

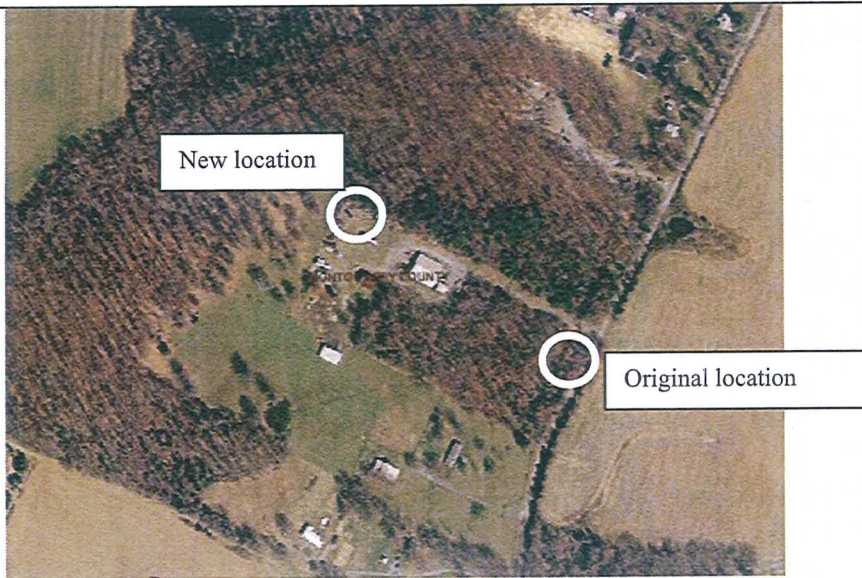


**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**TOWER COORDINATOR**  
**RECOMMENDATION**

APPLICATION NUMBER: 201103-07

DATE: 28 January 2011

<b>Application Information:</b>	
Applicant:	T-Mobile
Description:	Construct a 155'-high monopole and attach six 59"-high panel antennas at the 153' level.
Site Location:	Ammerman Monopole 19100 Wasche Road, Dickerson
Property Owner:	John D. Ammerman
Classification in accordance with Zoning Ordinance:	
Private Property: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	By right: <input type="checkbox"/> Special Exception: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Property: <input type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory Referral: <input type="checkbox"/> Special Exception Modification: <input type="checkbox"/>
	Minor Modification <input type="checkbox"/>
Impact on land-owning agency: N/A	
Existing or future public safety telecommunications facilities and plans: N/A	
Co-location options: See TFCG # 200907-10 record attached and Comments section below.	
Implications to surrounding area: See TFCG # 200907-10 record attached and Comments section below.	
Attachments: Application and 200907-10 TFCG record	
<p>Comments: An application for this monopole was reviewed by the TFCG in 2010 (201007-10). At that time the proposed location for the monopole was 150' from Wasche Road. Since that time T-Mobile has been working with the M-NCPPC to address their issues with siting the monopole at that location. As a result of that work, the location has been changed to a place on the property that is 850' from Wasche Road per agreement with M-NCPPC staff to keep the monopole out of a stream buffer (see attached letter from the applicant).</p> <p>Whereas the original site for the monopole met setback requirements, the new location does not. Consequently, the applicant reports that they will request a reduction in the setback requirements, which they can do if "evidence indicates that a support structure can be located on the property in a less visually obtrusive location after considering the height of the structure, topography, existing vegetation, adjoining and nearby residential properties, if any, and visibility from the street." (§95-G-2.58 of the Zoning Ordinance). The County GIS image below shows the original and new sites for the monopole.</p>	



Based on our site visit and earlier photo simulations of the monopole provided with the 2010 application, the photo below illustrates the comparative impact of the monopole at both locations on the property. The arrow indicates the approximate location and height of the monopole. It appears that the new location may be less intrusive because the monopole will be farther away, which can diminish the profile of the structure on the horizon. As a result of the antennas being approximately 700' west of the original location, the coverage at the target signal levels will likely also shift somewhat to the west, leaving a portion of West Hunter Road with signals below the target levels. The applicant also provided new photo simulations of the site with the monopole in the new location. Copies of the photos from where the monopole will be visible are attached.



In addition to the new location, two other changes have been made. At the request of the Rustic Roads Committee, the appearance of the monopole has been redesigned from the traditional monopole with large triangular platforms supporting the antennas to a “unipole” construction which will provide four bays for three antennas each, concealed within a faux exterior. Six T-Mobile antennas, instead of the nine originally proposed, will be enclosed within the top two bays, leaving two other bays for additional antennas which could be used by other carriers in the future. This will further minimize the visual impact of the facility. The other change is that the overall height of the structure was increased by 5' to compensate for

the new location on the property being at a lower elevation than the original location, and for the need for additional space for the four-bay design.

Other than the changes noted above, based on our recent site visit and the TFCG database, it appears that there have been no changes since our 2010 review of this application that warrant any recommendations different than that which we made then, plus the approval of the reduced setback. Our recommendation below is changed accordingly.

Additionally, since zoning ordinance text has been amended (Ordinance No.16-53) to include, among other changes, that a petition for a special exception contain a preliminary forest conservation plan, or a confirmation that the plan is not required, we note that the applicant has provided a copy (attached) of a confirmation from M-NCPPC that the monopole installation is exempt from submitting a forest conservation plan.

<b>Tower Coordinator Recommendation:</b>	Recommended: <input type="checkbox"/>
	Recommended with conditions: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Not recommended: <input type="checkbox"/>
Conditions: On approval by the Board of Appeals for a special exception and reduction in the setback requirements.	
Signature	Date