

Public Utility Commissioners,

Telecommunications towers and antennas like the one proposed in Rochester cause grave harm to humans, animals, insects, trees – every living thing. I know because radiofrequency radiation/electromagnetic field (RFR/EMF) technologies severely injured me in early 2023.

RFR/EMF is extremely disruptive to the body's central nervous system. Depending on the type and duration of exposure, I experience a variety of symptoms that range in severity. I get dizzy or have vertigo, experience intense stomach pain, my heart rate increases significantly, my heart goes into an uncomfortable flutter or painful flop, my chest goes numb and then becomes incredibly painful, and my cognitive functioning is hijacked and I can't think clearly or find the right words to use. I have torturous electrical-type shooting, stabbing, crackling, or slicing pains throughout my body. None of this existed for me prior to being severely injured.

We moved to Vermont to get away from toxic RFR/EMF saturation. We chose Vermont because I had lived here before and knew it was not overrun by corporate interests – Vermonters had worked hard to keep it that way. Additionally, the population is small so it seemed unlikely that RFR/EMF pollution would exponentially increase.

Prior to moving to Vermont, we searched the entire state to find a safe, "quiet" location. We researched local power companies to find out how the electric meters were transmitting data to avoid a "smart" electric meter. We contacted local planning commissions to determine if any towers were being proposed or informally discussed in the area to avoid living within three miles of one. We researched the location of antennas and looked at wired cable or fiber optic availability to avoid wireless, cellular, and satellite-based transmissions. We studied the proximity of power lines and electrical substations to any potential home. We also looked at the location of the electric meter and if there was a drilled well on the property to avoid a "smart" water meter. After purchasing our home, we installed a whole-house filter to reduce EMFs within our electrical system, installed shielded ethernet cables, and made other modifications to minimize EMFs. We have done what we can to reduce our exposure.

I've read reports appearing in government archives from the 1950s onward of biological disruption, neurological damage, and disease – all attributable to RFR/EMF exposure. Research has shown that 3-10% of the population are severely debilitated and may have seizures, strokes, heart attacks, or neurological issues (e.g., pain, burning sensations, heart palpitations, etc.); 35% of the population experiences less debilitating symptoms such as headaches, anxiety, fatigue, or nausea. Others may not feel any effects, yet they are still physically impacted and will likely reach their own tipping point as manmade RFR/EMFs increase in the environment. (I didn't notice anything prior to being severely injured either.)

In conversations with individuals who weren't aware they were experiencing RFR/EMF toxicity symptoms, multiple people said that their hands felt like they were burning or

were in horrible pain when they were using their “smart” phones. Others told me they couldn’t put their phones near their chests because it caused them to have heart palpitations and other heart issues. It’s scary that these symptoms are becoming more prevalent.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) was court-ordered in 2021 to review the safety of RFR/EMF technologies based on an extensive amount of research demonstrating physical (biological) harm. Thus far, the FCC has ignored the federal court order; it continues to partner with big telecom at the expense of the people.

Since that ignored court ruling in 2021, I and many others have been injured by these unregulated, hazardous technologies. Many more will be harmed as long as there are no up-to-date safety reviews and protections.

We, the injured, are literally being stripped of our ability to function in society. How many more people have to be severely debilitated before regulatory agencies do their jobs of protecting the public? How long before the FCC acts in the interests of the public?

Being so profoundly affected these last few years has been devastating on many levels: we’ve had to leave our home, move away from family and friends, and contend with some significant hardships. Before the move to Vermont, I had to live, eat, and sleep in an 8x10 space for months because it was the “quietest” part of our 2500sf home. No one should be forced to live like this because of these hazardous technologies.

For the health and safety of Vermonters and the environment, the PUC should deny telecommunications tower and antenna applications until the FCC complies with the court-ordered safety review. This would ensure the adoption of safer technologies for us all. If the PUC continues approving these hazardous telecommunications towers and antennas, Vermont will become saturated with toxic RFR/EMF pollution, more people will suffer great harm, and there will be no safe place for anyone.

Deny the application in Rochester.

Stop approving the toxic telecommunications towers and antennas until the FCC complies with the federal court order.

Sincerely,

Sharon Solomon