



# Telecommunications & Digital Infrastructure:

Adirondack Park Agency  
Permitting

and

Empire State Development ConnectALL  
Digital Initiatives



**Adirondack  
Park Agency**

# **Telecommunications Permitting**

**Cellular, Emergency, Radio**

**April 22, 2024**

# Telecommunications Permitting Topics

- Introduction
  - When is an Agency permit necessary?
  - What are the approval criteria?
  - What applications are available?
- Telecommunications Permits Issued
  - Numbers
  - Examples

# 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

# APA Act 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.”

“Policy on Agency Review of Proposals for New Telecommunications Towers and Other Tall Structures in the Adirondack Park” (2002)

# 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 (2005)**
  - Vertical co-location
  
- **General Permit for Additional Tower (2010)**
  - Horizontal co-location
  
- **General Permit for Eligible Facilities Requests (2023)**
  - Modifications to telecom facilities defined by Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

# Eligible Facilities Requests (EFR)

- New General Permit available (2023)
- 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



# Telecommunications Permit Applicants

## Cellular Carriers

- AT&T
- T-Mobile
- Verizon Wireless

## Emergency Communications

- County governments
- Local governments
- NY State Police

## Other Private / Commercial

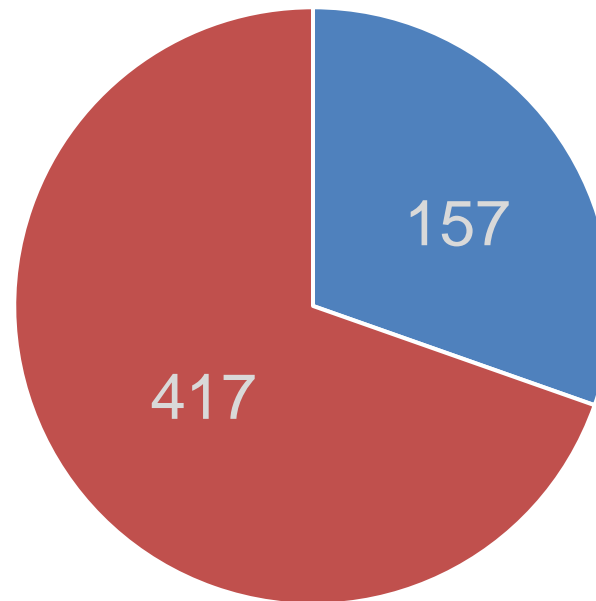
- Broadcast radio stations
- Paging services
- Wireless providers
- Environmental research

# Telecom Permits Issued – Numbers

# Telecom Permits Issued – overall (12/31/23)

572 Permits\* in Telecommunications Database

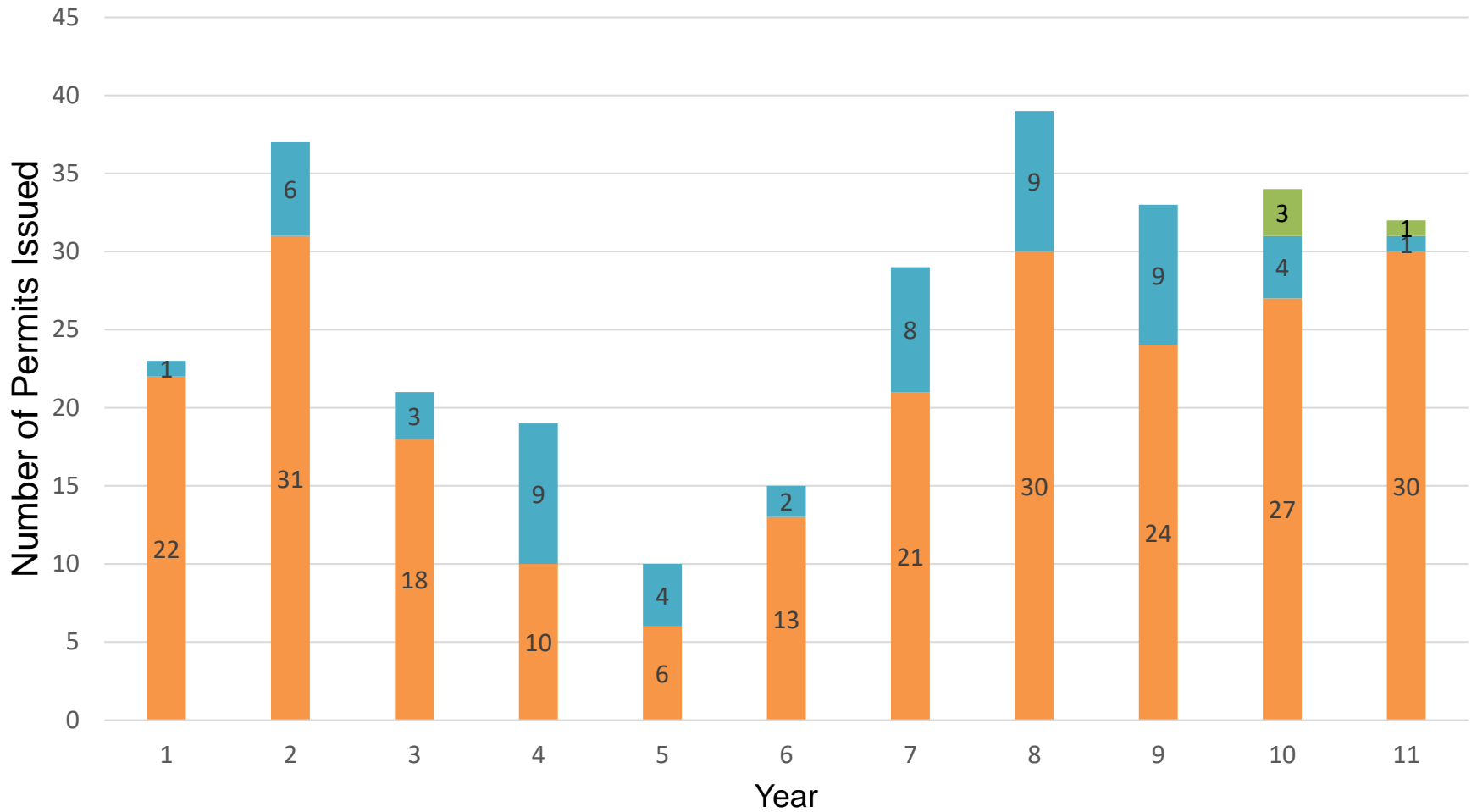
**417** permits for replacement and/or co-location of tower / antennas (cellular and non-cellular)



**157** new towers (cellular and non-cellular)

\*  $417 + 157 \neq 572$  because 2 permits authorized 2 new towers each

# Telecom Permits Issued by Year (2013-2023)



Co-locations / replacements

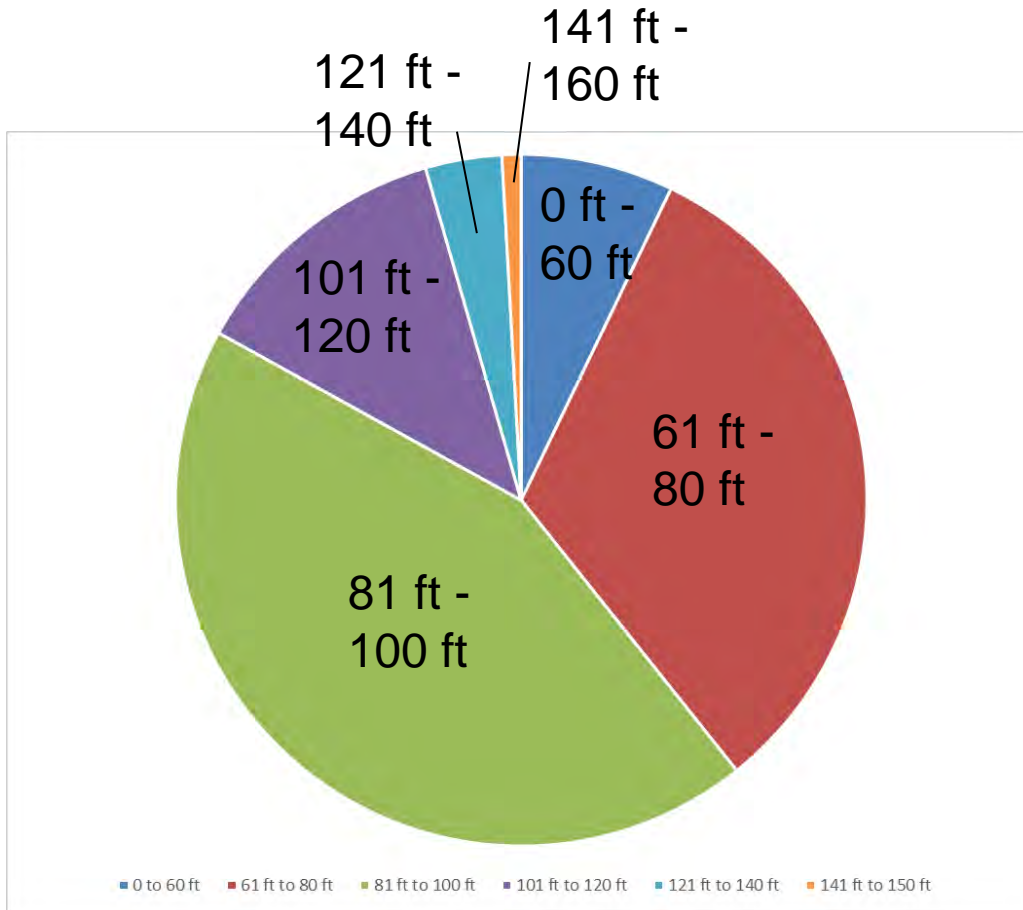
New towers

Small cell



# Tower Heights

Height of new towers (cellular, emergency, etc.) authorized by APA since 2002, in 20-ft increments



- \*0 to 60 ft = 8 towers (7%)
- 61 to 80 ft = 36 towers (32%)
- 81 to 100 ft = 49 towers (44%)
- 101 to 120 ft = 14 towers (13%)
- 121 to 140 ft = 4 towers (4%)
- 141 to 160 ft = 1 tower (1%)

\* > 20 ft increment

# APA.NY.GOV website



Services News Government

Adirondack Park Agency

About Property Owners Local Government State Land Business



The New York State Adirondack Park Agency is celebrating 50 years of long-range public and private land management planning for the largest park in the United States.

## NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Agency Meeting

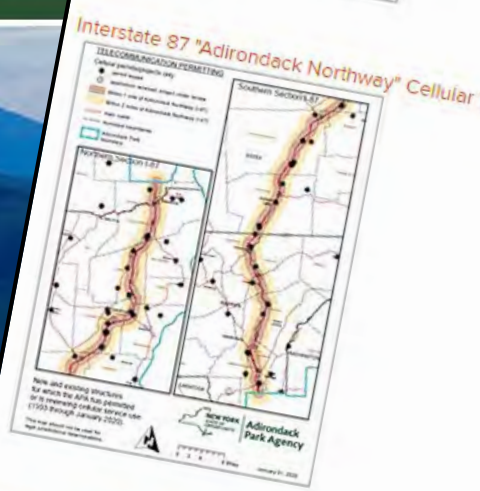
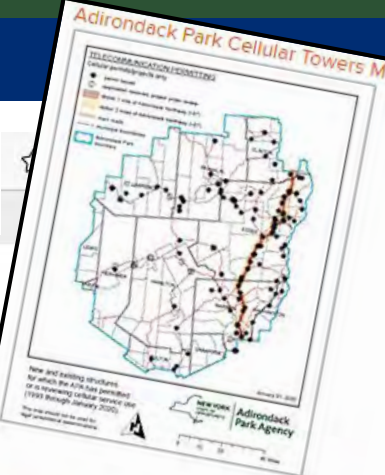
Telecommunication Permits/Amendments Issued by the NYS Adirondack Park Agency (1973-2023)

PERMIT TYPE	ISSUE DATE	ISSUE YEAR	SPONSOR	COUNTY	TOWN	STRUCT. TYPE	STRUCT. AGE	ACTIVITY	SERVICE PROVIDER	CELLULAR CARRIER
General permit	7/16/2023	2023	NY RSA 2 Cellular Partnership dba Verizon Wireless	Essex	Essexbottom	Free standing tower (metallic lattice)	post-73 structure	Installation of new telecommunication infrastructure on existing 100-foot-tall monopole tower	Verizon Wireless	Verizon Wireless
General permit	7/16/2023	2023	NY RSA 2 Cellular Partnership dba Verizon Wireless	Essex	Rain Ebb	Free standing tower (metallic lattice)	post-73 structure	Installation of new telecommunication infrastructure on existing 100-foot-tall monopole tower	Verizon Wireless	Verizon Wireless
General permit	7/16/2023	2023	Sprint Spectrum U.S. LLC (subsidiary of T-Mobile USA, Inc.)	Franklin	Washington	Free standing tower (metallic lattice)	post-73 structure	Installation of new telecommunication infrastructure on existing 104-foot-tall monopole tower	Verizon Wireless	T-Mobile
General permit	7/16/2023	2023	ST Lawrence Cellular Partnership dba Verizon Wireless	St Lawrence	Port Ann	Free standing tower (metallic lattice)	post-73 structure	Installation of telecommunication infrastructure on existing 85-foot-tall monopole tower	Verizon Wireless	Verizon Wireless
General permit	7/26/2023	2023	ST Lawrence Cellular Partnership dba Verizon Wireless	St Lawrence	Warrensburg	Free standing tower (metallic lattice)	post-73 structure	Installation of telecommunication infrastructure on existing 85-foot-tall monopole tower	Verizon Wireless	Verizon Wireless
General permit	8/22/2023	2023	Calico Cellular Partnership dba Verizon Wireless	Franklin	Duane	Free standing tower (metallic lattice)	post-73 structure	Installation of telecommunication infrastructure on existing 74-foot-tall monopole tower	Verizon Wireless	Verizon Wireless
General permit	8/22/2023	2023	NY RSA 2 Cellular Partnership dba Verizon Wireless	St Lawrence	Franklin	Free standing tower (metallic lattice)	post-73 structure	Installation of new telecommunication infrastructure on existing 100-foot-tall monopole tower	Verizon Wireless	Verizon Wireless

Last updated: July 31, 2023  
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## DIG DEEPER

- Agency Laws and Regulations
- Agency Board Members
- Wetlands Mapping Data
- Science & Research
- Telecommunication Towers**
- Procurement Page
- APA Transparency Initiative Plan
- Permits Issued

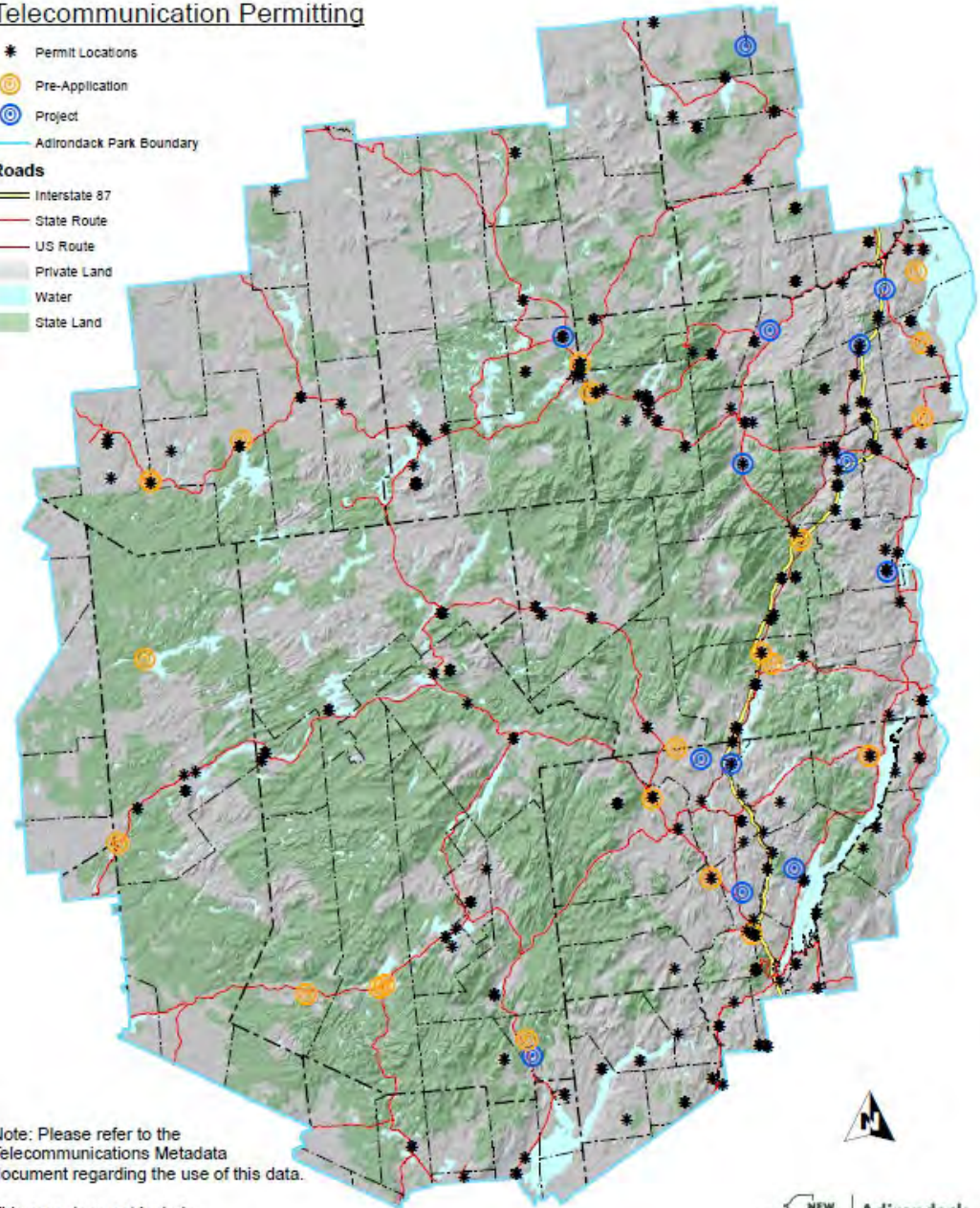


# Telecommunication Permitting – All Types

- \* Permit Locations
- 🎯 Pre-Application
- 🎯 Project (under review)

## Telecommunication Permitting

- \* Permit Locations
- 🎯 Pre-Application
- 🎯 Project
- Adirondack Park Boundary
- Roads**
- Interstate 87
- State Route
- US Route
- Private Land
- Water
- State Land



Note: Please refer to the Telecommunications Metadata document regarding the use of this data.



This map does not include temporary trailer/truck-mounted towers.

This map should not be used for legal jurisdictional determinations. Contact the APA at 518-891-4050.

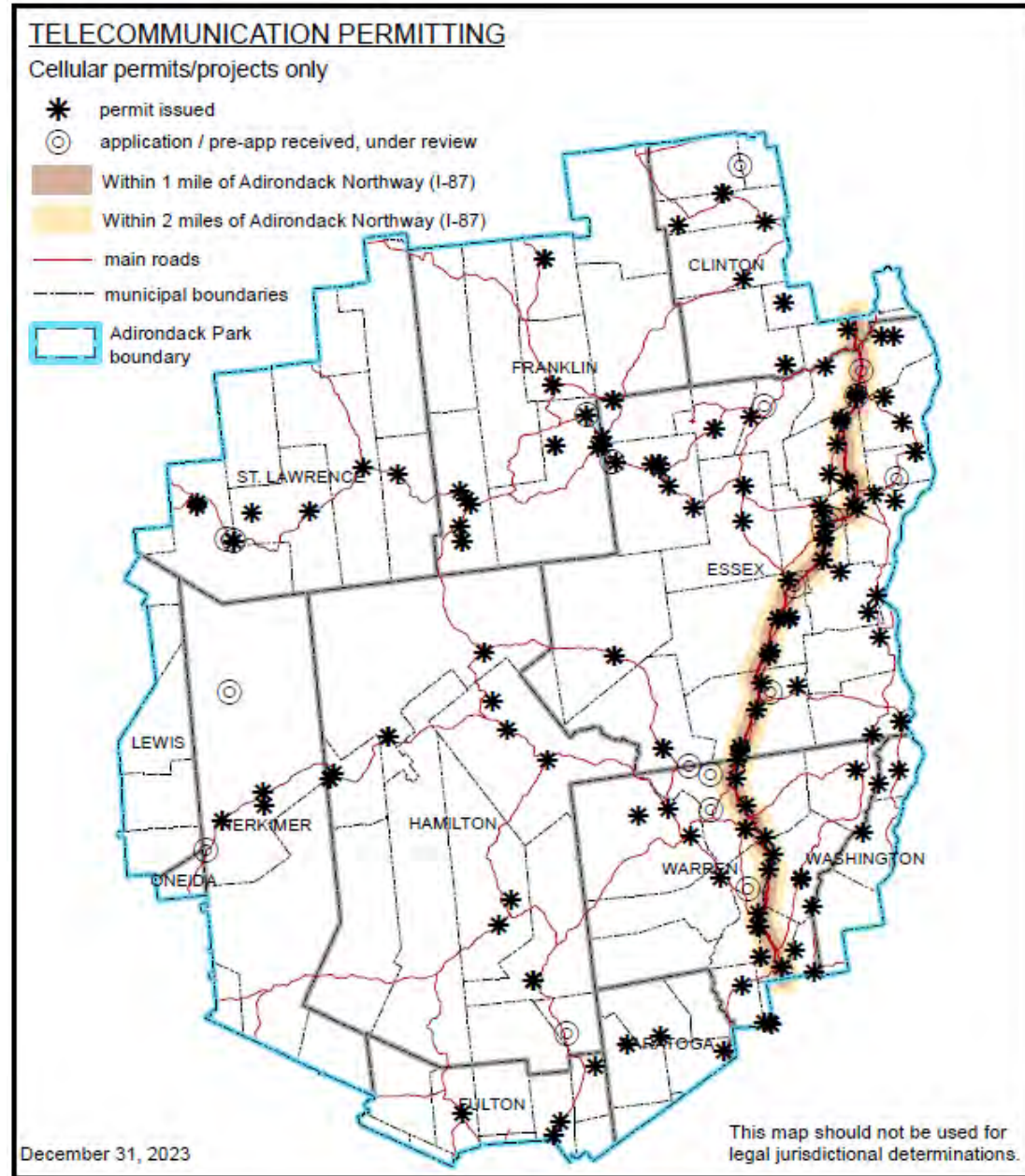
0 10 20 40 Miles



# 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 2023).

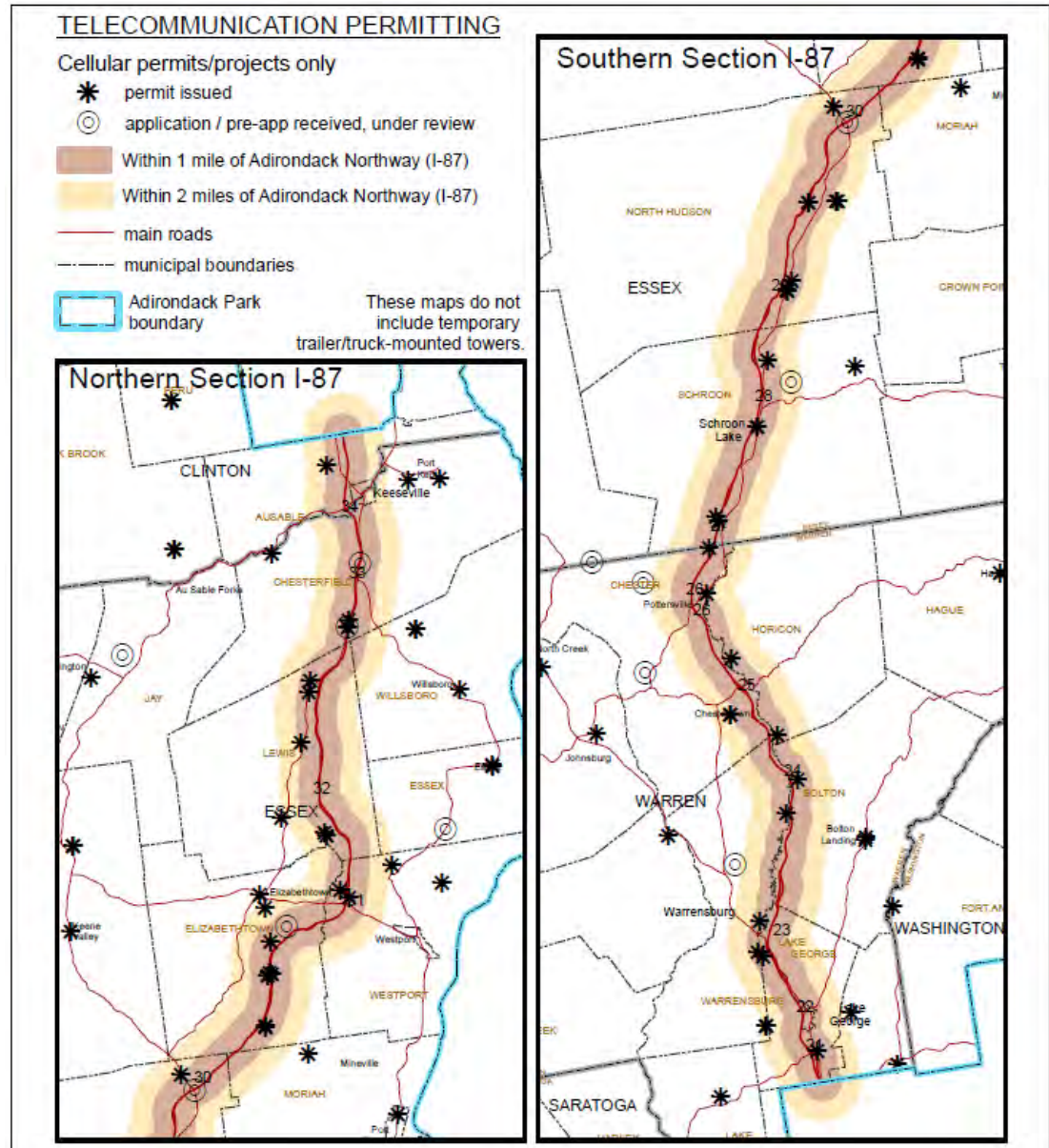




# Telecommunication Permitting – Cellular Only

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-  application / pre-app (under review)

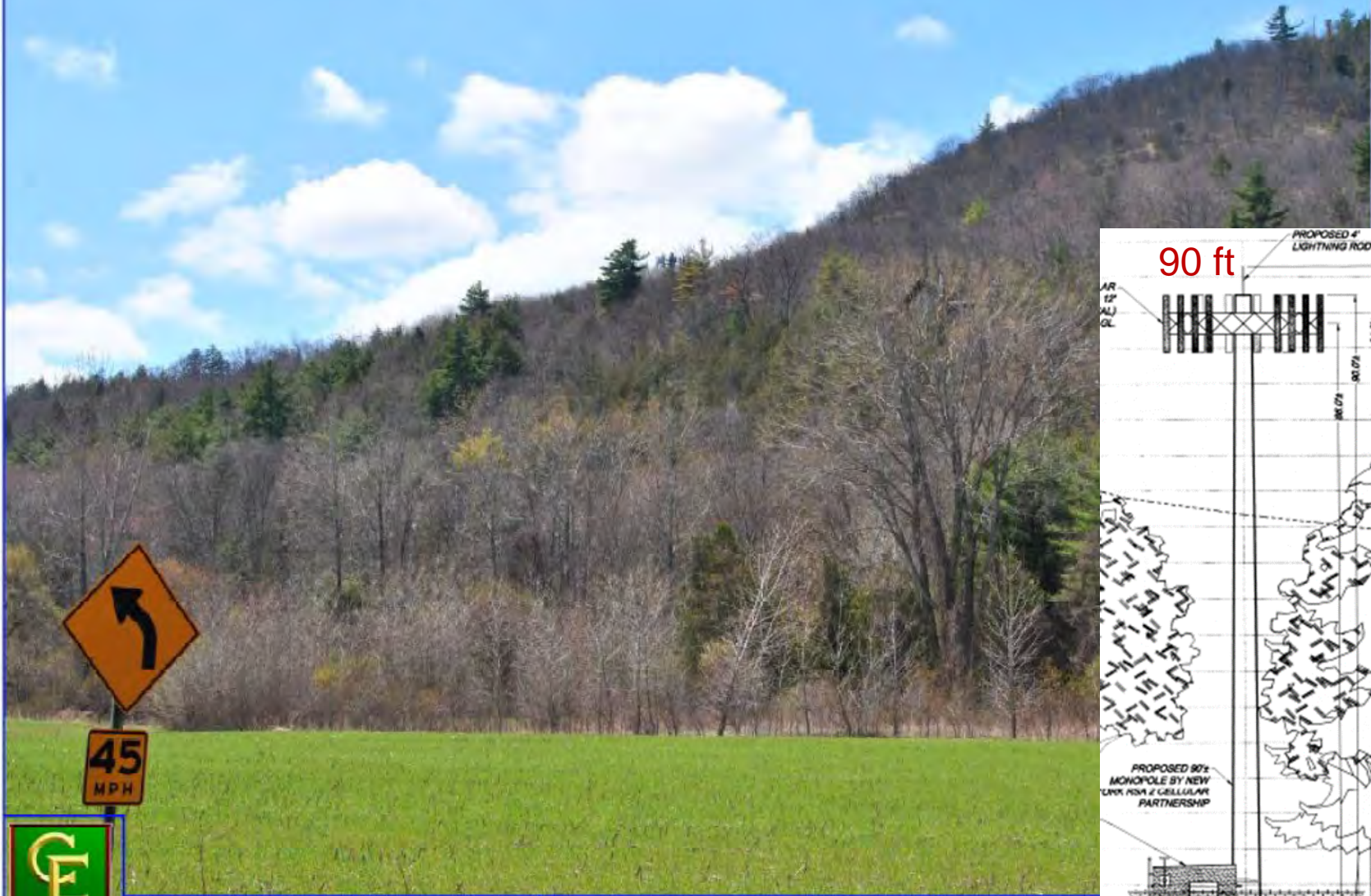
New and existing structures for which the APA has permitted or is reviewing cellular service use (1993 through 2023).



# Telecom Permits Issued – Examples

5/3/2016

# Monopole in Town of Crown Point



SITE NAME  
**Bulwagga Mountain**

Ash tilt photo of actual tower  
 1650' from Site - View SW from State Highway 9N

# Monopole in Town of Dannemora

5/3/2016



SITE NAME  
Chazy Lake

Asbuilt photo of constructed tower  
View NW from Dubrey Rd. 1.17 miles from site

# Monopole in Town of Newcomb

Hamlet land use area  
Next to water storage tank



2020: AT&T tower  
2013 & 2023: VZW on water tank

# Unconcealed Towers Village of Saranac Lake

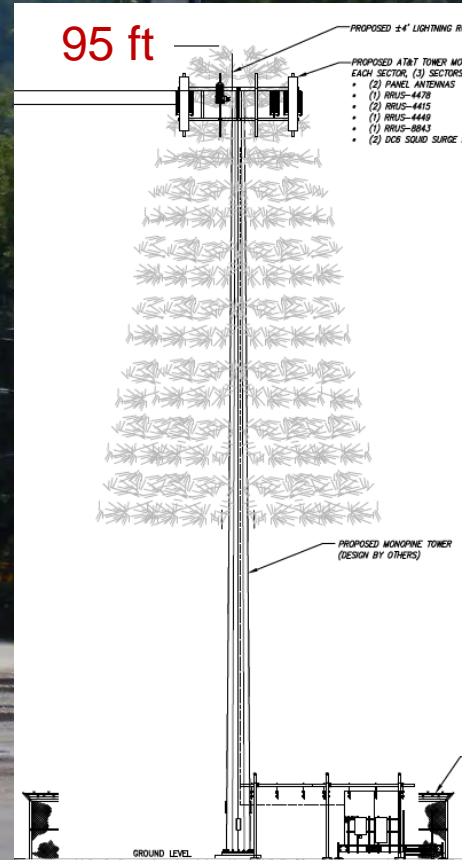
100 ft 90 ft 152 ft



Hamlet land use area  
Consolidation of visual intrusions



# Monopine in Town of Elizabethtown



# Monopine in Town of Clifton







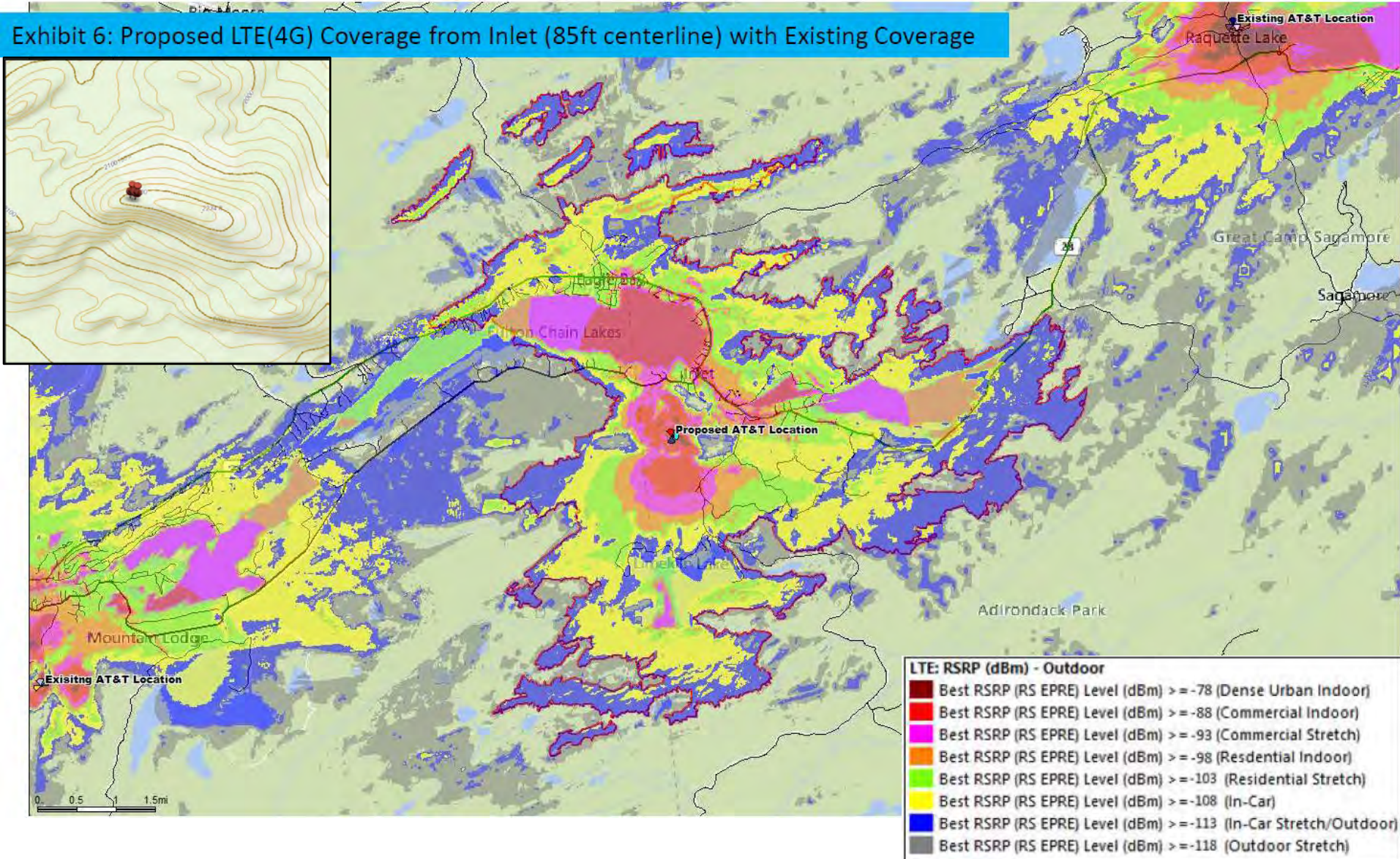
07.09.2019

# Pine Tree in Town of Harrietstown



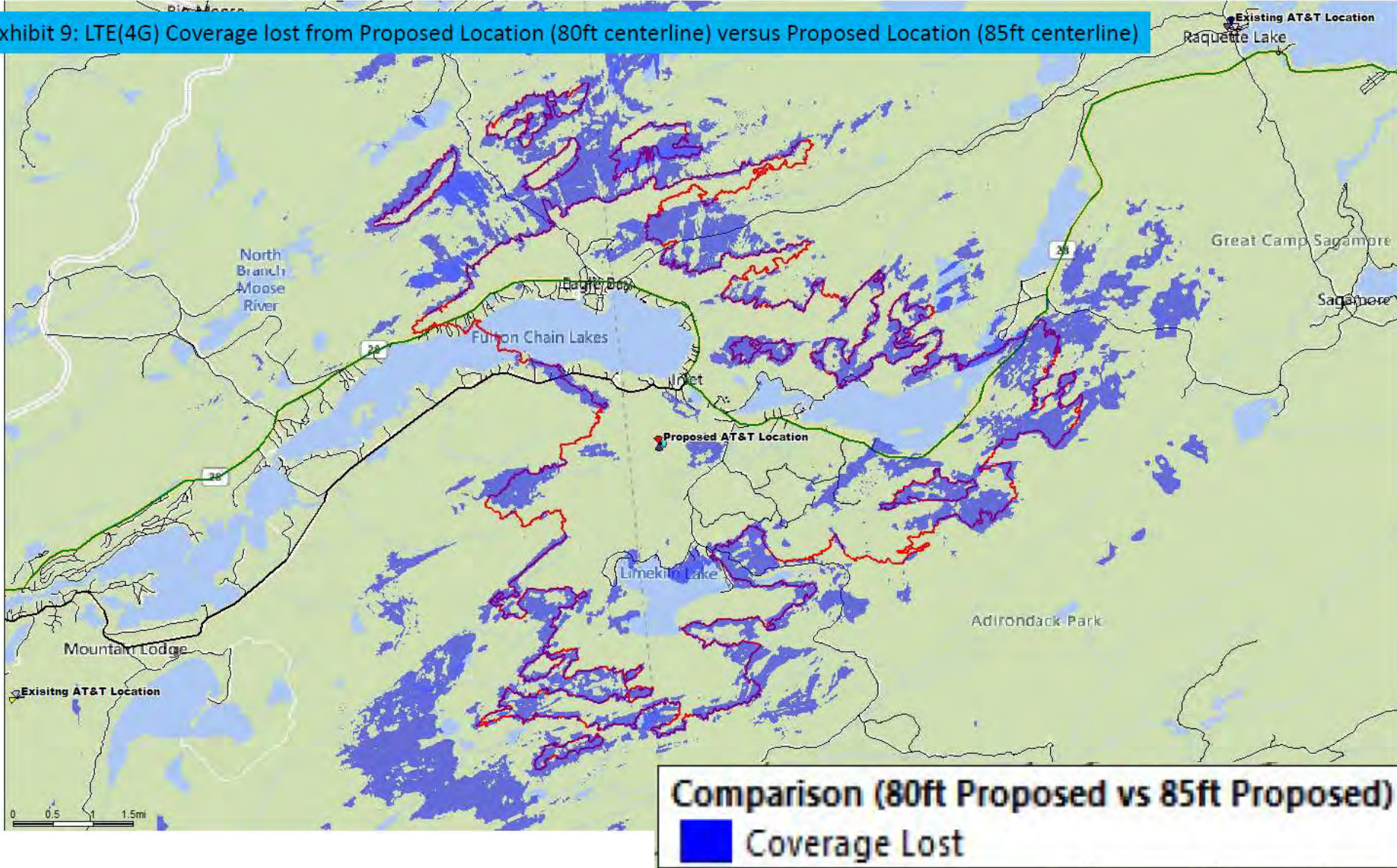
# AT&T – Proposed Coverage @ 85 ft CL

Exhibit 6: Proposed LTE(4G) Coverage from Inlet (85ft centerline) with Existing Coverage



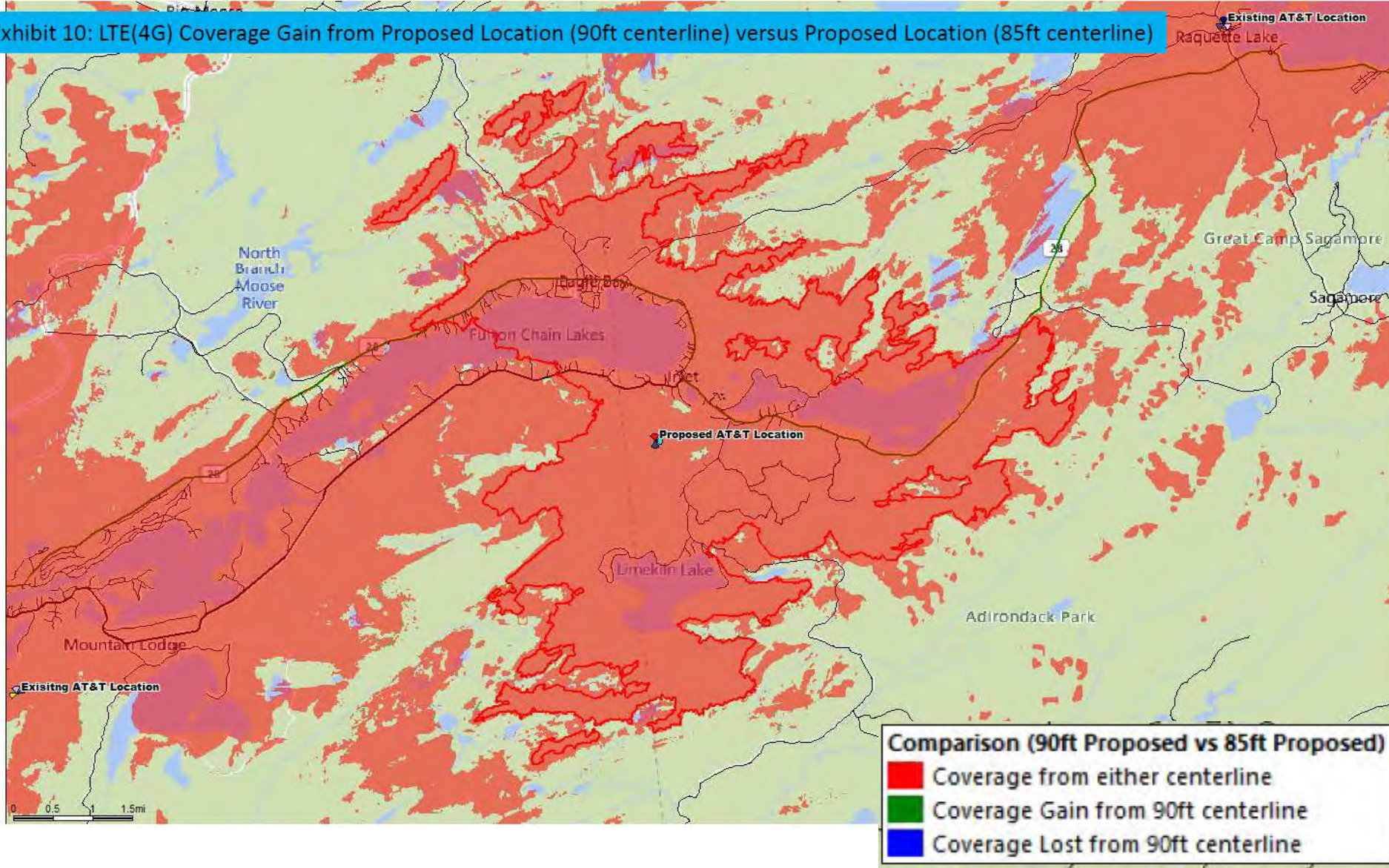
# AT&T – Coverage lost if 5 ft lower @ 80 ft CL

Exhibit 9: LTE(4G) Coverage lost from Proposed Location (80ft centerline) versus Proposed Location (85ft centerline)



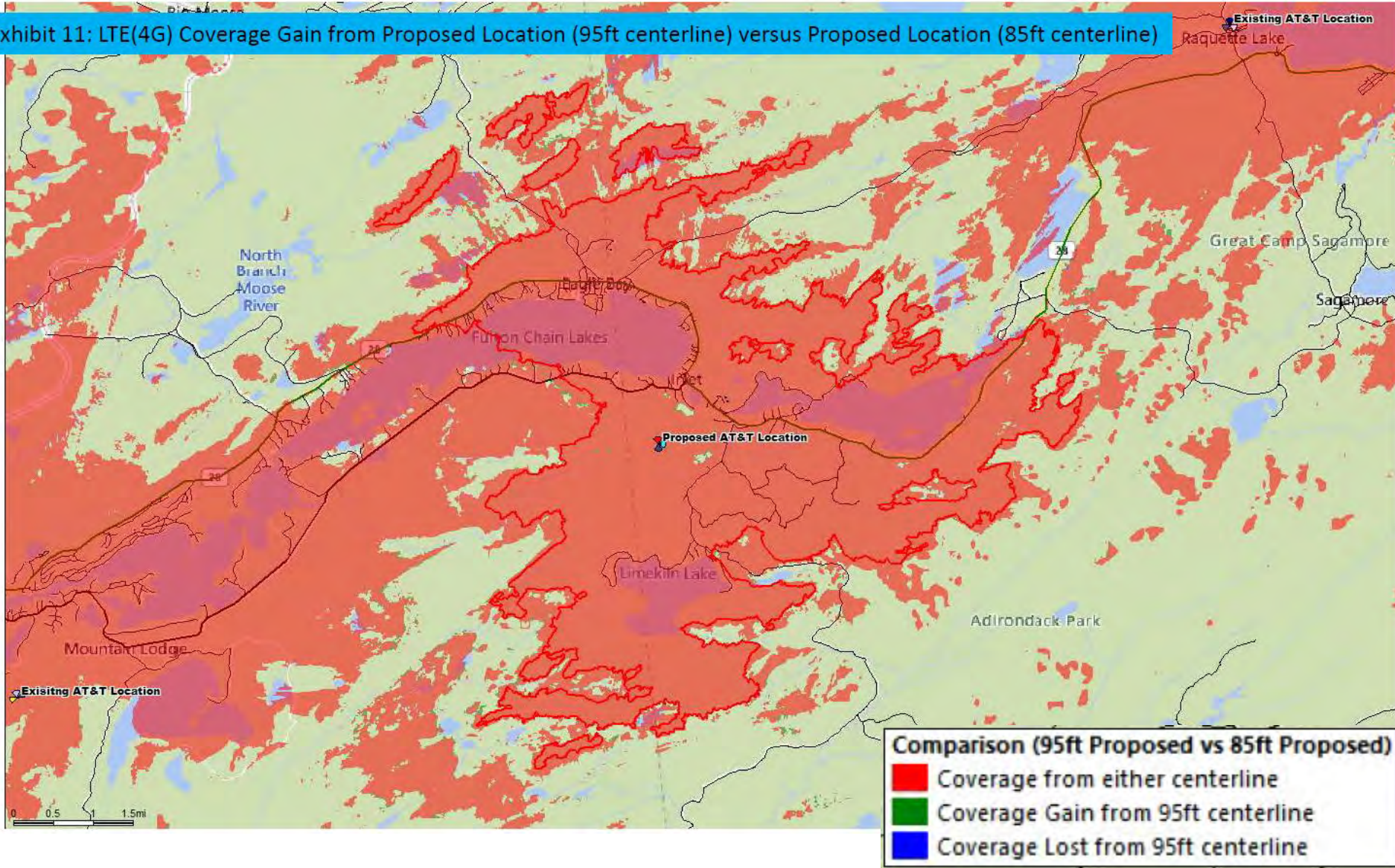
# AT&T – No coverage change if 5 ft higher @ 90 ft CL

Exhibit 10: LTE(4G) Coverage Gain from Proposed Location (90ft centerline) versus Proposed Location (85ft centerline)

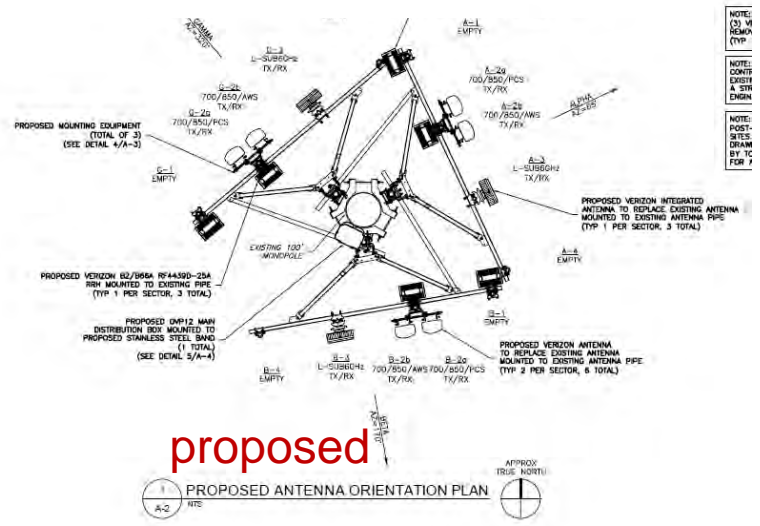
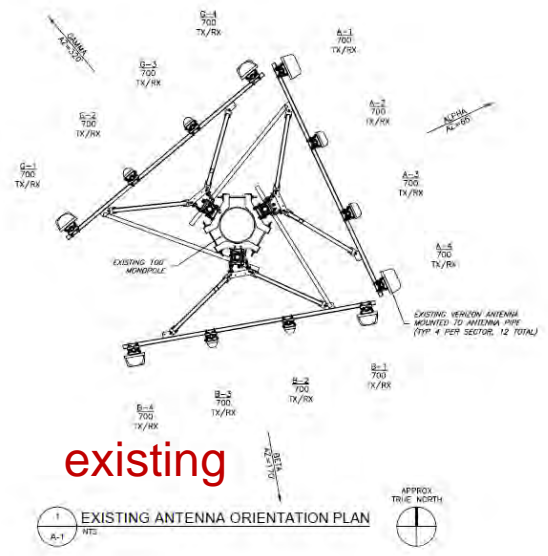
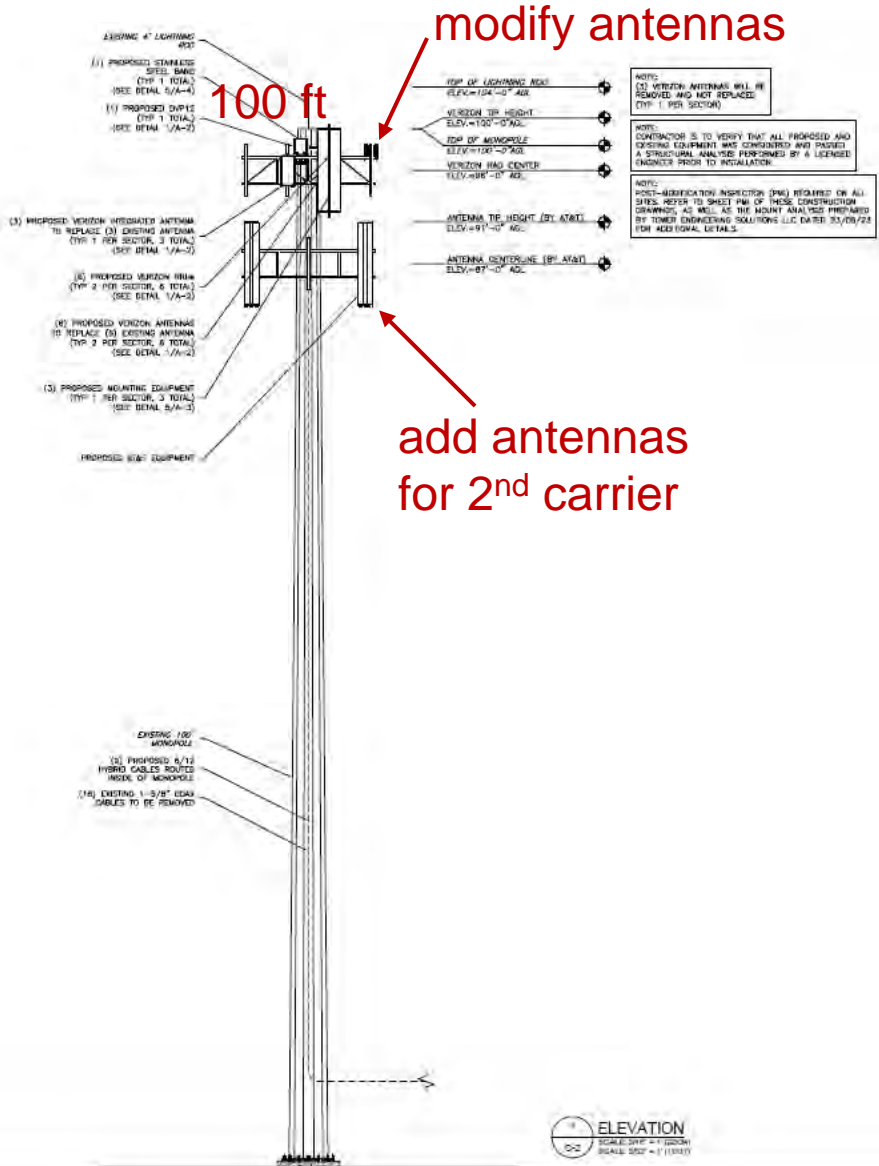


# AT&T – No coverage change if 10 ft higher @ 95 ft CL

Exhibit 11: LTE(4G) Coverage Gain from Proposed Location (95ft centerline) versus Proposed Location (85ft centerline)

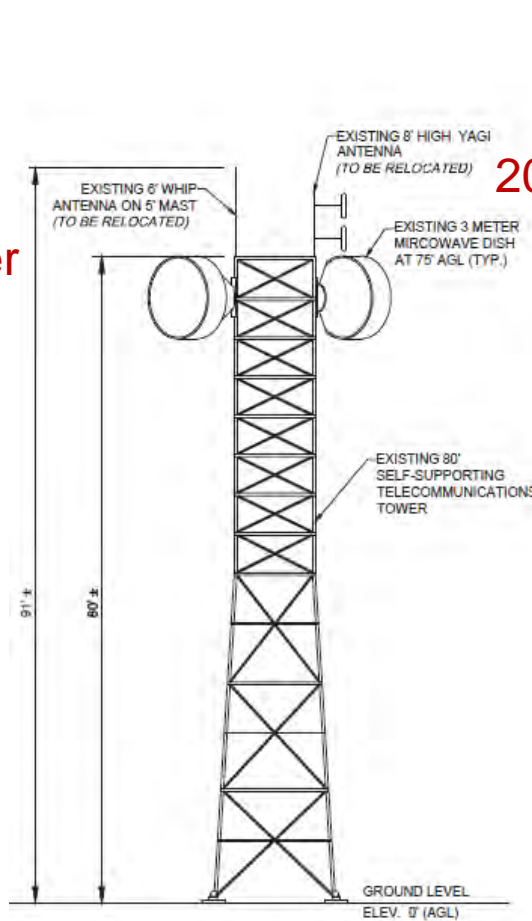


# Antenna Co-location & Modification – North Elba

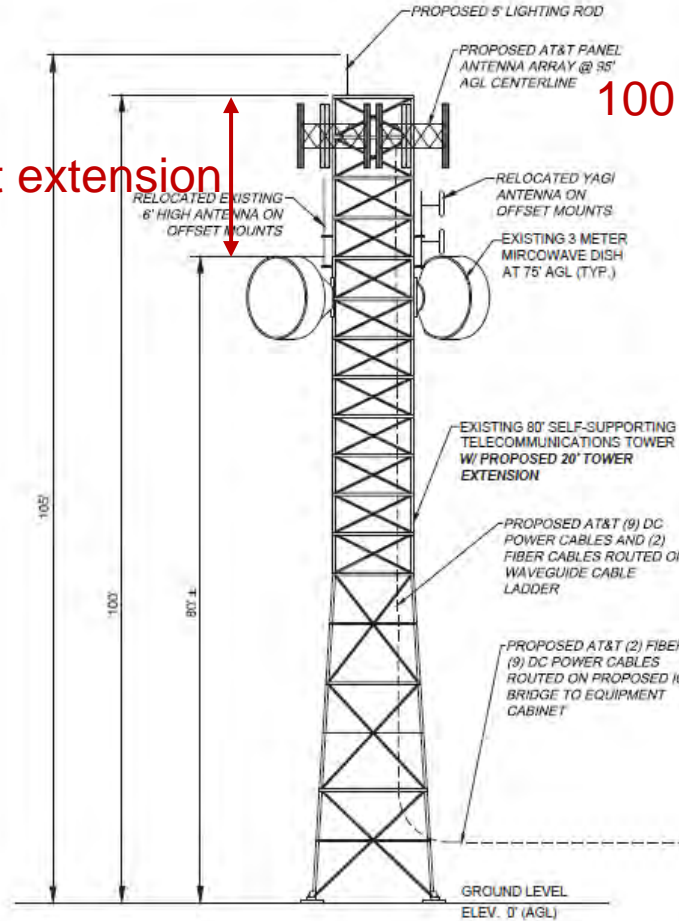


# Tower Extension in Town of Chesterfield

80 ft tower



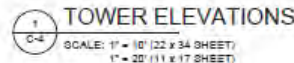
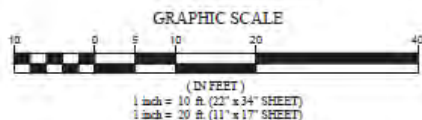
20 ft extension



100 ft tower

EXISTING

PROPOSED





# Co-location on Existing Tall Structures



# Permits for Small Cell – new in 2022 & 2023

Figure 5: Macro Towers and Small Cells

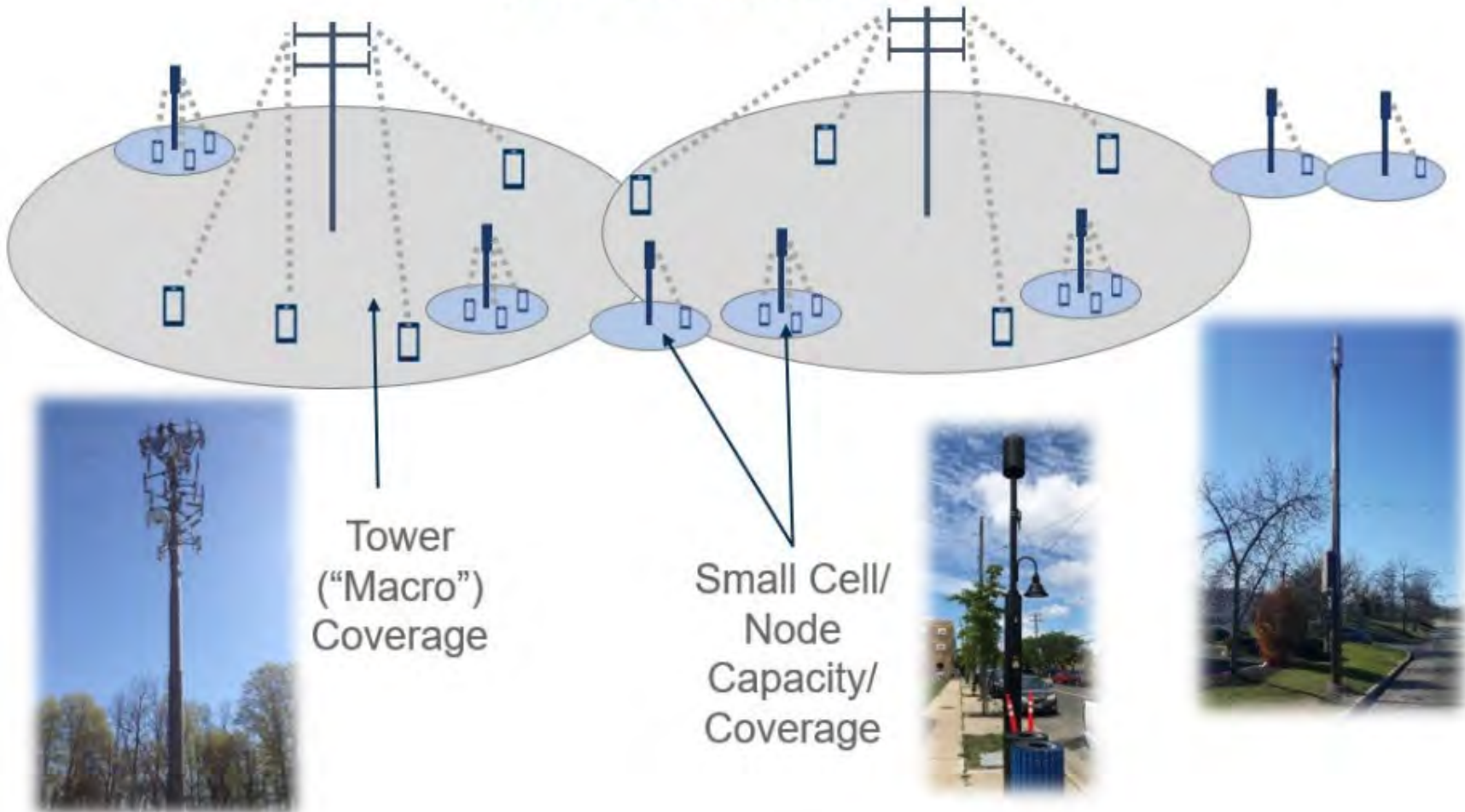


Figure from New York Upstate Cellular Coverage Task Force Final Report ([esd.ny.gov](http://esd.ny.gov))

# Permits for Small Cell – new in 2022 & 2023

- 4 small cell permits/orders issued 2022 & 2023
  - on single utility pole
  - Hamlet land use area
  - Towns of Bolton (2), Harrietstown, Warrensburg
  - Verizon Wireless
  - Jurisdictional > 40 ft in height



**Tectonic**  
TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

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



**Tectonic**  
TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

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

# Summary & Looking Ahead

# Telecom Pre-apps / Projects Pending – January 1, 2021 through April 15, 2024

Pre-application requests and project applications submitted over the last 3+ years that are pending / under review:

26 for new towers

- 11 permit applications
- 15 pre-applications

8 for antenna co-locations/modifications

- 2 permit applications
- 6 pre-applications

2 for tower extensions

- 1 permit application
- 1 pre-application



# Summary / Looking Ahead

- Dual goal
  - Support improved cell coverage
  - Maintain Adirondack 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, co-location opportunities, and available funding



**Adirondack  
Park Agency**

# **Telecommunications Permitting**

**Cellular, Emergency, Radio**

**April 22, 2024**