

Montgomery County Planning Department
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Re: Montgomery County Department of Technology Services
Radio Communications Services
Public Safety System Modernization Project

Site: Fire Station 16
111 E University Blvd
39°01'0.63"N 77°00'25.38"W

Please accept the enclosed application and materials in support of Montgomery County Radio Communications Services' proposal to construct a new tower facility at the location described above.

RCS, part of the Montgomery County Department of Technology Services, operates communications networks for the use of Montgomery County emergency services, including police, fire, and medical first responders. RCS is tasked with ensuring that these emergency responders have effective and reliable radio coverage throughout the County coverage area.

When the 800 MHz radio system was first deployed in Montgomery County, technical barriers limited the number of base stations that could be developed. The current system fails to provide adequate radio coverage in several areas in the County, particularly as the County continues to modernize and urbanize. New technologies currently being implemented, however, will allow the development of additional sites to expand radio coverage.

These new base stations are sited and designed to provide complete and effective coverage according to a "95/95" coverage mandate: 95% coverage reliability in 95% of the County service area. Coverage reliability is calculated according to expected loss "zones" throughout the County. The County service area includes all areas within the border of Montgomery County, Maryland, including waterways, and all areas within three miles of the County border. New base stations must be sited within the existing network framework to provide optimum coverage and reliability.

Effective public safety radio serves the public health, safety, and welfare of Montgomery County residents. Where no existing site can provide adequate radio coverage, there are significant consequences for emergency response personnel. A lack of radio service can increase response time, the number of personnel required to effectively respond to an emergency situation, and the amount of time it takes to resolve an incident.

RCS is proposing to construct a new tower at the location described above to fill coverage gaps left by the existing legacy system. The proposed site would consist of a 195' monopole, designed to support RCS antennas and equipment, and an associated compound at the base of the tower.

If you have any questions or concerns, or need any further information regarding this application, please free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tessia Knight
Network Building + Consulting

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Statements of Compliance

This submission complies with the requirements of the Montgomery County Mandatory Referral submission guidelines as follows.

- 1) The proposed facility is an unmanned communications facility. There will be no regular occupation of the compound or associated shelter. Routine maintenance will not exceed 2 visits per month. As such:
 - a. The facility operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, as a radio communications base station.
 - b. The facility conforms in all respects to the General Plan. As an unmanned radio site for county public safety use, it has no notable effect on long or short term land development. The build-out plan for the Montgomery County Public Safety Radio Communications System is designed to accommodate and support the Wedges and Corridors concept.
 - c. As an unmanned facility outside the right of way, the facility has no impact on pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The facility's use as a public safety radio base station will promote pedestrian and cyclist safety in the area.
 - d. No new roadway is proposed.
 - e. A Historic Work Permit will be acquired if the National Environmental Policy Act determines an effect on County-designated historic properties. No effect is expected.
 - f. There is no phasing plan; the construction will begin once all applicable approvals and permits are obtained.
 - g. The subject property is owned by Silver Spring Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. in fee simple. The County will maintain a lease to the subject area of the property.
 - h. The project is funded by County funds specifically designated for the project.
 - i. No impact is expected on public parkland or lands owned by M-NCPPC, as the project is proposed on private property. The facility's use as a public safety radio base station will promote safe enjoyment of parkland in the area.
 - j. LEED certification is not applicable to this type of facility.
- 2) The general location map is included in the enclosed drawings.
- 3) The site plan is included in the enclosed drawings.
- 4) Utilities and affected rights of way are included in the enclosed drawings.
- 5) Site ingress and egress are shown in the enclosed drawings, including the proposed site access driveway.
- 6) This project is exempt from the NRI requirement.
- 7) The subject property is not in a Special Protection Area.
- 8) This project is exempt from Forest Conservation Plan Requirements.
- 9) Topographic contours are shown in the enclosed drawings.
- 10) This project falls below the threshold of land disturbance that requires a stormwater concept plan.
- 11) No exterior lighting is proposed aside from that required by the Federal Aviation Administration, subject to an Air Hazard Navigation Report. The FAA determination is pending and we request that this application be reviewed pending receipt of this.
- 12) The proposed facility is part of the Public Safety System Modernization Project. An area map showing the location of all affected radio communications sites is included.
- 13) The proposed facility complies with the Montgomery County Noise Ordinance, Section 31(b) of the Montgomery County Code, and is consistent with the Montgomery County Department of Park

and Planning Noise Guidelines. The site will not produce noise in excess of that allowed by the ordinance or guidelines.

14) All relevant architectural diagrams are included in the enclosed drawings.

15) No traffic impact is expected. The facility is unmanned and unoccupied, and routine maintenance visits are expected to be limited to one visit twice per month.