



Advancing Sound Public Policy  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Cell Tower Threat

### To Migratory and Endangered Birds

Marshfield, VT -- Whip-poor-wills, Bobolinks, Meadowlarks, and other rare bird species may soon abandon Connecticut's principal fresh water wetland area where they are known to reside if a proposed cell tower is erected nearby on a high-tension pylon that crosses private property.

In a sworn statement, Janet Newton, President of The EMR Policy Institute of Marshfield, Vermont -- a citizen's group that fosters awareness of the biological effects of non-ionizing radiation -- warned Connecticut's Siting Council that low power radiofrequency radiation (RF) signals have destroyed nesting areas, habitats, and food sources in various countries in Europe and could do the same thing here unless precautionary measures are adopted, and additional research is initiated. In her statement, Ms. Newton cited recent research from several European countries where adverse effects to wildlife have been observed after cell towers were built in sensitive habitats. No such research is being done in America at this time.

In the same proceeding, the US Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed that the Connecticut Siting Council, which has siting authority over tower projects, order Nextel, the telecommunications company proposing the antenna array, to pay \$400,000 for a study of the tower's impacts on migratory birds. The Council has said it is prohibited from doing so under the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, a claim the property owner is now challenging in Federal Court. According to Connecticut state statutes, the Siting Council must take environmental impacts into consideration in any siting decision and has the authority to initiate research to help in its assessments.

The Siting Council has scheduled a public hearing on the tower issue at its offices in New Britain on Thursday, October 12 at 1:00 PM.

[For a copy of The EMR Policy Institute statements and the US Fish and Wildlife proposal, go to [www.emrpolicy.org](http://www.emrpolicy.org) Case Law page. For interview requests, contact Janet Newton, 802-426-3035.]

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