



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Office of the Planning Director
Prince George's County Planning Department

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December 1, 2015

Ms. Lucy A. Kempf, Director
Urban Design and Plan Review
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

**RE: Replacement of Existing Antennas and
Cell Equipment on the Existing Water
Tower and Tank (MR-1525A)**

Dear Ms. Kempf:

The Prince George's County Planning Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed replacement of existing antennas and cell equipment on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Beltsville Water Tower and Tank at The Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). AT&T Mobility proposes to modify the existing antenna site previously approved by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) in October 2010 to swap three existing antennas with three new antennas and add related ancillary equipment.

The project is to remove three long-term evolution (LTE) antennas and replace them with three 1900 megahertz (10⁶ Hz) hexport antennas, each with a four-port remote radio head. These pipe-mounted antennas are above the catwalk area of the water tower at 80 feet above ground level (as shown on the enclosed graphics). The antennas are being mounted on Branchville Water Tower #316 on the property of the Agricultural Research Service, located in Beltsville MD near the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center Building 307C and the United States Geological Survey, Building 308. The new antennas are for the purpose of improving wireless communication coverage for the surrounding areas. The anticipated environmental impact associated with the antenna modernization project is minimal.

The project is not subject to the Prince George's County Woodland and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Ordinance but will be subject to state-level review by the Maryland Forest Services under the requirements of the Clean Water Act, if applicable.

If you should have any questions or need additional information, please contact Christine A. Osei, Project Manager, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division, at 301-952-3313 via email at Christine.Osei@ppd.mncppc.org.

Sincerely,

Fern Piret
Planning Director

Enclosures

c: Redis C. Floyd, Clerk of the Council, Prince George's County Council
Derick Berlage, Chief, Countywide Planning Division
Maria Martin, Planning Supervisor, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division
Christine Osei, Project Manager, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division