

# Potential Wireless Communication Tower in the City of Cle Elum

May 24, 2019

## **Q: When did the City start talking to T-Mobile about a tower?**

*A: T-Mobile, Vertical Bridge, and SAC Wireless approached the City in 2017 to discuss the potential citing of a wireless communication facility (tower) on City property.*

These communications discussed several potential locations around the City. The potential applicants determined what fit into their coverage area needs and proposed locations to the City. This included assessing 4 other locations before T-Mobile settled on the current location to move forward with their investigations. The others were either too visually impactful to the community and crossed off the list by the city, or did not fit within their range of coverage and crossed off the list by Vertical Bridge. This last fit both visual and locational criteria.

## **Q: Why didn't the City tell them no?**

*A: Federal regulations do not allow Cities to prohibit locating wireless communication facilities within their jurisdictions if there is a gap in the company's service area. This means that since the company had a service gap, they are allowed to come into the City.*

## **Q: What is the public benefit to this proposed wireless facility?**

*A: Since the proposal is on City property, the lease funds and 25% of all rents for co-located carriers (up to 6 possible co-locations) go to the City's general fund, which pays for things like streets, and other infrastructure improvements.*

## **Q: Why are we only hearing about this now?**

*A: Public process to date described below.*

### **Discussed at City Council**

This issue was discussed in the public arena of the Council meetings (10/10/17, 6/12/18, 1/8/19, 3/26/19). Staff attend meetings and communicate with potential applicants regularly.

### **Discussed with concerned citizens (and on social media)**

Last May the Mayor met with a concerned community member who came to City Hall and also posted about a piece of equipment grading on city property. The following press release was sent out as a result:

#### **Potential Wireless Communication Tower within the City of Cle Elum**

May 30, 2018

*Feasibility studies and investigations for a potential wireless communication tower within the City have been taking place over the last year by a private owner and manager of communication infrastructure, including consideration of locating such tower on City property. This was discussed briefly at the October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 City Council Meeting.*

*Should the company determine they would like to move forward and both parties reach agreement, the project will go through the appropriate public process, including environmental review (e.g., SEPA/NEPA) and corresponding public presentations and comment periods.*

*Cities regularly rent out city property for wireless infrastructure. In this way, the location of wireless infrastructure can provide rental income for the City to use for public projects and other governmental functions.*

*Additionally, through negotiations, the City is working with the company to reduce the aesthetic impact of any potential tower upon the surrounding area.*

*For more information, please contact:*

*Lucy Temple, City Planner*

*[lucy@cityofcleelum.com](mailto:lucy@cityofcleelum.com)*

*509-674-2262*

The City received two comments as a result asking about what company was proposing a facility and whether it would impact the view from a property out in the county to the north.

#### **City public notice process**

Application notifications are sent out when triggered by permit applications submitted to the City. The T-Mobile application notification was recently sent out to agencies with jurisdiction and property owners within 300-feet, and noticed in the legal section of the local newspaper, per [CEMC 17.100.110](#).

#### **Future public process and notifications**

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) documentation was sent out 5/14/19 to all agencies with jurisdiction, property owners within 300-feet, and the local newspaper legal section, and is followed by a 14-day public comment period.

The NKC Tribune will print a story on the proposed wireless facility on 5/16/19.

The permitting will be discussed at least one future Planning Commission public hearing (date to be determined), for which another public notice will be mailed and noticed in the newspaper. This hearing will allow another avenue for public comment.

#### **Q: Where can I find more information?**

**A:** *Please check the City website [public notices](#), [City bulletins](#), ask City staff, City Council, Planning Commission, and Facebook for information. The full application and executed lease are posted online in their entirety.*