

From: Paul Patterson
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2004 9:04 AM
To: Carol Folkman
Subject: FW: Alternate site proposal for Nextel Cell Tower.

Importance: High

-----Original Message-----

From: Steve Wheeler [mailto:SWheeler@berlinwheeler.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2004 4:48 PM
To: Paul Patterson (E-mail)
Subject: Alternate site proposal for Nextel Cell Tower.
Importance: High

February 11, 2004

Mr. Paul Patterson
Planning Department
City of Lawrence

Dear Mr. Patterson,

My name is Stephen Wheeler. I reside in Lawrence at 1992 Pecan Valley Court. I am opposed to the proposed Nextel Cell Tower site at the Clinton Water Treatment plant. My concern is this could create a "Cell Tower Farm" at a location where there is, to the best of my knowledge, anything in writing that puts a limit on just how many more Cell Towers could be located here in the future. I think that it would serve the City well to spread these towers out for aesthetic reasons. I am writing today to offer an alternative site that I believe will be of benefit to all parties involved.

At the January 28th Planning Commission meeting the representative for Nextel presented a map showing a "circle of preference" to determine a cell tower location. I'm not sure if those were his exact words but I think that's what he meant. Anyway, he went on to say that they had decided to propose to the Planning Department to locate their cell tower next to the existing tower (Voice Stream) as it was a short distance away. I didn't catch it at the time but the CITY OWNED ITC building complex was inside that "circle of preference" drawing location! The ITC's street address is 4820 SW 15th Street. I did some checking into this location and I think the city could be better served if the ITC location could be studied as an alternative location for Nextel's Cell Tower. The ITC property is zoned industrial, the ground elevation is close to that of the Water Treatment plant and the Cell Tower could provide "on site" communications uses for the ITC facility. Yes, there are 115kV transmission lines that cross the property but I was advised by Greg Roy of Westar Energy that the "Blanket Easement" is 100' across or 50' out from the center markings between their poles with no over-hang allowance. Using Mr. Roy's verbal description of said easements and my ground level site observations of the ITC location, I believe that it could be quit possible to locate Nextel's cell tower next the ITC building within the easement requirements of both the City and Westar Energy. It would be similarly situated as is the tower that's located outside the Joint Judicial Center downtown. Now I'm not suggesting putting it in the middle of the parking lot but placing it a few yards to the east of the Northeast corner of the ITC building. There's a service driveway to the north of the parking lot that the cellular companies could use to gain access to their equipment. I have attached two aerial photos of both the Clinton Water Treatment site and the ITC building complex showing boundary lines and elevations.

Again, I firmly believe this could be a win-win location for all parties, including the citizens of Lawrence. I would ask that the City Commissioners please give consideration to sending this back to staff for further evaluation before final approval is granted for the Clinton Water Treatment Site.

Sincerely,

Stephen G. Wheeler
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