Public Consultation Package – Wireless Communications Site

Rogers Site: C6504

Proposed Site Location: 13 Birdsall Lane, Hastings, Ontario

Information received shall form part of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), formerly known as Industry Canada. Public Consultation Process under the Spectrum Management and Telecommunications Client Procedures Circular CPC-2-0-03, Issue 5, and will be collected in compliance with the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act. The information collected will be used solely for the purpose of documenting Rogers' consultation and communicating the results of this consultation, including your comments to the Township of Asphodel - Norwood and/or ISED (formerly Industry Canada) and communicating with you concerning this proposal should that be required.

Prepared by: Spectra Point Inc. – Agents for Rogers Communications Inc.

Saja Elshaikh, Municipal Land Use Planner
saja@spectrapoint.ca
Phone: (647) 447-8548

Wireless Communications Site

Purpose

This information package is an invitation to the public to provide comments regarding a proposed wireless communication installation at an address known as 13 Birdsall Lane.

Introduction

The on-going increase in the use of personal cellular phones and other wireless devices and broadband internet for personal, business and emergency purposes requires the development of new wireless communication infrastructure. Canadians currently use more than 27.6 million wireless devices on a daily basis. More importantly, each year Canadians place more than 6 million calls to 911 or other emergency numbers from their mobile phones.

Rogers Communications Inc. “Rogers” constantly strives to improve coverage and network quality for the sake of their clients. In the recent past, due to subscriber feedback, our Network Planning and Engineering departments have become aware of coverage deficiencies within the general area of Birdsall Line and River Road.

This document outlines the site evaluation and justification process in accordance with the requirements of ISED’s Spectrum Management and Telecommunications Policy, CPC-2-0-03, Issue 5 (Jul. 15, 2014) and provides a description of the system associated with the proposed wireless communication installation on property known as 13 Birdsall Lane.

Background & Coverage Requirement

The selection of a wireless communications site works similarly to fitting a piece into a puzzle. In this case, the puzzle is a complex radio network, situated in a rural setting. Client demand, radio frequency engineering principles, local topography and land use opportunities working in concert with one another direct the geography of our sites.

In order to achieve a reliable wireless network, carriers must provide a seamless transmission signal to alleviate any gaps in coverage. Gaps in coverage are responsible for dropped calls, and unavailable service to clients. Rogers Communications Inc. would utilize the following proposed site location in order to provide high quality network signal for its high speed wireless voice and data network.

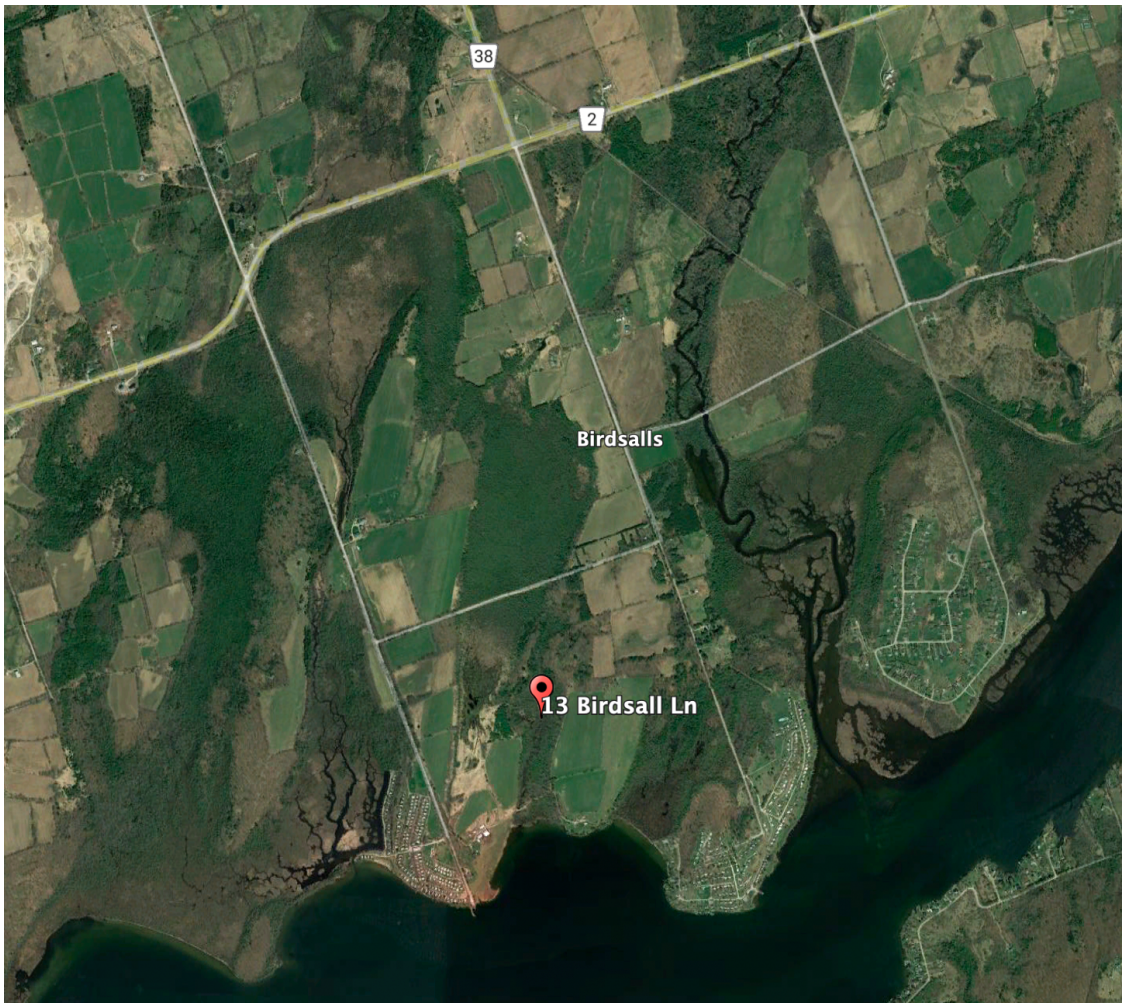
The site as proposed will achieve the necessary engineering coverage objectives for our network. The proposed location will enhance much relied upon communication services in the area such as EMS Response, Police and Fire; will significantly improve our wireless signal quality for the local residents; those traveling along the major roads as well provide local subscribers with Rogers’ 4G wireless network coverage and capacity for products and services such as BlackBerry, iPhone, cellular phone and wireless internet through the Rogers Rocket Stick technology in the surrounding area.

Proposed Site Location

The Subject Property, with an approximate area of 111 hectares, is known as 13 Birdsall Lane.

The geographic coordinates for the relocated site are as follows:
Latitude (NAD83) N 44˚ 16’ 15.5”
Longitude (NAD 83) W 78˚ 03’ 55.9”

Figure 1 – Proposed tower location on the subject property is outlined in an aerial image below.



Proposed Facility Location

The proposed wireless communication structure will be located at the west side of the subject property, approximately 100 metres east of Birdsall Line; and approximately 420 metres south of River Road.

Please refer to figure 2 below showing an image of tower location on the property.

Figure 2

Description of Proposed Facility

The proposed installation for 13 Birdsall Lane is a 91.5 metre Guyed Tower communications structure with associated radio equipment cabinet on cast in place reinforced concrete slab. The installation would occupy a ground compound area 72.2 square metres.

The Guyed Tower design has been used throughout the Township of Asphodel-Norwood and is appropriate considering the area context. The design, construction and installation of the installation will be consistent with the required engineering practices including structural adequacy.

Please refer below for a sample of the installation for your reference (Figure 3). The viewscape provided below simulates the view of the proposed installation from Birdsall Line. The process of simulating the proposed facility into the existing condition of the viewscape was done by superimposing an image of the proposed structure on a photograph taken for that viewscape. The photo simulation is intended to be a close representation of the proposed installation.

Figure 3

Description of Proposed System

Rogers proposes to initially install 3-sectored LTE 700/2100MHz services and future 3 sectored of 3.5GHz technology. The installation will also provide an opportunity to accommodate future technology services as well as other potential co-location with additional licensed carriers helping to further reduce the number of future structures in the area, which is encouraged by the Township of Asphodel-Norwood and ISED.

Rogers makes every effort to minimize the visual impact of our installations. The following are some of the considerations used by Rogers in development criteria of the proposal outlined to minimize the visual profile of the installation:

The proposed site location has been set back from the road to minimize its potential impacts on the community.

- The proposed site location has been set back from the road to minimize its potential impacts on the community.

- The location of the tower on the subject property maximizes the existing rural setting and foliage around the proposed site to mitigate potential visual impacts.

- During construction precautions will be taken to minimize any disruption to the current operation on the site and to the surrounding residents. Once site is in service, there will be no noise associated with the daily operation of the installation.

Co-location Assessment

Rogers Communications Inc. makes every effort to locate cellular sites where they will be the least visually obtrusive and always makes an initial effort to co-locate on existing structures. Apart from being encouraged by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, co-location is one of the cornerstones of Rogers' site development philosophy.

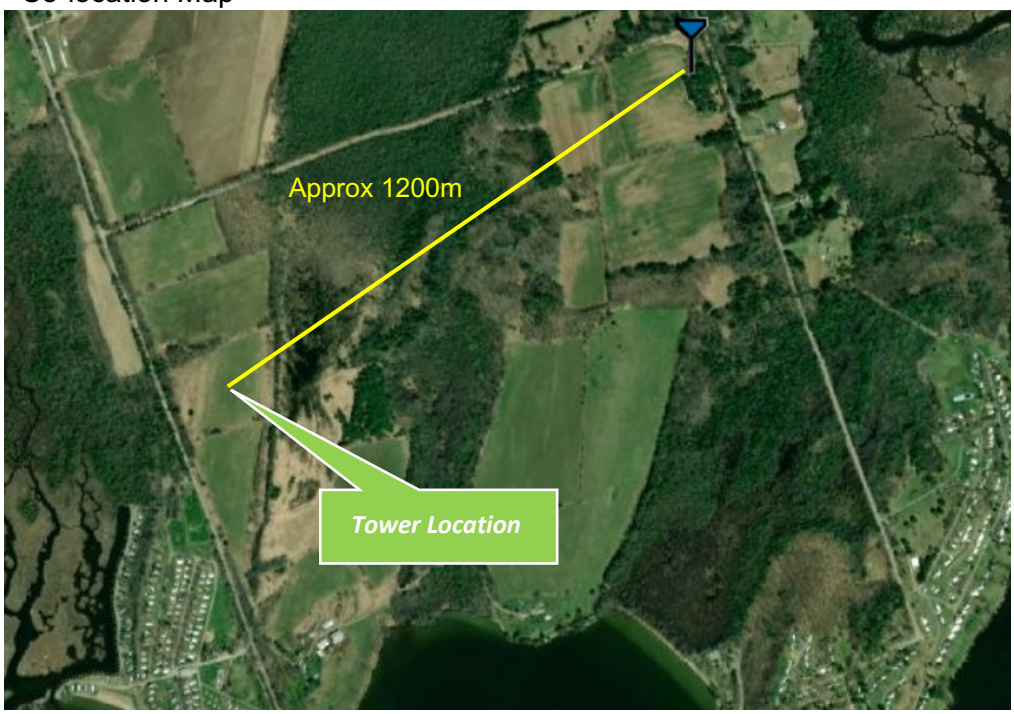
Other potential site locations were evaluated and opportunities to co-locate onto existing structures were investigated. However, the wireless communication structures in the surrounding area that were evaluated are all beyond the distance or below the height required in order to address the coverage deficiencies in the area; are not suitable for our network needs and would not improve our existing signal coverage to the expected quality levels.

As part of our initial site evaluation process Rogers looked for an existing structure in the area, which would be suitable to install antennas. Unfortunately, there are none.

Since there were no suitable structures readily available for co-location to accommodate our network coverage requirements, Rogers Communications Inc. had to consider the construction of its own installation.

A survey of installations in the surrounding area in relation to our proposed site location are illustrated on an aerial shown below - (Figure 4).

Figure 4 – Co-location Map



LEGEND: Blue pin – Bell Mobility Structure

- Bell tower shown 1200 meters northeast of proposed installation is too short and therefore unsuitable.

Proximity to Existing Residential dwellings

The Township of Asphodel-Norwood encourages telecommunications towers to be situated in a manner that maximizes the distance to public uses. Rogers' proposed site location is set on a rural setting and provides a buffer between the existing residential uses surrounding the subject property.

The subject property is 111 hectares (approximately 274 acres) parcel of land, and the nearest residential dwelling is located approximately 850 meters (2789 feet) north of the proposed facility compound.

Control of Public Access

The site facility would include One (1) radio equipment walk-in cabinet with an exterior finish that will blend in with its surroundings on a cast in place reinforced concrete slab 2.4-metre high chain link security fence would be installed around the base of the installation and would include one locked gate access point. The walk-in equipment cabinet (WIC) will contain radio equipment, backup battery power, maintenance tools, manuals and a first aid kit. The installation will also be equipped with a silent alarm system.

Municipal Consultation Process

Rogers Communications Inc. is regulated and licensed by ISED to provide inter-provincial wireless voice and data services. As a federal undertaking, Rogers is required by ISED to consult with land-use authorities in siting antenna locations.

The consultation process established under ISED's authority is intended to allow the local land-use authorities the opportunity to address land-use concerns while respecting the federal government's exclusive jurisdiction in the siting and operation of wireless voice and data systems.

As the provisions of the Ontario Planning Act and other municipal by-laws and regulations do not apply to federal undertakings, wireless communication facilities are not required to obtain municipal permits of any kind. Rogers is however required to follow established and documented wireless protocols or processes set forth by land-use authorities.

The Township of Asphodel-Norwood has developed a protocol for establishing telecommunication facilities in the Township. In fulfillment of the Townships requirements for public notification, Rogers is providing an information package to all those property owners located within a radius of 457.5 metres (1500 feet) tower facility. Concurrent to the mailing of this invitation, Rogers will place a notice in the local community newspaper. A copy of this information package will be provided to the Township of Asphodel-Norwood planning staff and ISED as part of the municipal consultation process.

Federal Requirements

In addition to the requirements for consultation with municipal authorities and the public, Rogers must also fulfill other important obligations including the following:

Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

ISED requires that the installation and modification of antenna systems be done in a manner that complies with appropriate environmental legislation. This includes the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (CEAA 2012), where the antenna system is incidental to a physical activity or project designated under CEAA 2012, or is located on federal lands.

Rogers attests that the radio antenna system as proposed for this site is not located within federal lands or forms part of or incidental to projects that are designated by the Regulations Designating Physical Activities or otherwise designated by the Minister of the Environment as requiring an environmental assessment. In accordance with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012, this installation is excluded from assessment.

For additional detailed information, please consult the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act at: http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-15.21/

Engineering Practices

Rogers attests that the radio antenna system as proposed for this site will be constructed in compliance with the National Building Code and The Canadian Standard Association, and respect good engineering practices including structural adequacy.

Transport Canada's Aeronautical Obstruction Marking Requirements

Rogers anticipates that the proposed installation will require markings or lighting and will submit the necessary applications to the appropriate parties to obtain required approvals.

In the instance where our structure requires lighting/marking, these requirements would be in compliance with CAR 621 Standards Obstruction Markings. The aforementioned standards provide for:

A combination of a medium intensity flashing white light during the day and steady burning aviation red light and/or flashing aviation red beacons at night.

For additional detailed information, please consult Transport Canada at:
https://www.tc.gc.ca/en/transport-canada/corporate/acts-regulations/regulations/sor-96-433/standard-621.html

Health Canada's Safety Code 6 Compliance

Health Canada is responsible for research and investigation to determine and promulgate the health protection limits for Exposure to the RF electromagnetic energy. Accordingly, Health Canada has developed a guideline entitled "Limits of Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Field in the Frequency Range from 3kHz to 300 GHz – Safety Code 6". The exposure limits specified in Safety Code 6 were established from the results of hundreds of studies over the past several decades where the effects of RF energy on biological organisms were examined.

Radio communication, including technical aspects related to broadcasting, is under responsibility of ISED, which has the power to establish standards, rules, policies and procedures. ISED, under this authority, has adopted Safety Code 6 for the protection of the general public. As such, ISED requires all proponents and operators to ensure that their installations and apparatus comply with the Safety Code 6 at all times.

Rogers Communications Inc. attests that the radio antenna system described in this notification package will at all times comply with Health Canada's Safety Code 6 limits, as may be amended from time to time, for the protection of the general public including any combined effects of additional carrier co-locations and nearby installations within the local radio environment. In fact, emissions levels of Roger's wireless communication installations are far below the limits outlined in Safety Code 6.

More information in the area of RF exposure and health is available at the following web sites:
Safety Code 6:
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/radiation/radio_guide-lignes_direct-eng.php
General Information:
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/radiation/cons/stations/index-eng.php

ISED's, Spectrum Management

Please be advised that the approval of this site and its design is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Government of Canada through ISED. For more information on ISED's public consultation guidelines including CPC-2-0-03, Issue 5 (Jul. 15, 2014) contact this website (http://www.ic.gc.ca/epic/site/smt-gst.nsf/en/sf08777e.html) or the local ISED office at:

Eastern and Northern Ontario District Office
2 Queen Street East
Sault Ste. Marie ON P6A 1Y3
Telephone: 1- 855- 465-6307
Fax: 705- 941- 4607
Email: ic.spectrumenod-spectredeno.ic@canada.ca

General information relating to antenna systems is available on ISED's Spectrum Management and Telecommunications website (http://www.ic.gc.ca/epic/site/smt-gst.nsf/en/home)

Public consultation obligations

Rogers Communications Inc. is committed to effective public consultation. The public is invited to provide comments to Rogers about this proposal by mail, electronic mail or phone. Please send your comments to the address below by the close of business day on October 1, 2022

Proponent's Contact Information:

Spectra Point Inc., Agents for Rogers Communications Inc.
910- 5 Brockley Drive
Toronto, ON
M1P 3J2
Attn: Saja Elshaikh, Municipal Land Use Planner
E-mail: saja@spectrapoint.ca
Phone: (647) 447-8548

Closing Date for Submission of Written Public Comments

ISED's rules contain requirements for timely response to your questions, comments or concerns. We will acknowledge receipt of all communication within ***14 days*** and will provide a formal response to the Municipality and those members of the public who communicate to Rogers, within ***60 days***. The members of the public who communicated with Rogers will then have ***21 days*** to review and reply to Rogers a final response.

Land Use Authority Contact Information:

Township of Asphodel-Norwood
Planning Department
2357 County Rd 45
Norwood, ON
K0L 2V0
Main: (705) 639-5343
Fax: (705) 639-1880

Conclusion

Access to reliable wireless communications services is of great importance to residents' and travelers' safety and well-being in today's society. Wireless technology has fast become the preferred method of conducting business and personal communications among a large part of the population.

The trend of future telecom is to become truly "wireless", that is the delivery of the voice and data communications via conventional telephone lines, such as telephone poles along streets and roads, will be virtually obsolete. The current wireless infrastructure will be able to meet this trend and still provide a reliable system. Strong wireless networks are building blocks for all sectors of the economy and must be considered a competitive advantage for Canadian communities. Improved wireless coverage also means better access to emergency services such as fire, police or ambulance, and greater business development opportunities. The availability of high quality, robust and reliable wireless networks results in significant direct and indirect benefits to all Canadians.

Rogers feels that the proposed site is well located to provide and improve wireless voice and data services in the targeted area. The proposed site is also situated and designed to have minimal impact on surrounding land uses.

Rogers looks forward to working with Township of Asphodel-Norwood in providing improved wireless services to the community.

Spectra Point
Saja Elshaikh
Municipal Land Use Planner

Public Comment Record

Rogers Proposed Wireless Communications Installation

13 Birdsall Lane, Hastings, Ontario

Name:

Address:

Telephone: **E-mail:**

Comments

To be considered part of this consultation, comments must be received by close of business day on October 2, 2022. Please forward your comments to:

Spectra Point Inc., Agents for Rogers Communications Inc.
c/o Saja Elshaikh, Municipal Land Use Planner
910 – 5 Brockley Drive
Toronto, ON M1P 3J2
Phone: 647-447-8448 **E-mail**: saja@spectrapoint.ca

Continue on reverse if required…

ROGERS

Information received shall form part of ISED's Public Consultation Process under the Spectrum Management and Telecommunications Client Procedures Circular CPC-2-0-03, Issue 4, and will be collected in compliance with the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act. The information collected will be used solely for the purpose of documenting Rogers' consultation, communicating the results of this consultation, including your comments, to the Town of Aurora and/or ISED and communicating with you concerning this proposal should that be required.