



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRANSMISSION
FACILITY COORDINATING GROUP
RECORD OF ACTION

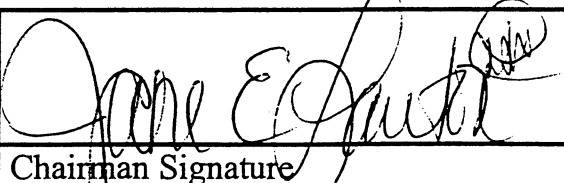
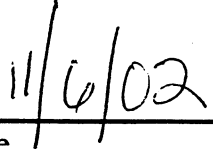
APPLICATION NUMBER: 200210-01

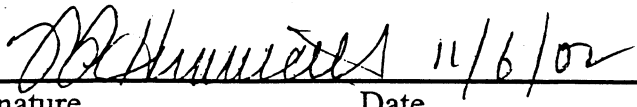
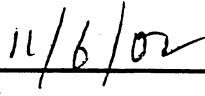
DATE: 6 November 2002

Application Review:	
Applicant:	Sprint PCS
Description:	Construct a new 105' monopole.
Site Location:	Petrucelli Property 14120 Darnestown Road, Germantown
Property Owner:	Nicholas & V.A. Petrocelli
Tower Coordinator Recommendation:	Recommended: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not recommended: <input type="checkbox"/>
Land-owning Agency input:	Attached: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Group Comments:	

Vote on recommendation of approval:	For: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
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Results:	Recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
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Chairman Signature	Date

	
Tower Coordinator Signature	Date



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
TOWER COORDINATOR
RECOMMENDATION

APPLICATION NUMBER: 200210-01

DATE: 14 October 2002

Application Information:		
Applicant:	Sprint PCS	
Description:	Construct a new 105' monopole and attach three flush mount antennas at the 100' level.	
Site Location:	Petrucci Property 14120 Darnestown Road, Germantown	
Property Owner:	Nicholas & V.A. Petrucci	
Classification in accordance with Zoning Ordinance: O-M		
Private Property:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	By right: <input type="checkbox"/>
Public Property:	<input type="checkbox"/>	By right: <input type="checkbox"/>
		Special Exception: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Special Exception: <input type="checkbox"/>
		Mandatory Referral: <input type="checkbox"/>
Impact on land-owning agency: N/A		
Existing or future public safety telecommunications facilities and plans: None		
<p>Co-location options. Based on our review of Sprint's RF signal level contour maps, use of a PEPCO transmission line tower north of the site is too far away to meet the coverage needs in the area where the monopole is proposed to be located. Use of the PEPCO towers to the east is also too far away and would be too close to the existing Sprint antennas at Route 28 and Quince Orchard Road.</p> <p>There are no other tall structures in the general vicinity to which Sprint can attach its antennas to obtain its desired coverage except perhaps a bell tower on Our Lady of Visitation Church. However, Nextel has already been recommended by the TTFCG to attach its antennas to that site, although we understand from Sprint and Nextel that Nextel has postponed deploying antennas in that area at the present time. It appeared to us, at the time the Nextel application was reviewed, that only one set of antennas would fit within the space available in the bell tower.</p> <p>Verizon has also expressed a possible future interest in improving coverage south of the Darnestown area, but according to Sprint's representative, Verizon has reported to Sprint that it needs to have its coverage farther to the south than co-location at this site would probably permit. Based on our review of prior maps of Verizon's expected coverage for that area, we agree with their assessment of the possible use of this site for their coverage needs to the south of the area.</p> <p>Our review of the database and accompanying carrier's maps reveals that Verizon and Sprint are the only two carriers planning to site antennas in this area at the present time.</p> <p>This facility, once erected will accommodate up to two additional sets of antennas in a similar low profile configuration to this "stealth" monopole disguised as a flagpole. However, the requirements for antenna attachment to this type of monopole design may limit its usefulness as a co-location site for some carrier's network requirements.</p>		

The equipment compound is a 50'x 50' area with room for Sprint's equipment cabinets and two additional equipment shelters.

Implications to surrounding area: This is in an area where there has been much community opposition to installation of a monopole. In this case, however, Sprint' representatives have advised us that they met on two occasions with the Darnestown Civic Association, and according to Sprint, the Association does not oppose this siting at this time. At the time of the TTFCCG review of the Nextel attachment to Our Lady of Visitation Church, the representatives of the Darnestown Citizens Association expressed an interest in providing co-location opportunities for future antennas, even though they expressed reservations about additional equipment shelters.

As noted above, this facility will accommodate additional antennas in a similar attachment configuration. On one side and along the back of the ground space for this monopole and equipment compound, the view is shielded by trees approximately 30' to 40' tall. The monopole base and equipment area is located behind a house and garage that should shield the front of the site from the street. The other side of the site backs up to a parking lot behind a commercial establishment.

It appears, based on our site visit, it appears that the top half of the monopole will be plainly visible from the commercial area around the intersection of Route 28 and Seneca Road. It will also be plainly visible from the area around the Windsor School and Our Lady of Visitation Church located to the west of the site. It may also be visible from some of the residences near the site and along Route 118.

Attachments: Application and supporting documentation and photos from our site visit.

Comments: We have reviewed the RF signal strength contour maps provided by Sprint for this site. Based on those maps, we agree that there is a need for coverage in this area, primarily along Route 28 from Black Rock Road to Masonwood Drive. The Sprint antennas attached to the monopole as proposed will meet Sprint's coverage requirements.

Even with antennas at 97', it appears that there will be a small coverage gap to the northwest of the site along Darnestown Road at Black Rock Road where signal strength drops below Sprint's desired levels, and another spot to the southeast near Berryville Road, where the signal levels also drop. To the east and southeast of the proposed site, there are also some smaller areas where the signal levels also drop even with antennas at the proposed 97' elevation. Reducing the height of the monopole will possibly widen the coverage gaps mentioned above.

Tower Coordinator Recommendation: Recommended:
Not recommended:

[Handwritten Signature]
Signature Date 10/20/02

Action Item: Sprint PCS application to construct a new 105' monopole on the Petrucci property located at 14120 Darnestown Road in Germantown (Application #200210-01).

Bob Hunnicutt noted that this application was for a siting in the Darnestown area, in the vicinity where three facilities had previously been proposed by Verizon, but were rejected by Darnestown residents, and siting in this area was quite controversial.

Kamal Johari summarized the application, noting there were no existing facilities for co-location except a church bell tower. He added that the bell tower would have been a likely co-location option, but the TTFCG had already recommended Nextel's antennas to be located there, though Nextel had postponed use of that site for the present time.

Jane Lawton asked if Sprint representatives had spoken with church officials regarding potential attachment to that facility, and also asked if that facility could accommodate two sets of antennas. Henri Edoh, Sprint's engineer, stated Sprint had considered use of the bell tower, which is approximately 58' tall, but that site would be too low to meet its coverage objectives.

Bob Hunnicutt said that when Nextel's application was reviewed, Darnestown Civic Association representatives had discussed the potential for additional attachments to the church. He recalled that the bell tower was a square brick structure with four brick columns supporting a pyramid-shaped roof. He stated that the current design of the bell tower does not appear to be capable of supporting a second set of antennas without major structural changes to increase the space on the brick support columns, which he did not believe the church would be eager to pursue.

Mr. Edoh added that Sprint had spoken with church officials about adding a second set of stealth-designed antennas on the church property; however, the church was not interested in pursuing this option. Robin Bryan, the Darnestown Civic Association representative, stated that his organization had also spoken with church officials regarding a second siting on church property, and agreed that the church was not willing to allow additional antennas.

Mr. Johari stated that in reviewing the application, the Tower Coordinator considered use of the PEPCO transmission line facilities to the east, but concluded attachment in that location would not provide coverage as far west as Sprint desired to provide service and would be too close to existing Sprint antennas at Fire Station #31 at Darnestown Road and Quince Orchard Road. PEPCO transmission line facilities to the north were also considered, but that location would not provide coverage as far south as Sprint desired to provide service. Helen Xu asked how far the proposed site was from the PEPCO transmission line towers. Mr. Hunnicutt replied it was approximately 1.7 miles west of the PEPCO facilities.

Mr. Johari concluded by saying that based on the information presented, including the review of the RF propagation maps, it appears that there is a need for coverage in this area, and these antennas as proposed would provide the desired coverage.

Jane Lawton asked if the equipment shelter would be fairly well concealed. Mr. Hunnicutt stated that the equipment shelter appeared to be situated behind the house concealing the shelter area from the roadway. The rear of the property was concealed by trees, as was the west side. The east side of the property has a large open grassy area but abuts a commercial parking lot behind offices on Seneca Road at Route 28.

Helen Xu asked about the size of the cell coverage radius. Mr. Edoh replied that coverage would be provided to an area of approximately 1.5 miles wide. Ms. Xu asked if Sprint planned to place other towers along Route 28. Mr. Edoh replied that Sprint already had antennas to the east at Fire Station #31, and to the west at the Troop 52 site.

Robin Bryan added that he wanted to make sure that this facility worked with the current and proposed aesthetics for the Darnestown area. He stated that future plans called for a large traffic circle and some other improvements at the intersection of Seneca Road and Route 28, and wanted to make sure the facility would fit in with those design plans. He added that they did not want the flagpole to be lighted, and would prefer to see some sort of automatic device for stowing flag which would satisfy their concerns about proper raising, lowering, and display of the American flag. He submitted procedures for proper public display of a flag.

Jim Michal stated there was no plan to light the pole, but if they did, it would be a 150 watt light positioned on the ground to shine on the flag, which he believed would not be objectionable to those able to see it. He stated that in other jurisdictions, they had provided lighting for a flag and it was well received in the community. He stated that the Darnestown Community may want to light the flag for a trial period of 30-60 days, and if there were any complaints, they could turn it off.

Jane Lawton stated that care of the flag was really an issue for the Board of Appeals to discuss, but asked if it was not lit, who was responsible for raising and lowering the flag. Mr. Michal stated that provisions for stowing the flag could be made at the base of the monopole. Robin Bryan stated that he would encourage Sprint to make the flag self-maintaining, raising/lowering, and stowing. Jane Lawton encouraged the industry to consider those options to make these flag-style stealth sitings more capable of addressing these issues.

Mr. Bryan noted he wanted to make it clear that the community was interested in having only one facility if there was to be one at all, and they had hoped this would be the only facility in the Darnestown area. Ms. Lawton stated that she appreciated the community's concern, but she could not guarantee that would be the case and that there would not be any future applications for service to that area. Bob Hunnicutt added that although this facility is capable of accommodating additional antennas, it may not be as desirable for some carrier's network design because of the limitations on the antenna configuration necessary to attach to this "flagpole" type structure.

Darnestown representative Stephen Ellis stated that an Armenian church was proposed for construction in the area, and it was designed with a tall steeple which, perhaps, could also accommodate future carrier antennas. Ms. Lawton encouraged Mr. Ellis to advise those who are constructing the church of that possibility, so the steeple could be designed to accommodate antennas.

Helen Xu asked the location of the roads bounding the service area mentioned in the Tower Coordinator's recommendation, as they did not appear to be on the map. Mr. Hunnicutt, using a site map showing a greater area of Darnestown than the map provided in the application, reviewed the location of the perimeters of the cell service area.

Mr. Bryan stated he wished to thank Sprint for working so closely with the community, as they found it very helpful in resolving any concerns they had with the siting.

Motion: Pat Hanehan moved the application be recommended. Bill Landfair seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.