



February 2, 2012

The Honorable Mayor Sam Kooiker  
Rapid City Council Members  
300 Sixth Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear Mayor Kooiker and City Council Members:

I am contacting you as the designated representative of landowner Golden West. In December of 2011 we submitted a request for Initial and Final Commercial Development Plan to allow a satellite dish antenna to be placed north of our building at 3840 Tower Road. This site currently has a communication building and a lattice tower on it – all surrounded by an existing chain-link fence. The dish antenna is needed (in this specific location relative to existing equipment and existing telecommunication infrastructure) to supplement existing communications facilities. More precisely, the antenna is needed for data transmissions, (high speed broadband via satellite) that are a vital part of the communication industry serving the growing needs of both businesses and individual consumers.

On January 5, 2012, and with the recommendation of staff, our request was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission by a vote of 10 to zero. At that meeting, one of the neighboring landowners across the road to the west expressed concerns regarding screening of the existing chain-link fence as well as the proposed “bump out” of the fence that will enclose the antenna (see yellow-shaded area on attached map). This gentleman cannot see the site from his home but does drive by it. After the meeting we met with that neighbor and agreed to provide additional landscaping to screen the view of the proposed dish antenna from Tower Road and a portion of the existing chain-link fence along Tower Road.

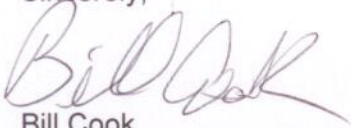
Shortly following the approval by Planning Commission and our discussion with the neighbor regarding the landscaping screen, Cathy Koch, an individual who lives north of our property, requested an appeal of the approval to the City Council. Ms. Koch did not appear at the January 5<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting although she did receive notice from me as early as November of 2011 and she did receive certified notice of the hearing two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting. It is our understanding that she did submit a letter of opposition to our request on the same day that the planning commission meeting was held.

Since her appeal, I have spoken with Ms. Koch numerous times regarding her concerns of obstruction of view. Her residence is located approximately eight hundred (800) feet north, and lower in elevation, than the proposed dish antenna. Furthermore, we (Golden West) spent an entire morning utilizing helium balloons to demonstrate the proposed height and location of the antenna.

In addition, and per the enclosed revised landscape plan, where we agreed to now place six (6) large ponderosa pines (minimum of 10' in height at planting) along the ridge and north of the antenna to help screen her view. The attached photograph A shows the current view from Ms. Koch front yard looking south west as it exists today. Photograph B shows the current view contrasted with the projected view once all landscaping is in place. As you may note in the attached photos, the proposed antenna presents a significantly lesser profile than the existing, and long standing, towers in this area.

We believe that we have been sensitive to the concerns expressed by Ms. Koch and have provided more than adequate screening for the proposed antenna. It is our sincere hope that you will support the recommendation of staff and the Planning Commission and approve our request. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Cook".

Bill Cook  
Manager-Wireless Services  
Golden West Telecommunications  
(605)721-1050 Desk  
(605)209-6790 Cell

Attachments (3)