

# Inside Towers

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## Los Angeles Rocks Seismic Standards

Los Angeles, California, is close to having the first-ever (in the U.S.) seismic standards for constructing cell towers, according to Reuters. County leaders gave preliminary approval Friday to regulations that will ensure residents will be able to communicate following a major earthquake. The rules still need to be approved by the Los Angeles City Council, which could occur as early as this week. "In the event of an earthquake or major disaster, the ability for our first responders to communicate, and for everyday Angelenos to call for help or reach out to our friends, family and loved ones, is critical in our ability to respond to and recover from traumatic events," City Councilman Bob Blumenfield, who sponsored the measure, said in a written statement. (Reuters) These regulations will stipulate that new cell towers are built to the same standards as public safety facilities that can withstand earthquakes. This will not apply to existing towers.



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## Take My Towers, Please

Hinds County, Mississippi, officials are proposing that the state take over its \$16 million emergency communications system. District 1 Supervisor Robert Graham is not on board with this plan, as he feels it makes no sense to turn it over to the state. The officials are considering this switch because the county's system is obsolete and they can't afford to purchase a new system. The Clarion-Ledger reported, "Graham said his fear is that the state wireless system won't allow communications among emergency personnel inside many buildings, which he said could place police officers' and firefighters' lives in danger. He said the state system is geared toward communications near interstates." If the switch occurs, the state will invest \$5 million to upgrade the county's radio towers. Under the proposed agreement between the county and the Mississippi Wireless Communications Commission, any assets and revenue from the county towers would go to the state once the agreement is in place. The agreement also says the county will have the right to use the frequencies licensed to the state and the WCC for the Mississippi Wireless Information Network. The Board of Supervisors is expected to call a special meeting next week to possibly vote on the proposed agreement, or another option.

## Just the Facts

The Cameron County Commissioners in Emporium, Pennsylvania, have approved an agreement with the Federal Bureau of Investigation for rental of space on the county's tower. "The FBI contacted the county several years ago about communications in the area," stated Emergency Management Director Kevin Johnson. "After the [Eric] Frein search, they felt they needed better coverage.

This will benefit us by giving us extra funding for improvements at the tower. They will be here tomorrow [Friday] to start installation,” The Bradford Era reported last Thursday. Eric Frein is a captured fugitive, formerly sought by federal and state authorities for the alleged murder of Corporal Bryon K. Dickson II, an officer of the Pennsylvania State Police; and the alleged attempted murder of Trooper Alex Douglass, another state trooper in Pike County, Pennsylvania, on September 12, 2014. This incident prompted the FBI to upgrade and expand their communications equipment in Cameron County. Whittimore Tower, used for the county’s emergency communications equipment, is where the FBI has begun to install their antennas.



## 58,000 Bucks of Batteries

A string of thefts have left police in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, busy. The police have reported that at least 150 backup-batteries have been stolen in at least five Lower Bucks towns. The batteries are worth nearly \$58,000.

## Students Clear Path to Tower

The path leading to a radio tower owned by Sullivan County and managed by the Southwestern New Hampshire District Fire Mutual Aid System in Unity, New Hampshire, had been blocked by large, broken trees. Students from the Sugar Valley Regional Technical Center recently put their skills to work to help restore access to the tower, which is mostly used to house emergency radio equipment. “The tower is part of an extensive communication system that enables emergency radio communication to a number of communities in Sullivan and Cheshire counties, and into Vermont,” The Sullivan County Department of Natural Resources said in a recent news release. “After an especially rough winter, road access to the tower was lost, with many large and broken trees blocking the way. Without access to the tower, staff from Fire Mutual Aid, were unable to service the radios or the back-up generator that is critical in the event of a major disaster.”

## Carrier Coverage

### T-Mobile to Shut Down CDMA Network

T-mobile announced that they will shut down its CDMA network on June 21, ahead of the previously indicated “second half of 2015.” “We disclosed today [April 28] that we now have less than 500,000 customers utilizing the old legacy MetroPCS CDMA network, which means that we’re getting very, very close to shutting down the three major remaining markets from a CDMA network standpoint,” Braxton Carter, Chief Financial Officer, Executive Vice President and Treasurer at T-Mobile said on April 28’s conference call. While 92% of the MetroPCS base has already been migrated, there are three major markets that still need to be decommissioned and ~500K subs that remain on the CDMA network. Jonathan Schildkraut of Evercore ISI noted, “Additionally, TMUS said that ~80% of MetroPCS’ spectrum has been refarmed into the TMUS network. This is important because it allows TMUS to expand its LTE footprint – improving speeds for its subs. As of 1Q, and including the AWS-3 auction, TMUS has an average of 84MHz of spectrum (44MHz in AWS, 30MHz in PCS, and 10MHz in 700MHz).”



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## Tower Ticker

SYMBOL	TIME & PRICE	CHG & % CHG	DAY'S LOW & HIGH	VOLUME
★ <b>AMT</b>	04:01pm EDT <b>93.65</b>	<b>-1.30</b> <b>-1.37%</b>	93.13 94.85	2,121,557
★ <b>CCI</b>	04:00pm EDT <b>82.70</b>	<b>-0.97</b> <b>-1.16%</b>	82.44 83.56	1,279,652
★ <b>SBAC</b>	03:59pm EDT <b>115.14</b>	<b>-0.81</b> <b>-0.70%</b>	114.80 116.22	415,982
★ <b>S</b>	04:00pm EDT <b>4.70</b>	<b>-0.07</b> <b>-1.47%</b>	4.67 4.79	11,957,248
★ <b>T</b>	04:00pm EDT <b>33.49</b>	<b>-0.20</b> <b>-0.59%</b>	33.38 33.70	19,634,514
★ <b>TMUS</b>	04:00pm EDT <b>33.97</b>	<b>+0.20</b> <b>+0.59%</b>	33.61 34.33	3,497,508
★ <b>VZ</b>	04:00pm EDT <b>49.80</b>	<b>-0.34</b> <b>-0.68%</b>	49.79 50.28	8,604,651

## Small Cells

### Up On The Rooftop

Residents in Alki Beach, a neighborhood in Seattle, Washington, continue to put up a fight against 12 Verizon antennas. A group protested last week at Alki Beach to show their opposition. "We've got 69 cell towers within one square mile of Alki," Alki resident Eric Sico said. "This is actually the highest concentration of cell towers in Seattle." (KING-TV) Verizon is looking to install the antennas on top of a building, which is a block away from Alki Elementary and Schmitz Park. In a statement Verizon said that the same apartment where they are proposing new antennas has hosted antennas with a different provider for the last 12 years. The neighborhood group has filed an appeal with the city to stop the antennas, and the decision on the matter is expected in July.

### City Prepares for Small Cells

City officials in Hampton, Virginia, have started discussing small cells, as they believe carriers will begin approaching them about the technology in the near future. The Planning Commission recommended the city update their bylaws to allow the equipment last week. Macro sites have had much resident opposition in the town, which is why officials are changing the bylaws to include small cells—they know the technology is much less "intrusive" than a traditional cell site. Hampton Community Development Director Terry O'Neil said the new technology is complementary to larger cell towers. "If you're walking down the street you wouldn't know they're there," O'Neil said. "They're less obvious than a building with a satellite dish." (Daily Press)

## Zoning & Moaning

### Verizon Proposes White Pine Tree Tower

Verizon Wireless has proposed to build a 111-foot tower disguised as a white pine tree in Wadhams, New York. The proposal will now be reviewed by the Adirondack Park Agency. If approved, the structure would be built in a forested area on private land beside County Route 10. A simulated “crown branch” would be placed five feet above the proposed 102-foot tower spine with a four-foot lightning rod extended above that. The Westport Planning Board previously ruled that the proposed use of the land, which is zoned partly Hamlet and primarily Rural Use, is allowed under local zoning regulation. Service throughout Wadhams, a heavily settled area in Westport, is spotty, and often non-existent. Most of the town, including Westport Town Supervisor Dan Connell, is supportive of the project, and discussion for the tower has been going on for the last four or five years.

### Clarkdale to Hold Public Hearing

The Clarkdale Town Council in Arizona will host a public hearing on a proposed cell tower this evening. Residents in the area have continually voiced their opposition, and have posted signs around town opposing the tower and encouraging residents to join the meeting. The Council will decide to approve the conditional-use permit that is required from Capital Telecom to build the tower. The 65-foot tower is proposed to be built on property adjacent to a storage unit development behind Nate's Cowboy Café. Just north of the property lies the Foothills Terrace subdivision where most of the objections originate, according to the Verde News.

### Hearing Set on South Portland Tower

The Planning Board in South Portland, Maryland, will hold a public hearing this evening regarding T-Mobile's proposed 120-foot tower at Highland Memorial Cemetery. In March, the Board of Appeals granted the company the variance needed to construct the tower, which the president of the cemetery board, Arthur Smiths, says will allow the cemetery to continue operating. The tower will have a 30-year land lease, and the structure will be located toward the back of the cemetery, in a wooded area about 50 feet from the transfer station property line and 291 feet from the rear property line. “We need a continued income source and that's what we would get from T-Mobile,” Smith said in a letter written late last year explaining how the lease for the cell tower would help the cemetery. “There is so much more that we would like to do” to improve and expand on the services offered, he added, but there is simply no funding available. (Keep ME Current) The Board of Appeals requested an independent consultant be hired to determine whether there is a significant gap in coverage, which was a requirement for granting the variances. The consultant, IDK Communications, did find coverage gaps in the area.

### AT&T Withdraws in Ashland

AT&T has withdrawn its proposal for a cell tower in Ashland, Oregon. A public hearing was scheduled for May 4, but Jackson County officials cancelled the meeting after the proposal was withdrawn. "AT&T regularly evaluates network construction plans, market conditions and customer needs and adjusts its plans accordingly," Rick Thomas, an AT&T spokesperson, said in a written statement. "We will continue to assess opportunities to expand in the area in the future as part of our ongoing network review process, but will not be constructing in that area at this time. Existing AT&T services will not be impacted." (Mail Tribune) The 84-foot-tall tower had been planned on East Ashland Lane near Exit 19 on land under county jurisdiction, and the county staff had given tentative approval for the project but neighbor Arleen Van Buskirk and state Senator Alan Bates requested the public hearing on the proposed tower.

## Company Profile

### Cell Side Only

*By Eleanor Snite, contributing editor*



Quantum Group LLC brings wireless infrastructure tower assets buyers and sellers together to structure favorable deals for both - but only represents sellers. "We work for sellers and sellers only," said Philip Brown, president and founder. "If they control an asset, we can represent their interests. The Overland Park, Kansas, privately owned company works with all sizes of customers from large public companies to small mom-

and-pop businesses. They help sellers liquidate towers, tower assets, rooftop wireless and leases, and provide site valuations at no charge. In fact, Quantum Group works for its clients on a contingent-fee basis.

Accurately evaluating the assets of clients is important at Quantum Group. If a business is overvalued, it won't sell. If it's undervalued, the owner will lose equity - sometimes in the millions. "The paper process behind tower deals is extensive, and we underwrite entirely every aspect of our deals," Brown said. "Every document comes through us. If anything is missing, we follow up until it gets our seal of approval." Brown credits his staff for the company's high customer satisfaction. It includes an attorney on staff, project managers, underwriters and the front line people who work directly with the clients. The average employee has been with Quantum for 8 years. "We have done 700 tower transactions since going into business in 1996," Brown said. "Currently, we are completing 35 to 40 each year and have done network deals in the tens of millions."