

4544 Rocky Point Road
Metchosin
Victoria
BC V9C 4E4

18 September 2010

Telus
Darren Hird
4535 Canada Way, 2nd floor
Burnaby, BC V5G 1J9

Ref: Proposed Telecommunications Tower Rocky Point Road, Metchosin

I am writing to express my concern at the proposed siting of a radiocommunications tower at 4537 Rocky Point Road. My home is one that will be directly affected by the proposed location, the base of the tower being within 25 metres of my property. I learned about the proposal from a neighbour and to date have yet to receive information from you about this. I believe that you have a legal duty to inform me of your proposal and you been negligent in this. What information I have received has been second-hand from a neighbour.

Alerted to your proposal I attended a Metchosin Council meeting on Monday 13th September. A number of other concerned residents attended this meeting voiced similar misgivings to mine about the proposed site. At this meeting council passed unanimously a protocol with respect to the siting of communication/transmission towers in the Metchosin district. I trust that you will have already received a copy of this. It lays out some guidelines and calls for a discussion of a siting proposal with council before decisions are made. It seems to me that no such discussions have taken place between Telus and Metchosin council with respect to the current proposed site. Had there been ongoing discussion, even before the present protocol was put in place I am confident that a more suitable location would have been offered rather than the one that is currently proposed.

Let me stress that I am not against improved cell phone communications in Metchosin. I appreciate that we are living in a part of lower Vancouver Island where cell phone communication is unreliable at present. A tower that would improve this makes sense. What doesn't make sense is the location that Telus appears to have set its sites on when there are so many other more appropriate sites. Metchosin, though a rural part of the GVRD has one area where properties of one acre and less are clustered, namely Rocky Point Road between Winfall Road and Kangaroo Road. It includes properties on Morland and Walpole Road. The siting of the tower adjacent to this residential area will impact all of us.

Given some of the concerns by a number of reputable scientists at the long-term health effects on people living close to transmission towers of this type of radio transmission I believe that my unease at having a tower as close as it is to my property and my home are justified. My health is compromised (prostate cancer) as is my wife's (breast cancer). Given the present state of research and the relative newness of this technology science really cannot be certain about the long-term effects there might be and it would therefore seem prudent to take measures that will pose no danger. In Metchosin there is a simple solution to this – to relocate the tower at a site that is well away from permanent residences. There are any number of sites that this would be possible, including the land that is owned by the Knights of Columbus on which you presently propose to erect your tower. The southern section of this is elevated and has some tall trees on it. The siting of a tower there would not only have minimal health impact but also be aesthetically much more in keeping with the rural ambience that is Metchosin.

I am presently a Telus customer and note that a current advertising slogan is "The Future is Friendly". You will understand that the proposal that you are making with respect to this matter does not sit well from the perspective of my neighbours and myself with the term 'friendly'. Indeed it is decidedly unfriendly at present, particularly in some of the arrogance expressed by Telus representatives when our concerns have been raised to them over the telephone. To be addressed as though we are rural hicks who have no idea what we are talking about is both disrespectful and in error.

I am hopeful that it will be possible for Telus to resume its conversation with Metchosin council so that together both may come up with a site for the proposed tower that will satisfy all our concerns. This seems to me to be the friendly way forward in this matter.

Sincerely

Rev Philip Wadham

cc Industry Canada
 District of Metchosin
 John Horgan, M.L.A.
 The Hon. Keith Martin
 Rt Rev Richard Gagnon