Proposed addition to Telecommunication Antenna Structures Siting Protocols

Prior to contacting The City to make a submission for a telecommunication antenna structure (as outlined in Section 5.0 of the Protocols), proponents are encouraged to consider the information detailed in the location criteria set out in subsections 4.1 and 4.2 below.

4.1 Location Criteria for Developed Areas

The placement of telecommunication antenna structures in developed areas often raises concerns about aesthetics, property values and exposure to radio frequency electromagnetic fields created by these installations.

With respect to aesthetics and property values, Section 7.0 of the Protocols encourages proponents to consider the use of disguised and camouflaged antenna structures wherever possible. The City has also provided options regarding preferred built forms as a means to reducing the visual impacts telecommunication antenna structures may have on a community or neighbourhood.

Regarding health and radiofrequency (RF) exposure issues and limits for telecommunication antenna systems, these elements are regulated by Health Canada's Safety Code 6 guidelines. Health Canada's position is that there are no human health effects as long as the guidelines are followed.

The City of Calgary has neither the authority nor the medical/biological research expertise/capability to assess or evaluate any submission for telecommunication antenna structures with respect to RF and health issues. However, the Protocols do provide guidelines for separation distances between residential uses (dwellings) and proposed telecommunication antenna structures (see subsection 7.6 of the Protocols).*

4.2 Location Criteria for New/Greenfield Areas

For locations within the city that have not yet been developed, proponents are encouraged to select sites for the placement of their telecommunication antenna structures prior to development taking place. The City promotes this course of action so that those purchasing properties in these new developing areas will be able to make informed decisions based on an understanding of where initially telecommunication antenna structures are likely to be installed.**

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*Note: These separation distances are not based on any medical or scientific requirement, evidence or verification.

**Note: This should not be construed to mean that telecommunication antenna structures will be confined to these locations only. Changes in technology and increased demand for cellular phone service and data streaming may require additional sites in the community that cannot presently be determined.

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Accordingly, The City has established the following lists of preferred and discouraged locations for telecommunication antenna structure placement in these new communities, as follows:

a) Preferred Locations

- Incorporated into community landmark or entranceway architectural features
- Industrial and commercial areas
- Transportation and Utility Corridors
- In close proximity to similarly-scaled structures
- Some Institutional uses where appropriate, including, but not limited to, those institutions that require telecommunications technology, i.e.: colleges and universities
- Appropriate or innovative architectural features within developments
- Other non-Residential areas considered appropriate by The City of Calgary
- Within or adjacent to parks, green spaces, golf courses and other recreational parcels, preferably incorporated into light standards for ball parks or parking areas

b) Discouraged Locations

- Close proximity to residences (see subsection 7.6 Residential Development Setback Guidelines)
- Ecologically significant natural lands
- Riverbank lands
- Sites of topographical prominence
- Heritage areas
- Heritage structures (unless forming an integrated part of that structure's overall design through the use of camouflaging or other hidden stealth structures, features and forms)
- Pitched roofs (unless screened or housed to hide the antenna array)
- Proximity to schools (towers should be no closer than 100 metres away from the nearest portion of a school building or the nearest portable classroom, whichever is closer to the proposed installation)