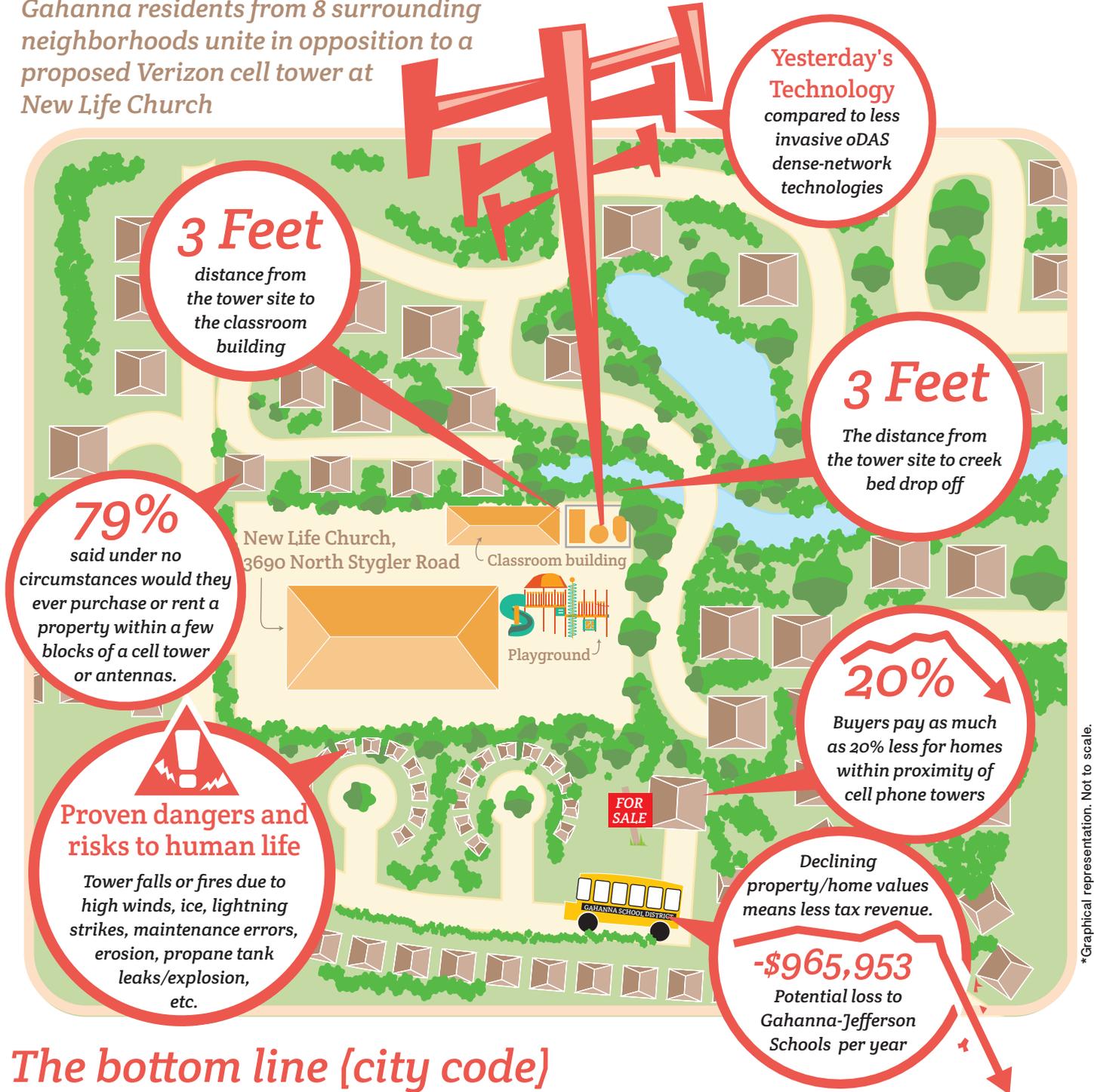


# The view from 120 feet

Gahanna residents from 8 surrounding neighborhoods unite in opposition to a proposed Verizon cell tower at New Life Church



## The bottom line (city code)

**1122.01 PURPOSE.** The City Zoning Ordinances are established with the purpose of promoting and protecting the public health, safety, comfort, convenience and general welfare of the people.

**1122.02 IMPLEMENTATION.** (c) To zone all properties with a view to conserving the value of buildings and encouraging the most appropriate use of land throughout the city. (d) To protect residential, business, commercial and industrial areas alike from harmful encroachment by incompatible uses and to ensure that land allocated to a class of uses shall not be usurped by other uses inappropriate to the class.

**1154.01 PURPOSE AND INTENT.** It is recognized that institutions such as schools, churches and public administration buildings have special needs and land use requirements [...] A primary intent shall be to ensure compatibility of use between the institutions and surrounding uses.

## The following sections of City Code are relevant to our objections to the proposed tower location.

---

### **Gahanna code stands to protect residents...**

#### **1122.01 PURPOSE.**

The City Zoning Ordinances are established with the purpose of **promoting and protecting the public health, safety, comfort, convenience and general welfare of the people.**

(Ord. 62-82. Passed 7-6-82.)

### **Gahanna code guards against cell towers in inappropriate locations...**

#### **1122.02 IMPLEMENTATION.**

The fulfillment of this purpose is to be accomplished by seeking:

(a) To encourage and facilitate **orderly, efficient and appropriate growth and development.**

(c) To zone all properties with a view to **conserving the value of buildings and encouraging the most appropriate use of land** throughout the City.

(d) To **protect residential, business, commercial and industrial areas alike from harmful encroachment by incompatible uses** and to ensure that **land allocated to a class of uses shall not be usurped by other uses inappropriate to the class.**

(f) To **foster a more rational pattern of relationship** between residential, business, commercial and manufacturing uses **for the mutual benefit of all.**

(Ord. 62-82. Passed 7-6-82.)

### **The proposed location does not meet the intent of land classification assigned to New Life Church property in relation to residential neighbors on all sides...**

#### **1154.01 PURPOSE AND INTENT (Restricted Institutional District).**

It is recognized that institutions such as schools, churches, and public administration buildings have special needs and land use requirements. [...] A primary intent shall be **to ensure compatibility of use between the institutions and surrounding uses.**

(Ord. 10-2002. Passed 2-4-02.)

**The requests by the applicant do not meet any of the 3 requirements of Gahanna's "Variances" section of code.**

**1131.04 PUBLIC HEARING.**

At such hearing the **applicant shall present a statement and adequate evidence**, in such form as the Planning Commission may require and the **Planning Commission shall not grant a variance unless it finds that all of the following conditions apply to the case in question:**

(a) There are special circumstances or conditions applying to the land, building or use referred to in the application.

(b) The granting of the variance is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of substantial property rights.

(c) The granting of the application will not materially affect adversely the health or safety of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the proposed use and will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to property or improvements in such neighborhood.

(Ord. 0150-2011. Passed 8-1-11.)

## Cell Towers Do Not Belong In or Near Residential Areas

As a matter of policy, **cell towers should never be placed in a residential neighborhood** – particularly in a single family residential neighborhood where families reside for long periods of time and the **health risks from the cell towers and ancillary sources are classified as a “Class 2 B Possible Human Carcinogen” based on increased brain cancer rates**; where their largest personal asset is the home whose value is put at risk; and where the natural environment is such an important component of property value.

Upon researching similar suburbs to Gahanna, the following is a testament to protection of residential districts:

City of Hilliard: Code 1140.03(c)(1): Wireless towers must be 1,000 feet from nearest residential use or district.

City of Dublin: Code 99.05(B): New towers are not permitted in Rural and Residential Zoning Districts, nor, in Suburban Office and Institutional; Neighborhood Commercial.

City of Worthington: Code 1179.04(k): Prohibited in residential districts.

## Zero Fall Zone is Irresponsible and Dangerous

**Variance 1181.07 creates the following concerns given that the real distance between the tower and Sunday school building/classroom is only a few steps and the preschool and playground area of the church are approximately 170 feet.**

- 1) **Human Risks** – along with safety concerns, we believe that it is fair game to include health in this discussion because New Par includes a health-related exhibit (Exhibit O) therefore neutralizing the 1996 directive.
  - a. **Safety** – Tower falls and/or fires due to ice, high winds, water erosion, lightning strikes, maintenance errors and propane leaks/explosions are a real concern with cell towers with published data to support. The immediate proximity to a Sunday School building for children, playground and homes is irresponsible and places the city in an undesirable and risky position of future liability claims.
  - b. **Health** – Perceived health issues are real; actual health issues are beginning to be documented now that cell towers have been in existence for a period long enough to gather data. That the International Association of Firefighters has prohibited them on fire station locations due to health risks is enough for us.
- 2) **Neighborhood nuisance** issues as in evacuations relating to cell tower fires; note the Grandview, OH cell tower fire in July 2014 that forced evacuations. Gahanna Code section 1122.02 is to provide this for its residents: “to ensure that land allocated to a class of uses shall not be usurped by other uses inappropriate to the class.”

## Incomplete and Misleading Application

### Variance 1181.08 - Submittal Requirements

**Nowhere in the application is a need defined or discussed relative to this proposed location.**

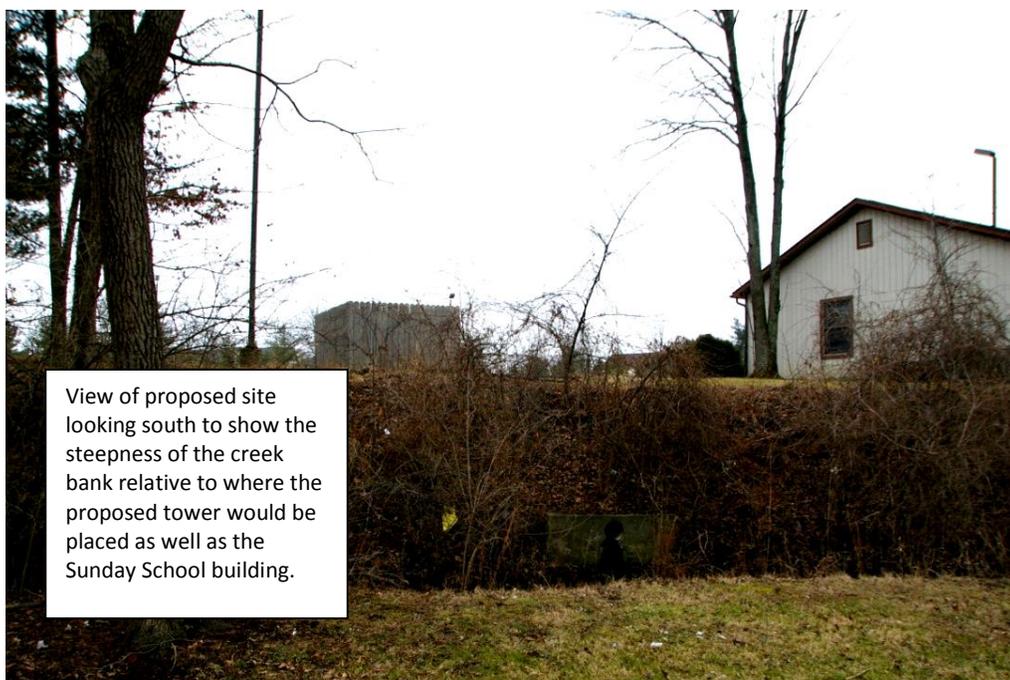
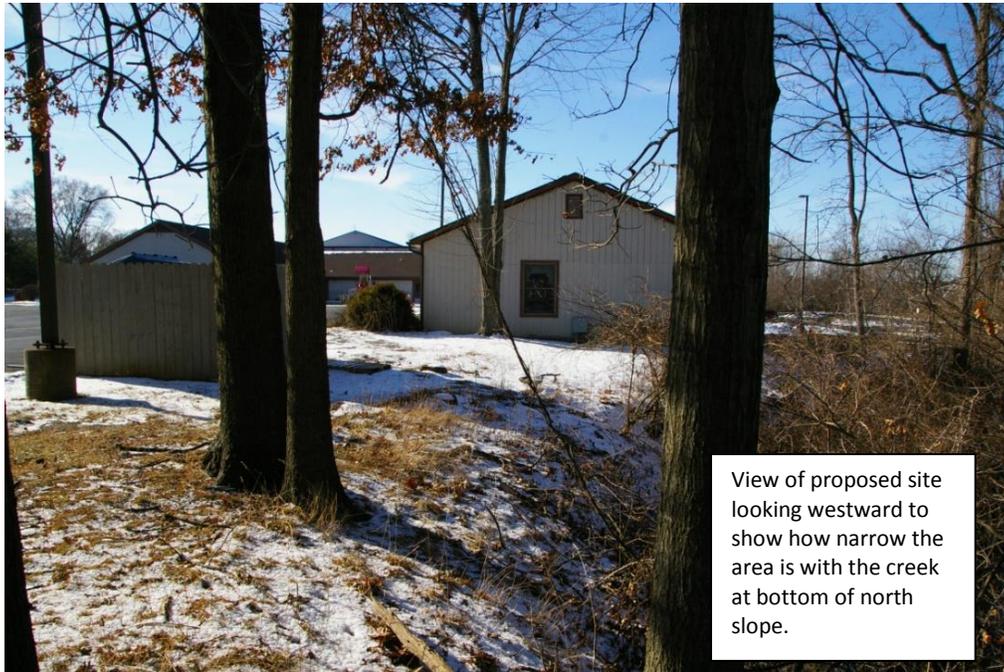
The only references used are unrelated national statistics, none for Columbus or 43230.

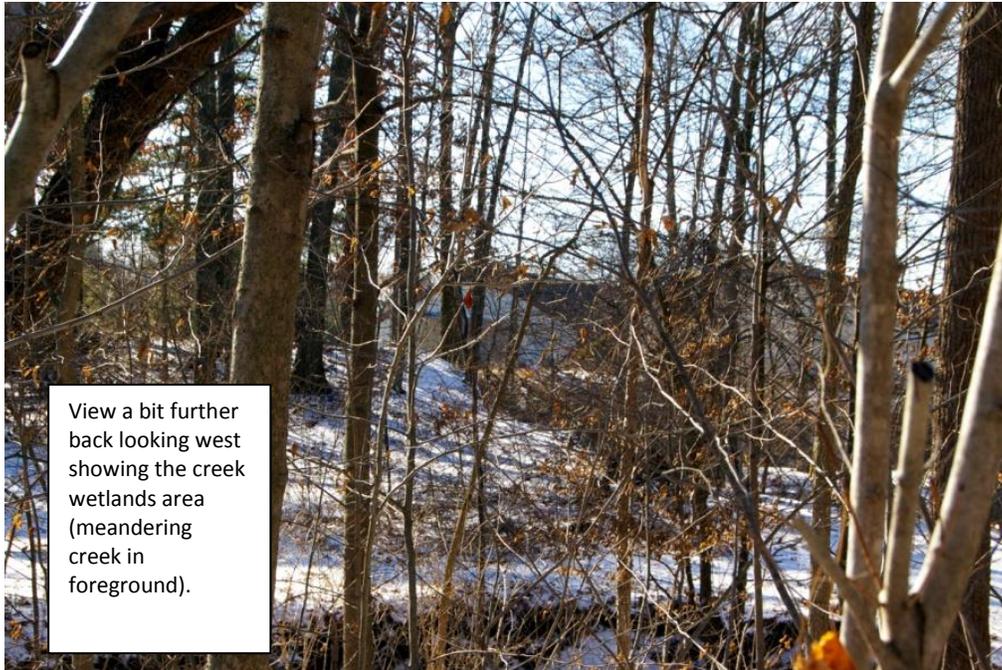
- There are 12 existing towers owned and controlled by New Par within 4 miles of the proposed site. Three towers are within 2 miles which create the desired “triangle” that New Par says is desirous. See Exhibit titled “Existing Cell Towers within 5 Miles of New Life Church”.
- Note that New Par did not include their newest tower at 215 Johnstown Rd in Exhibit J.
- There are 21 towers within 3 miles of the proposed location. Nowhere in the application did they state that space is not available on any of those towers.
- The Verizon website proudly displays 100% sold coverage maps within the 43230 area. See Exhibit Verizon Website Coverage Maps printed from the Verizon site.
- Exhibit G: Sabre Communications Corp provided a Spec list stating the supposed “fake branching” would begin 57’3” from ground level. The number of branches is listed at 13 over the remaining height of the 120’ tower. The photo simulations provided in the applications grossly diminish the true height and appearance of this 120’ tower compared to the 30’ parking lot light pole and highest 45’ neighboring tree. A visit to the proposed site helps to understand the true proportions compared to Verizon’s misleading “Photoshop” simulations.
- Exhibit I is the FCC Station Authorization listing. In 9 pages it lists sites all over Ohio. However, nowhere is the site at 3690 Stygler Road listed.
- Exhibit J is supposed to be a Radio Frequency Need Report for New Communications Facility. The exhibit lists national statistics, trends in telecommunications, and baseless assertions about different types of technology.
- On page 5 they include a graphic that is supposed to show network service gaps, but it does NOT include a legend or a date of creation. Given that it directly contradicts what is currently on the Verizon website as well as a map given to a 43230 resident at the Easton Verizon store in Jan 2015, one could assume that it dates back to 2002 or earlier.
- On page 6 they state that “there are no existing communication towers located within the area where a new facility must be located to correct the service gap in this area of Gahanna.” Why isn’t there a letter to the owner of the tower on Agler Road near I-270 requesting co-location? It is certainly in the area.
- Exhibit O Alternate Site Analysis Report did not provide the “potential impact of the facility on neighboring properties” (page 7) for our review.
- Exhibit O Alternate Site Analysis Report – Environmental Due Diligence states that a Phase I was performed but not included in the application despite saying on page 9 of the Exhibit that “there are wetlands in the area.”
- The tower is being built on the edge of a steep bank of a tributary creek to Big Walnut Creek. How are we to know that the bank can support this massive structure – especially after the creek rises and saturates the supporting earth?

## Is It Prudent to Build a Cell Tower On a Creek Bank?

**Variance 1181.20 relates to Screening and Landscaping.** The application disregards this section as they believe it is in a parking lot. **One** of four sides touches a parking lot (the south side). A mere 30' or so to the north is a steep creek bank that is a tributary to Big Walnut Creek and runs through Creekside Park.

The effect on the creek bank and creek have not been investigated nor addressed and should not be allowed to be put at risk. Following are pictures of the area which in the spring and summer would be lush with plants, including a native Ohio fern that grows along the creek bed:





The application states that a 6' fence will be erected around the tower mechanicals

- How will the propane tank be safe guarded from potential fire, falling ice and other environmental dangers that could enter and affect the creek?
- Refer to Exhibit P (Generac Sound Analysis) to see in Note 3 that the sound tests were conducted on an asphalt surface in "free field" conditions. Reality is that a fence, building and homes will be in close proximity (causing sound reflection). This type of testing may be appropriate in a commercial zoned rural area, but not a residential area.

### **No Compelling Case to Allow Variance to Gahanna Code**

The subject application approached the proposed tower with the simplistic methods that may be fine in a commercially zoned area where nature is not a factor; people come and go so long term thinking isn't necessary; and property values are created using a 3 method appraisal with income production as the primary valuation – not market value.

The application itself does not make the beginning of a compelling case of need. It does not entertain the use of co-location on an existing tower. It does not explore new technology that can provide the phantom need without public nuisance. It provides misleading photo simulations. It promotes multiple dangers to surrounding buildings, homes and families. It provides no benefit for the city of Gahanna or its residents and puts at risk public health, safety, comfort, convenience and general welfare of the people. It is against Gahanna Code.

On a recent visit (January 12, 2015) to the Verizon Wireless store in Easton at 3985 Morse Crossing, we asked management for a report of Verizon coverage strength in our area. They assured us that Verizon has the best coverage available of all carriers available and provided us this legend showing there are no existing coverage gaps in our area. They pointed out we have 100% coverage, the best available, all the way up to Verizon's 4G LTE offering. The address used for this legend is 140 yards from the proposed New Life/Verizon tower location.



## Verizon Wireless Printer Friendly Coverage Map

Mapped Coverage  
4G Data Coverage

Mapped Location  
225 Stonegate Cir  
Columbus, OH  
43230-7034



### Map Legend

-  Verizon 4G LTE \*
-  Verizon 4G LTE Extended \*\*
-  Verizon 3G
-  Extended 3G
-  Canada/Mexico 3G
-  No Service
-  VZW Store

In 2012, in order to secure the Johnstown Road site, Verizon representative Bob Grant claimed that was the only possible location to complete their needs in Gahanna. Therefore, there is no need for the New Life Church tower.

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## Proposed cell tower draws location doubts

By MARLA K. KUHLMAN

Wednesday February 29, 2012 11:46 AM

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The Gahanna Planning Commission wants assurance alternative sites have been thoroughly investigated for a new Verizon Wireless cell tower before voting to allow one at 215 W. Johnstown Road.

Commission members Feb. 22 postponed an application request to construct a 120-foot monopole cell tower for a workshop that has been set for March 21.

Commission member Kristin Rosan said she would like to talk to Verizon's site-acquisition representative about the process.

"I'm not satisfied we searched alternative sites enough," commission member Don Shepherd said. "Before I say yes to a site, I want to make sure other sites were considered and negotiated. If you took the easy way out, that's not good enough."

Bob Grant, attorney for Verizon Wireless, said the business worked hard to comply with the city's code.

"We tried to find the least intrusive site in the community," he said.

The new tower is needed because there's a capacity gap in Gahanna for Verizon users, Grant said.

"During peak hours, folks are experiencing call blocking," he said. "With a land line, it would be like a busy signal."

Verizon real estate manager David Minger said service is blocked during peak times as a result of the volume of simultaneous users.

"There are blocked calls instead of dropped calls," he said. "The capacity has gaps because we have a lot of users."

According to Grant, Verizon's team scoured the community looking at every area for placement of the tower.

"At the end of the day, there was only one location to correct the service needs in your community," he said.

The 120-foot monopole with five-foot antenna looks like "a light pole on steroids," Grant said. The tower would be located on a 2.7-acre parcel in a 60-by-31-foot leased area of property. An eight-foot tall wooden fence would be built around the structure.

Area residents spoke against the cell tower with concerns it would create an eyesore and result in decreased property values.

Terry Duris owns apartments near the proposed site.

"I represent 150 people who live in the apartments," he said. "This would be in their direct line of sight. Imagine your view from your living room."

Duris said the tower would be a detriment to new business and could "chase away" current tenants.

"If the tower goes up, the one thing that will attract your attention will be a mammoth tower on the edge of our yard," he said.

Terry Andrews, of the Stonehenge Co., 147 N. High St., said the proposed location by a residential area is totally inappropriate.

Several Creekside Green condominium owners and a representative from the neighboring Sunrise Lodge 783 also spoke against the proposed tower location.

Comments

Login or register to post a comment.

UPDATE PROFILE (CONTINUE)

lets see who wins...the money or the mouths

## Real Estate Values & Perceptions

### *Negative Impact on Home & Property Values*

A study entitled "[The Impact of Cell Phone Towers on House Prices in Residential Neighborhoods](#)" found that buyers would pay as much as 20 percent less for homes within proximity of cell phone towers. Using this model, the home values in the neighborhoods surrounding the proposed cell phone tower at New Life Church could be negatively affected in the amount of \$4.9 million. Consequently, this would also negatively impact the tax collections for the Gahanna area. Based upon this same calculation, Gahanna-Jefferson Schools could **lose \$965,953 per year**, Mifflin Township could **lose \$306,822 per year**, and the City of Gahanna could **lose \$52,199 per year**. This data is all based upon current information available via the Franklin County auditor.

### *Negative Impact on Comparative Values -- "Comps"*

Unfortunately, the impact doesn't stop just at the numbers listed above. When home values decrease, it can have a ripple effect on the entire city and surrounding communities. One of the main components of the home appraisal process is comparing the subject home to comparative homes in the area (up to 2 miles for a standard comparison, even further for comparatively unique properties). These comparative properties are more commonly known as "comps".

Consider the following scenario:

A cell phone tower is constructed in a single family residential area, and home values in surrounding communities are negatively impacted by 20%, and sales of these homes represent a downward trend in values. Later, a home in another neighborhood is getting ready for sale. The buyers are getting an appraisal on the single family residence as part of the sales process. In the appraisal, the appraiser cites two homes that are located in the vicinity of the cell phone tower, and thus, the comparative values are much lower than would be expected. As a result, the appraised value of the home for sale is much lower than expected, and the sellers are forced to sell the home for a discount to meet the buyer's demands. Since actual sales value will then represent the appraised value of the home for tax purposes, city revenues are impacted negatively as a result of this downward movement.

### *Perception is Reality*

Inevitably, Verizon will present many arguments and "studies" to refute any and all citizen objections to their proposed project. They have a massive team of corporate attorneys that do nothing but this one thing for a living. They do not care about our home values, our neighborhoods, or our concerns...as long as they can get their project approved, as it represents a multi-million dollar opportunity to sublet tower space to other carriers. They will coyly say *"It's going to be fine guys ...you have nothing to worry about"*. **But there's one thing that Verizon cannot control, and none of their studies address, and that's public perception. Like the stock market, real estate is not about data, it's really about public perception.**

- Regardless of whether or not Verizon's studies show that cell phone towers pose negative health effects to our children, people think it, and therefore it is true.
- Regardless of whether or not Verizon's studies show that their cell phone towers pose fire risks due to the high possibility of accidents, people see reports of these accidents on news reports, and therefore it is true.

- Regardless of whether or not Verizon's studies show that property values will decrease due to the placement of their cell phone tower, people are afraid of it, and therefore it will happen.

The National Institute for Science, Law, and Public Policy (NISLAPP) recently conducted a survey entitled "[Neighborhood Cell Towers & Antennas -- Do They Impact a Property's Desirability?](#)". The results are astounding, and represent a very clear view of where public perception sits on this issue.

- The overwhelming majority of respondents (94%) reported that cell towers and antennas in a neighborhood or on a building would impact interest in a property and the price they would be willing to pay for it.
- 79% said under no circumstances would they ever purchase or rent a property within a few blocks of a cell tower or antennas.
- 89% said they were generally concerned about the increasing number of cell towers and antennas in their residential neighborhood.

Moreover, and to the point of public perception, the Appraisal Journal added the following statement:

**"Even buyers who believe that there are no adverse health effects from cell phone base stations, knowing that other potential buyers might think the reverse, will probably seek a price discount for a property located near a cell phone base station."**

## Emergency Calls are Guaranteed without a new Cell Phone Tower

### *Compliance with E-911*

Verizon, like all carriers and even private entities in the United States, is required to comply with the mandates of the E911 (Enhanced 911) program. This program, in addition to providing additional location data for emergency services to determine where an emergency is occurring, also requires a guarantee of some amount of "reserved capacity" in order to facilitate emergency calls. In other words, Verizon must guarantee that a certain portion of their bandwidth is always available for emergency calls.

### *Quality of Service (QoS)*

In addition to the E911 initiative, Verizon also configures QoS in their mobile network. QoS (Quality of Service) is a protocol whereby voice & data packets in a network are prioritized by importance. Voice packets always receive elevated priority over data packets because as opposed to data packets, voice packets cannot just be delayed and retried later. In other words, you can't just show a spinning wheel on a voice conversation due to its real-time nature. In almost all QoS configurations, emergency calls are prioritized at the very top level. Thus, any emergency call placed would have priority not only over regular voice calls, but also any data activity that is current occurring on the network.

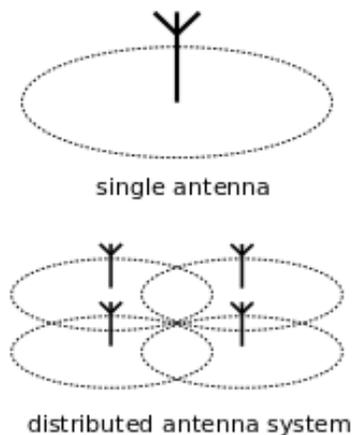
The combination of these two things results in an almost-certain guarantee that if you have at least one bar of wireless signal, you can make an emergency call. The Gahanna Police Dept. agrees. At a recent informal meeting with a group of residents, Bob Grant tried to use irrational "fear mongering" by suggesting (with no evidence) that 9-1-1 calls may not be assured

completion without a new tower and that he would not mind a tower being built right next to his home if it would protect his grandchild. Bob's assertion about "safety" is only applicable if his granddaughter were located somewhere where there was absolutely NO cellular coverage. Otherwise, network protocols ensure that emergency voice calls are always available.

## Outdoor Distributed Antenna Systems (oDAS)

### *Description of Technology*

The industry defines a DAS as "a network of spatially separated antenna nodes connected to a common source via a transport medium that provides wireless service within a geographic area or structure." (<http://thedasforum.org/>) Instead of having larger, high-powered antennas emitting from a single, tall cell tower, a group of small, lower-powered antennas are mounted atop existing utility poles throughout the coverage area (as shown in the illustration to the below left). The photograph to the below right shows such an antenna mounted on top of a standard utility pole.



### *Why use a Distributed Antenna System?*

There are several key benefits to the use of a Distributed Antenna System vs. a traditional single large cell phone tower.

1. Utilizing a Distributed Antenna System would eliminate the concerns regarding impacts to property values and downstream tax revenues.
2. The antennas would be located away from the New Life Church location on Stygler Road. This would eliminate the concerns that have been raised related to a potential health risk for young children.
3. It would avoid the construction of a Verizon cellular tower "disguised" as a ludicrous 120-ft tall evergreen tree in Ohio in the middle of residential neighborhoods. The antennas of a DAS would blend in with the existing utility poles and barely be noticeable.
4. Each antenna's power output would be much lower than the larger single tower solution, thus minimizing health risks for the greater community.

### *Why wouldn't Verizon want to utilize a DAS in Gahanna?*

There are probably several reasons that Verizon has not proposed using DAS technology instead of a traditional cell phone tower. Some of these possible reasons include:

1. Verizon generates big profits from leasing space on its cell towers to other cell phone companies, which it could not generate from a DAS. In fact, Verizon would probably recoup a significant portion of its construction costs of the cell tower in addition to collecting monthly rental payments from the collocated cell phone companies.
2. Verizon may have covert aims of filling coverage gaps completely outside of the Gahanna area with this proposed cell tower. DAS would only eliminate gaps in their coverage for the immediate area in which the DAS is installed.
3. Installing a DAS would require Verizon to lease space on utility poles from the local utility company. This means that the potential profit center of the large cell tower would not exist; instead Verizon would be forced to focus only on coverage expansion.

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## Cell tower catches fire in Grandview

Tuesday July 15, 2014 12:16 PM

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Fire and police crews responded about 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 15, to Anderson Field at Bobcat Stadium in Grandview Heights after one of its light poles caught on fire.

The fire began while a crew from Sprint was upgrading a cell tower located on top of the light pole, according to an email blast issued by Superintendent Andy Culp.

Culp reported the area was immediately cleared and secured while police and fire personnel were in route and the district quickly shut off power to the stadium to stop the fire. No staff or students were injured in the incident.

The police and fire departments closed the football field and parts of Fairview Avenue.

These areas will remain closed until the safety of the light pole is confirmed or it is dismantled.

Officials from Sprint were on the scene July 15 to assess the light pole, Culp reported.

### Comments

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## Cell phone tower catches fire in Grandview

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WBNS-10TV • Tuesday July 15, 2014 10:58 AM

Comments: 0

74

9

254

Black smoke poured from a cell tower and light pole in Grandview Heights this morning.

The fire was reported before 10 a.m. in the 1400 block of Fairview Avenue.

The pole held lights for the football field as well as cell phone equipment.

Fairview Avenue was closed between 3rd and 5th avenues while emergency crews were on the scene.

Homes within a one-block radius of the school were evacuated.

Officials on the scene said all activities outside of the school were canceled for the day.

No injuries were reported.



REQUEST TO BUY THIS PHOTO

WBNS-10TV

Evacuations were ordered this morning after a fire at a cell phone tower in Grandview Heights.

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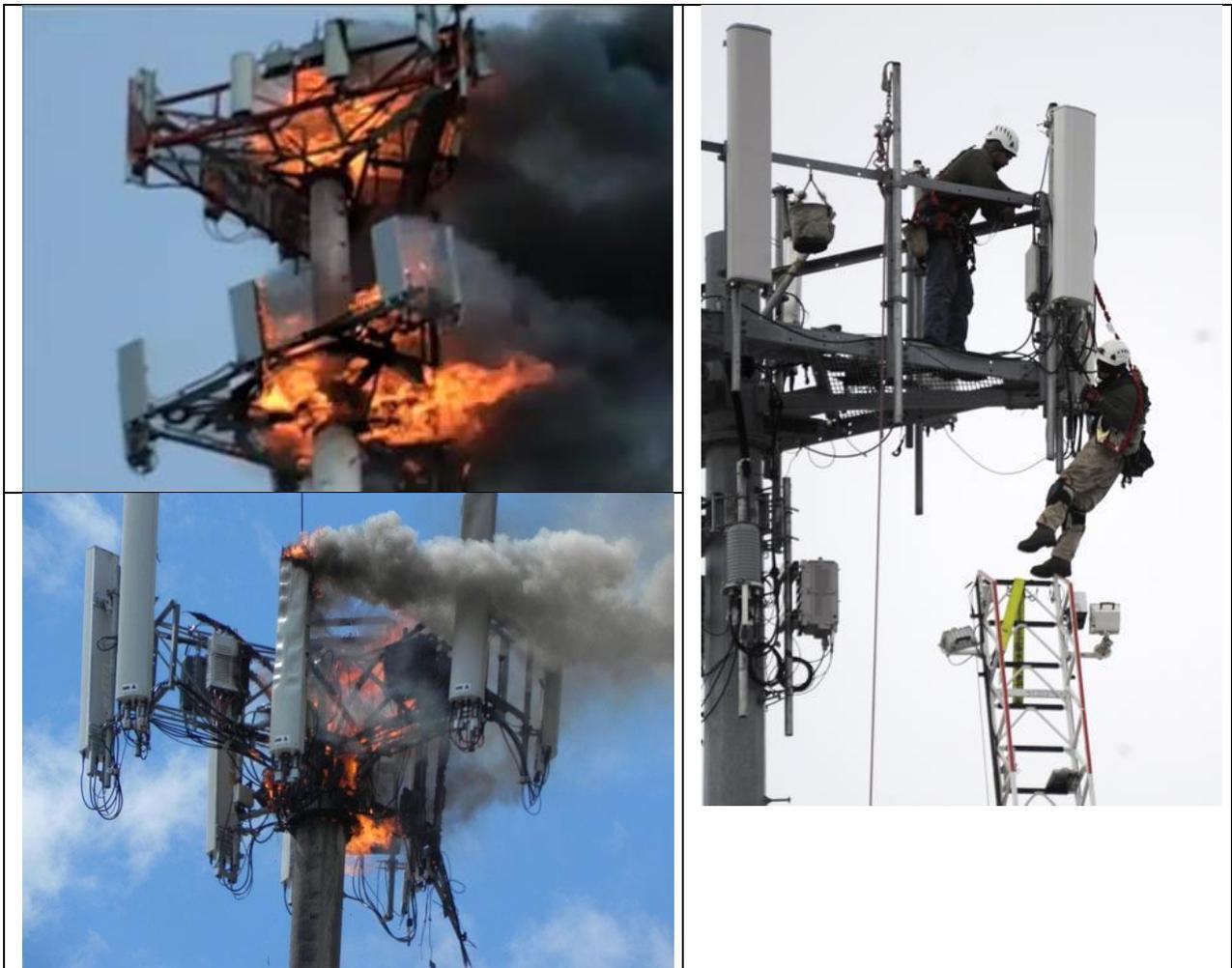
# Safety Hazards

Fire Risk; Collapse Risk; Crime; Truck/Maintenance Traffic

- Cellular phone antennas have snapped and caused severe fires.
- Towers have also collapsed due to construction error, ice and wind, aircraft and anchor failure.
- Routine maintenance has lead to fires, and high winds have toppled poles.
- Cell Towers attract crime, vandalism, vagrancy, suicide attempts, and are a leading cause of occupational falls.

Kids and neighborhood people could get hurt.

Sample images:



## Cell phone tower catches fire in Grandview, OH

July 15, 2014 (*WBNS-10TV*)



Homes within a one-block radius of the school were evacuated.

## Cell tower fire near Thurston High sends up smoky plume

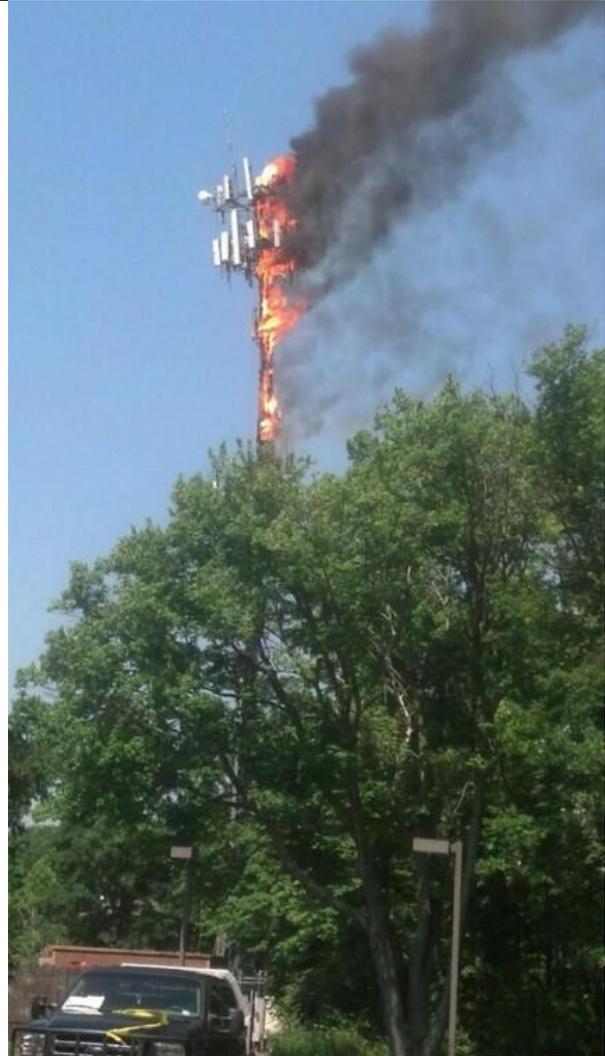
Sep 13, 2014 (*ABC 9 News*)



A cell phone tower caught fire near the Thurston High School softball field.

# Bensalem Philadelphia Cell Tower Fire

June 21, 2013 (NBC 10)



A fire on the insulation and wiring started when workers were welding on the top.

## Collapsing tower



## Other dangers: Falling Debris

- El Paso TX, Decorative Frond Falls From Palm Tree Cell Phone Tower, slices through man's car. (2012)  
<http://www.kvia.com/video/Decorative-Frond-Falls-From-Palm-Tree-Cell-Phone-Tower-slices-through-man-s-car/17445784>
- St. Peters, MO, residents raise safety concerns about new cell phone tower: Debris coming in every storm. (2014)  
<http://www.kmov.com/news/st-charles-county-news/St-Peters-residents-raise-safety-concerns-about-new-cell-phone-tower-246722471.html>
- Crescenta Valley, CA, Debris fall off cell tower onto residence. (2014)  
<http://www.crescentvalleyweekly.com/news/02/20/2014/att-withdraws-cell-tower-application/>



**A Cell Tower caught on fire on Route 9 in Wellesley, MA. (Jan 2009)**

The fire began when welders were working on the base of the tower.

The fire burned for about 20 to 25 minutes, said Wellesley Police Sgt. Glen Gerrans. **The tower collapsed before firefighters, who were waiting for power to be cut, could begin putting out the fire.**



Videos taped from different angels.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yN\\_KU4lmg00](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yN_KU4lmg00)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cT5cXuyiYY>

## Health Risks

**The WHO (World Health Organization) has classified the radiation cell towers emit as a Class 2 B Possible Human Carcinogen based on increased brain cancer rates. (2010 publication: WHO Research Agenda for Radiofrequency Fields)**

*The AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) strongly supports H.R. 6358's emphasis on examining the effects of radiofrequency (RF) energy on vulnerable populations, including children and pregnant women.*

*The BRAG™ Ranking is the result of a multi-year study of school children's potential exposure to cell phone antennas and base stations in U.S. state capitols (April 2010). The BRAG™ Ranking report recommends school, school districts, municipalities and states call upon the FCC for a ruling that requires a **1,500 feet setback for any/all wireless infrastructure near schools.***

**Scientists of the World Health Organization** International Agency for the Research on Cancer EMF Working Group in 2011 **are stating that "SAFETY IS NOT ASSURED."** "The IARC 2B classification implies **an assurance of safety that cannot be offered**—a particular concern, given the prospect that most of the world's population will have lifelong exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields." - Dr. Jonathan Samet, physician and epidemiologist, Chair of the World Health Organization's EMF Working Group who made the Class 2 B classification.

**The EPA, which participated in FCC's exposure standard setting, explains the limitations and uncertainty of the FCC's adopted standard in protecting human health:** 2002 EPA, Radiation Protection Division letter re: limitations of FCC RF radiation exposure guidelines:

[http://www.emrpolicy.org/litigation/case\\_law/docs/noi\\_epa\\_response.pdf](http://www.emrpolicy.org/litigation/case_law/docs/noi_epa_response.pdf)

*I believe it is correct to say that there is uncertainty about whether or not current guidelines adequately treat nonthermal, prolonged exposures (exposures that may continue on an intermittent basis for many years). The explanation that follows is basically a summary of statements that have been made in other EPA documents and correspondence....*

*The FCC's current exposure guidelines, as well as those of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, are thermally based, and do not apply to chronic, nonthermal exposure situations....The FCC's exposure guideline is considered protective of effects arising from a thermal mechanism but not from all possible mechanisms. Therefore, the generalization by many that the guidelines protect human beings from harm by any or all mechanisms is not justified.*

*...The exposure guidelines did not consider information that addresses nonthermal, prolonged exposures, i.e., from research showing effects with implications for possible adversity in situations involving chronic/prolonged, low-level (nonthermal) exposures. Relatively few chronic, low-level exposure studies of human populations have been reported and the majority of these studies do not show obvious adverse health effects. However, there are reports that suggest that potentially adverse health effects, such as cancer, may occur. Since EPA's comments were submitted to the FCC in 1993, the number of studies reporting effects associated with both acute and chronic low-level exposure to RF radiation has increased.*

#### **US Department of the Interior:**

"The electromagnetic radiation standards used by the Federal Communications Commission continue to be based on thermal heating, a criterion now nearly 30 years out of date and inapplicable today..."-Willie Taylor, Director of the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance of the US Department of the Interior

**International Association of Fire Fighters, AFL-CIO**, oppose the use of fire stations as base stations for towers and/or antennas for the conduction of cell phone transmissions-- **IAFF members are concerned about the effects of living directly under these antenna base stations for a considerable stationary period of time and on a daily basis. There are established biological effects from exposure to low-level RF/MW radiation.**

<http://www.iaff.org/hs/Resi/CellTowerFinal.htm>

**Study of populations near cell tower base stations conducted by Santini et al. (2002). Results indicated increased symptoms and complaints the closer a person lived to a tower. They also called for infrastructure not to be sited <300 m (~1000 ft) from populations for precautionary purposes.**

[http://www.emrpolicy.org/science/research/docs/santini\\_ebm\\_2003.pdf](http://www.emrpolicy.org/science/research/docs/santini_ebm_2003.pdf)

**New study: Important review of the biological effects for those living near antennas: "Biological effects from exposure to electromagnetic radiation emitted by cell tower base stations and other antenna arrays," by Blake B. Levitt and Henry Lai**, published in Environmental Reviews, a journal of the Canadian National Research Council. Received 30 April 2010. Accepted 6 August 2010. Published on the NRC Research Press Web site at er.nrc.ca on 5 November 2010:

**New study finds "an increased prevalence of adverse neurobehavioral symptoms or cancer in populations living at distances less than 500 (1500 feet) meters from base stations in 80% of the available studies,"** by Khurana et al. (2010), "Epidemiological Evidence for a Health Risk from Mobile Phone Base Stations"

**New peer-reviewed study finds adverse health symptoms increase for**

those living closer to cell tower, and current exposure limits do not provide adequate protection, by Horst Eger and Manfred Jahn (Feb 2010):

English-language version:

<https://sites.google.com/site/nocelltowerinourneighborhood/home/horst-eger-manfred-jahn-study-feb-2010> (translation to English by Katharina Gustavs)

**Study documenting adverse health effects for those living near mobile base stations (cell towers) recommends stations should not be less than 300 meters (900 feet) away from populations.**

**Study finds adverse health symptoms for people living 500m (1500 ft) within cell phone towers:** "Mobile phone base stations and adverse health effects: phase 1 of a population-based, cross-sectional study," by Blettner M, et al, published in Occup Environ Med, Feb. 2009:

[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19017702?log\\$=activity](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19017702?log$=activity)

**Study shows health effects from living near cell phone base stations:**

"Subjective symptoms, sleeping problems, and cognitive performance in subjects living near mobile phone base stations" by Hutter HP, et al, published in Occup Environ Med, May 2006: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16621850>

**Study finds more cancers among population living within 350m of cell phone transmitter station:** "Increased incidence of cancer near a cell-phone transmitter station," by Ronni Wolf, MD and Danny Wolf, MD, International Journal of Cancer Prevention, April 2004.

### ***HEALTH EFFECTS OF CELL TOWERS – EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES***

**G. Abdel Rassoul et al.** Neurobehavioral effects among inhabitants around mobile phone base stations. 2006

**A. Bortkiewicz et al.** Subjective symptoms reported by people living in the vicinity of cellular phone base stations. 2004

**Lena Hillert et al.** Prevalence of self-reported hypersensitivity to electric or magnetic fields in a population-based questionnaire survey. 2002

**H.-P. Hutter et al.** Subjective symptoms, sleeping problems, and cognitive performance in subjects living near mobile phone base stations. 2006

**Klaus Buchner and Horst Eger.** Changes of Clinically Important Neurotransmitters under the Influence of Modulated RF Fields—A Long-term Study under Real-life Conditions. 2011

**Emad F. Eskander et al.** How does long term exposure to base stations and mobile phones affect human hormone profiles? 2011

**Ronny Wolf and Danny Wolf.** Increased Incidence of Cancer Near a Cell-Phone

Transmitter Station. 2004

**Neil Cherry.** Childhood cancer incidence in the vicinity of the Sutro Tower, San Francisco. 2000

### **More results on exposure to cell tower transmissions**

- Adverse effects have been noted for significant increases for all cancers in both men and women living near broadcast towers (Henderson and Anderson 1986)
- Childhood leukemia clusters (Maskarinec et al. 1994; Ha et al. 2003; Park et al. 2004)
- Adult leukemia and lymphoma clusters, and elevated rates of mental illness (Hocking et al. 1996; Michelozzi et al. 2002; Ha et al. 2007)
- Elevated brain tumor incidence (Dolk et al. 1997*a*, 1997*b*)
- Sleep disorders, decreased concentration, anxiety, elevated blood pressure, headaches, memory impairment, increased white cell counts, and decreased lung function in children (Altpeter et al. 2000)
- Motor, memory, and learning impairment in children (Kolodynski and Kolodynski 1996)
- Nonlinear increases in brain tumor incidence (Colorado Department of Public Health 2004)
- Increases in malignant melanoma (Hallberg and Johansson 2002)
- Nonlinear immune system changes in women (Boscol et al. 2001).
- Children living near TV and FM broadcast towers (emitting the same kind of radiation as cell towers) had more than twice the rate of leukemia than children living more than seven miles away. (2006)
- People living within 300 meters of cell antennas reported the following disorders: “fatigue, sleep disturbances, headaches, feeling of discomfort, difficulty concentrating, depression, memory loss, visual disruptions, irritability, hearing disruptions, skin problems, cardiovascular disorders and dizziness.” (2003)
- Cancer rates more than tripled among people living within 400 meters (1,312 feet) of cell phone towers or antennas. (2004)
- High incidences of cancer, brain hemorrhages and high blood pressure within a radius of 400 yards (1,200 feet) of tower site. (2007)
- Risk of cancer quadrupled among people living within 350 meters (1,148 feet) of a cell phone transmitter—and seven out of eight cancer victims were women. (2010)
- Within 350 meters of cell phone antennas there was a 300% increased incidence of cancer among men and women and a 900% cancer increase among women alone. (2004)

## Endangering Wildlife

- **The Department of Interior** charges that the FCC standards for cell phone radiation are outmoded and no longer applicable as they do not adequately protect wildlife....**Cell tower radiation has had negative impacts on the health of migratory birds and other wildlife.** (2014)
- **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Concerns Over Potential Radiation Impacts of Cellular Communication Towers on Migratory Birds and Other Wildlife** -- “Congressional Staff Briefing on the Environmental and Human Health Effects of Radiofrequency (RF) Radiation,” House Capitol 5, Washington, DC ; by A. Manville, USFWS (2007)  
*“Documented impacts of communication towers on migratory birds; Recent European research discoveries regarding towers and radiation impacts to resident and migrating birds, other fauna (esp. bees).”*
- A review of the ecological effects of radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (RF-EMF) Environment International Volume 51, January 2013, Pages 116–140  
*A Review of 113 studies from original peer-reviewed publications. RF-EMF had a significant effect on birds, insects, other vertebrates, other organisms and plants in 70% of the studies. Development and reproduction of birds and insects are the most strongly affected endpoints.*
- Loss of migratory birds at communication towers is estimated at 4-5 million annually. Potentially impacted resources include 90 bird species which are threatened or endangered and 124 non-game species of management concern. U.S Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Two hundred forty one bird species are at mortality risk from both tower collisions and from exposure to the radiation towers emit. This includes birds that are endangered or threatened, Birds of Conservation Concern, migratory birds, and eagles. (2014)
- A. Balmori (2003) provided USFWS preliminary research from Valladolid, Spain, showing strong negative correlations b/w levels of tower-emitted microwave radiation and bird breeding, nesting, and roosting in vicinity electromagnetic fields.
- Radiation studies at cellular communication towers were begun circa 2000 in Europe and continue today on wild nesting birds. Study results have documented nest and site abandonment, plumage deterioration, locomotion problems, reduced survivorship, and death (e.g., Balmori 2005, Balmori and Hallberg 2007, and Everaert and Bauwens 2007).