

File: 3220-20
4537 Rocky Point Road

November 18, 2010

Mr. Michael Krenz,
A/District Director
Industry Canada
430-1230 Government Street
Victoria, BC V8W 3M4

Mr. Michael Krenz,

It is our understanding that as one of the primary stakeholders, the District of Metchosin Council has the ability to request that Industry Canada intervene in the consultation process underway for a proposed communications antenna within the District. Council would like to initiate intervention by Industry Canada given the lack of evidence and trust that both the spirit and intent of Industry Canada's consultation procedures will be followed.

It is the District's understanding that Telus is obligated to consult with the District, and more specifically, Council (given that the District does not have an official designated to deal with antenna systems) regarding the current and any future proposed antenna locations. Prior to a October 13, 2010 meeting between Council and Telus, the only contact Telus had with Council respecting the current proposed antenna location at 4537 Rocky Point Road was an emailed copy of the public consultation package (which was addressed to owners, not to Council). A meeting was held between Telus and Council on October 13, but only at the request of the District. At that time, Council identified some of the primary concerns with the proposed location, and offered staff to work with Telus to identify alternate sites in the District, including consideration of municipal owned property. Since that date, Telus has responded to one email from District staff to confirm that the process on the Rocky Point site was proceeding (that Telus was working on responding to community responses and feedback), and that alternatives were being considered. That is the extent of the "consultation" that has occurred on this and any other sites identified or being explored. In short, the only consultation that has occurred to date is in response to requests and appeals initiated by staff and Council. The word "consult" means to seek information or advice, and to have discussions with someone, typically before undertaking a course of action. Seeking Council's advice regarding the Rocky Point Road location prior to submitting the proposal, with the aim of discussing site options (as per the Industry Canada default process), could have

illuminated potential concerns and identified potential sites without the putting Telus in the awkward spot of publicly proposing something that neither the community nor Council supports. Consultation after the fact, although perhaps technically consistent with the established process, comes across as disingenuous, and does little to establish any trust that Council's opinion (and those of the community it Council represents) will be considered.

While we appreciate that the 120-day consultation period is not yet concluded, Council is concerned about how long it should wait before turning to Industry Canada to intervene. Given that Telus has not initiated consultation more than half way through the process, Council is justifiably wary that Telus will honour its requirement to consider site options and to discuss relevant concerns in the remaining two months. Council is therefore requesting Industry Canada to intervene to ensure Telus respects a process that is intended to consider the concerns of the local government, and facilitate the identification and discussion of reasonable alternatives.

Yours Truly.

John Ranns
Mayor

Cc: Darren Hird, Senior Real Estate & Gov't Affairs Manager
Metchosin Council