

# STAFF RECOMMENDATION

D. Hamilton

NCPC File No. 6620



---

**BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE  
ANTENNA FOR NEW COAST GUARD STATION**  
Giovannoli Street and McGuire Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C.

Submitted by the Department of the Air Force

October 27, 2005

---

## Abstract

The Department of the Air Force (Air Force) has submitted a proposal for a new antenna tower with two antennas for a future new United States Coast Guard Station at Bolling Air Force Base. The Air Force is the sponsoring agency for the Coast Guard who is a tenant unit on the Base.

## Commission Action Requested by Applicant

Comments on the preliminary and final site and building plans pursuant to Section 610(a) of Public Law 93-166.

---

## Executive Director's Recommendation

The Commission:

**Comments favorably** on the preliminary and final site and building plans for the installation of an antenna tower for a new Coast Guard Station, Bolling Air Force Base, Giovannoli Street and McGuire Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 84.21(38.30)41697.

\* \* \*

# BACKGROUND AND STAFF EVALUATION

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Background

The Coast Guard is planning to establish a permanent operational station at Bolling Air Force Base. The Coast Guard plans to construct a 10,000-square-foot station building with appropriate parking. The facility would operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As part of this proposal, an antenna tower with two whip-type antennas would be installed at the site of the proposed station building. The current submission before the Commission is for the antenna tower. The actual building plans would be submitted at a later date.

### Site

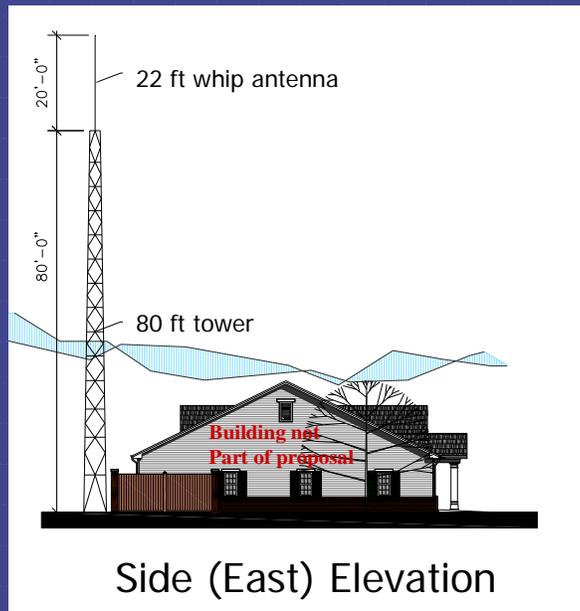
The site of the proposed antenna tower is located in the southwest portion of the Bolling Air Force Base, adjacent to the marina and near the intersection of McGuire Avenue and Giovannoli Street.

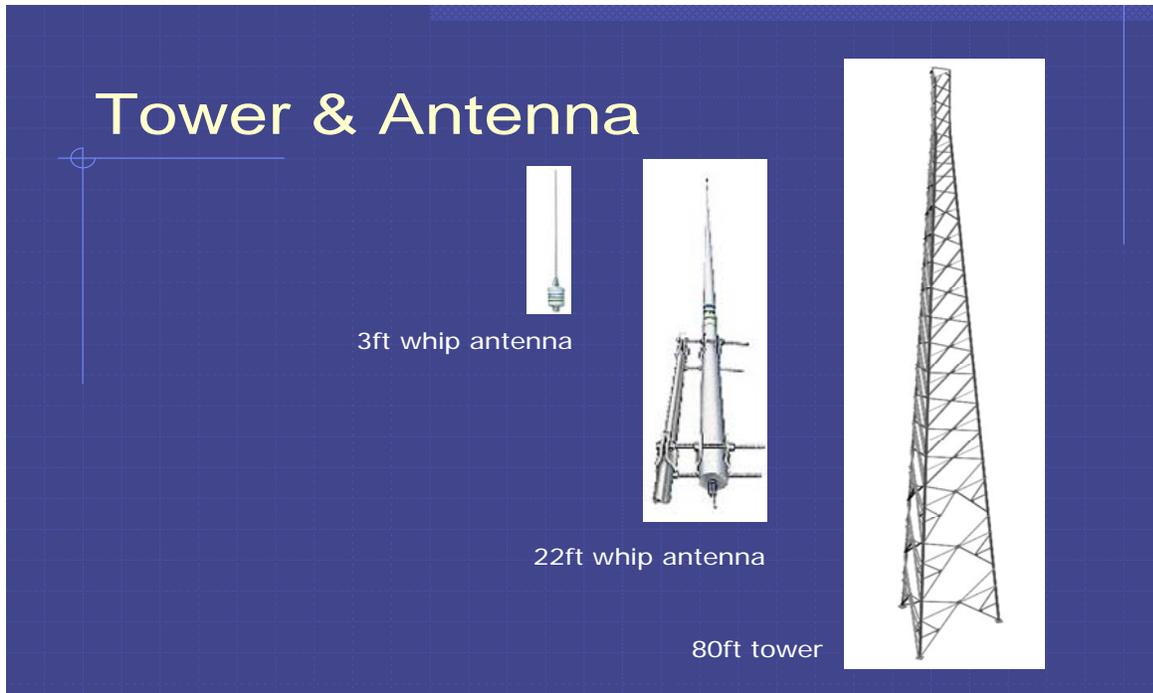


## Proposal

The tower would be located on the south side of a future new Coast Guard station. The triangular-shaped tower would be 80 feet tall made of galvanized steel which would weather to a dull grey appearance to blend with the sky. Two whip antennas would be attached to the tower, one antenna would be 22 feet high and the other would be 3 feet high. A small security camera would also be located on the tower. No other antennas or elements are anticipated to be located on the tower. The Air Force advises that a compliance evaluation is required for a fixed coastal station is required only if the transmitting power is above 50 watts. The proposed transmitter of the proposal is rated for only 25 watts. Although the Federal Aviation Administration has indicated that the proposed antenna tower and antennas pose no hazard to air navigation and therefore, no markings or lights would be required on the tower or antennas, the HMX facility at Bolling has requested lights at the top of the tower but not on the antennas.

## Exterior Elevation





## PROJECT ANALYSIS

Staff recommends that the Commission comment favorably on the preliminary and final site and building plans for the proposed antenna tower:

- The height of the tower is needed to provide full coverage of the waterways that pass through Washington.
- The steel tower would weather to blend with the sky.
- The only antennas to be located on the tower are “whip-type” antennas, which are not as visible as traditional “dish-type” antennas.
- The transmitting antennas are within the FCC’s RF radiation guidelines because a complete compliance evaluation is required if the transmission power is above 50 watts. The transmission power of the proposal is 25 watts.
- The Federal Aviation Administration has advised that no markings or lighting would be required on the tower because it poses no hazard to air navigation.
- A certification by the applicant that the proposed transmitting antenna complies with the RF radiation guidelines applicable to the installation as regulated by the Department of Defense as the landholding agency for the tenant operation.

## Sightline from River



### CONFORMANCE

#### Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

Staff has determined that the proposed project is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements, in particular the Federal Environment Element. The proposed project will "...collocate antennas to reduce aesthetic impacts and limits the area of radio frequency exposure."

#### National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The submission has been analyzed by NCPC staff and it has been determined the project qualifies as a categorical exclusion as specified by Section 8 of the Commission's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures. The applicant has provided a radio frequency evaluation pursuant to the Commission's federal antenna project submission guidelines indicating that the low power output of the proposed antenna, at 25 watts effective radiated power (ERP), establishes that the small antenna is exempt from comprehensive frequency analysis procedures, and fully complies with all safety exposure limits to humans specified by the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Guidelines for Evaluating Exposure to RF Emissions, revised on August 1, 1996 and updated in October 1997.

The antenna site is not accessible to the general public and the tower height of 80 feet exceeds the minimum height limit for this form of communications system antenna mounting height, which is 30 feet.

National Historic Preservation Act

The applicant has determined that the proposal is not subject to Section 106 review of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

CONSULTATION

Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal on October 12, 2005. The Committee forwarded the proposal to the Commission with the statement that the project has been coordinated with all agencies represented, the participating agencies were: NCPC; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District Department of Transportation; the Department of Housing and Community Development; the Fire Department; and the General Services Administration.