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TODD R. BRIGGS
also admitted in Colorado

October 2, 2020

Via USPS Certified Mail – Return Receipt Requested

Carl and Syndal Jones
842 State Route 2194W
Hickory, KY 42051

RE: Kentucky Public Service Commission Case #2020-00270

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Jones,

This letter is in response to your correspondence received by the Kentucky Public Service Commission (“PSC”) on September 21, 2020. Vertical Bridge Development, LLC (“Vertical”) has been tasked with finding a location for a wireless communication facility (“WCF”) on behalf of New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC dba AT&T Mobility (“AT&T”).

The WCF will extend the current AT&T indoor and outdoor coverage in the area. The site will also provide critical safety support through enhanced 911 services. The WCF will provide wireless connectivity to the surrounding area which not only includes the surrounding residents, but also visitors to the area, local business owners and schools. Wireless services and devices have become central to the daily lives of most Americans. Users increasingly use their wireless devices to make daily tasks easier and to access useful information. Many users rely almost exclusively on their wireless connection; one in five U.S. adults is a “smartphone-only” internet user.¹ The wireless carriers are also leading the rapid deployment of real-time text (RTT) to replace 20th-century teletypewriters (TTY) with the benefits and flexibility of 21st-century communications capabilities for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired. The first RTT-capable devices appeared on AT&T’s, Verizon’s, and T-Mobile’s networks in 2017.

¹ Mobile Fact Sheet, PEW RESEARCH CTR.—INTERNET & TECH. (Feb. 5, 2018)

According to the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), 240 million 911 calls were made in 2017. Of those, 80% were made from a mobile device. Federal Communication Commission (FCC) wireless 911 rules aim to provide Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) with meaningful, accurate location information so that local emergency responders can be dispatched to quickly provide assistance to wireless 911 callers. The FCC's basic rules require wireless service providers to transmit all 911 calls to PSAP, regardless of whether the caller subscribes to the provider's service or not. Phase I Enhanced 911 (E911) rules require wireless service providers to provide the PSAP with the telephone number of the originator of a wireless 911 call and the location of the cell site or base station transmitting the call. Phase II E911 rules require wireless service providers to provide latitude and longitude of callers to PSAPs. This information must be accurate to within 50 to 300 meters depending upon type of location and technology used. By April 30, 2020, nationwide providers, such as AT&T, must achieve 50-meter horizontal location accuracy or provide dispatchable location for 70 percent of all wireless 911 calls.² This requirement increases to 80 percent in 2021. Improvements made by AT&T and other service providers can help save lives and prevent crimes.

You expressed a concern regarding the potential health effects of the WCF existing in your area. I have enclosed a fact sheet from PCIA titled, "Wireless Networks and Your Health: The Facts" that provides additional information and resources related to your concern.

Please feel free to contact me if you desire further information.

Sincerely,



Todd R. Briggs

Enclosure

² 47 C.F.R. § 20.18(i)(2)(i)(A)



Wireless Networks and Your Health: THE FACTS

FACTS

- Wireless devices and facilities must adhere to radio frequency (“RF”) emission guidelines established and enforced by the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”).

See FCC, Second Memorandum Opinion and Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 12 FCC Rcd 13494

- Under federal law, state and local governments may not regulate the placement, construction, and modification of wireless facilities on the basis of environmental effects of RF emissions if the facilities comply with FCC regulations governing RF emissions.

47 U.S.C. § 332(c)(7)(B)(iv)

- RF emissions from wireless facilities generally are significantly lower than permitted. According to recent studies, “RF exposures from base stations range from 0.002% to 2% of the levels of international exposure guidelines.”

World Health Organization, Electromagnetic Fields and Public Health, <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs304/en/>

- There is no credible scientific evidence that RF emissions from wireless base stations and wireless networks have adverse health or environmental effects.

CONCLUSIONS

- The World Health Organization has conducted a review of all available studies and concluded that “there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF signals from base stations and wireless networks cause adverse health effects.”

World Health Organization, Electromagnetic Fields and Public Health, <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs304/en/>

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has determined that based on all available evidence, there is “no increased health risk due to radio-frequency (RF) energy.”

U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Consumer Updates: No Evidence Linking Cell Phone Use to Risk of Brain Tumors, <http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm212273.htm>

- The National Cancer Institute has concluded that despite the rise in cell phone use, brain cancer rates did not increase between 1987 and 2005.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Consumer Updates: No Evidence Linking Cell Phone Use to Risk of Brain Tumors, <http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm212273.htm>

- The FCC has concluded that “[t]here is no scientific evidence to date that proves that wireless phone usage can lead to cancer or a variety of other health effects, including headaches, dizziness or memory loss.”

FCC, Office of Engineering and Technology, RF Safety FAQs, <http://www.fcc.gov/oeet/rfsafety/rf-faqs.html#Q6>