QWEST Wireless L.L.C. – RPC-008A Use On Review Application (Major Amendment)

PROPOSAL SUMMARY INFORMATION

Site No:

RPC-008A

Applicant:

QWEST Wireless L.L.C.

E. 12310 Mirabeau Parkway Spokane, Washington 99216

Preparer for Applicant:

Kevin Galik

Tetragenics

E. 12310 Mirabeau Parkway Spokane, Washington 99216

(509) 979-3815

Property Owner:

Rushmore Electric Power Co-Op

Request:

Use On Review Major Amendment

Location:

1715 Cambell Street

Rapid City, SD 57701

Zoning:

GC

PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

Use on Review Application No. 01UR052 was approved with stipulations by the Rapid City, City Council on Oct. 15, 2001. The approval allows Qwest Wireless to co-locate their antennas for the purpose of telecommunication on an existing communication tower owned by Rushmore Electric of Rapid City, South Dakota.

Rushmore Electric as the property owner and Tetragenics / Qwest as the applicant, are applying for a Major Amendment to the Use on Review Application No. 01UR052. We are requesting to have the following stipulation waived: 3.) That a six-foot fence shall be installed surrounding the tower within 30 days of installation of the antenna.

Rushmore Electric is requesting to have the above stipulation waived for the following reasons:

- 1. The communication tower was legally installed a number of years ago without a requirement to install a fence.
- 2. Rushmore Electric insisted that Qwest install their equipment panel in the back of the building to eliminate any additional negative visual impacts of the proposed project, therefore, a fence is not needed.
- 3. The existing area around the tower is landscaped and maintained yearly, thus is visually pleasant.
- 4. There has never been any incidents of vandalism or injuries associated to the existing tower.
- 5. The installation of a fence would result in a negative visual impact for the property owner and the surrounding community.

Tetragenics / Qwest is requesting to have the above stipulation waived for the following reasons:

- 1. The requirement to install a fence around a commercial or private telecommunication tower is not in the Rapid City Telecommunication Code.
- 2. The existing tower without the fence has never posed a threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Rapid City South Dakota.
- 3. Rushmore Electric will terminate the lease agreement with Qwest Wireless if the condition is not removed, therefore, Qwest Wireless would be forced into applying for a Use on Review Application to build a new tower within the targeted area.

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CONCLUSION:

To simply put this into perspective: Qwest was required to apply for a Use on Review Application to install stealth antennas on an existing communication tower, which resulted in absolutely no negative visual impacts on the community. The existing tower without a fence has never posed a threat to the health, safety and welfare to the citizens of Rapid City; therefore, the fence is not warranted due to the fact that it does not camouflage any additional equipment and would not protect residents from any fabricated danger that one may propose, due to the new installation.

Furthermore, Rushmore Electric will terminate the lease agreement with Qwest if the fence stipulation is not waived, therefore, Qwest would be forced to acquire a new site and apply to build a new tower. It is the policy of Qwest and Rapid City to co-locate rather than build new; therefore, we are requesting approval of this Major Amendment.