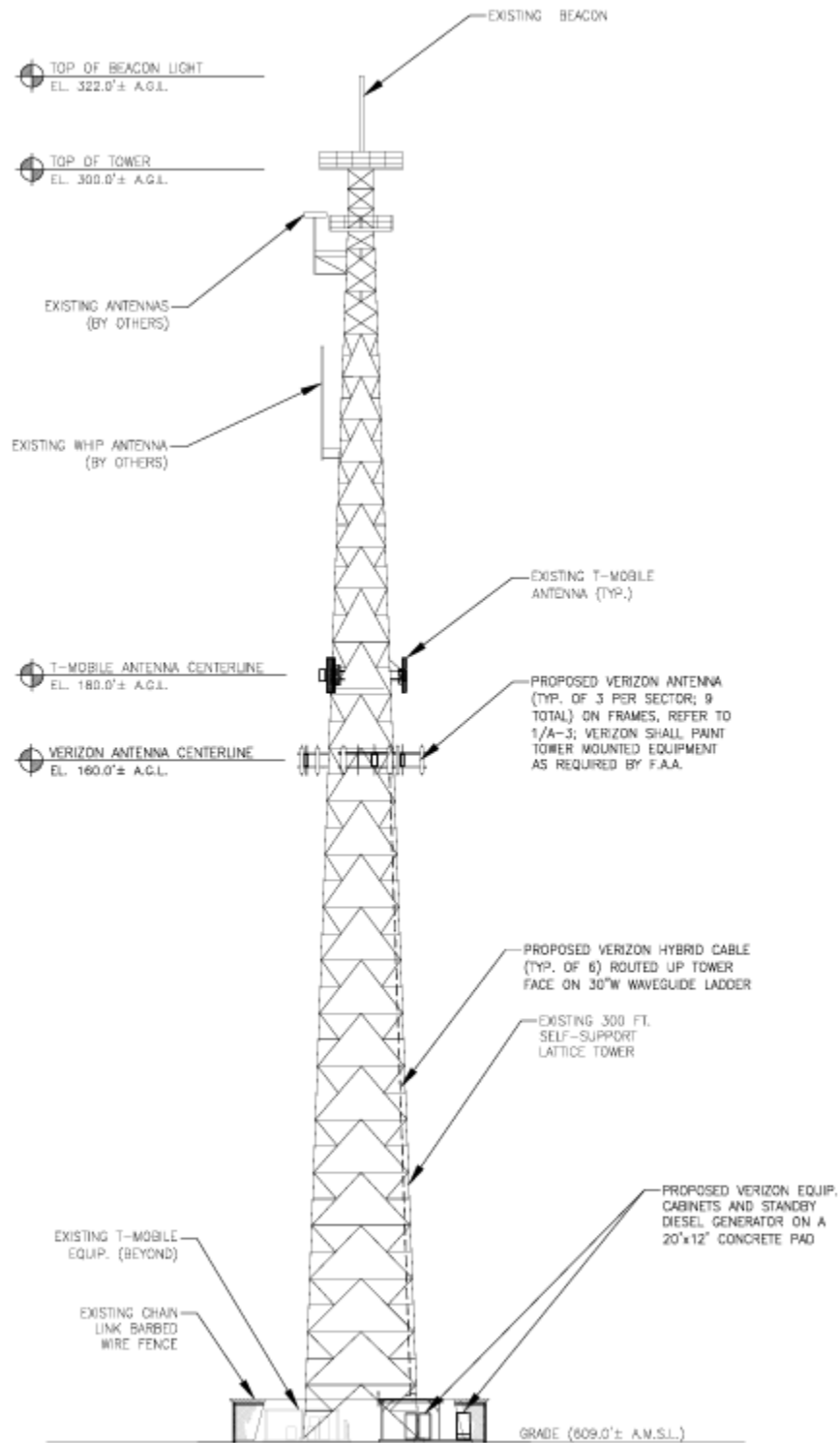


Figure 3 - Tower Elevation



2 SOUTH ELEVATION
A-1 Scale: 1"=20'

Figure 4 – Existing Towers



Figure 5 – Existing Facility Fence to be Modified

