

From: [Thomas And Kathy](#)
To: [Chace Pedersen](#)
Subject: Re: ACU-23-00003, Proposed Cell Tower, 4140 Manastash Road
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 1:09:31 PM

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Chace Pedersen

re: ACU-23-00003, proposed cell tower, 4140 Manastash Road, Ellensburg.

This letter is being submitted by Thomas and Kathryn Cole of 360 Midfield Drive in Ellensburg, a private residence situated on 3.4 acres just off Manastash Road. We also own the parcel immediately adjacent, another clear standing 3.4 acres. The purpose of this letter is to declare our opposition to this cell tower project and to provide our points of argument.

We were initially upset by the fact that we only learned of this project through word-of-mouth and received no official notification. We live within a quarter of a mile of the site and the proposed tower would be clearly visible from any point on either of our properties. Should there have been no legal requirement for notification, it should have at least been demanded by common courtesy for residents in such close proximity.

We find it unusual that this project has moved forward with such speed through a government agency. The application for this project was only submitted on July 13, 2023 and yet approval already seems imminent. Conversely, I submitted a water budget neutrality application to the Washington Department of Ecology in October of 2021 and it still has not even been assigned to a permit specialist. The lack of notification and the speed of the process give the distinct impression of it being, as one of my neighbors so eloquently put it, a “hush and rush” project.

The justification submitted by Atlas Tower 1, LLC is nothing more than industry boiler plate and does not factually apply to our area. Residents in this area, or its first responders, do not suffer for lack of reliable network coverage or capacity, and to refer to this imaginary problem as “severe” is pure sensationalist hyperbole. That being said, I question what investigation was conducted to verify the claims of the applicant.

There are certain matters of health and safety to be properly investigated and considered. I am inadequately educated on the subject to make any specific complaint or observation, however I would be interested in the amount and type of research which was conducted during this permit process.

The project clearly violates sections of the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan where it calls for promoting the retention of its rural character. Some may discount this issue as a matter of aesthetics however you would be hard pressed to find a local resident that would agree that a cell tower is in keeping with the overall character of this area.

Lastly, I am concerned about the possible negative impact an obtrusive cell tower represents to the property values to our neighborhood.

Thomas Cole