

Appeal Against Proposed Construction of Wireless Communications Facility

REF: DOCKET #2026-00157

To:

Kentucky Public Service Commission
Executive Director
211 Sower Boulevard
P.O. Box 615
Frankfort, KY 40602

RECEIVED

JUL 20 2026

**PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION**

Re: Docket No. 2026-00157 — Proposed Wireless Communications Facility at 9311 Dysart Way, Crab Orchard, KY 40419

Date: 22 June 2026

Introduction

I am writing to formally oppose the construction of the proposed 250-foot wireless communications tower by APC Towers IV, LLC and Cellco Partnership (Verizon Wireless) near my property. While I recognize the importance of reliable telecommunications, the proposed facility poses significant risks to property values, public health, wildlife, and the natural landscape of Crab Orchard.

1. Impact on Property Values

Numerous studies have demonstrated that proximity to cell towers negatively affects residential property values.

- A study published in *Urban Studies* (Bond & Wang, 2005) found that homes within visible range of telecommunication towers sold for **up to 9% less** than comparable properties farther away.
- Research in *Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics* (Jackson, 2011) confirmed that perceived health risks and aesthetic concerns contribute to **reduced marketability and buyer hesitation**.

Given the tower's height and visibility, homeowners within the 500-foot radius will likely experience depreciation in property value and difficulty selling their homes.

2. Health Concerns for Humans and Animals

Although regulatory agencies maintain that radiofrequency (RF) emissions from towers are below safety thresholds, emerging peer-reviewed evidence suggests potential biological effects from chronic exposure.

- The *Environmental Research* journal (Yakymenko et al., 2016) reviewed over 100 studies and found **oxidative stress and DNA damage** associated with prolonged RF exposure.
- *Bioelectromagnetics* (Panagopoulos et al., 2015) reported **reproductive and behavioral changes in insects and birds** near high-frequency transmitters.
- The *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* (Belpomme et al., 2018) highlighted **neurological symptoms and sleep disturbances** in populations living close to base stations.

These findings warrant precaution, especially given the tower's proximity to residential and agricultural areas.

3. Environmental and Ecological Impact

The proposed site lies within a rural ecosystem that supports diverse wildlife.

- Studies in *Ecotoxicology* (Balmori, 2014) and *Nature Conservation* (Cucurachi et al., 2013) indicate that electromagnetic radiation can **disrupt bird navigation, pollinator activity, and plant growth**.
- Construction of large towers also leads to **habitat fragmentation**, soil compaction, and potential runoff contamination during installation.

Such disturbances could irreversibly alter the local environment and biodiversity.

4. Aesthetic and Scenic Degradation

Crab Orchard's landscape is characterized by rolling hills and open skies — features that define its rural charm. A 250-foot steel structure would be **visually intrusive**, diminishing the area's scenic value.

- Research in *Landscape and Urban Planning* (Sullivan et al., 2004) found that tall communication towers significantly reduce **perceived landscape quality** and **community satisfaction**.
- The tower's lighting and height will dominate the skyline, conflicting with the region's natural and historical character.

5. Alternative Solutions

Rather than constructing a new tower, Verizon Wireless could explore:

- **Co-location** on existing structures to minimize environmental disruption.
 - **Small-cell technology**, which provides coverage with lower visual and ecological impact.
 - **Community consultation** to identify less intrusive sites or shared infrastructure options.
-

Conclusion

In light of the documented effects on property values, health, wildlife, and the environment, I respectfully request that the Kentucky Public Service Commission **deny the application** for the proposed tower at 9311 Dysart Way. The long-term costs to residents and ecosystems far outweigh the marginal improvement in wireless coverage.

Sincerely,

Benny Burchett

1248 Fort Harrod Way

Crab Orchard, KY 40419

