



February 16, 2024

Stephen Zdravec, Superintendent
SAU 50
48 Post Rd
Greenland, NH 03840

RE: Responses to School Board Questions dated 1-29-24
Via: Email to szdravec@sau50.org

Hello Steve:

The following, in bold font, are my team's responses to the Rye School Board's list of questions received on January 29, 2024:

1.) What is the proposed distance between the tower and RES?

RESPONSE: Approximately 420'.

2.) What is the proposed distance between the tower and the upper playground?

RESPONSE: Approximately 271'.

3.) What is the proposed distance between the tower and the outdoor classroom spaces?

RESPONSE: Approximately 48'.

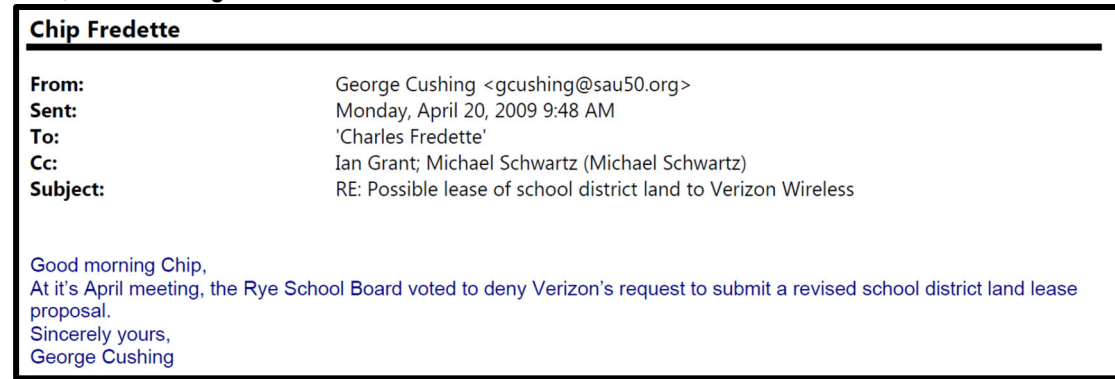
4.) What other parcels exist within Rye's permitted wireless zone that are being considered as alternatives to the Rye Elementary School site?

RESPONSE: The only other property listed in Rye's wireless zoning table that is near VZW's search area is the Rye Congregational Church. Our network design engineer concluded the Congregational Church property is too far south and east to be viable for this project. This coupled by the amount and type of equipment needed for the site render the steeple unusable.



- 5.) What was the basis of the Rye School Board's decision to reject that last application for a cell tower lease in April 2009?

RESPONSE: Unfortunately, we were not given a reason. After several months of discussions and a site walk, the following is the email I received:



- 6.) Can you confirm that Don Haes receives compensation for his work as a consultant for Verizon Wireless?

RESPONSE FROM DON HAES: *"I can confirm I HAVE NOT received compensation for this work as a consultant for Verizon Wireless. My last work for Verizon Wireless directly was November 2022. I would be happy to provide a list of clients over the last 35 years of my consulting."*

- 7.) All of the materials cited by Don Haes is over 4 years old - is there any new research we can reference?

RESPONSE FROM DON HAES: *"Done through 2023; that's 95 International Expert Reviews."* See attached.

- 8.) The North Andover report provided by Don Haes is over 5 years old - is there a more recent example we can reference?

RESPONSE: As stated in my email dated January 17th, the School Board will not have to rely on previous work for another location. Mr. Haes will provide specific work for this particular site.

- 9.) Are there future technical enhancements to 5G tower technology that could cause a change in the radiation levels emitted from the tower?

RESPONSE: It is difficult for any of us to predict what the future holds in terms of technological advancement. That said, VZW will always remain compliant with the EME threshold set by the FCC.



10.) Will these potential changes be monitored, measured and proactively reported to the Rye School Board?

RESPONSE: Verizon has a comprehensive program to ensure that our network functions within the FCC's EME limits. Additionally, any changes to our network infrastructure will be reported in accordance with our lease terms.

11.) Should future revelations, new data or better understanding of radiation levels occur, does the Rye School District have the option to terminate the lease early?

RESPONSE: Should the FCC's threshold for EME exposure change to the point where VZW was unable to comply, as a federal licensee VZW would be forced to shut down its site. If after exhausting all possible remedies to comply with that new threshold VZW still failed to do so, VZW would terminate the agreement.

12.) Final Report on Commission to Study the Environmental and Health Effects of Evolving 5G Technology (RSA 12-K:12-14, HB 522, Ch. 260, Laws of 2019) recommended a minimum of 500 meters or 1,640 feet from any tower to a school. What conclusive evidence can be offered to directly refute these recommendations based on the actual proposed tower technology and radiation output expected from the tower?

RESPONSE FROM DON HAES: Please refer to the following from the FCC...

From the FCC FAQ: <https://www.fcc.gov/engineering-technology/electromagnetic-compatibility-division/radio-frequency-safety/faq/rf-safety#Q16>

ARE WIRELESS CELLULAR AND PCS TOWERS AND ANTENNAS SAFE?

The RF emissions from cellular or PCS base station antennas are generally directed toward the horizon in a relatively narrow pattern in the vertical plane. In the case of sector (panel) antennas, the pattern is fan-shaped, like a wedge cut from a pie. As with all forms of electromagnetic energy, the power density from the antenna decreases rapidly as one moves away from the antenna. Consequently, ground-level exposures are much less than exposures if one were at the same height and directly in front of the antenna.

ARE CELLULAR AND OTHER RADIO TOWERS LOCATED NEAR HOMES OR SCHOOLS SAFE FOR RESIDENTS AND STUDENTS?

As discussed above, radiofrequency emissions from antennas used for cellular and PCS transmissions result in exposure levels on the ground that are typically thousands of times below safety limits. These safety limits were adopted by the FCC based on the recommendations of expert organizations and endorsed by agencies of the Federal Government responsible for health and safety. Therefore, there is no reason to believe that such towers could constitute a potential health hazard to nearby residents or students.

13.) Has Verizon considered other sites within the Rye School district that can meet the 500 meter (1640 feet) recommended distance from the school?

RESPONSE: No. The "Soccer Field" parcel is the only parcel within or even near our search area where Rye permits the "wireless" use.



14.) The proposed revision to the site plan, dated (January 24, 2024), to account for the revised wetland boundary places the tower directly abutting the Rye Elementary outdoor classroom. Given this, are there alternative sites on Rye School District territory that would meet the wetland set back requirements that are not in direct proximity to areas that students regularly use?

RESPONSE: VZW is open to alternate suggestions from the School Board.

15.) Are staff/administration able to contact police from RES in an emergency?

RESPONSE: I will defer to Chief Kevin Walsh for his thoughts on this question.

16.)

A. Does the placement of this tower fit into a larger plan for increasing coverage in Rye? If so, a description of the role of this tower in that plan would be helpful.

VZW RESPONSE: The current project, called Rye 3, NH, is the only project scheduled for Rye at this time.

With their computer modeling, our engineer estimates the following: "Our predictions show that with a CL of 131' at the proposed Rye Elementary school location this site could cover: Along Sagamore up to around Elwyn down to Central Rd off of Wallis Rd. It should provide additional coverage and capacity to the Foss Beach area in addition to the Rye Harbor area. It will also provide better coverage coming from Rt 1 down Lang Rd into Rye.

I can say the inbuilding coverage will improve at the Elementary school. However, there is no guarantee that the Jr High School indoor coverage will improve. Based off distance and CL and clutter, I'd say yes, but there are so many other factors to take into consideration. As a policy, VZW doesn't guarantee in building coverage due to building materials and interference outside of our knowledge."

B. Please describe the subsequent actions required to fully realize the benefits of this tower that will need to be enacted by the town/other parties. Please describe the proposed timeline and viability of these actions.

Should the SAU agree to move forward, the two parties would first execute a lease agreement. This agreement would give VZW the necessary "Right, Title, and Interest" to move forward with permitting. (estimate 2-3 months)

Setting aside any potential wetland setback relief, the plan as proposed would require a Special Use Permit and Site Plan approval by the Planning Board. (estimate 4 months)

After which, VZW would apply for its routine State and Federal Regulatory permits. (estimate 7-9 months)

Once "Regulatory" were complete, and for purposes of designing the tower and foundation, VZW would perform a soils analysis. Around the same time frame, VZW would also apply for a Building Permit. (estimate 3-4 months)



For avoidance of doubt, please know that once the lease was executed, it is VZW's duty to perform all tasks and pay for all expenses associated with designing, permitting, and constructing the site.

17.) How, if at all, will the placement of this tower impact the Lang playing fields (baseball, soccer)?

RESPONSE: In the location as shown on the site plan dated 1/24/24, the tower facility itself will have no negative impact on the baseball and soccer field. However, parents with children participating in sports at this field will have VZW voice and data service. The proposed 12' wide gravel drive will be constructed along the existing wood line. Utilities will be run underground.

18.) How, if at all, will the placement of this tower impact the RES outdoor learning spaces (e.g., the woods that have been cultivated for learning opportunities)?

RESPONSE: Beyond visibility, the facility will have no impact.

19.) Have Rye Elementary School's direct abutters and proximate neighbors been consulted? Have they approved?

RESPONSE: As with every project requiring either ZBA or Planning Board approval, the public (abutters included) will have an opportunity to opine during public hearings.

Sincerely,

Chip Fredette

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Original format of School Board Questions

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