ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of May 22, 2010

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT
REVISED RECOMMENDATION AND REVISED CONDITION

DATE: May 18, 2010

SUBJECT: U-96-48-1 USE PERMIT AMENDMENT for a commercial radio tower for WETA-FM located at 5217 19th Road N. (RPC# 09-015-024).

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the use permit amendment for a commercial radio tower for WETA-FM at 5217 19th Road N., with amended Conditions #1-22, and with ~~an~~ administrative reviews in one (1) year (May 2011) and two (2) years (May 2012) and a County Board review in five (5) years (May 2015).

DISCUSSION: This is a supplemental report to revise the County Manager recommendation to add another administrative review in May 2012, and to revise Condition #6 reflecting additional conditions agreed to between the applicant and the Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association. The additional conditions will ensure that the annual radiofrequency emissions tests are conducted at the same location every year, using the same points of reference as in the past. The additional condition also ensures that WETA takes immediate action if radiofrequency emissions are found to be beyond 50 microwatts per square centimeter.

Revised Condition # 6:

a)~~Semi-a~~ The applicant agrees to conduct a set of standard radio frequency (RF) level measurements at least once every calendar year, with not less than ten months or more than fourteen months between measurements and provide the report of such measurements to the Zoning Administrator and the Tara-Leeway Heights and John M. Langston Civic Associations. ~~Annual radiation~~ The tests shall be conducted by an independent authority at the expense of GWETA ~~to be selected by GWETA, a citizen representative, and the County Manager's representative~~. If the independent authority finds that any ~~American National Standards Institute or~~ Federal Communications Commission Guidelines ~~standards~~ for emissions by the tower are being violated, the review date shall be advanced to the earliest date after the report to the County Manager for which a County Board hearing can be advertised. Radio frequency emissions shall not exceed 50 microwatts per square centimeter.

County Manager: MB/GA

Staff: Peter Schulz, DCPHD, Planning Division

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b) The annual report shall consist of the following: The independent authority will choose monitor points, based on their experience and professional judgment and on the procedures generally accepted by the Federal Communications Commission, which they feel will generate an accurate picture of the RF levels in the area (approximately 28 measurement points). These same monitor points will be used for every set of RF level measurements conducted so that a historically useful set of reference measurements will be generated, to allow a meaningful comparison of RF level changes over an extended period of time.

The report shall include a listing of each monitor point and the level measured at that point. The report shall include an average value for all of the measurement points to be calculated by adding the RF level measured at each point together and dividing the RF level total by the total number of measurements. This average value will be used to determine compliance with the limit of 50 microwatts per square centimeter as noted above. Additionally if the reading at any RF monitor point exceeds the limit of 50 microwatts per square centimeter this condition will be investigated immediately and corrective action taken as soon as possible once the cause can be determined.

If a monitor point becomes unavailable because of some change beyond the control of the engineers then a new monitor point will be chosen using the same selection criteria as outlined above. This change in a monitor point will be noted in the annual RF level measurement report.

c) WETA shall make an assessment whenever a new antenna is proposed to be located on the tower. Such an assessment shall include an estimate of the probable effect by the proposed operation at and near ground level (zero [0] to two [2] meters). An additional set of standard measurements will be conducted following the installation and placement into service of a new transmitting antenna. WETA agrees that all assessments and measurements referenced in the previous two (2) sentences shall be made available to the Tara-Leeway Heights and John M. Langston Civic Associations, and shall be summarized in the annual report required by condition 6.a) above. Provided, however, that the County shall not be required (but may, at its option) to review such measurements for purposes of County approval of any permit that may be required for installation of an antenna. Antennas used for reception only will not be required to have the aforementioned assessments and tests.