

Telecommunications Update

Cellular, Emergency, Radio

August 16, 2023

Telecommunications Update Topics

- Introduction
 - When is an Agency permit necessary?
 - What are the approval criteria?
 - What applications are available?
- Telecommunications Permits Issued
 - New towers
 - Small cell
- Telecommunications Working Group
 - Authorization Form
- New DRAFT General Permit Eligible Facilities Requests



Introduction



Jurisdiction

- All structures greater than 40 feet in height, except agricultural use structures and residential radio and television antennas
 - all land use areas except Industrial Use
- Major public utility use
 - "...any television, cable television, radio, telephone or other communication transmission tower..."
 - all land use areas except Hamlet
- Subdivision into sites
 - all land use areas except Hamlet



Section 809(10) Approval Criteria

- Project must:
 - Be consistent with land use and development plan
 - Be compatible with character description and purposes policies, and objectives of each land use area
 - Have no undue adverse impact on Park resources

"The project [will] not have an undue adverse impact upon the **natural**, **scenic**, **aesthetic**, ecological, wildlife, historic, recreational or **open space resources** of the park or upon the ability of the public to provide supporting facilities and services made necessary by the project, **taking into account** the commercial, industrial, residential, recreational or **other benefits** that might be derived from the project."



Telecommunications Permit Applications

- Major Project (e.g., new tower)
 - General Information Request (GIR)
 - Supplemental Information Request (SIR) for Telecommunications
- Permit Amendment
- General Permit for Co-Location effective 2005
 - Vertical co-location
- General Permit for Additional Tower effective 2010
 - Horizontal co-location
- General Permit for Eligible Facilities Requests draft 2023



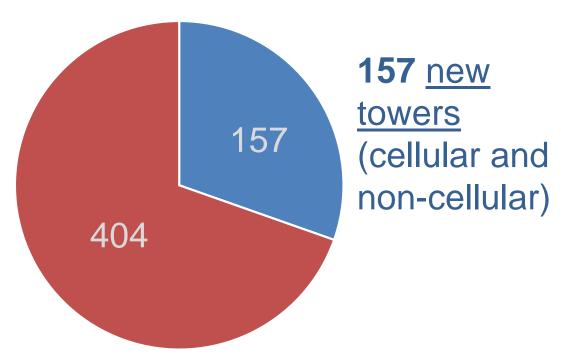
Telecom Permits Issued



Telecom Permits Issued – overall (7/31/2023)

559 Permits* in Telecommunications Database

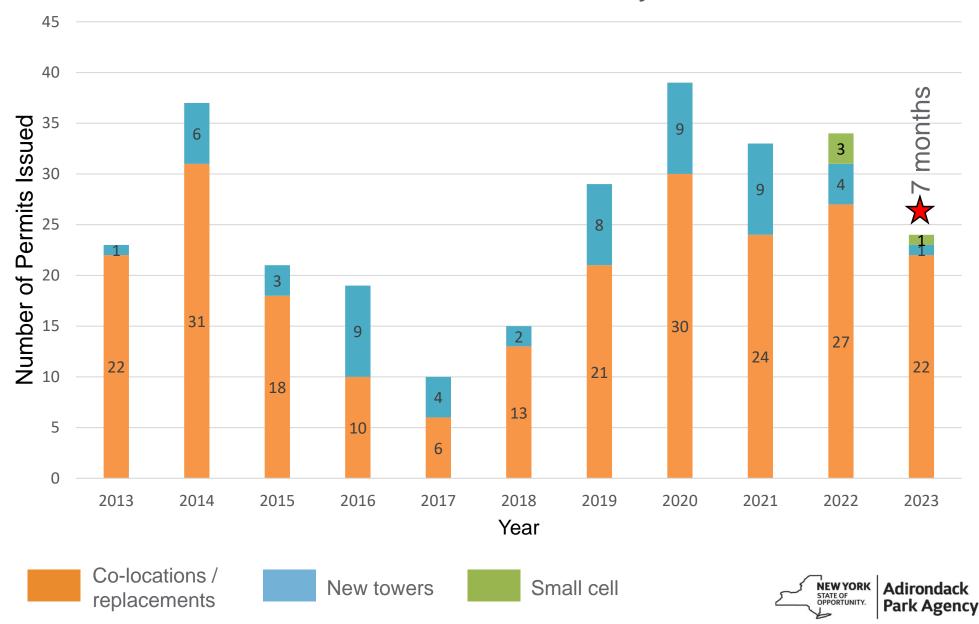
404 permits for replacement and/or co-location of tower / antennas (cellular and non-cellular)



^{* 404 + 157 ≠ 559} because 2 permits authorized 2 new towers each



Telecom Permits Issued by Year



Telecom Permits Issued – last year (2022)

- 34 telecommunications permits*
 - 3 major project permits (new tower)
 - 23 General Permits (co-location/upgrade)
 - 1 General Permit (small cell)
 - 2 orders (small cell)
 - 5 amendments (co-location/upgrade)



^{*}numbers do not include letters of permit compliance (3)

^{*}numbers do not include orders issued for temporary towers (5)

Telecom Permits Issued – last year (2022)

- 34 telecommunications permits*
 - 15 Verizon Wireless
 - 10 T-Mobile^
 - 7 AT&T^
 - 1 DISH Wireless
 - 3 emergency services (county/town)^

^one permit in Inlet was for AT&T, T-Mobile, and emergency services

*numbers do not include letters of permit compliance (3)

*numbers do not include orders issued for temporary towers (5)



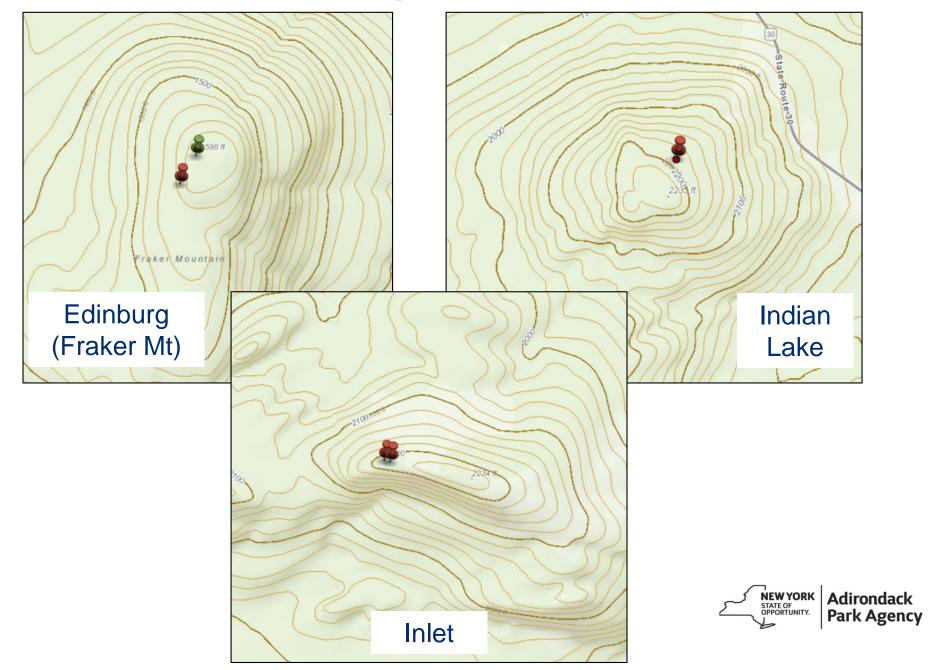
Telecom Permits Issued – last year (2022)

4 new towers

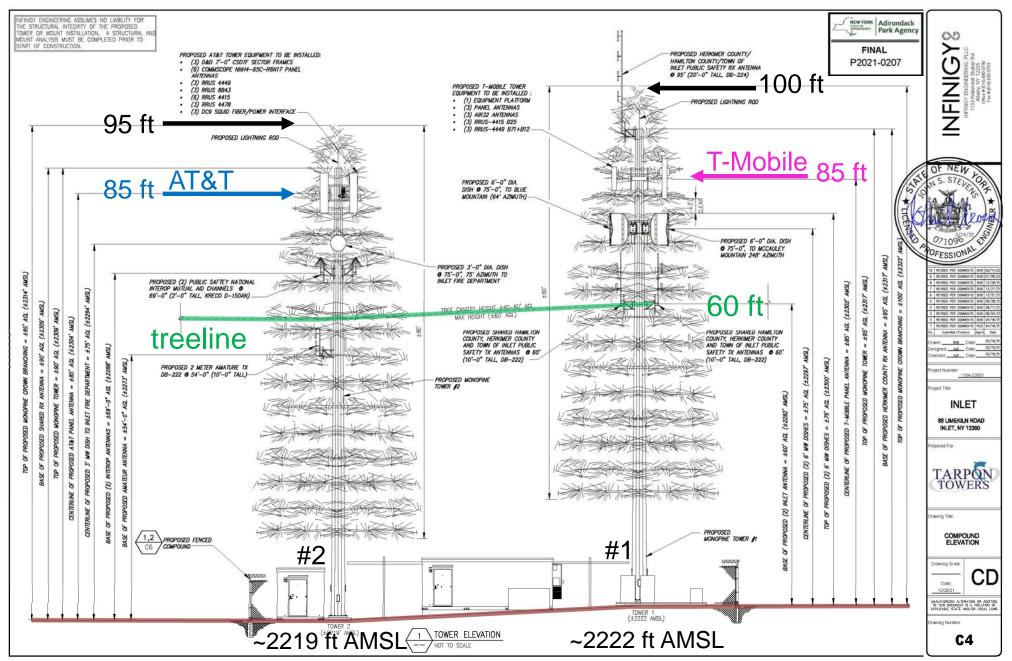
- Location
 - Edinburg 250 ft from existing tower
 - Indian Lake
 - Inlet (2) two towers 60 ft apart
- Type
 - 3 Raw land sites + 1 horizontal co-location
 - Concealed as simulated trees
- Height
 - Edinburg 101 ft tall
 - Indian Lake 85 feet tall
 - Inlet (2) 90 ft tall & 95 ft tall



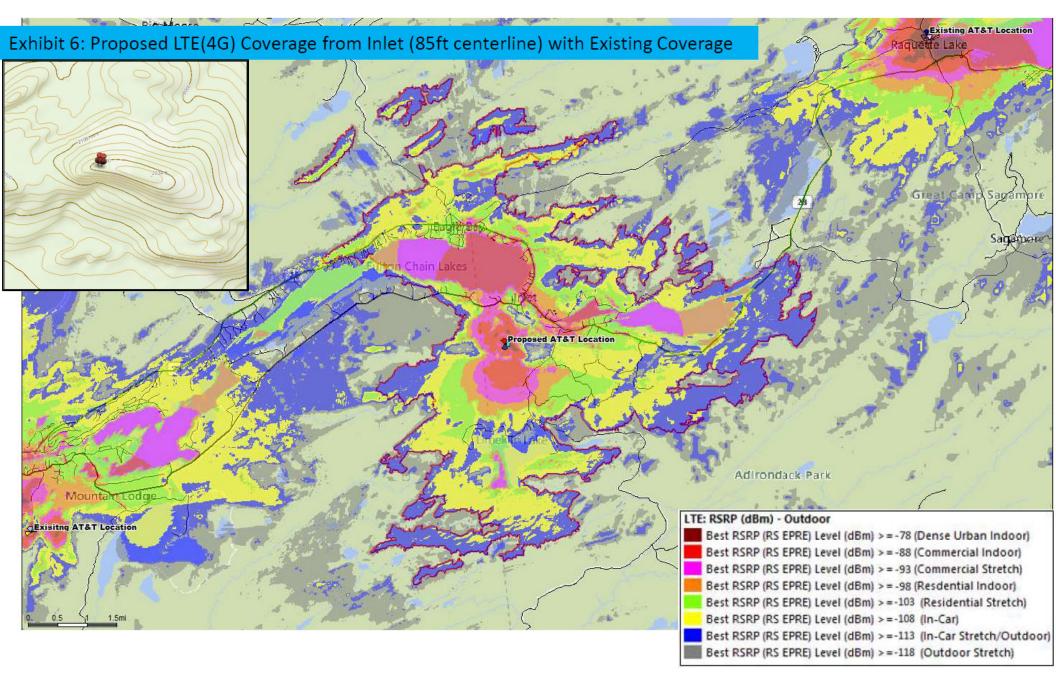
New telecom towers permitted in 2022



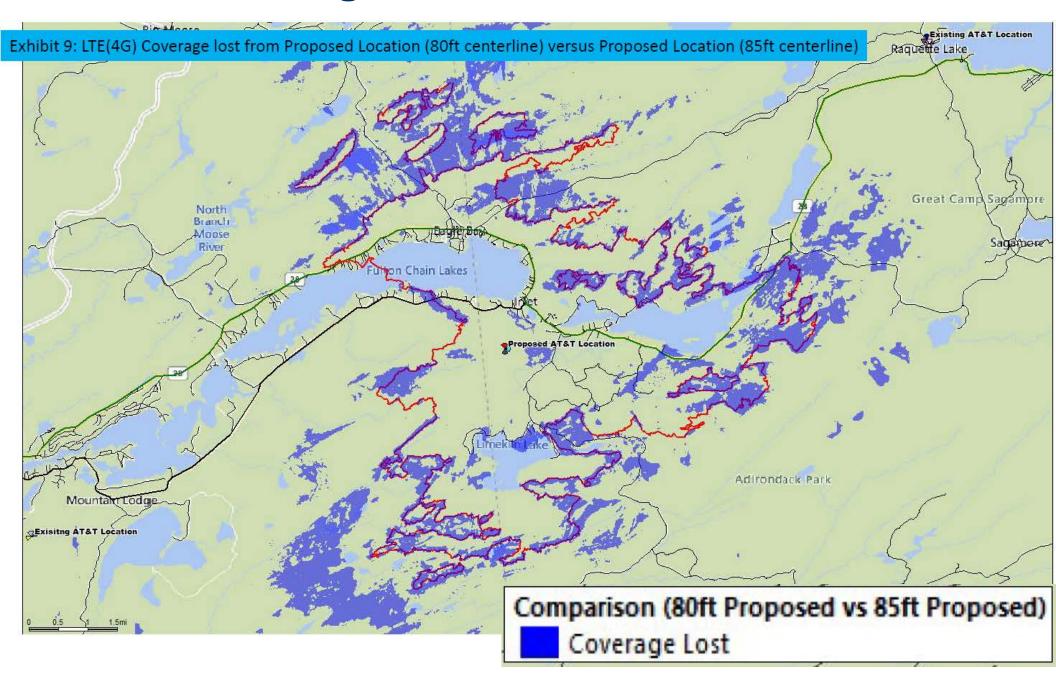
New towers permitted in Inlet – April 2022



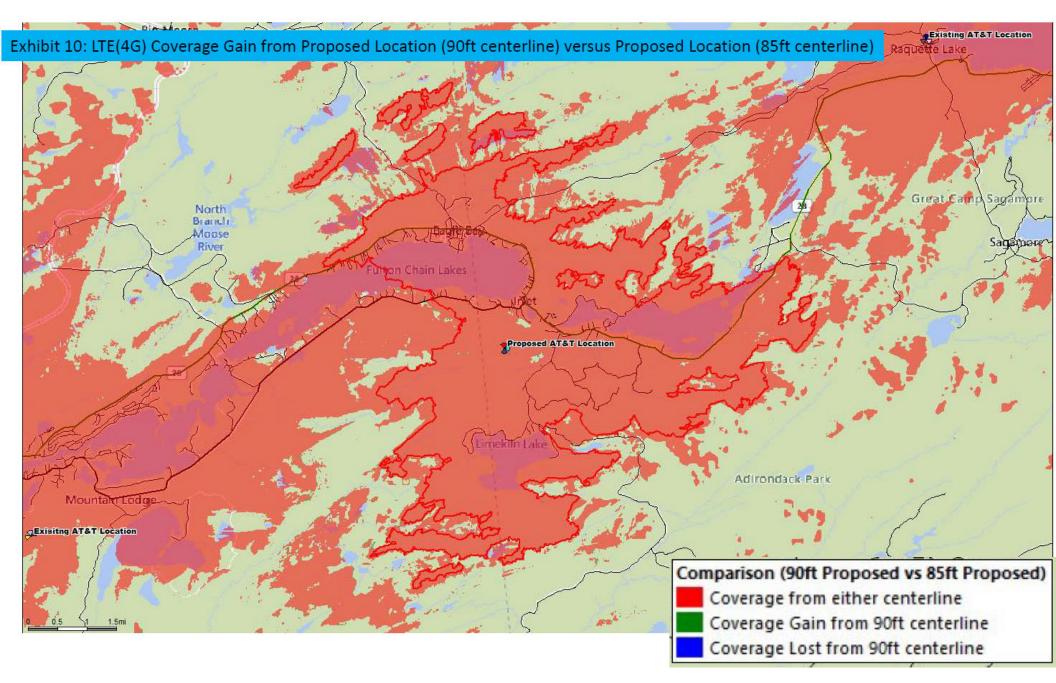
AT&T – Proposed Coverage @ 85 ft CL



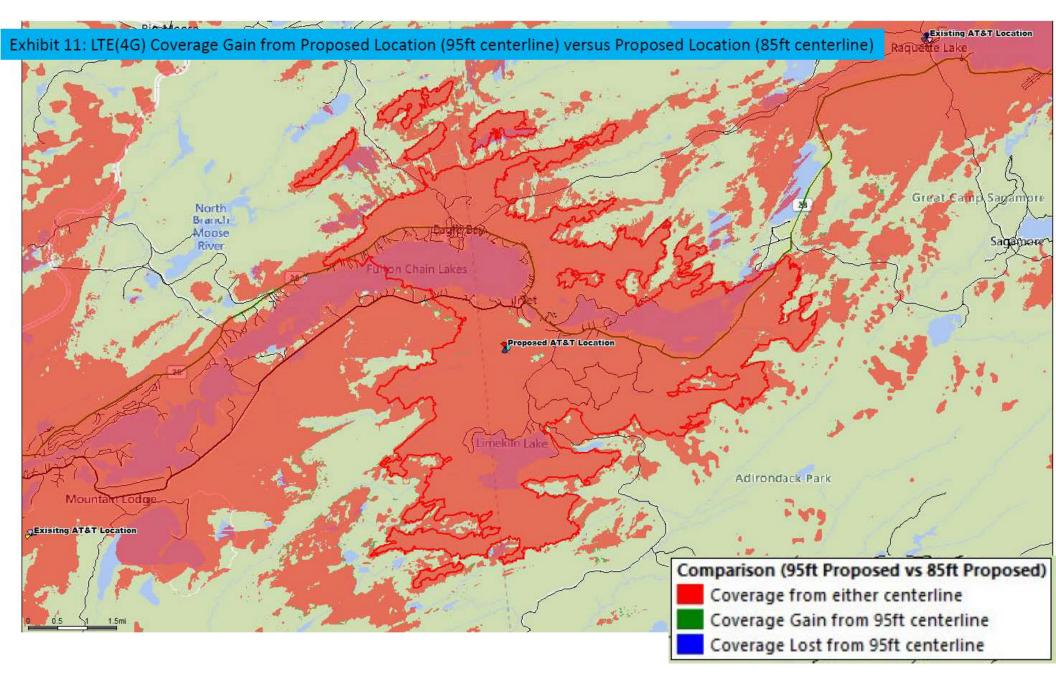
AT&T – Coverage lost if 5 ft lower @ 80 ft CL



AT&T – No coverage change if 5 ft higher @ 90 ft CL



AT&T – No coverage change if 10 ft higher @ 95 ft CL



Telecom Permits Issued – this year January to July 2023

24 telecommunications permits*

- Permit type
 - 1 major project permit (new tower)
 - 22 General Permits (co-location/upgrade)
 - 1 General Permit (small cell)
- Permittee
 - 19 Verizon Wireless
 - 4 T-Mobile
 - 1 AT&T



^{*}numbers to not include letters of permit compliance (7)

Telecom Permits Issued – this year January to July 2023

- 1 new tower
 - Town of Chester
 - 90 ft tall + 10 ft crown branching = 100 ft overall height
- 21 antenna upgrades*
 - 18 towers
 - 2 buildings
 - 1 water tank
- 1 antenna co-location*, existing tower
 - *Most/all = eligible facility requests

 *Turn around time = 25 days (21 days)



Permits for Small Cell – new in 2022 & 2023

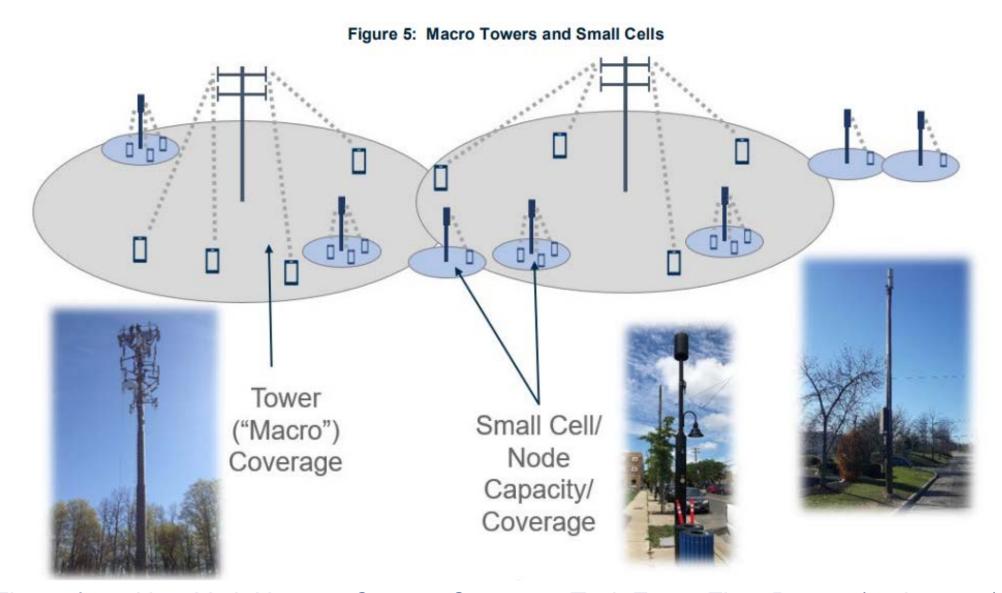
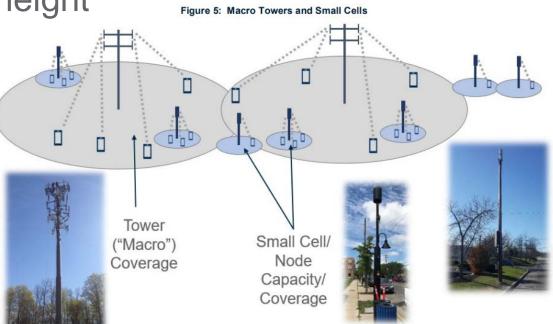


Figure from New York Upstate Cellular Coverage Task Force Final Report (esd.ny.gov)

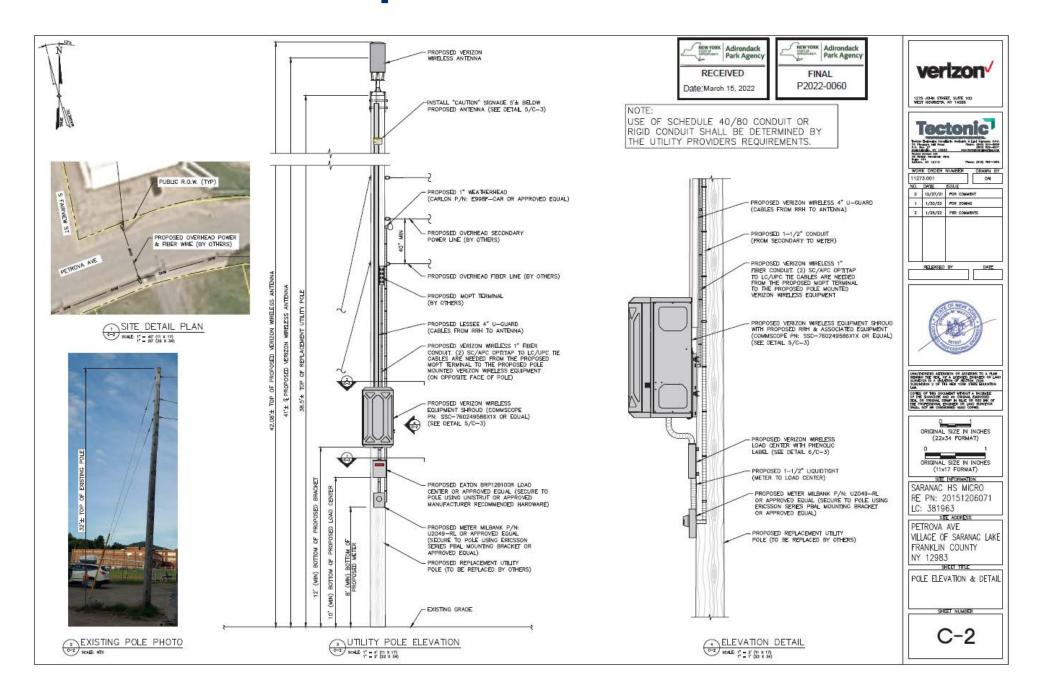
Permits for Small Cell – new in 2022 & 2023

- 4 small cell permits/orders issued 2022 & 2023 (to date)
 - on single utility pole
 - Hamlet land use areas
 - Towns of Bolton (2), Harrietstown, Warrensburg
 - Verizon Wireless

Jurisdictional > 40 ft in height



Small Cell Example – Town of Harrietstown



Small Cell Example – Town of Bolton





Looking north from Lake Shore Drive.

Proposed equipment will be visible from this location.





Looking north from Lake Shore Drive.
Proposed equipment is visible from this location.

APA.NY.GOV website



Services

News

Government

Adirondack Park Agency

About

Property Owners

Local Government

State Land

Business

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NEWS & ACTIVITIE

The New York State Adirondack Park Agency is celebrating 50 are of long-range public and private land private

DIG DEEPER

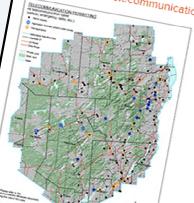
- o Agency Laws and Regulations
- Agency Board Members
- Wetlands Mapping Data
- Science & Research

Telecommunication Towers

- Procurement Page
- APA Transparency Initiative Plan
- Permits Issued

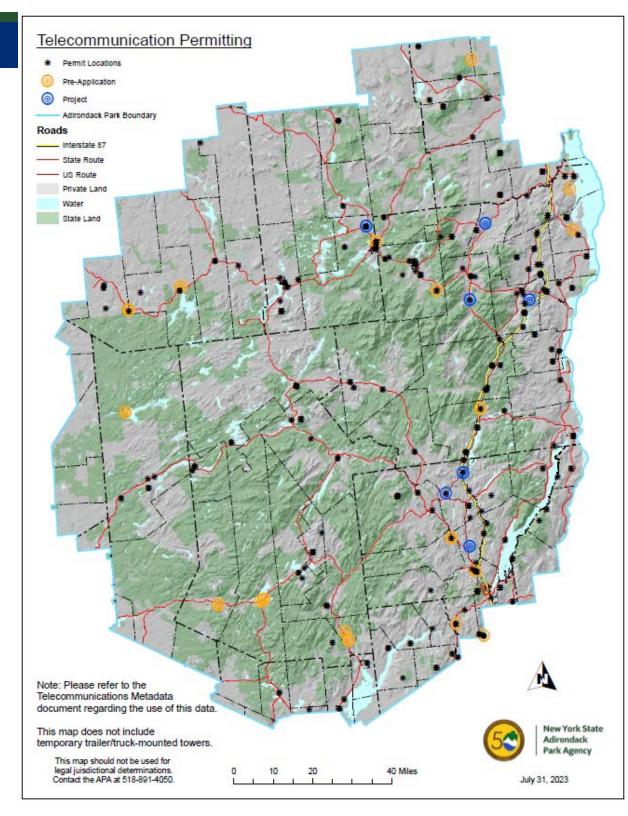


Interstate 87 "Adirondack Northway" Cellular



Telecommunication Permitting – All Types

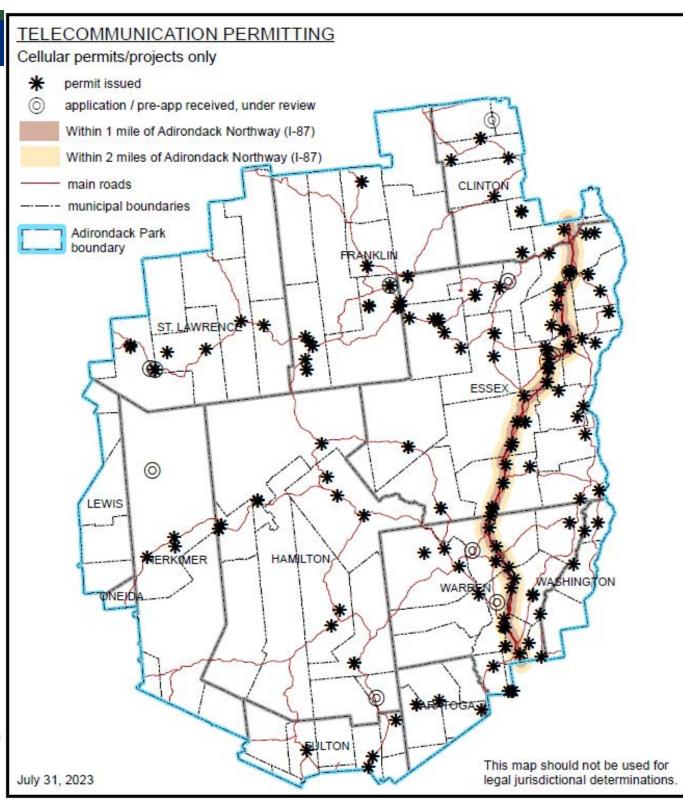
- Permit Locations
- Pre-Application
- Project (under review)



Telecommunication Permitting – Cellular Only

- * permit issued
- application / pre-app (under review)

New and existing structures for which the APA has permitted or is reviewing cellular service use (1993 through July 2023).



Telecommunication Permitting – Cellular Only

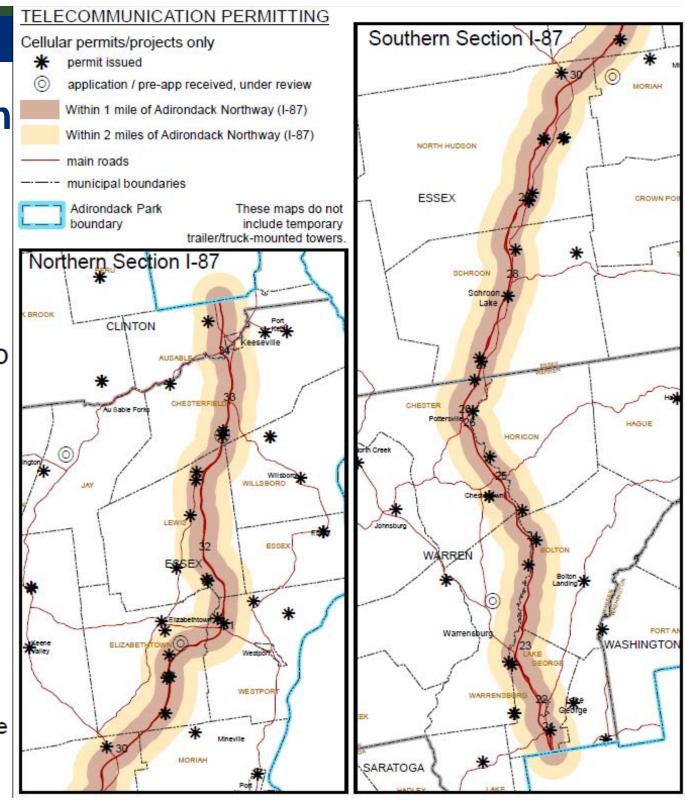
*

permit issued

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application / pre-app (under review)

New and existing structures for which the APA has permitted or is reviewing cellular service use (1993 through July 2023).



Telecom Working Group



Telecom Working Group

- Members of the Board and Staff
- Common goal: support improved cell coverage
 - APA does not propose, design, or fund towers.
 - APA receives applications, reviews, and permits them.
 - APA works with others to:
 - ✓ Share information improvements to tower siting
 - ✓ Improve processes for tower review and permitting



Authorization Form



New York State Adirondack Park Agency

KATHY HOCHU

BARBARA RICE Executive Director

Adirondack Park Agency Telecommunication Approvals Authorization Form

This Authorization to Apply for Adirondack Park Agency Telecommunication Approvals (Authorization) provides landowner authorization for application to the Adirondack Park Agency for future projects on the property identified below. Signatures of each landowner will be required either on this Authorization Form or future permit applications for projects on the property. Authorization will subject the landowner to conditions in permits issued for the authorized future projects. Please note that the Authorization must be notarized and recorded to be binding and effective on future owners of the property identified below.

l,	
[name	e(s) and address(es) of landowner(s)]
owner of the	following described property [provide Legal Description of leased area]:
located in th	e Town of,County; Tax Map #
hereby author	prize
	[name(s) and address(es) of tower owner(s)]
to do the foll	owing on my behalf [each landowner INITIAL all that apply]:
	file any application(s) with the Adirondack Park Agency for approval of construction or installation of a telecommunications tower or
	telecommunications support structure, and related infrastructure, including but not limited to equipment shelters, sheds, electric boxes, fences, access roads, and placement of any telecommunications equipment on such tower

	file any vertical co-location application(s) with the Adirondack Park Agency to a antennae or equipment to an existing tower or other telecommunications suppo structure, including sublease of space and co-location of antennae, including
	without limitation dish, panel, omni, and whip antennae, antennae arrays, and other telecommunications equipment including without limitation remote radio units, remote radio heads, overvoltage protection (OVP), surge suppressors, global positioning system (GPS), coaxial cables, etc. by any other parties;
	file any application(s) with the Adirondack Park Agency to replace an existing telecommunications tower;
	file any application(s) with the Adirondack Park Agency to increase the height of an existing telecommunications tower;
	file any horizontal co-location application(s) with the Adirondack Park Agency to add one or more additional telecommunications tower(s);
	file any application(s) with the Adirondack Park Agency for a permit amendment relating to telecommunications towers, telecommunications support structures, and related infrastructure.
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project site evaluations to verify inf In the case	dack Park Agency and members of its staff are authorized to enter on the for the purpose of conducting investigations, examinations, tests, and site as necessary, at reasonable times and with advance notice where possible, formation contained in or related to any application authorized above. of any corporation, limited liability corporation, partnership, trust, or other
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Eligible Facilities Requests and Associated Federal Requirements



What is an Eligible Facilities Request (EFR)? Part 1

- Section 6409 of the Spectrum Act of 2012 and implementing regulations 47 CFR 1.6100
- Eligible Facilities Request =
 - Any request for modification of an existing wireless tower or base station
 - that does not substantially change the physical dimensions of such tower or base station
 - and involves co-location, removal, or replacement of transmission equipment.
- Any modification that defeats a concealment element(s) is a substantial change to existing facilities → not an EFR

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Park Agency

What is an Eligible Facilities Request (EFR)? Part 2

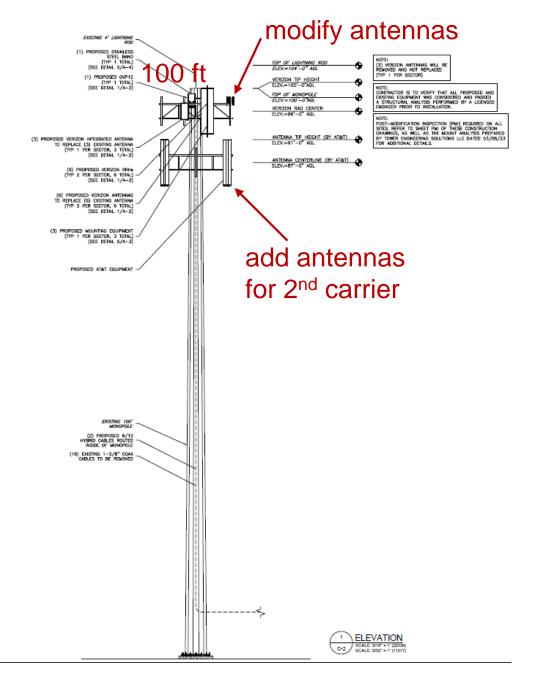
For towers not in public rights-of-way

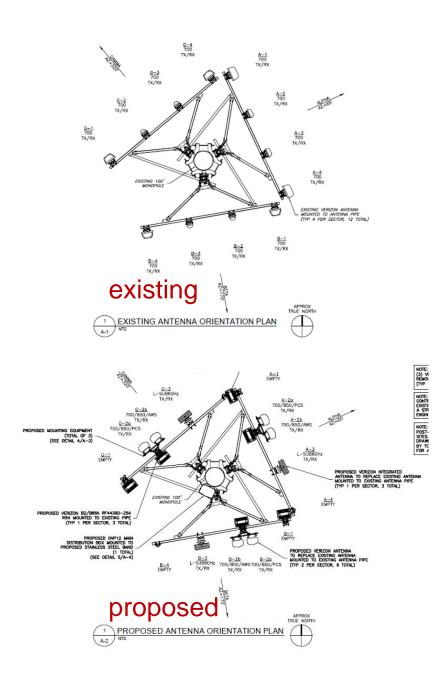
- Limits to height
 - Not > 10% increase
 - Not > height of one additional antenna array with separation from nearest existing antenna ≤ 20 feet
 - Of the two height limits, whichever is greater is allowed
- Limits to width protrude from edge of tower
 - Not > 20 feet
 - Not > width of tower structure at level of appurtenance
 - Of the two width limits, whichever is greater is allowed

Stricter limits for towers within public rights-of-way

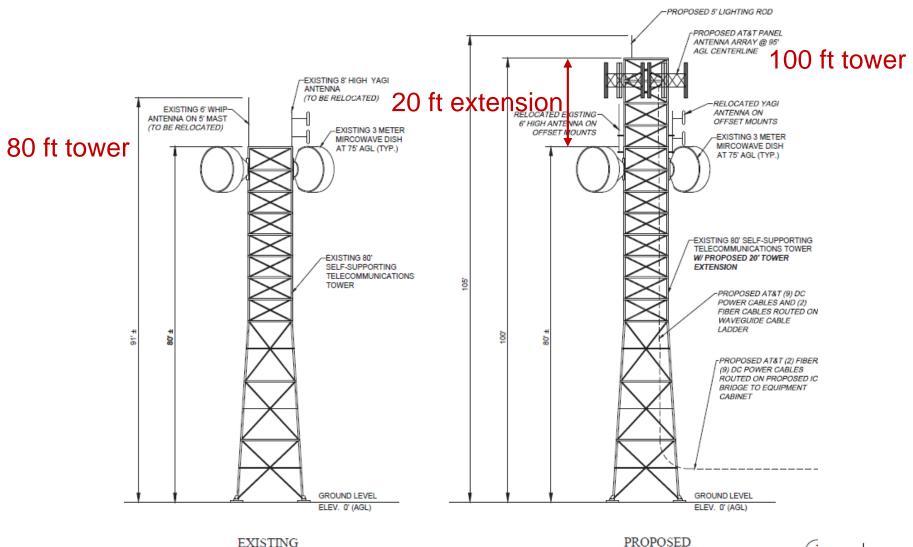


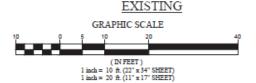
Eligible Facility Request – antenna modification





Eligible Facility Request – tower extension









Eligible Facility Request – concealment elements



Eligible Facility Request – Examples



Application process for an EFR

Section 6409(a) of the Spectrum Act: local agencies *shall not deny* any eligible facilities request for modification of an eligible support structure that does not substantially change the physical dimensions of such structure.

- A permit application is required
- FCC timeframe for review begins when application is filed
- Agency regulations: applications signed by landowners
- Confusion on which application to use and which requested items to provide – time lost



New DRAFT General Permit –

Eligible Facilities Requests



What is a General Permit?

- General Permit (GP)
 - Authority in 9 NYCRR 572.23
 - Expedited process for projects that meet a certain set of criteria
 - Recorded in every county in the Park
- GP Application
- GP Certificate
 - Issued if criteria met
 - With standard and project-specific conditions



General Permit – Topics

- SEQRA
- Agency Jurisdiction
- Eligibility criteria per FCC
- Definitions and Requirements
- Application Review Process
- Certificate



SEQRA

- Type I action
- Lead Agency
- Coordinated review
- Determination of significance
- Public notice
- Board approval



Jurisdiction

 All structures greater than 40 feet in height, except agricultural use structures and residential radio and television antennas

- all land use areas except Industrial Use
- Major public utility use
 - "...any television, cable television, radio, telephone or other communication transmission tower..."
 - all land use areas except Hamlet
- Subdivision into sites
 - all land use areas except Hamlet
- Rivers Projects
- Regulated Wetland Activities

Eligibility

Any proposal that meets the criteria set forth below, as defined by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), is eligible for a certification issued pursuant to this General Permit/Order:

- a. The project is a modification of an existing wireless tower or base station;
- The project does not substantially change the physical dimensions of such tower or base station; &
- c. The project involves co-location, removal, or replacement of transmission equipment.



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EFR Definitions and Requirements (pg 1)



New York State Adirondack Park Agency

KATHY HOCHUL

BARBARA RICE Executive Director

Eligible Facilities Request: Definitions and Requirements

I. Eligible Facilities Request

Under section 6409(a) of the Spectrum Act, an eligible facilities request (EFR) is any request for modification of an existing wireless tower or base station that does not substantially change the physical dimensions of such tower or base station and involves co-location, removal, or replacement of transmission equipment.

II. Existing Equipment

To qualify as existing, equipment must have been reviewed and approved under the applicable zoning or siting process, or under another State or local regulatory review process. This may include a structure other than a tower, or a structure not built primarily for providing support to wireless equipment. However, at the time of the application, the structure must support or house equipment that has been reviewed and approved under 47 CFR 1.6100(b)(1)(iii).

III. Substantial Change

A modification substantially changes the physical dimensions of an eligible support structure if it meets any of the following criteria:

A. Height

- For towers not in public rights-of ways, the modification increases the height of
 the existing tower by more than 10% or by the height of one additional antenna
 array with separation from the nearest existing antenna not to exceed 20 feet,
 whichever is greater.
- For other eligible support structures, the modification increases the height of the existing structure by more than 10% or more than 10 feet, whichever is greater.

B. <u>Appurtenances</u>

- For towers not in public rights-of-way, the modification involves adding an
 appurtenance to the body of the tower that would protrude from the edge of the
 tower more than 20 feet, or more than the width of the tower structure at the level
 of the appurtenance, whichever is greater.
- For other eligible support structures, the modification involves adding an appurtenance to the body of the structure that would protrude from the edge of the structure by more than 6 feet.

C. Equipment Cabinets

- For any eligible support structure, the modification involves installation of more than the standard number of new equipment cabinets for the technology involved, but not to exceed four cabinets.
- For towers in public rights-of-way and base stations, the modification involves installation of any new equipment cabinets on the ground if there are no pre-

Height

Appurtenances

Equipment Cabinets

Adirondack Park Agency

EFR Definitions and Requirements (pg 2)

Site boundary

Concealment elements

Siting conditions

existing ground cabinets associated with the structure, or else involves installation of ground cabinets that are more than 10% larger in height or overall volume than any other ground cabinets associated with the structure.

D. Excavation or Deployment Outside the Site Boundary

- For towers in public rights-of-way, it entails any excavation or deployment outside the current site boundary.
- For towers not in public rights-of-way, it entails any excavation or deployment of transmission equipment outside the current site by more than 30 feet in any direction.

E. Concealment Elements

- Any modification that defeats a concealment element(s) is a substantial change to existing facilities.
- Concealment element means an element that is part of a stealth-designed facility intended to make a structure look like something other than a wireless facility, and that was part of a prior approval.
- To defeat a concealment element, a proposed modification must cause a reasonable person to view a structure's intended stealth design as no longer effective after the modification.

F. Conditions Associated with Siting Approval

- 12. A modification may be a substantial change if it does not comply with conditions associated with the siting approval. Such conditions may relate to improving the aesthetics, or minimizing visual impacts, of non-stealth facilities.
- There must be evidence that, at the time of approval of the original facility, the locality required the feature and conditioned approval upon its continuing existence.
- 14. When a proposed modification otherwise permissible under section 1.6100(b)(7)(i)-(iv) cannot reasonably comply with conditions associated with siting approval under section 1.6100(b)(7)(vi), the conflict should be resolved in favor of permitting the modifications.
- However, the Agency can enforce a condition associated with siting approval if the provider reasonably could comply with, and meet, the purpose of the condition.

IV. Application Process

Pursuant to section 6409(a) of the Spectrum Act, local agencies shall not deny any eligible facilities request (EFR) for modification of an eligible support structure that does not substantially change the physical dimensions of such structure.

A. Federal Regulations: The Shot Clock Commences with the First Procedural Step FCC regulations provide that the shot clock for the review and approval of an EFR under section 6409 of the Spectrum Act begins to run when the application is filed. The shot clock commences when the applicant takes the "first procedural step," which is "submission of the type of filing that is typically required to initiate a standard zoning or siting review of a proposed deployment that is not subject to section 6409(a)."

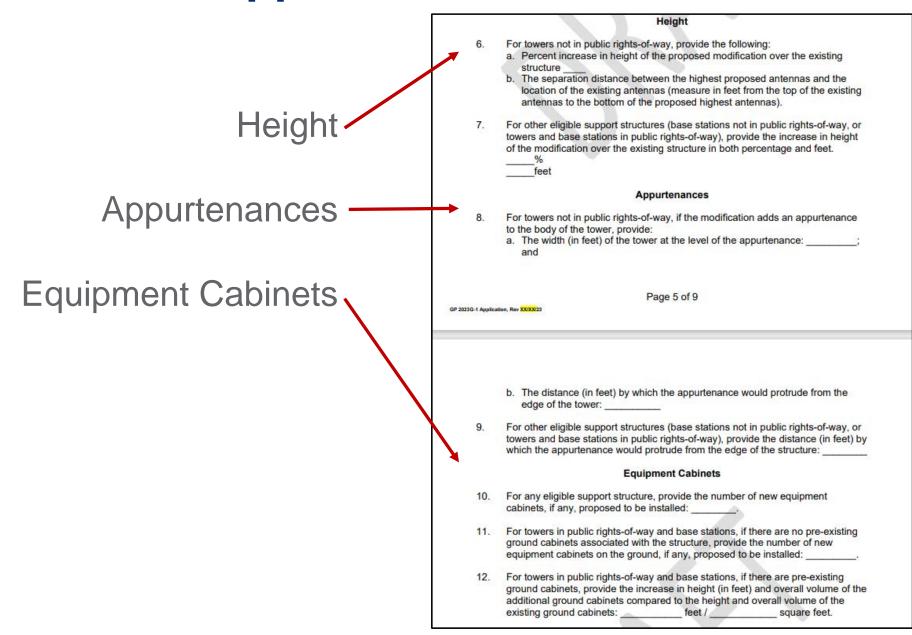
Adirondack Park Agency

Application Review Process

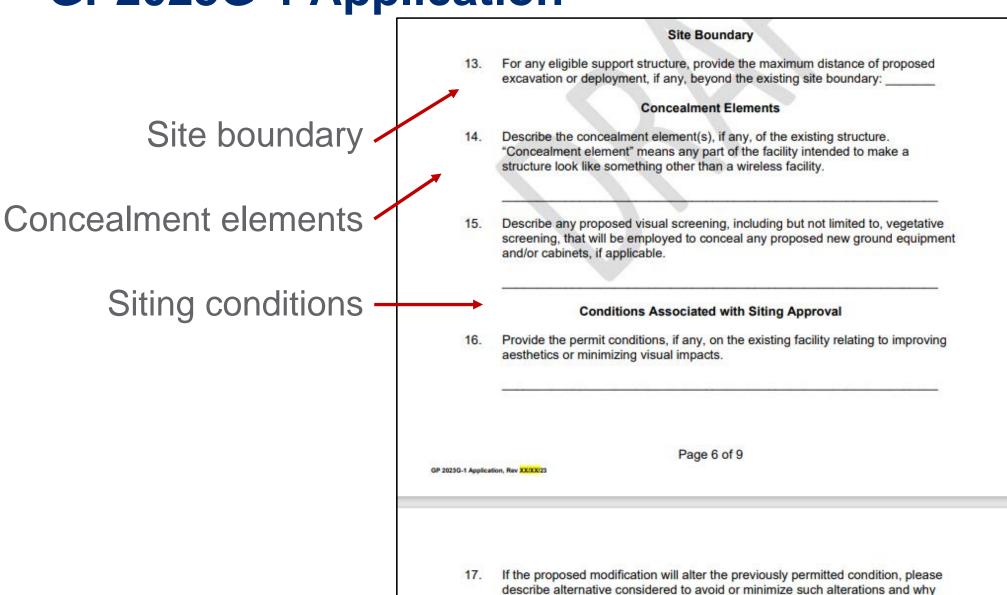
- Upon submission to the Agency, staff will confirm:
 - Jurisdiction
 - Landowner signature
 - Eligibility criteria
- "Applications...shall contain the signatures of the owners of record of the land..." 9 NYCRR § 572.4(a)(1)
- FCC shot clock:
 - Certificate issued within 60 days of application receipt
 - Request any missing information within 30 days (15 days APA)
 - Subsequent information requests within 10 days
 - Clock tolled for applicant to respond to information request



GP2023G-1 Application



GP2023G-1 Application



these alternatives were not proposed.

GP2023G-1 Certificate Conditions

- Comply with Federal Law and FCC regulations and orders
- Follow authorized plans
- Color requirements for antennas to match and blend
- Lighting restrictions
- Prevent invasive species spread
- Provide photos after modification completed
- Remove antennas if use discontinued
- Other conditions as applicable
 - Vegetative cutting
 - Additional screening
 - Machinery restriction at high elevation
 - Wetland protection



Next Steps: Approval Process GP2023G-1

- August Agency Meeting (this meeting)
 - Resolution to provide notice and hold a 30-day comment period on the draft General Permit 2023G-1
- Public Comment Period
 - Through September 29, 2023
- October Board Meeting
 - Report back on public comments and Agency responses
 - Consider approving issuance of GP 2023G-1



Draft Order

General Permit 2023G-1 "Certain Modifications of Existing Wireless Towers or Base Stations (Eligible Facilities Requests)" will:

- a. be available for use throughout the Adirondack Park;
- b. be effective from the date of issuance unless otherwise modified or revoked by the Agency;
- c. authorize jurisdictional activities pursuant to §§ 809(2)(a) and 810(1) of the APA Act, and 9 NYCRR §§ 572 and 574;
- d. allow for certain modifications of existing wireless towers or base stations that do not substantially change the physical dimensions of such towers or base stations and involves co-location, removal, or replacement of transmission equipment. These modifications may only occur on any existing wireless towers or base stations and are frequently undertaken by telecommunications and tower companies;
- e. include relevant mitigating conditions and conclusions of law, as specified in the general permit; and
- f. include procedures for the issuance of a certificate pursuant to the general permit, as specified in the general permit.

Summary & Looking Ahead



Summary / Looking Ahead

- Dual goal
 - Support improved cell coverage
 - Maintain Park's scenic character
- Moving forward
 - Eligible Facilities Request General Permit
 - Clarity on Small Cell
 - Continue review of applications for new towers
 - Work with others to share knowledge of service gaps, colocation opportunities, and available funding





Telecommunications Update

Cellular, Emergency, Radio