

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

JUL 24 2012

Ms. Jean Crowder, M.P.
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Crowder:

Thank you for your further correspondence of May 8, 2012, on behalf of your constituents, concerning exposure to radiofrequency (RF) emissions.

Health Canada is the lead department on the research and development of safety guidelines concerning RF emissions from cell towers. Industry Canada is responsible for the placement and installation of cell towers, including consultation with stakeholders. The Government developed its health guidelines with support from rigorously peer-reviewed science to protect Canadians while providing access to wireless services.

The RF exposure limits set by Health Canada are 50 times lower than the lowest exposure level at which human health effects occur, including thermal and non-thermal effects. The RF energy given off by cell phone towers is a type of non-ionizing radiation that is absorbed at very low levels across the entire body (much like everyday exposure to television and AM/FM radio signals). There are no known health effects from exposures to RF energy at levels below Canadian or international guidelines for RF energy.

Health Canada set limits of acceptable RF emissions far below the level for any potential harm. These limits protect the health and safety of Canadians, including and especially children, and are consistent with the science-based standards used in most countries around the world (e.g., the United States, the European Union, Japan, Australia and New Zealand).

The Minister of Industry has the authority to approve each location and site for cell tower systems, including all other antenna-supporting structures. While this authority is exclusively within the federal jurisdiction, municipalities and other land-use authorities have an important role to play in influencing where antenna systems, including cell towers, are located.

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Industry Canada's antenna siting procedures support an open and honest process to expand wireless services only with the confidence of all stakeholders, including any relevant land-use authorities. All antenna tower proponents must consult with the local land-use authority, generally a municipality, on any proposed antenna system. Consultations address reasonable and relevant concerns from the land-use authority and the community.

For more information, I have enclosed a list of Health Canada and Industry Canada websites that may be of interest to your constituents.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leona Aglukkaq', written in a cursive style.

Leona Aglukkaq

Enclosure

c.c. The Honourable Christian Paradis, P.C., M.P.

Additional Resources on Radiofrequency Emissions

Health Canada

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/alt_formats/pacrb-dgapcr/pdf/iyh-vsv/prod/cell-eng.pdf

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/iyh-vsv/prod/cell-eng.php>

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/radiation/cons/stations/index-eng.php>

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/radiation/radio_guide-lignes_direct-eng.php

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/radiation/cons/radiofreq/research-recherche-eng.php>

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/radiation/cons/radiofreq/index-eng.php>

Industry Canada

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/antenna>

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf08777.html>

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf08788.html>

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf08792.html>

