

28 October 2020

Honorable Mayor Linda Tyer
Pittsfield Community Development Board
Pittsfield City Councilors

Dear Mayor, Board and Councilors:

I am a public health physician and former Dean of the School of Public Health at the University at Albany. I am also the Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Bioinitiative Report (www.bioinitiative.org), a web-based encyclopedic review of the adverse human health effects caused by excessive exposure to radiofrequency (RF) electromagnetic fields (EMFs). For a number of years I worked for the New York State Department of Health prior to my move to the University at Albany and served as the spokesperson for New York on issues related to EMFs.

Residents of Pittsfield have requested that I write concerning the operation of a newly constructed cell tower in a residential neighborhood. This is extremely unwise, and its operation is going to increase the risk of several different and serious disease among the people who live nearby. These diseases have been reviewed carefully by Levitt and Lai (Environ Rev 18:369-395: 2010). They include an increased risk of cancer (Egar et al., Umwelt-Med Gesell 17L 42004: 2004), altered hormones (Eskander et al., Clin Biochem 45: 157-161: 2012) and development of the syndrome of electro-hypersensitivity, characterized by headache, fatigue, “brain fog” and ringing in the ears (Baliatsas et al., Sci Total Environ 565: 714-720: 2016).

The evidence for harm from cell towers is made much stronger based on a recent report from the Ramazzini Institute in Italy. They exposed rats and mice to RF EMFs at an intensity similar to what humans would receive if they live near to a cell tower, and found that they developed two types of brain cancer (Falcioni et al., Environ Res 165: 496-503: 2018).

Cell towers should not be placed in residential areas or any other area where people spend prolonged periods of time. Approval of the operation of this tower, with its potential of 48 different antennas, poses significant risk to the health of nearby residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



David O. Carpenter, MD

Director, Institute for Health
and the Environment
University at Albany