

## KNOXVILLE/KNOX COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION USE ON REVIEW REPORT

► FILE #: 12-J-07-UR	AGENDA ITEM #: 119
	AGENDA DATE: 12/13/2007
APPLICANT:	CROWNE CASTLE USA C/O SCOTT B. SMITH
OWNER(S):	BELLSOUTH PERSONNAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
TAX ID NUMBER:	84 011.01
JURISDICTION:	County Commission District 8
LOCATION:	Terminus of Hayeswood Rd., southwest of Pine Grove Rd.
APPX. SIZE OF TRACT:	0.129 acres
SECTOR PLAN:	East County
GROWTH POLICY PLAN:	Urban Growth Area
ACCESSIBILITY:	Access is via Hayeswood Rd., a local street with a 10' pavement width within a 50' right-of-way.
UTILITIES:	Water Source: Knoxville Utilities Board
	Sewer Source: Knoxville Utilities Board
WATERSHED:	Swan Pond Creek
ZONING:	A (Agricultural)
EXISTING LAND USE:	Existing 160' monopole telecommunications tower
PROPOSED USE:	190' monopole telecommunications tower
HISTORY OF ZONING:	None noted
SURROUNDING LAND	North: Rural residential development / A (Agricultural)
USE AND ZONING:	South: Rural residential development / A (Agricultural)
	East: Rural residential development / A (Agricultural)
	West: Rural residential development / A (Agricultural)
NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT:	This site is located in a rural residential area developed under A (Agricultural) zoning. There is an existing water tank located directly east of the tower site.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

#### APPROVE the request for a 190' monopole telecommunications tower in the A zoning district, subject to the following 6 conditions:

- 1. Meeting all applicable requirements of the Knox County Zoning Ordinance.
- 2. Meeting all applicable requirements of the Knox County Department of Engineering & Public Works.
- 3. Since the FAA does not require any lighting for this facility, there shall be no lighting on the tower.
- 4. Removal of the existing fence and equipment pad that encroach onto the adjoining property within 60 days of the new tower becoming operational.
- 5. Removal of the existing 160' tower within 60 days of the new tower becoming operational.

6. At the time of the request for a building permit, posting a bond or other approved financial surety that would ensure the removal of the tower if it is abandoned.

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With the conditions noted above, this request meets all criteria for a use-on-review in the A zoning district.

#### COMMENTS:

This is a request to replace an existing 160' telecommunications tower with a new 190' monopole telecommunications tower on a 5625 square foot lot. The tower site has access from the terminus of Hayeswood Rd. via an existing access easement. The subject property is zoned A (Agricultural).

The proposed new tower will be located approximately 250' from an existing residence to the south. The next closest residence is approximately 300' to the east. The Knox County Zoning Ordinance requires the tower to be located at least 209' (110% of the towers height) from any residence. The replacement tower exceeds that minimum standard. The survey submitted with the application shows an encroachment of the existing fenced enclosure and equipment pad onto the property that surrounds the site. The plan for the new tower shows that these encroachments will be removed with the new facility.

The tower is designed so it will collapse upon itself in case of a natural disaster or other failure. FAA does not require any lighting for the tower. The tower will support up to 4 telecommunication carrier antenna arrays. Cingular/AT&T Wireless will relocate from the existing tower to the new tower once it is completed. The existing tower will be removed when the new tower is operational.

The MPC's tower consultant, Mr. Larry E. Perry has reviewed the application and has concluded that the proposed tower does not meet the requirements of the Ordinance and spirit of the Facility Plan. Mr. Perry's report describes the proposal and highlights his findings (see attached report).

Mr. Perry's position that the need for the replacement tower has not been justified is tied to the Planning Commission's approval last month of the T-Mobile application for a 190' tower just to the west of this site. That tower is designed for up to 3 telecommunication carrier antenna arrays.

At the Planning Commission's November meeting a representative for the existing tower stated that they would not be in opposition to the T-Mobile tower as long as they would not oppose their plans to replace their existing tower. The T-Mobile representative stated that they would not object. It was also identified that the applicant and T-Mobile had been in discussions concerning the possibility of T-Mobile co-locating on this proposed replacement tower but decided that they could not wait for the owner of the existing tower to go through the process. The existing tower is structurally inadequate to allow for co-location. Following that discussion the Planning Commission approved the T-Mobile application allowing a second tower at this location.

While new telecommunication towers are considered as a use on review in the A (Agricultural) zoning district the applicant had been pursuing approval of a replacement tower with the Knox County Building Codes Department. Under Section 4.92.02 Development Standards, of the Knox County Zoning Ordinance there is an "exceptions" provision that states " A commercial telecommunications tower legally existing as of September 28, 1995 may be rebuilt on the same site without compliance with the height and setback requirements of this Section." When the Building Codes Department made a final determination that this exception would apply, they also made the determination that the replacement tower would be subject to the use-on-review process. That decision was made after the deadline for the November Planning Commission meeting, the meeting at which the T-Mobile application was considered. With their approval for the new tower, T-Mobile has no incentive for negotiating with the owner of the existing tower on co-locating on a replacement tower.

In his report, Mr. Perry had also stated that approving this application for a second new tower was not in keeping with the Facility Plan regarding separation of towers and creating a "tower farm" ("porcupine") appearance. If this was a second new tower, Staff would agree. However, it is a replacement tower and will not increase the number of approved towers for this site.

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, SURROUNDING PROPERTY AND THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE

1. The proposed tower will have minimal impact on local services since all utilities are in place to serve this development.

2. Since the proposed tower will replace an existing tower there will be minimal impact to nearby residences.

#### CONFORMITY OF THE PROPOSAL TO CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE KNOXVILLE ZONING

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#### ORDINANCE

1. With the recommended conditions, the proposed commercial telecommunications tower at this location meets the standards required in the A zoning district.

2. The proposed replace tower is consistent with the general standards for uses permitted on review (see comments above): The proposed development is consistent with the adopted plans and policies of the General Plan and Northeast County Sector Plan. The use is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Ordinance. Since this is a heavily wooded area and there is an existing telecommunication tower adjacent to the site, the use will not significantly injure the value of adjacent property. The use will not draw additional traffic through residential areas.

#### CONFORMITY OF THE PROPOSAL TO ADOPTED PLANS

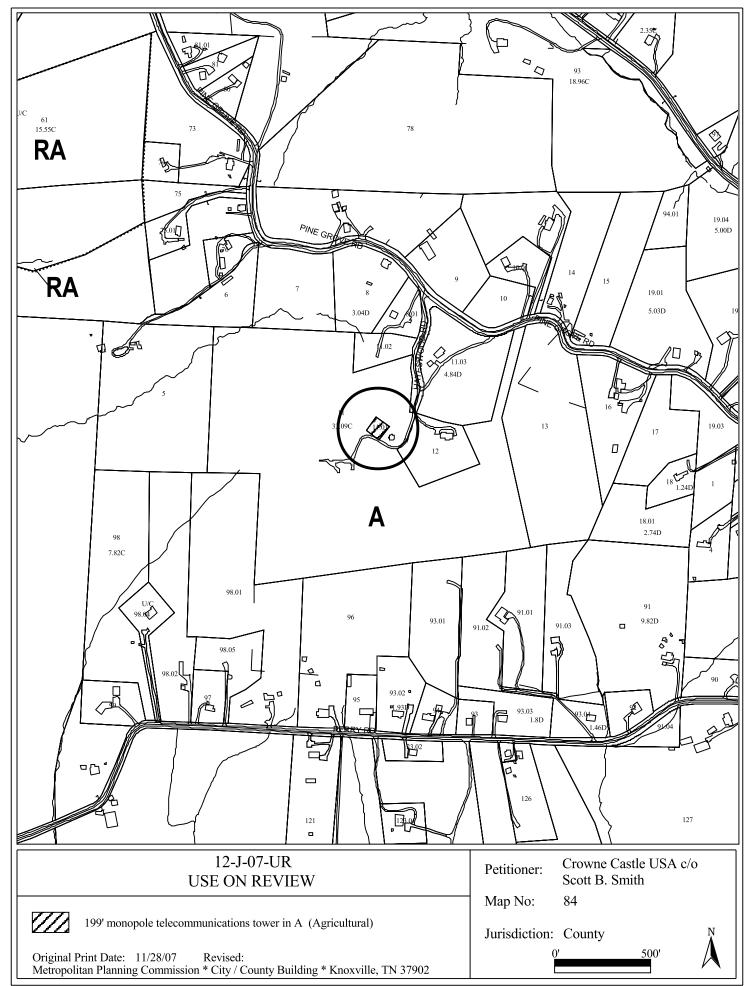
1. The East County Sector Plan proposes low density residential uses and slope protection on this property. The proposed development is consistent with this land designation.

2. The Wireless Communications Facility Plan identifies the proposed 190' monopole as a "tall" monopole. Under the guidelines in the Tower Placement section of the Facility Plan, the proposed tower falls within both the "Opportunity Area" (rural/heavily wooded areas) and "Sensitive Area" (site is located within 500' of a residence) categories. The Plan takes a neutral position on tall monopoles located in "Opportunity Areas" While tall towers are discouraged in residential areas, the required setbacks reduce the impact to nearby residences. (see attached matrix). Since this tower is a replacement tower, it is not in conflict with the Plans separation policy.

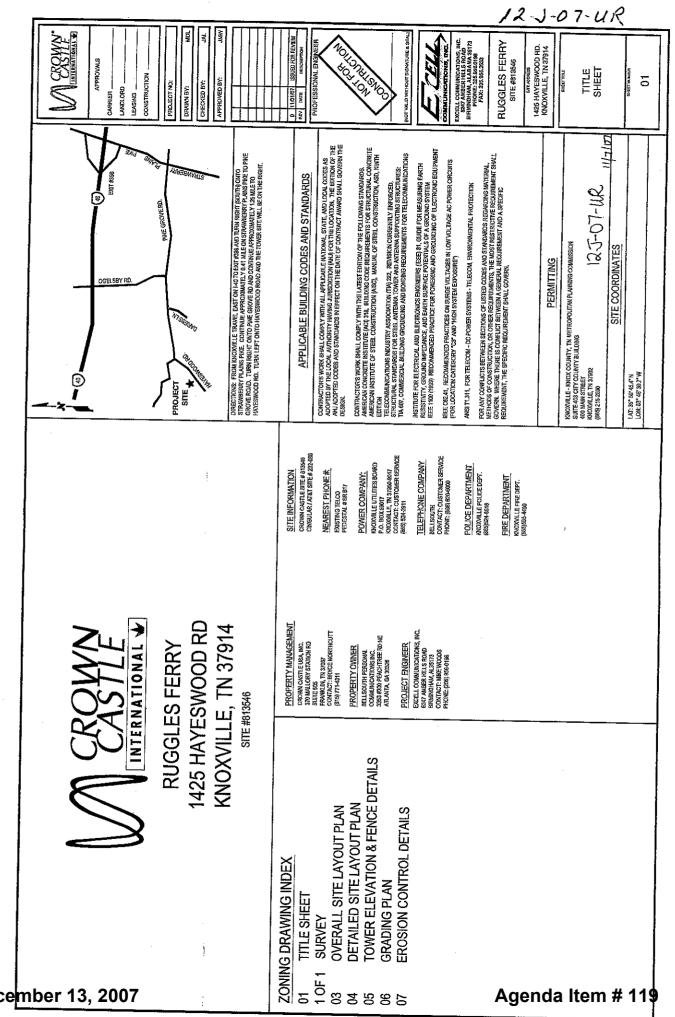
ESTIMATED TRAFFIC IMPACT: Not calculated.

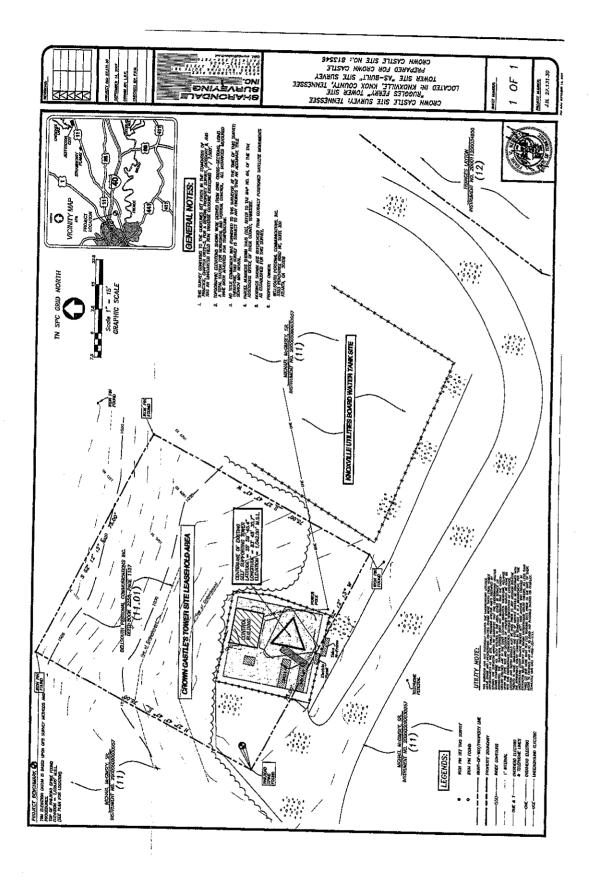
ESTIMATED STUDENT YIELD: Not applicable.

MPC's approval or denial of this request is final, unless the action is appealed to the Knox County Board of Zoning Appeals. The date of the Knox County Board of Zoning Appeals hearing will depend on when the appeal application is filed. Appellants have 30 days to appeal an MPC decision in the County.



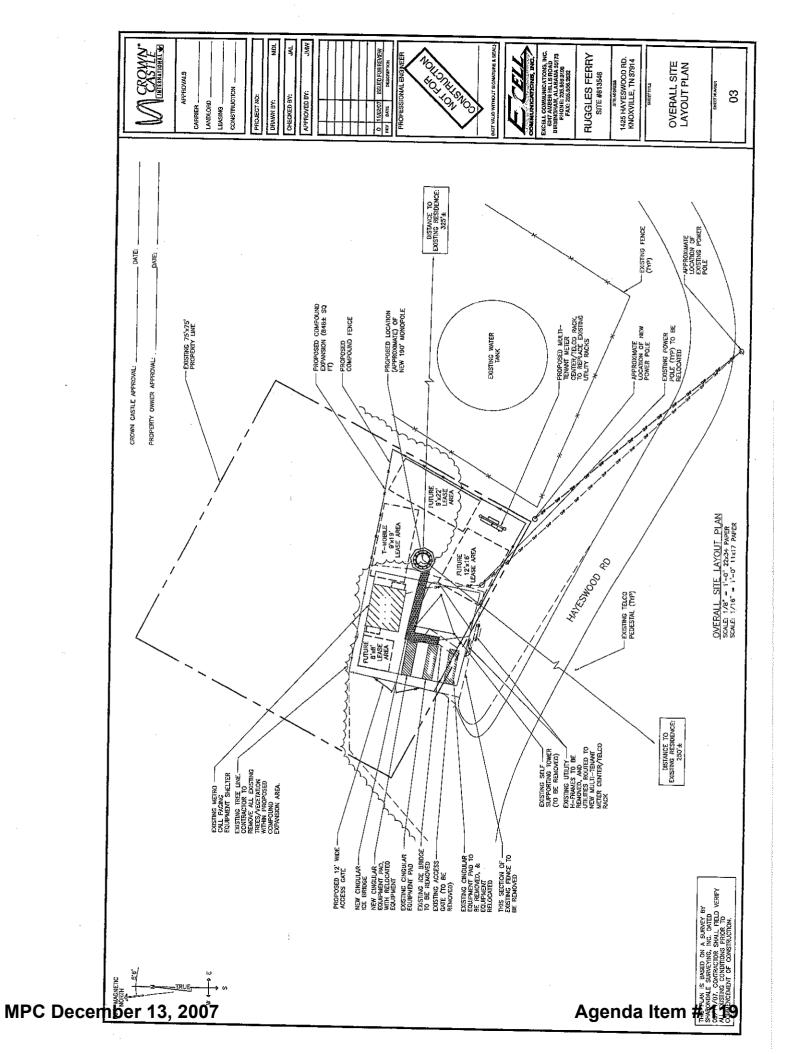
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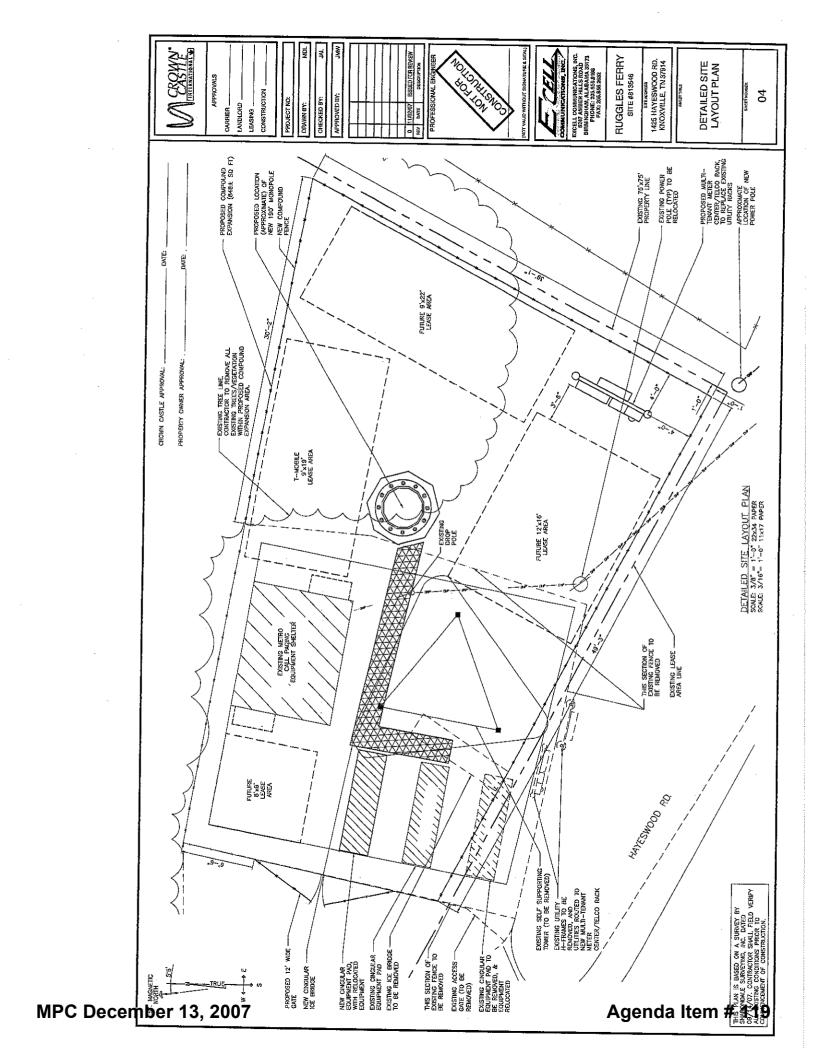


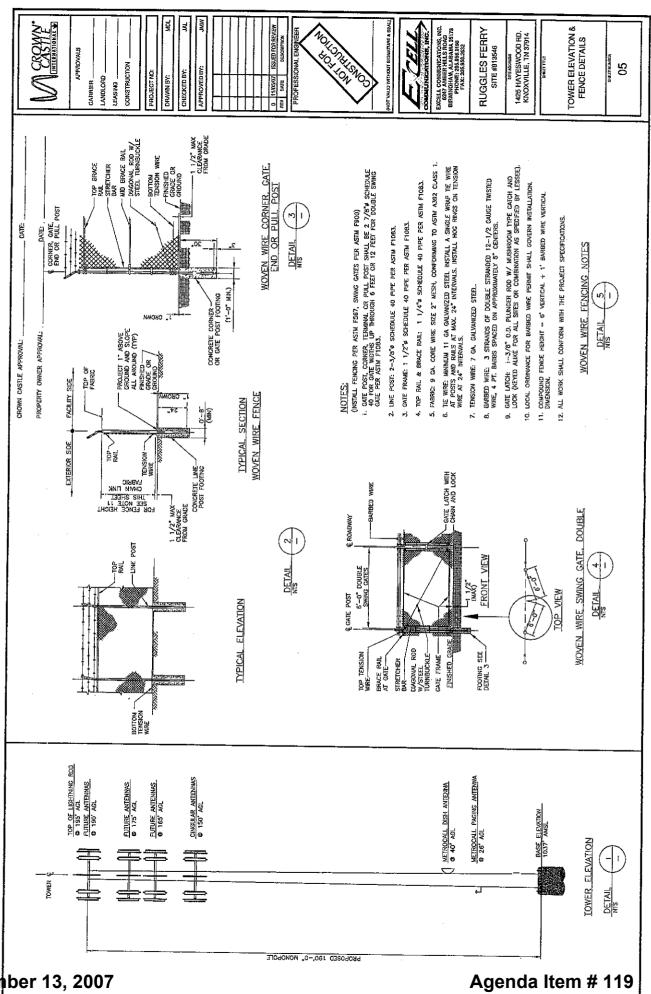


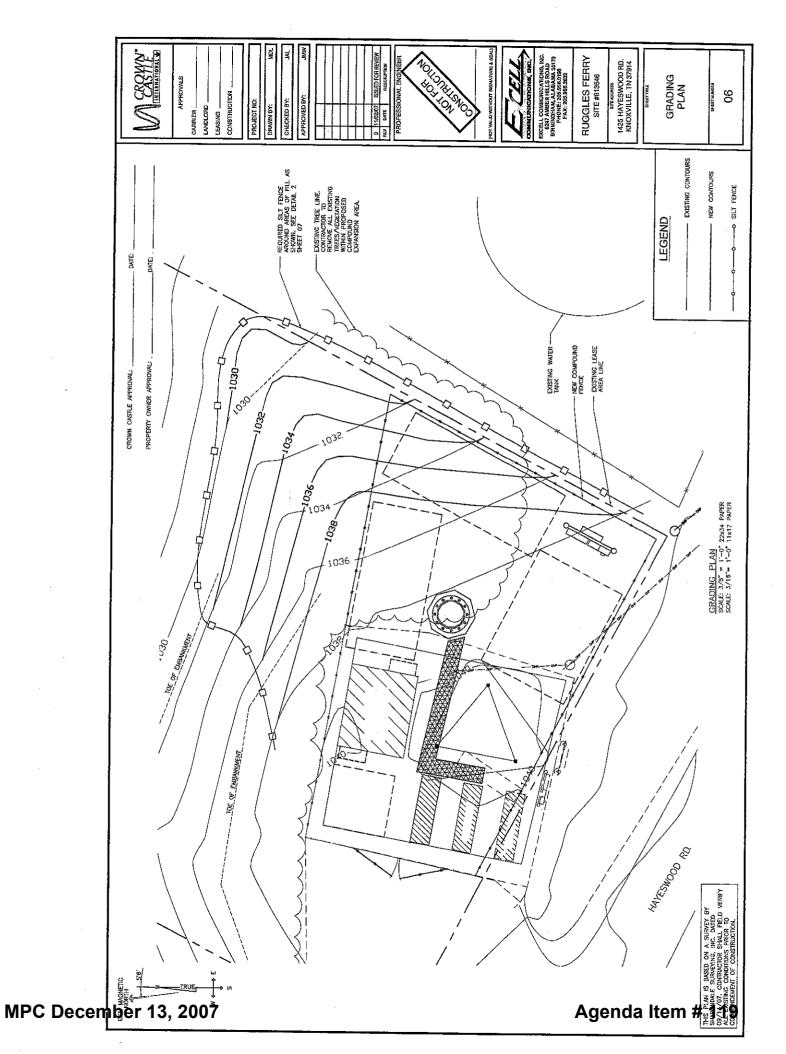
MPC December 13, 2007

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## CROWN CASTLE USA

## **Telecommunications Tower Site Review**

## **USE ON REVIEW APPLICATION # 12-J-07-UR**

# CONSULTANT'S SUMMARY

## **Ruggles Ferry Site**

#### **Knox County**

Location: Hayeswood Road near Pine Grove Road (East Knox County)

Proposed Tower Height: 195 foot Monopole

Address: 1425 Hayeswood Road Knoxville, Tennessee

District: # 8th County Map Number: 84 Parcel 011

Use: Telecommunications antenna support structure

**Zoning:** A (Agricultural/Urban Growth)

Variances and waivers: None required

**Need:** The applicant is Crown Castle an independent owner and operator of share wireless structures, not a licensed carrier by the Federal Communications Commission, although there are licensed carriers using the present facility on the Crown Castle structure, but there is no showing that any need the additional space or space that is not available on the previously granted structure at this same location by T Mobile.

Instant Proposal: Construct a 195 foot monopole type support structure.

**Consultant's Recommendation**: The site and application does not meet the requirements of the Ordinance and the spirit of the Facilities Plan. The MPC previously granted T Mobile authority to erect an identical or very similar structure at this same location. Both are not needed. It is recommended that both parties work out a suitable arrangement between themselves for the erection an joint use with the other existing carriers of a single monopole structure at this location and not two!

#### **REPORT TO**

#### METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

for

Proposed Telecommunications Tower Site Located at 1435 Hayeswood Road Knoxville, TN known as

#### **RUGGLES FERRY SITE #813546**

#### CROWN CASTLE USA, INC.

# **UOR 12-J-07-UR**

#### **COMPLIANCE WITH**

#### THE MPC TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY ORDINANCE

#### 11/28/2007

The proposed site for the applicant is a 195 foot monopole antenna support structure (including antennas and lightning rod) to be located just off Pine Grove Road at 1425 Hayeswood Road. The supporting material from applicant has been reviewed for technical and Federal/State legal compliance As well as with the Knox County Wireless Communication Facilities Plan from 2002. This is an extension of an existing telecommunications site.

#### REQUESTED

1. Location. The location is within the **County** of Knox limits in **District 8** and is located on **Tax Map Number** 84 **Parcel** 011

2. Zoning. A (Agricultural/Urban Growth)

3. **Tower height.** The requested height is 195 feet above ground level will support up to 3 additional telecommunications carrier antennas for a total of 4 users. Lighting will not be required on this structure.

4. **Variances**. This is a preexisting site in which the support structure is requested to be increased from 160 feet to 195 feet. There are no additional variances required.

5. **Site**. This application is for the construction of a new monopole type antenna support structure to replace an existing 160 foot self supported tower.

6. **Use**. This antenna support structure will be used for telecommunications with the present state of the art communications technology using PCS and cellular communication sources. The applicant is Crown Castle USA, a non carrier independent provider that leases vertical space to the various PCS and Cellular carriers. There are 3 or 4 possible telecommunications users for the facility based on the design.

7. **Setbacks**. The setback requirements are that the facility must be 110% height of the tower from any dwelling unit or 209 feet in this case. The applicant meets that requirement.(*Art. 4 Section 4.92.02(2)(a)*. The landowner's house is located within this area, but by signing an agreement with Crown Castle, he has waived the requirement. Also, I discussed this with the landowner on my site review and he acknowledged that he was aware of the requirement and had no objection to same.

8. Height. The proposed structure is for 195 feet. (Note: The request is for a 190 foot tower plus lightning rod or approximately 195 feet.)

#### **EVALUATION**

The following is a list of items reviewed:

Zoning Ordinance for Knoxville Tennessee by Metropolitan Planning Commission---Telecommunication Facilities Section (as amended thru October 1, 2004)

Knox County Wireless Communications Facilities Plan dated 2002.

Check for other existing towers capable of supporting the load and elevation clearance requested by the applicant herein and within 1 mile radius of site.

Check for Antenna Support Structure stress analysis for co-location users' equipment support

Review support structure drawings and specifications with applicant

Review FAA lighting and marking requirements and proposals

Review FCC requirements regarding signal coverage, towers and lighting

Review applicant's justification for site in compliance with the FCC's requirements for telecommunication company providers compliance with required coverage for the use of the general public.

Review Site plan by applicant Check Zoning Check setbacks for building and antenna support structure

Check for compliance with Wireless Communication Facility Plan

Check proximity to other structures and district boundaries

Check nature of surrounding land uses Check surrounding foliage and tree coverage

Check design of tower for esthetic changes

Check height requirements necessary for coverage

Check separation from other towers

Check frequencies proposed for possible interference to TV and radio reception in the immediate vicinity of the structure.

#### DISCUSSION

I visited the proposed tower site that is a part of this review and discussed the area with the applicant. I also met with Mr. McGrimsley, owner of the parcel of land.

I have a serious problem with this application. First, last month the MPC approved a request by T-Mobile in 11-M-07 UR for a 195 foot monopole structure exactly or very similar to the instant application to be located only about 30 feet from the instant applicant. Second, there is no need nor did the present applicant show a need for the additional height. The present applicant is a vertical space provider and not a carrier. The carriers on the applicant's current tower at the present have not presented any need for additional height for added coverage. Therefore, the applicant has not made a showing of need for the structure.

Ideally, T Mobile, who was granted the 195 foot monopole at the same basic location in last month's MPC meeting, would get together with Crown Castle and work out a sharing arrangement or some other arrangement such that only one 195 foot structure would be used for all the carriers at this location. It doesn't make any difference who the ultimate provider would be, but both should not be permitted at this location. If T Mobile's structure is completed, then Crown Castle could not additionally comply with the "no other structure within a reasonable radius" to accommodate additional users policy. To have two structures located side by side with only 1 carrier on 1 and 3 on the other, when either structure will support all of the carriers, is not in keeping with the policy of the MPC or the Facilities Plan. The purpose of the Plan and the MPC policy is to prevent a "Porcupine" effect at siting and aesthetic view of the area in the county. A grant of this application would run against both the policy and the plan.

#### DISCUSSION RE FACILITIES PLAN

The Facilities plan is a guideline adopted by the MPC in 2002 for the placement and appearance of wireless communications facilities. The following discussion is based on this application and how it relates to the Plan. The plan is an advisory plan and not a legal requirement.

(1) **View Protection**--One structure (195 feet) coupled with no lighting requirements and located in a fairly isolated wooded area should present no problems as to view, however, two side by side structures would run against the intent of this facet of the Facilities Plan when they are not necessary.

(2) Land Use Compatibility---The proposed site is on a slightly wooded parcel of land immediately adjacent to a utility water tank on a ridge in East Knox county. The structure and associated building/facilities would be compatible with the local land use and the surrounding area is wooded. The site will be unmanned and will have no impact on noise, traffic or air pollution.

(3) **Design Compatibility**---The proposed landscaping and facility design would blend in with surrounding agricultural land usage and design. The new structure will be a monopole type structure which are the least obtrusive type antenna support structures, however, again two identical or very similar structures side by side when both are not needed would run against the intent of this compatibility issue.

(A) **Opportunity Areas**---This proposed site is in an area zoned Agricultural/Urban Growth and is wooded and meets the requirements of an opportunity area. One structure is unlikely to become a blighting influence on the surrounding area, however, two would obviously become a blighting influence.

(B) **Sensitive Areas**---This site is not in a sensitive area as it is isolated and surrounded by woods.

(C) Avoidance Areas----This location is not in an avoidance area.

#### SUMMARY

(1) The proposed antenna support structure is a 195 foot monopole including antennas. There are no lighting requests for this structure nor are any required by the FAA.

(2) A review of the structure stress analysis on the proposed structure and specifications support the use of the monopole by three or four other potential users in the future. (3) The structure design meets or exceeds FCC and EIA requirements.

(4) The area surrounding the site is wooded and zoned Agricultural. There are no residences in the immediate area.

(5) The proposed equipment housing facility is an outdoor cabinet and will have no impact on the aesthetics of the adjacent land uses. The landscape plan indicates that the fenced area is surrounded by wooded vegetation that is presently existing.

(6) The requested facility will have an impact on the community from a practical and aesthetic view and is discouraged.

(7) The just granted structure by T Mobile negates the need for this application and it is highly recommended that the two parties, T Mobile and Crown Castle resolve the one tower issue between themselves as it is in the best interest of the citizens of Knoxville/Knox County to permit only one 195 foot structure at this location to serve all of the carriers.

(8) A variance to the Knox County Ordinance is not required.

(9) There is no showing of a need for the structure in this area to provide any additional coverage from this structure that could not be provided by a single structure of the same height.

#### RECOMMENDATION

In light of the analysis and review of documents, it is my professional opinion that the applicant does NOT meet all requirements of the Ordinance and the spirit of the Facilities Plan as discussed above and is not required for the various carriers on the present self supported tower to meet their coverage requirements for the County of Knox. I would recommend that the applicant work out an arrangement with T Mobile who has received a grant for a structure at this location for some joint use arrangement and that this application be DENIED.

fally submitted. sultai t to MPC



12-J-07-UR

November 5, 2007

Metropolitan Planning Commission Knoxville-Knox County, Tennessee 400 Main Street, Suite 403 City County Building Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

## SUBJECT: Proposed Replacement of Existing 160' Self-Support Tower With a New 190' Monopole Tower 1425 Hayeswood Road, Knoxville, TN (Map 084; Parcel 011.01) Ruggles Ferry Site #813546

**Dear Commission Members:** 

I represent Crown Castle USA and on their behalf I hereby submit the attached application for a Use On Review hearing scheduled for the December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Metropolitan Planning Commission meeting

Crown Castle currently owns a 160' self-support tower located at 1425 Hayeswood Road in Knox County which has antennas owned by Cingular/AT&T Wireless located on it. This tower is not structurally capable of additional antenna loading and Crown Castle respectfully requests your consideration to replace this tower with a new 190' monopole tower capable of accommodating at least three (3) additional telecommunications providers.

The existing tower was constructed in the late 80's and as stated previously is no longer structurally capable of accommodating additional antenna loading. Under Article 4.92 - *Standards for Commercial Telecommunication Facilities*, Section 4.92.02 (6) [a] – *Exceptions,* "A commercial telecommunications tower legally existing as of September 28, 1995 may be rebuilt on the same site without compliance with the height and setback requirements of this Section".

The existing facility and proposed replacement monopole is located in a rural area of the county and on a heavily wooded parcel of land. The new monopole will be located approximately 15' northwest of the existing self-support tower, and minimal clearing of the existing vegetation will be necessary in order to expand the compound to the east. Expansion of the compound will enable Crown Castle to market this site to at least three (3) additional telecommunications providers. The remainder of the property is heavily wooded to the north and therefore continues to provide sufficient screening from neighboring parcels.

Planning Commission Members Knox County MPC November 5, 2007 Page two

We believe the replacement of the existing self-support tower will:

- Be compatible with the character of the neighborhood;
- Be consistent with the General Plan, the Land Use/Wireless Facilities Matrix, the One Year Plan, the East County Sector Plan and other adopted plans;
- Not significantly injure the value of adjacent properties;
- Not substantially increase the level of traffic into the neighborhood when the project is complete.

We are attaching the following items to this application:

- 10 sets of the development plans
- Forward Prediction Map of Wireless Coverage
- Collocation Letter from Crown Castle USA

We hereby submit our application based on the above referenced part of the Knox County Ordinance and assure the new tower will meet all local, state and federal requirements in its design, construction and operation.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or need additional information. I can be reached at (919) 771-1961.

Sincerely,

Short & Aril

Scott B. Smith Director of Services, Carolinas Region Excell Communications, Inc.

Enclosures



Grown Castle USA Inc South Area 370 Mailory Station Road Suite 505 Franklin: TN 37067

Tel: 615 771 1240 Pax: 615 771 1241 www.crowncastle.com

Metropolitan Planning Commission Knoxville-Knox County Tennessee 400 Main Street Suite 403 City County Building Knoxville Tennessee 37902

SUBJECT: Letter of Commitment for Collocation Proposed Replacement of an Existing 160' Self-Support Tower With a New 190' Monopole Tower 1425 Hayeswood Road, Knoxville, TN

Dear Commission Members:

Crown Castle International (CCI) is the leading independent owner and operator of shared wireless infrastructure. The core business of CCI's United States subsidiary Crown Castle USA involves the engineering deployment marketing, ownership, operation and leasing of shared wireless communications sites. The sharing of infrastructure among multiple services lies at the heart of Crown Castle's business philosophy. CCI's portfolio of wireless communication sites, including existing towers and rooftops, enables their customers to serve their markets more efficiently and with sensitivity to local planning and zoning jurisdictions. Crown Castle designs all their facilities for multiple collocation opportunities for their customers. CCI endeavors to assist communities in reducing the number of towers in a given jurisdiction by supplying their customers with locations that meet their coverage design and wireless performance needs. As one of the largest tower companies in the world. Crown has master lease agreements, negotiated at arms-length, with all major wireless carriers licensed throughout the United States.

This letter is to pledge to the MPC that if approval of the replacement of the existing 160' self support tower with a 190' monopole at 1425 Hayeswood Road in Knox County is granted. Crown Castle will make the new tower available to up to three (3) or more additional telecommunication providers for collocation, provided such facilities are structurally and technically capable of accommodating such providers.

If you require additional information or have questions please do no hesitate to contact me at (615) 771-1565

Sincerely

Tom Scobie

District Manager Crown Castle International

EXHI	EXHIBIT 7.			100	Moderato	To F		-*
LAN	Land Use/Wireless facilities matrix	co- Location	Structure	Monopole Below 90'	Monopole 90'-150'	Monopole 150'-199'	Lattice Tower	Guyed Tower
	Industrial/Business Park							
	Industrial Use							
seə.	Pre-approved Government-owned Property							
IA Y	Urban Expressway Corridor							
inu	Rural/Heavily Wooded							
orti	Pasture							
ddC	Central Business District							
)	Office/Commercial Corridor							
	Shopping Center							
1								和認識和確認思想的智慧的認識的
SE	Within 500' of a residence							
s91	Rural Residential							
4 əvit	Non-residential Properties in a Residential Area (church, cemetery, library, etc.)		And Andrewson					
isu	Multi-family Residential							
es	On Hill Below Ridgeline							
	Conservation Open Space							
SI	Scenic Highway							
914	Public Park							
(ə)	Ridge Top/Ridge Line							
uep	Scenic Vista							
ίον	Historic District/Site							
1	Single-family Residential							
	Vacant Residential Lot							
			Encouraged		Neutral	ral		Discouraged

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MPC December 13, 2007

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