

**Collected questions\*\* from neighborhood residents for consultants to address in the study of the impact of the proposed installation of wireless antennas on the water tank in the York Heights neighborhood.**

**Consultant Vetting Questions:**

What are your prior affiliations with AT&T or other wireless companies? Have you previously given testimony on behalf of wireless companies? If so, what was your role and did you ever advise against these companies? When was the last time an impact study was done on 5G (anywhere)? What was your last work on 5G and 4G?

**Theme 1. Radiofrequency Radiation**

**Overall question: What distance is safe, based on concerns elaborated in the below questions and references listed above, for cell antennas and their associated RFR, to be from residences?**

**Antennas and 5G**

- How many carrier antennas will actually be possible on the tower, and how does that affect the RFR at each residence? Also, clarification: how many antennas are actually proposed for the water tower? Smartlink said 6, but in their graph there are 7? (Figure 1 of Smartlink C2 Radiation Emissions Report)

- If 5G is added to the water tower as AT&T has said it would do, would that replace the initial 4G or be added to it? If both, what is the additive effect on radiation exposure in the neighborhood? (was not included in the Sept 1 presentation). What actual amount of RFR would be expected at each address with both 4G and 5G (in addition to percent of max permissible, actual radiation amount)? Where are the measurements in the smartlink table taken from (center of tank or the closest antenna to the home, to closest corner of house or center of house)? (Smartlink C2 Radiation Emissions Report Table 3).

-Will it be possible for the antennas to be switched/ to 5G or otherwise changed without asking the permission of the YWD or town, or asking for public input?

-If the antenna percent of permissible radiation calculations were done using the permissible limits for other countries such as Israel or Belgium (Brussels), Italy, Ireland, would the predicted exposure exceed those limits?

-Will it be possible for the antenna height to be increased, or other changes to antennas made, without asking the permission of the YWD or town, or asking for public input?

-If radiation from cell antennas is safe, why do insurers consider antennas high risk and why are they unwilling to insure for long-term damages from the electromagnetic radiation emitted by these towers? 5G, cell tower radiation, and electromagnetic fields are all repeatedly classified as “high risk” and compared to asbestos in insurance white papers. (See NH Report)

- What effects of RFR might there be on the water supply and/or on the water tank itself?

## **Theme 2.Health**

**Overall question: Should the people of York Heights feel completely confident that these antennas, installed outside of their bedroom windows and nearly in their yards, pose absolutely no health risk to them and their children?**

- What distance is safe for these antennas (4G and 5G) to be from people’s homes (are they safe at the distances in the current proposal)? The NH report recommendation (link above) is for cellular antennas, towers and other wireless technology including 5G to be at least 500 meters from residences.

- What long term safety studies have been done to establish safety of cellular wireless antennas on people living near them, at distances as close as 50ft as is the distance in this neighborhood in relation to water tower, including non-thermal effects of the radiation? What is the length of the follow up of these long term studies? For how long would such studies need to be carried out in order to establish safe distances?

-Why are firefighters opposed to 5G cell towers and small cells being installed on their fire stations, for example in San Francisco? Why is the IAFF firefighter organization opposed to cell towers being installed on fire stations?

-How many children live within 500m of the water tower and the proposed cell antenna installation? What are potential long term effects of RFR on children, who are actively growing and developing? Has the American Academy of Pediatrics stated that long-term exposure to electromagnetic fields (for example from cell phone towers and antennas) is safe for children?

-The International Commission for Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and found that the FCC limits are decades outdated and not protective to the

health of the public, especially not the health of children. Would the location of the proposed antennas on the water tower be within the distance that ICNIRP considers hazardous?

-What current studies are underway to study the health effects caused by 5G?

-How might potential concerns about RF radiation affect York Village revitalization development plans?

Tree workers electrical exposure:

A recent documentation (Fall 2020) of electrocution of tree workers working in close proximity to cell antennas prompted a warning to tree workers in a trade publication.

<https://tcimag.tcia.org/tree-care/beware-the-dangers-from-am-radio-and-5g-transmission-sites/>

-Would the YWD warn tree workers of the electrical hazards in the area of the water tower?

### **Theme 3. Location:**

**Overall question: Are there other sites that could provide service to the Nubble and Southside Rd (areas cited by Smartlink to be served by the water tank proposed antennas)?**

- Is this the optimal location for these antennas in York? Are there other locations not in the middle of a neighborhood that would provide similar coverage, even if those locations would be at higher cost to the cellular company?

- Why are carriers other than AT&T (such as Verizon) able to provide adequate service to their customers in town without putting antennas on this water tower?

- Could an existing tower in another location further from a residential neighborhood be used to place these antennas and provide similar coverage to the Nubble and Southside Road areas?

-Are there other water towers in or near York that are outside of a dense residential neighborhood that could be used to carry these antennas and provide similar coverage to the Nubble and Southside Road areas?

-Are there locations in some towns that just cannot expect to receive strong cell phone service (due to topography, shorelines and cliffs, for example)?

-Some of the locations cited by Smarlink that would benefit from service from these proposed antennas are near the ocean shoreline, such as the Nubble area. Is it possible for antennas to be placed in lower elevation areas (such as the Nubble, York Beaches and York Harbor) in order to directly serve those customers that are difficult to otherwise reach? Explain why or why not.

#### **Theme 4. Real estate**

**Will real estate values for homes in the York Heights vicinity be negatively impacted by the installation of cellular antennas? This is a particularly important question for this 'workforce' neighborhood of teachers, carpenters, nurses, arborists and retirees, for whom this is their only home and likely their only/most valuable asset.**

-Is real estate value affected by safety/health environmental hazard considerations? What impact do potential environmental hazards have on real estate values?

<https://magazine.realtor/daily-news/2014/07/25/cell-towers-antennas-problematic-for-buyers>

-Is the proposed antenna site outside of the fall line for the six antennas with respect to homes located next to the water tower? How close is the closest home to the water tower? Do fall lines take high winds, such as those experienced during hurricanes, into account?

<https://archives.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/ref/sfh1-18f.cfm>

-What studies have been done by the National Association of REALTORS organization and trade publications on cell tower antennas near homes and their effect on real estate values?

-Does the US Department of Housing and Urban Development include appraisal guidelines for properties as a site hazard, including the fall zone for cell phone towers, for example for FHA loans?

- Is exposure to RFR (and the fact that there are cell antennas very close to a home for sale) required to be disclosed during a real estate transaction anywhere in the US, as is the case for hazards like radon?

**Please verify the sources provided at the beginning of this document and submit a summary of the outcomes for the Water District Trustees with recommendations of specific excerpts to read related to the impacts on health (i.e., letters of support from municipality policy links listed below)**

### **Examples of municipalities with ordinances related to 5G and wireless communication installations:**

\* Town of Farragut, Tennessee- resolution to halt 5G until health risks are evaluated.

<https://ehtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Furragut-Tennesse-5G-Resolution-.pdf>

\* Los Altos, California passed an ordinance that prohibits installation of small cells on public utility easements in residential neighborhoods, requires 500 foot setbacks for small cells for multi-family residences in commercial districts, requires a 500 ft separation from schools.

\* District of Columbia (Chevy Chase) resolution opposing 5G technology

<https://anc3g.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/ANC-Resolution-re-Small-Cell-Wireless-9-27-18.pdf>

\* Los Angeles Unified School District banned cell towers on school campuses and set a permissible limit that is 10,000 times lower than the FCC's limit.

Other communities that have passed ordinances to restrict cell antennas near homes and schools include cities in California such as Petaluma, Mill Valley, Malibu, Santa Barbara, Encinitas, Fairfax, Palo Alto, Walnut City, San Diego County and Mason, Ohio.

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\*\*Comment: These are the original questions which varying concerned individuals in the York Heights neighborhood have asked regarding project impact. They are included as originally submitted.