

York Mills Valley Association

PW27.10.16

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Item: PW27.10 Telecommunications - Authority to Permit the Installation of Stand-Alone Antenna Poles

2013 DEC 13 AM 8 10

York Mills Valley Rate Payers Association [YMVA], request that council vote against the proposal to allow <15m cell towers on public-rights-of-way.

We support continuation of the existing policy of:

- specifically **allowing** cell companies to install above-ground structures on non-public rights-of-way; and
- specifically **preventing** cell companies from installing stand-alone, above-ground structures on public rights-of-way.

Structures are ugly and inappropriate for our residential neighbourhoods

The <15 meters towers proposed for public rights-of-way are standalone structures with separate equipment boxes [see attachment 2]. These towers will primarily be deployed in neighbourhoods with underground hydro service and will be an eyesore.

Community concern about the health effects from wireless radiation is growing

Federal safety code [SC6] is out of date. Toronto adopted Prudent Avoidance policy for cell towers in 2002 which is some 100 times lower than SC6. Concerns about the health effects from this radiation has been growing for a long time. In 2011 WHO IARC recommended 2B [possible] carcinogen rating for this radiation. Dr. Anthony Miller, one of Canada's foremost cancer epidemiologists deputed to PWIC on item PW27.10. Dr. Miller told PWIC members that if IARC were to review wireless radiation research today a 2A [probable] classification would be applied [1 is the most carcinogenic rating].

In addition to cancer, high quality scientific studies are showing a relationship between wireless radiation and male fertility, behavioural problems in children, cardiac symptoms and ADD/ADHD/autism in pre-natal exposed children, Electro Sensitivity – among many other important health issues.

Financial implications

Only a small number of these cell towers are likely to be deployed. Rogers estimates 50 such structures in Toronto [likely 200 across Toronto when all cell companies are included]. In other countries, the revenue from these cell towers barely covers the costs of planning/notification/approval over a 2 year horizon.

Rogers Contract is not dependent on approval of these <15m structures

Approval item PW27.10 is not required for Renewal of Rogers Contract outlined in item GM26.8.

Given the lack of public support for these cell towers, City resources could be deployed more effectively elsewhere.

We request that council vote against proposal PW27.10 to allow <15m stand-alone cell towers on public-rights-of-way.