



LUP Comments &lt;lup-comments@multco.us&gt;

## Public Comment – Opposition to Case File T2-2025-0023 (Proposed Cell Tower Near NW Springville Rd)

1 message

Jason Childers <jason.childers24@gmail.com>  
To: LUP-comments@multco.us

Sat, Jul 26, 2025 at 5:34 PM

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**To:** Multnomah County – Planning Department, Land Use Department, and/or other interested parties.

**Regarding:** Case File: T2-2025-0023 – Application for Lot of Record Verification, Significant Environmental Concern, Limited Design Review and Planning Director Decision

**From:** Jason and Allison Childers, homeowners at 14506 NW Orchid Street, Portland, OR 97229

**Purpose:** We are submitting this written comment in opposition to the proposed Wireless Communication Facility under Case File T2-2025-0023, to be located at [13937 & 14111 NW Springville Rd, Portland](#). As homeowners at [14506 NW Orchid Street](#), our home borders the proposed site and is directly adjacent to the public park that would be affected by this development.

We are deeply concerned about the negative impacts this project would bring to our family and community. These concerns include:

1. *Child Safety and Health Risks*
2. *Increased Risk of Fire and Structural Failure*
3. *Environmental Concerns*
4. *Negative Impact on Property Values*
5. *Incompatible with Community Values*

See discussion of each concern below.

### **Child Safety and Health Risks**

The most urgent concern we have is for the safety and well-being of the children and families who use the adjacent park every single day, including our own. The location chosen for this project seems completely bizarre and potentially negligent. There is a playground that is part of the Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District (THPRD) less than 400 feet from the proposed tower. The park is not just a patch of artificial grass and play structures; it's a gathering place where kids ride their bikes, play games, and enjoy the freedom and innocence of childhood. The idea of installing a 100+-foot steel tower with electrical equipment and a diesel generator just steps from where these children play is disturbing and heartbreaking.

There are still many unanswered questions about the long-term effects of exposure to electromagnetic radiation from cell towers—especially for developing children. The World Health Organization has classified radiofrequency fields as possibly carcinogenic to humans, and the lack of conclusive research should give us pause, not permission. Erring on the side of caution should be a priority, especially when it comes to children. Once built, this tower will become a permanent fixture in their daily environment—and that is a risk we are simply not willing to take.

Given the lack of research on 5G towers and the abundance of land available, why place the tower immediately next to a playground that is frequented by hundreds of children and their parents? This placement is truly questionable and seems

very likely to create future legal trouble. Most recommendations for placement of towers use 400 meters as a safe distance. Not 400 feet.

“There could be some risk... we need to keep a close watch for a link between cell phones and cancer risk.”

– World Health Organization, IARC Press Release No. 208 [https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/pr208\\_E.pdf](https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/pr208_E.pdf)

### **Increased Risk of Fire and Structural Failure**

Our neighborhood is known for strong wind gusts, especially coming through the flat land where the proposed site is located. Placing a tall metal structure in such an environment is a recipe for disaster. If the tower were to fall or malfunction due to wind or seismic activity, it could pose a serious fire hazard or physical danger to nearby homes, trees, and the public park. This is especially relevant given the increased wildfire risk in Oregon and the presence of dense vegetation surrounding the site. The diesel generator and electrical components proposed further increase the potential for a catastrophic event.

### **Environmental Concerns**

The proposed site includes multiple environmental overlays, including:

- Significant Wildlife Habitat (SEC-h)
- Significant Streams (SEC-s)
- Geologic Hazards (GH)

These classifications exist for a reason. Construction and ongoing operation of a cell tower will inevitably disturb local ecosystems, undermine native vegetation, and contribute to habitat fragmentation. Given these environmentally sensitive conditions, the proposal contradicts the intent of Multnomah County Code Sections 39.5510 and 39.5540. According to Multnomah County Code 39.5540, SEC permits require a showing that the development avoids adverse impacts on wildlife and habitat—which this proposal clearly does not.

This land is a wildlife habitat. There is little to no research available on how RF waves can affect animals. There has been some lab research that shows RF waves can increase tumor risk in mice. "Large studies published in 2018 by the US National Toxicology Program (NTP) and by the Ramazzini Institute in Italy, exposed groups of lab rats (as well as mice, in the case of the NTP study) to RF waves over their entire bodies for many hours a day, starting before birth and continuing for most or all of their natural lives. Both studies found an increased risk of uncommon heart tumors called malignant schwannomas in male rats, but not in female rats (nor in male or female mice, in the NTP study). The NTP study also reported possible increased risks of certain types of tumors in the brain and in the adrenal glands." <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/risk-prevention/radiation-exposure/cellular-phone-towers.html>

### **Negative Impact on Property Values**

While our concern is less about property values and more about the health and safety of children, animals, our neighbors, and ourselves, there is research that shows a very real negative impact on housing values. Numerous real estate studies have demonstrated that proximity to cell towers can reduce nearby home values by as much as 10–20%, due to aesthetic concerns, health fears, and noise from equipment such as backup generators. This proposal unfairly burdens nearby homeowners—especially those of us whose properties directly face the tower and park—by decreasing our property values without offering any benefit to the local residents.

- Bond & Wang (2005), *Appraisal Journal*: Found a 20% drop in property values near cell towers.
- Sandy Bond, "Cell Phone Tower Proximity and Property Values," *Appraisal Journal*, 2005.

### **Incompatible with Community Values and Character**

Our neighborhood is a peaceful, family-oriented community surrounded by natural beauty. We chose to raise our children here because of the clean air, the open space, and the quiet streets. The installation of an industrial cell tower with

fencing, floodlights, and generator noise will fundamentally change the character of our community for the worse. Installing a 100-foot industrial cell tower with chain-link fencing and barbed wire does not align with the aesthetics, values, or purpose of this area. The presence of such a structure will disrupt the visual serenity and perceived safety of the community.

### **In Closing**

We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns. We hope they will be considered as you make your decision on this project.

We respectfully urge you to deny the application for Case File T2-2025-0023. This proposal puts children at risk, lowers the value of our homes, poses environmental dangers, and erodes the character of our neighborhood. It is not in alignment with the values or interests of the families who live here.

Sincerely,

Jason and Allison Childers  
[14506 NW Orchid Street](#)  
Portland, OR 97229



**WHO Press Release - Electromagnetic Fields Carcinogenic.pdf**

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