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# Martha's Vineyard Commission

## CR 6-2023 Carroll's Way Tower Equip, Vineyard Wind 1 Commission Staff Report – 2023-8-3

### 1. DESCRIPTION

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- 1.1 **Owner:** American Tower Corp
- 1.2 **Applicant:** American Tower Corp
- 1.3 **Applicant's Agent:** Charles Wing of Heidrea Communications
- 1.4 **Applicant's Agent:** Neil Murray of Tampnet
- 1.5 **Project Location:** 121 Carroll's Way, Tisbury (Map 19, Block A, Lot 23)
- 1.6 **Proposal:** Installation of three pieces of telecommunications equipment on a preexisting 197-foot radio tower
- 1.7 **Zoning:** R20
- 1.8 **Local Permits:** Tisbury Building Department
- 1.9 **Federal Permits:** Federal Communications Commission
- 1.10 **Surrounding Land Uses:** The tower is located on a 2.7-acre parcel owned by Comcast. The parcel is at the terminus of Carroll's Way, a dead-end side street off Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road. A building is also on the parcel. To the West, the parcel appears to extend over the Tisbury town line with Oak Bluffs. To the North and the East are several residences. To the South is a 6.3-acre Land Bank lot.
- 1.11 **Project History:** The tower was erected Circa 1974 and may have not come under Commission review previously. Per the assessor's card, the tower was sold separately from the rest of the property. Therefore, it appears Comcast owns the land and building save for the tower, which is owned by American Tower Corp.
- 1.12 **Project Summary:** Installation of two microwave dishes and a radio cabinet on a preexisting 197-foot radio tower. Tampnet Microwave Engineer Neil Murry, an Agent for Applicant American Tower Corp., explained the project as follows: "In support of the Vineyard Wind project, we are constructing a wireless link from an existing tower on land that will connect to our offshore cell site offshore. Having a cell site near the turbine construction zone will provide a vital link to be used by personnel for project coordination and emergency communications. At present, existing cellular service is unavailable in the construction zone located 26 miles offshore Massachusetts."

### 2. ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY

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- 2.1 **DRI Referral:** Tisbury Building Department July 26, 2023
- 2.2 **DRI Trigger:** 9.1 Telecommunications: b. Any reconstruction, replacement, or reconfiguration of equipment of an existing tower. *Concurrence Referral*
- 2.3 **LUPC:** Slated August 21, 2023

### 3. PLANNING ITEMS

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- 3.1 **Energy**

The telecommunication equipment would evidently establish cell service out in the Atlantic in the Vineyard Wind 1 turbine tower zone—likely a safety asset for work and maintenance crews.