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Commissioner

May 12, 2020

Alexander S. Johnson and Rachel B. Grimes
1312 W. Prong Locust Rd.
Milton, KY 40045

RE: Case No. 2020-00139

Dear Mr. Johnson and Ms. Grimes:

The Public Service Commission acknowledges receipt of your public comment letter regarding your concerns as to the application for approval to construct a wireless tower facility in the case referenced above. Your comment has been placed in the official case file of this proceeding. The Commission will carefully analyze your comment as part of its review before rendering its final decision in this matter.

By this letter, we are forwarding a copy of your comment to the Applicant for a response. Commission Staff requests the Applicant to submit a written response to the comment, with a copy to the Commission, within 15 days of the date of this letter.

It may be helpful for you to know that federal law limits state authority, specifically that of the Commission, in the review of this matter. For example, Section 704 of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 prohibits this Commission from regulating the placement of wireless facilities based on environmental effects of the radio frequency emissions to the extent that facilities comply with Federal Communications Commission regulations. Section 704 also prohibits a state or local government from prohibiting telecommunications facilities construction if such denial will have the effect of prohibiting service. In addition, this Commission is required by statute to ensure that utility service, including telecommunications service, is adequate and reliable.

You may view Orders issued by the Commission or other formal case documents on our website at <http://psc.ky.gov>.

Thank you for your letter of interest and concern in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Chandler', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kent A. Chandler
Executive Director

Cc: Parties of Record

RECEIVED

MAY 12 2020

PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

Alexander S. Johnson and Rachel B. Grimes
1312 W. Prong Locust Rd.
Milton, KY 40045
May 11, 2020

Kent Chandler
Executive Director
Kentucky Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 615
Frankfort, KY 40602

Dear Mr. Chandler:

We are writing to you today to voice our concerns about Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) docket number 2020-00139. This docket item concerns a proposed 245-foot tall antenna tower, plus a 10-foot lightning arrestor, for a combined height above grade of 255 feet. As proposed, this tower would be built on property at 1002 Fairview Ridge Rd., Milton, KY, 40045.

We own, and reside on, a property (Carroll County PVA parcel number 03-15) adjacent to the proposed tower site. A portion of our property lies within a 500-foot radius of the proposed tower site. We are writing today to request the PSC give careful review and consideration of the application. Specifically, we would like the PSC to deny the application unless the following considerations are met: (1) reduce the overall height of the proposed tower to something that serves the stated purpose without dwarfing, and diminishing the natural beauty of, the proposed location and (2) ensure night-time lighting associated with the structure be of a type that minimally encroaches on current ambient light levels.

We believe improved, reliable cell phone and cellular internet connectivity are necessary to 21st century life, and we support the “bigger picture” of such increased service in rural Kentucky, and western Carroll County specifically. That said, we are current Verizon customers and already have Verizon cell coverage on our property, albeit less-than-robust. This causes us to wonder if a tower of this size is truly needed for the area, especially when more desirable 5G cell service is provided by smaller towers. Our concern about the proposed height is that it will overshadow the otherwise scenic and pastoral nature of its surroundings. At its proposed 255-foot height, it will be nearly as tall as the hill on which it might sit. The hills here typically rise to about 300 feet above the valley floor and the west prong of Locust Creek.

In addition to our concern about the tower’s proposed scale as compared to its surroundings, we are concerned that towers over 200-feet tall are required by the FAA to have lighting that will be deleterious to the dark night skies we currently enjoy in Locust. A similar, recently-built tower on Wright’s Ridge Rd. (PSC case number 2018-00121) has already had such an effect, with

Kent Chandler

May 11, 2020

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blinking white light visible across the nighttime horizon under certain weather conditions. Of course, we want safety to be the first consideration, but would like the PSC to encourage red night-time lighting over white strobe-lighting if the tower rises to a height that requires lighting, and if permitted by FAA requirements. Again, we think the proposed height is too tall, but would encourage a dual lighting system with red lighting at night, if so required at the final build height.

We request that our letter be given the PSC's full consideration, and would like it entered into the official case file for docket number 2020-00139.

Sincerely,

Alexander S. Johnson and Rachel B. Grimes

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