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6 Attorneys for Petitioner

7 California Tower, Inc.

8 **BEFORE THE HEARING BOARD OF THE**

9 **SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

10 CALIFORNIA TOWER, INC.;

CASE NO. 6262-1

11 Petitioner,

**DECLARATION OF ANGELA
ROBERTSON**

12 vs.

13 SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY
14 MANAGEMENT DISTRICT,

Hearing Date: September 11, 2024

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Hearing Board

15 Respondent.

16 South Coast Air Quality
17 Management District
21865 Copley Drive
18 Diamond Bar, CA 91765

19
20 I, Angela Robertson, declare:

21 1. I have been in the telecommunications industry for over 20 years. I am an authorized
22 representative of SpectraSite Communications, LLC, (“ATC”) and California Tower, Inc. (“CTI”).
23 Initially, I was supervising Network Operations Center (“NOC”) technicians supporting inbound calls
24 related to Site Access, Safety, Lighting and Generator Technical Support. Today, I am the Director of
25 Network Operations, leading a team of Asset Program Managers, supporting both Generators and
26 HVAC. I have personal knowledge of the facts declared, and if called as a witness, I could and would
27 competently testify thereto.

28 2. CTI, a wholly owned subsidiary of ATC, owns and operates the telecommunication facility at

1 issue that is located at 6427 Oak Canyon Road, Irvine, California 92618, facility number 194435 (the
2 “Facility”).

3 3. ATC has an internal team called Network Operations Center Generators (“NOC GEN”) that
4 has several key responsibilities such as monitoring generator alarms and transfer switches and
5 troubleshooting generator issues remotely and by leveraging onsite technicians. They work closely
6 with other stakeholders to ensure that all regions are adequately supported. This includes coordinating
7 responses to alarms and ensuring that all necessary resources are available for timely resolution.

8 4. Primary power to the Facility is provided by Southern California Edison. In case of a loss of
9 power, the Facility has a generator that provides backup power (“Emergency Generator”), which
10 includes the use of an internal combustion engine operated pursuant to Permit to Operate number
11 G65553 (“Permit”). A true and correct copy of the Permit is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

12 5. Condition 4 of the Permit limits the operation of the Emergency Generator to 200 hours
13 annually during each calendar year, which includes no more than 50 hours in any one year and no
14 more than 4.2 hours in any one month for maintenance and testing purposes.

15 6. As more fully described below, the use of the Emergency Generator at the Facility has
16 exceeded the 200-hour limit for this year.

17 7. From March 11, 2024 to March 18, 2024, 177.7 hours of malfunction runtime of the
18 Emergency Generator elapsed. Malfunction run classification occurs when the generator runs for any
19 reason that is unknown. On March 12, 2024, NOC GEN requested that its generator maintenance
20 vendor determine why the Emergency Generator was running in malfunction mode. On March 14,
21 2024, the generator maintenance vendor advised that T-Mobile needed the power company to replace
22 its faulty meter. On March 16, 2024, NOC GEN advised T-Mobile of the need to repair the faulty
23 meter. By March 18, 2024, the power for the Facility was operating normally and the Emergency
24 Generator resumed normal operations.

25 8. From March 22, 2024 to April 1, 2024, 259.6 hours of emergency runtime of the Emergency
26 Generator elapsed. On March 23, 2024, NOC GEN notified its generator maintenance vendor that the
27 same issue with the Emergency Generator had returned even though T-Mobile had repaired the meter.
28 On March 27, 2024, when the generator maintenance vendor arrived at the Facility, the Emergency

1 Generator was running. After tracing the wiring to the service disconnect, the generator maintenance
2 vendor determined there was no power at the fuse. The generator maintenance vendor replaced the
3 fuses, and the Emergency Generator passed the repair confirmation tests. The technician also
4 confirmed that there was an issue with the meter that the power company would need to repair. On
5 April 4, 2024, T-Mobile's dispatched a technician to the Facility who repaired the meter providing
6 power to the system.

7 9. From April 9, 2024 to May 2, 2024, there was a potential communication loss with the
8 Emergency Generator. The Emergency Generator appears to have only run one hour during this
9 period, but ATC's generator monitoring/alarm system had an active alarm status that suggested that
10 there was an issue with the automatic transfer switch. An alarm-driven ticket was created by ATC's
11 generator monitoring/alarm system and a Case is created in Salesforce for our internal NOC GEN
12 team to track the issue. On April 18, 2024, a generator technician went to the Facility to confirm the
13 meter readings, but the LCD display was inoperable. The technician determined that there was an
14 issue with the Emergency Generator continuing to run because the transfer switch was sending a
15 utility loss; the technician further determined that an electrician was needed to further diagnose this
16 issue.

17 10. Due to personnel changes and human error, the excessive runtime was not timely brought to
18 the attention of ATC's HazMat department. On May 2, 2024, when referencing a generator
19 performance report against runtime allowances, ATC's HazMat department became aware of the
20 runtime hours exceeding the permitted limit and notified NOC GEN that the Emergency Generator
21 needed to be shut down. Since then, the Emergency Generator has been shutdown to await further
22 instructions regarding variance approval.

23 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is
24 true and correct. Executed on August 30, 2024 in Cary, North Carolina

25
26 
27 Angela Robertson
28

Exhibit 1



South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178
PERMIT TO OPERATE

Page 1
Permit No.
G65553
A/N 628906

This initial permit must be renewed ANNUALLY unless the equipment is moved, or changes ownership.
If the billing for the annual renewal fee (Rule 301(d)) is not received by the expiration date, contact the District.

**Legal Owner
or Operator:**

CALIFORNIA TOWER, INC
10 PRESIDENTIAL WAY
WOBURN, MA 01801

ID 194435

Equipment Location: 6427 OAK CANYON RD, IRVINE, CA 92618

Equipment Description :

Internal Combustion Engine, Iveco S.P.A., 4 Cylinder, Turbocharged, Aftercooled, Model F4GE9485A*J, 131 BHP, Diesel-Fueled, Driving an Emergency Electrical Generator.

Conditions :

1. Operation of this equipment shall be conducted in accordance with all data and specifications submitted with the application under which this permit is issued unless otherwise noted below.
2. This equipment shall be properly maintained and kept in good operating condition at all times.
3. An operational non-resettable totalizing timer shall be installed and maintained to indicate the engine elapsed operating time.
4. This engine shall not be operated more than 200 hours in any one year, which includes no more than 50 hours in any one year and no more than 4.2 hours in any one month for maintenance and testing purposes.
5. Operating beyond the 50 hours per year allotted for maintenance and testing purposes shall be allowed only in the event of a loss of grid power or up to 30 minutes prior to a rotating outage, provided that the utility distribution company has ordered rotating outages in the control area where the engine is located or has indicated that it expects to issue such an order at a certain time, and the engine is located in a utility service block that is subject to the rotating outage. Engine operation shall be terminated immediately after the utility distribution company advises that a rotating outage is no longer imminent or in effect.
6. This engine shall not be used as part of a demand response program using interruptible service contract in which a facility receives a payment or reduced rates in return for reducing its electric load on the grid when requested to so by the utility or the grid operator.
7. The operator shall keep a log of engine operations documenting the total time the engine is operated each month and specific reason for operation as:
 - A. Emergency use.
 - B. Maintenance and testing.
 - C. Other (describe the reason for operating).

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In addition, each time the engine is manually started, the log shall include the date of operation, the specific reason for operation, and the totalizing hour meter reading (in hours and tenths of hours) at the beginning and end of operation.

8. On or before January 15th of each year, the operator shall record in the engine operating log the following:
 - A. The total hours of operation for the previous calendar year, and
 - B. The total hours of engine operation for maintenance and testing for the previous calendar year.

Engine operating log shall be retained on site for a minimum of three calendar years and shall be made available to the Executive Officer or representative upon request.

9. This engine shall comply with all applicable requirements of Rule 431.2, 1470 and 1472.
10. This engine shall comply with the following emission limits:

NMHC + NO _x :	3.00 g/bhp-hr
CO:	3.70 g/bhp-hr
PM:	0.15 g/bhp-hr

11. Sulfur content of diesel fuel supplied to the engine shall not exceed 15 ppm by weight.

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PERMIT TO OPERATE

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Permit No.
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NOTICE

In accordance with Rule 206, this Permit to Operate or copy shall be posted on or within 8 meters of the equipment.

This permit does not authorize the emission of air contaminants in excess of those allowed by Division 26 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California or the applicable Rules and Regulations of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). This permit cannot be considered as permission to violate existing laws, ordinances, regulations or statutes of other government agencies.

Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aspell".

BY JASON ASPELL/JL12
6/11/2021

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