



City of Albany

1000 San Pablo Avenue • Albany, California 94706
(510) 528-5710 • www.albanyca.org

September 18, 2012

Gary Gochberg
Crown Castle
5820 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite 300
Pleasanton, CA 94588

Dear Gary,

Your application for a building permit for the replacement of 4 existing panel antennas with 4 new panel antennas as shown on the plans attached to your application is approved subject to the plans and reports provided and standard building permit conditions. As you know, Special Condition No. 3, attached as Exhibit C to the Settlement Agreement, dated July 11, 2012, between GTE Mobilnet of California Limited Partnership and the City of Albany requires a structural analysis of the existing wood monopole by a qualified engineer licensed in California certifying in writing that the residual strength of the pole is sufficient to support the existing and proposed equipment loading in compliance with the California building Code and applicable industry standards. The certification must specifically address the depth of the foundation for the pole and internal integrity of the pole including the extent of any wood decay. Pursuant to this mutually agreed upon condition, sufficient documentation on the structural integrity of the monopole meeting the requirements of this condition must be submitted to the City prior to the actual issuance of the requested building permit. No work on the pole may be commenced until this building permit is issued by the City.

City staff and our consultants have reviewed the written report prepared by Paul J. Ford and Company, structural engineers, dated September 13, 2012 which is based on the attached geotechnical evaluation of subsurface conditions and qualitative assessment of the wood pole tower by FDH Engineering, Inc. The geotechnical evaluation of subsurface conditions is certified by Christopher G. Ply, a California licensed engineer. However, the qualitative assessment of the wood pole tower is not certified by a California registered design professional. Furthermore, to our knowledge and as stated in the Settlement Agreement, the bending wave test is not recognized by the California Building Code as an accepted test standard. Therefore, we request additional information such as wave trace data, analysis output, and detailed explanation of how the analysis was performed. In addition, there is no conclusive statement in the submitted materials about the condition of the pole below grade. Until such information is received by the City, the building permit cannot be issued.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bond
Community Development Director/Building Official

The City of Albany is dedicated to maintaining its small town ambience, responding to the needs of a diverse community, and providing a safe, healthy and sustainable environment.



Exhibit C Special Condition

To ensure the safety of nearby structures and persons, and pursuant to California Building Code Section 107 (Submittal Documents), prior to the issuance of a building permit, the applicant shall be required to submit documentation on the structural condition of the pole. Following completion of the structural analysis and inspection and prior to the issuance of a building permit, a qualified engineer licensed in California shall certify in writing that the residual strength of the pole is sufficient to support the existing and proposed equipment loading in compliance with the California Building Code and applicable industry standards. The certification shall specifically address the depth of the foundation for the pole and the internal integrity of the pole including the extent of any wood decay.

The applicant has proposed to utilize both parallel seismic and dispersive bending wave non-destructive testing techniques to determine the foundation embedment length and the wood condition of the pole. In order to perform the parallel seismic testing, the applicant will install a PVC pipe into a soil boring within 15 ft of the wood pole. The installation of the pipe will occur concurrently with the drilling of a new geotechnical boring. The boring may be performed in the adjacent asphalt parking lot, approximately 10-15 ft from the wood pole due to the physical limitations of access for the drilling equipment (rig accessibility due to the size of the drill rig and the vicinity of the adjacent buildings, underground utilities, and overall compound size). This boring will provide up to date in-situ soil parameters. The new soils information shall be used along with the information provided in the foundation and pole investigation described above and any other relevant information, to prepare an up to date structural analysis.

To the City's knowledge, the proposed testing methodology has not been approved by a national standards setting agency referenced in the California Building Code. In addition, City staff and its building code consultant are not technically qualified to monitor the testing or evaluate the results of this methodology. Therefore, the City reserves the right to retain a special inspector qualified to monitor the testing and a consulting engineer qualified to evaluate and make a recommendation on the results of the proposed methodology. Final determination of the Building Official will be based on the recommendations of the special inspector and consulting engineer. In the event that the Building Official determines that the results of the structural analysis are inconclusive, the Building Official may require additional testing by the applicant's engineer.