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Sunshine Community Resident/Concerned Citizen

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

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PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION

Case Number 2023-00296

September 27, 2023

Dear Executive Director,

I am writing this letter in protest of the application for the proposed construction of the Cloverfork Wireless Communication Facility by New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC doing business as AT&T Mobility and Tillman Infrastructure LLC, Case Number 2023-00296. The address of the site is 227 Industrial Park Road, Harlan, Kentucky 40831. I have several concerns about the tower.

My understanding is this facility is to improve the cell signal in the area around downtown Harlan. Now, the proposed site will not help in its current location due to mountainous terrain. The Public Service Commission is tasked with looking at "the general area concerned and the likely effects of the installation on nearby land uses and values." KY Public Service Commission, Case No. 2022-00010, May 19, 2023. The proposed site is close to the Sunshine Community of Harlan County

The Fairview section of Harlan will continue to be a dead zone after construction of this tower. The signal from the new facility will be blocked by a mountain and will not reach this area. The proposed tower should be placed to utilize the best signal for the area the tower is serving. Which should be high on a mountain away from any residential community.

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While the U. S. Federal Communication Commission (FCC) claims that wireless facilities are safe, the U.S. Department of the Interior states that "the electromagnetic radiation standards used by the FCC continues to be based on thermal heating, a criterion now 30 years out of date and inappropriate today." See <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/attachments/attachmentViewFile.do?fileKey=587578382&attachmentPath=uls/storage/201409/295285&attachmentExt=pdf&appOrLicKey=7>. Other countries now limit public exposure to far lower than the FCC standards. If exposure isn't safe for wildlife, how can it be safe for residents of Sunshine?

Studies have shown that even at low levels of radiation, there is evidence of biological damage, Brain tumors, cancer, Weakened immune function, childhood leukemia, and ovarian follicles.

In May of 2011 the World Health Organization (WHO) classified the type of radiation from cell towers as Class 2B carcinogenic, which means possible carcinogenic to Humans, the same category as lead and DDT.

An article published by the American Association of Pediatrics states that children may be more vulnerable than adults "because of the potential greater susceptibility of their developing nervous system. In addition, their brain tissue is more conductive, radio frequency radiation penetration is greater relative to head size, and they will have longer lifetime exposure than adults." See <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/16061584/>.

Finally, the health hazards and the unsightliness of these installations will decrease property values. The perceived threat of construction alone would lower property values. Which in turn, means less tax dollars for an already economically distressed county. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines categorize cell towers with "hazard and nuisances," and HUD requires its certified

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appraisers to take the presence of nearby cell towers into consideration when determining the value of single-family residential properties. Studies show that proximity to a cell tower can lower property values from 19% to 20%. See <https://archives.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/ref/sfh-18f.pdf>

This tower should be constructed away from residential areas not just to a community.

Sincerely,



Sunshine Resident and Concerned Citizen