

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL**

IN RE:

APPLICATION OF OPTASITE TOWERS LLC  
AND OMNIPOINT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED FOR  
THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND  
OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
FACILITY AT 425 LITCHFIELD ROAD,  
NEW MILFORD, CONNECTICUT

DOCKET NO. 342

Date: AUGUST 31, 2007

**PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL LIBERTINE**

Q1. Mr. Libertine, please state your name and position.

A. Michael Libertine and I am Director of Environmental Services for Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. ("VHB"). I am also a Licensed Environmental Professional in the State of Connecticut. VHB is located at 54 Tuttle Place in Middletown, Connecticut.

Q2. Please state your qualifications.

A. I have a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Connecticut with a concentration in Natural Resources Management. My background includes over 25 years of professional experience, including 17 years of environmental engineering consulting. I have been Project Manager for more than 1600 environmental site assessments and field investigations for property transfers in Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Florida and Canada. In addition, I have assisted

in the permitting of more than 500 wireless telecommunication facilities in New England during the past ten years. My responsibilities include: coordination and oversight of site screenings and environmental assessments to fulfill NEPA requirements, environmental site assessments, wetland delineations and assessments, vegetative/biological surveys, noise analyses, visual impacts analyses and regulatory permitting support.

Q3. Please describe your involvement in this matter.

A. VHB was responsible for preparing a Visual Resources Evaluation report for the proposed site at 425 Litchfield Road (the "Site"), which is located on property owned by the Estate of Edward J. Drzal and is virtually completely undeveloped. The purpose of this Visual Resources Evaluation Report was to evaluate the potential visibility of the proposed telecommunications facility ("Facility") from the surrounding areas.

VHB was also responsible for completing the NEPA compliance documentation for the proposed site.

Q4. Please describe the process for conducting the Visual Resource Evaluation.

A. At the request of Optasite, VHB conducted the Visual Resource Evaluation (found at Exhibit J of the Application), which included the preparation of a computer-generated viewshed map and performing a balloon float test at the Site on June 8, 2007. The balloon float test consisted of raising a helium-filled weather balloon, approximately four feet in diameter, to the height of 140 feet at the Site. Once the balloon was aloft, VHB personnel drove the public road

system within a two-mile radius (the "Study Area") to inventory those areas where the balloon was visible and photograph the balloon from numerous vantage points to document representative locations where the proposed tower will be visible. The location of each photograph was recorded using a hand-held GPS receiver and subsequently plotted on a USGS 7.5 Minute topographic quad map, utilizing ESRI's ArcView® Spatial Analyst software, to indicate their approximate distance and relative location to the proposed Facility.

Q5. How were the representative locations chosen?

A. Several photo locations were selected prior to the in-field evaluation, utilizing a preliminary version of the viewshed map to identify areas adjacent to public roads from where the proposed Facility might be visible. Other locations were identified based on in-field observations made during the time of the balloon float.

Q6. Please describe how you prepared the viewshed analysis for the Visual Resources Evaluation.

A. Using ERSI's ArcView® Spatial Analyst, a computer modeling tool, the areas from which the top of the tower is expected to be visible are calculated. This is based on information entered into the computer model, such as tower height, its ground elevation, existing vegetation and surrounding topography. Data incorporated in the model includes 7.5 minute digital elevation models ("DEMs") and a digital forest layer for the project area. The forested areas within the study area are overlaid on the DEMs and then a series of constraints are

applied to the computer model to achieve a realistic estimate of where the tower will be visible from within the surrounding landscape.

Also included in the viewshed model is a data layer, obtained from the Connecticut State Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”), which depicts various land and water resources such as state parks and forests, recreational facilities, dedicated open space and DEP boat launches. Additionally, information is gathered from the Connecticut State Department of Transportation (“DOT”) and local officials to determine if there are any state or locally designated scenic or historic roadways.

Q7. Please describe the visibility of the proposed Facility.

A. Areas from which the proposed Facility will be at least partially visible year-round comprise only 38 acres or less than 1% of the entire study area, with much of that visibility occurring in the immediate vicinity of the Site. We expect the proposed Facility to be visible along portions of Route 202 (Litchfield Road), Sandpit Road, Sandy Acres Lane, Wheaton Road, Hillendale Drive, Hearthstone Terrace and Upland Road. We estimate approximately 25 residential properties may have partial views of the proposed Facility from portions of the parcels.

In addition, the proposed Facility may be at least partially visible seasonally (during “leaf off” conditions) from an additional 18 acres and portions of approximately 10 additional residential properties.

Q8. Please describe any features of the Property that will assist in reducing any potential visual impact of the proposed Facility.

A. The size and location of the Property itself will serve to reduce the visual impact of the proposed Facility. Specifically, the host Property is over 28 acres in size and located within a commercial corridor of New Milford. In addition, the intervening topography, particularly immediately to the west of the proposed Facility, further serves to reduce any potential visual impact of the proposed Facility.

Q9. Will the proposed Facility have any impact on any sensitive visual receptors such as scenic, historic or recreational sites or parks?

A. No, the proposed Facility will not impact any sensitive visual receptors. There are several state or locally designated scenic roads within a 2-mile radius of the proposed Facility including: Cherniske Road, Old Mill Road, Walker Brook Road, Crossman Road, Sandpit Road and Wheaton Road. Areas of visibility are anticipated along short sections of Sandpit and Wheaton Roads; however, based upon the visual analysis discussed above, VHB has concluded that the proposed Facility will not have a significant impact on those roads that are designated as scenic. In addition, there are no parks or hiking trails within the study area that will be visually impacted by the proposed Facility.

Q10. Please describe the results of the NEPA screen conducted by VHB.

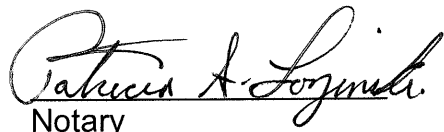
A. At the request of Optasite, VHB commenced a NEPA screen to determine if the proposed Facility falls under any listed categories of Section 1.1307 under NEPA, the preliminary results of which are found at Exhibit K of the Certificate Application. Based upon VHB's review, the proposed Facility does not fall under

any listed categories of Section 1.1307. In addition, VHB corresponded with numerous agencies including the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP"), the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, Historic Preservation & Museum Division, among others. Based upon the NEPA screen and agency correspondence, the Site is categorically excluded from any requirement for further environmental review by the FCC in accordance with NEPA and no permit is required by that agency prior to construction of the proposed Facility.

8-31-07  
Date

  
Michael Libertine

Subscribed and sworn before me this 31st day of August, 2007.

By:   
Notary  
my Commission  
expires: August 31, 2010