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Inside Towers

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Battle Lines Drawn Over C-Band

By Leslie Stimson, *Inside Towers* Washington Bureau Chief

UPDATE More broadcasters have joined NPR in opposing the FCC's plan to explore opening up C-band for broadband as the wireless and satellite industries are pushing to use more of the spectrum between 3.7 GHz to 4.2 GHz. FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, meanwhile, intends to place an item about the issue on the agenda for the Commission's July meeting, he told attendees at the recent WIA Connect(X). Comments on the issue due to the FCC (to docket 18-122) by May 31, and examined by *Inside Towers* show how battle lines are shaping up.

Because broadcasters are not required to register their satellite downlink earth stations with the agency, they believe the Commission doesn't realize how much of the band is being used for this purpose. NAB, the SBE and other organizations have encouraged broadcasters to register their C-band receive-only earth stations by the FCC's July 18 deadline. No protection will be afforded to those that do not register by July 18, according to the Commission. The hope is once the agency has a better handle on downlink frequency use, it will look elsewhere for additional spectrum to auction off for mobile wireless use, according to a broadcast engineering source. Continue Reading

South Dakota

Sioux Falls Tower Opens New Facility With Governor and Sen. Thune Present

Among the dignitaries at Friday's opening of the new Sioux Falls Tower facility were U.S. Sen. John Thune, South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard and FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr.

Sioux Falls Tower & Communications opened a new 25,000 sq. ft. corporate office and training center on 4300 N. Northview Avenue in Sioux Falls, South Dakota last Friday. The focus of the training center will be to positively impact

the safety and education within the tower industry.

Craig Snyder, President & CEO, emphasized how this new construction will impact the organization, community and the industry. “This new building symbolizes the continual growth of the company and the direction moving forward. This building will support and advance work by providing space for growth, education and training, and visual presence within this growing area of the city.”

Along with the founders, owners and employees of Sioux Falls Tower & Communications, Commissioner Brendan Carr, FCC, SD Governor Dennis Daugaard and U.S. Senator John Thune, SD also attended.

Sioux Falls Tower & Communications was founded in 1989, and self-performs the majority of the services offered: wireless, small cell/DAS, wind, utility, new construction, civil, maintenance, electrical, anchor inspections and more. The company has four locations across the midwest/western region: Sioux Falls, SD, Rapid City, SD, Denver, CO and Orem, UT.

Trump Nominates Geoffrey Starks to FCC to Fill Clyburn’s Seat

President Donald Trump named Geoffrey Starks as his pick to become a member of the FCC for the remainder of a five-year term ending June 30, 2022, the White House said late Friday.

Starks currently is assistant bureau chief of the FCC’s enforcement bureau and served as senior counsel at the U.S. Justice Department, the White House said in a statement.

Starks, a Democrat, is set to fill the seat now occupied by Democrat Mignon Clyburn who can remain on the commission until her successor is confirmed. Although his appointment requires Senate confirmation, NY Senator Chuck Schumer has already endorsed the nomination.

“I congratulate Geoffrey Starks on his forthcoming nomination to serve as a Commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission,” FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said in a statement. “He has a distinguished record of public service, including in the FCC’s Enforcement Bureau, and I wish him all the best during the confirmation process.”

Tower Ticker

June 1, 2018 at Close

Symbol	Price	Change	% Change	Low	Volume	High	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
AMT	138.48	+0.11	+0.08%	136.85	1.62M	138.81	155.28	125.24
AMX	15.78	+0.27	+1.77%	15.55	2.30M	15.83	19.91	15.23
CCI	103.82	-0.33	-0.32%	102.81	1.34M	104.27	114.97	93.14
COMM	29.79	+0.47	+1.60%	29.26	1.06M	29.84	41.60	26.29
CTL	17.74	+0.06	+0.34%	17.66	13.04M	17.93	27.61	13.16
DY	92.82	-0.34	-0.36%	91.90	477.04k	94.93	123.99	73.95
ERIC	7.25	+0.04	+0.55%	7.20	1.30M	7.28	8.05	5.52
FTR	7.49	+0.06	+0.81%	7.30	7.24M	7.53	21.00	6.08
S	5.18	+0.04	+0.78%	5.14	12.89M	5.23	9.02	4.81
SBAC	158.48	+0.41	+0.26%	157.25	425.43k	159.34	177.67	129.40
T	32.45	+0.13	+0.40%	32.36	22.74M	32.61	39.80	31.17
TMUS	56.87	+1.17	+2.10%	55.90	3.31M	57.05	68.50	54.60
UNIT	21.11	+0.14	+0.67%	20.86	2.04M	21.11	27.78	13.81
VZ	47.80	+0.13	+0.27%	47.61	9.91M	48.00	54.77	42.80
ZAYO	34.55	-0.25	-0.72%	34.40	2.72M	34.95	37.95	29.73

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Zoning & Moaning

New York

ZBA Votes “No” on Protested Cell Tower Project

The Village of Nelsonville’s Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) voted down an application from Homeland Towers for a proposed 110-foot cell tower following nearly nine months of intense objection from residents and communication with the applicant, reported *The Examiner*. The proposed tower, planned near Cold Springs Cemetery, was intended to serve Verizon and AT&T customers with the potential for additional carriers, and emergency services to be added at a later date.

“I very much doubt that the leaders and business people in 19th century Philipstown would be offended if a cell tower

sits outside the cemetery," said Board chairman William Rice. "I know for sure my father-in-law would not mind."

ZBA members worked with Homeland Towers' attorney regarding the application, citing a negative visual impact on historic and scenic settings. ZBA member Chris Keeley noted, "The proposal before us does not meet the requirements of the zoning code." Ultimately, the board voted 3-2 against the proposal.

Michigan

Energy Policy Committee Hears Two Sides to Small Cell Debate

Debate ensued before the House of Energy Policy Committee regarding two Senate bills aimed at setting standardized fees for wireless providers to install small cells in municipal rights-of-way, reported *The Peninsula*.

The debate focused primarily on the installation of a network of small cell wireless facilities atop poles and structures owned by the counties, cities, and townships of Michigan, reported *The Peninsula*. Wireless providers are in support of the effort; however, municipalities fear they'll lose money and a say regarding the location of the small cells.

According to Auburn Mayor Lee Kilbourn, these bills might potentially be unconstitutional. "The last two state constitutions have been strong supporters of home rule," Kilbourn said. "Section 29 of the Michigan Constitution requires that those who want to use our public right-of-way must obtain the consent from counties, cities, and townships. This basically takes that away from us."

Rep. Gary Glenn, Committee Chair, said more testimony is necessary before a decision can be reached.

DAS/Small Cells

Brought to you by: NEUTRAL CONNECT NETWORKS

FCC's Carr Sees Small Cells/DAS Close-Up

On a small cell walking tour in Sioux Falls, SD, Thursday, FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr spoke with City Planning

Director Mike Cooper and Public Works Director Mark Cotter about policies that can bring next-gen wireless service and economic opportunities to even more communities.

Carr wrapped up his tour of broadband deployments in the Great Plains states by helping to officially open the new tower climbing training center and headquarters of National Association of Tower Erectors member Sioux Falls Tower & Communications (*see story above*). Last Wednesday, he toured NATE member company Sabre Industries in Sioux City, which manufactures 5G equipment and other broadband infrastructure, including small cells and distributed antenna systems.

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Broadband Briefing

School Bus WiFi Can Help Close Homework Gap, Senators Say

U.S. Sens. Corey Gardner (R-Colo.) and Tom Udall (D-N.M.) recently introduced a bill to put WiFi on school buses to make it easier for children who have no broadband internet access at home to do their schoolwork. The legislation would allow the FCC's E-Rate program to reimburse schools that place the wireless internet technology on school buses carrying students to school or school-related extracurricular activities.

"Many students in rural school districts across Colorado and the country spend hours on the bus each day commuting to and from school and traveling to sporting events," stated Gardner in a press release. "These students should have the opportunity to use their time more effectively and installing WiFi on school buses will allow them to finish homework assignments and bring the classroom to the road." Continue Reading

Tower Safety

Brought to you by: NATE

Legacy Certifies Over Half of Tower Climbers

Legacy Telecommunications announced the NWSA Certification of nearly seventy percent of their tower technicians. The certification programs offered by NWSA were developed by industry experts with the primary goal of improving the safety of all whose work brings them into contact with communication structures and related equipment.

According to Leif Herstad, RF Solutions Division Manager, "The number of NWSA individual certificates demonstrates our significant commitment to excellence. Through encouraging our employees to seek and maintain portable certification, Legacy has shown that it is committed to providing the best service and to the highest standards."

Legacy also anticipates the rollout of the NWSA TTT-Foreman certification as the next logical challenge to tackle. "These NWSA certifications are an important tool for clients, to ensure the people they allow onsite meet a clearly defined minimum standard." Herstad said.

Cell-ebrations

California

Court Denies Environmental Group Challenge

A California appeals court denied Pepper Lane Neighbors for Environmental Protection's lawsuit challenging a land use permit. Sonoma County issued the permit to Verizon Wireless for a telecommunications facility, including a 65-foot monopine in Petaluma. The tower project is intended to fill significant gaps in coverage within an area 15 square miles serving a population of 3,500.

According to court documents, the Pepper Lane group filed a petition stating the county was in violation of the California Environmental Quality Act, local ordinances, and due process, as well as inconsistency with the "Petaluma Dairy Belt Area Plan" by approving the land use permit. However, the court denied all claims. The county and Verizon said Pepper Lane "either misrepresented or ignored evidence supporting the county's findings thereby forfeited their claims that the findings were unsupported by substantial evidence." Pepper Lane tried to appeal the decision, citing visual and aesthetic impacts regarding the project, in violation of county zoning regulations.

However, Verizon contended "[the] new facility . . . will result in minimal visual impact to [County] residents . . . . The facility will be concealed beneath arboreal camouflage designed to match the surrounding forest growth...The facility has been designed to minimize visibility from public view and to blend into the surrounding vegetation."

FirstNet News

AT&T Debuts New, All-Weather Flying COW

As the new hurricane season began last Friday, AT&T unveiled its new Extreme Weather Drone, an all-weather Flying Cell on Wings (COW). The Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) took its first test flight last week, taking on live LTE test traffic, according to AT&T UAS Program Director Art Pregler.

Pregler outlines the upgrades to its newest member of the carrier's drone fleet in a blog post. The "spider"-looking UAS features:

- Beefed up hardware, rugged features and enhanced connectivity capabilities such as small cells and easily

transportable antennas, enabling quick deployment in extreme environments
- Can withstand a tropical storm with heavy rain and wind gusts up to 50 mph
- Flies in snow and extreme temperatures ranging from below freezing to sweltering heat

The drone will also play a key role in AT&T's FirstNet program. "Think about first responders operating in remote locations, battling a rapidly moving wildfire that has charred the infrastructure they need to communicate," writes Pregler. Or search and rescue crews off the beaten path where a network doesn't exist. The all-weather flying COW can hover above harsh conditions and remote terrain to keep them connected when other drone and deployable options aren't viable, according to the expert. Continue Reading

Going Up

New York

Monopole Gets OK'd For Town Hall Site

Putnam Valley officials cleared the way for at 160 foot monopole to be placed on property adjacent to the Town Hall by Homeland Towers, according to the *Examiner*. The board voted 3-1 in favor of the project at its May 23 meeting.

Rising near the back of town hall by the highway garage it still requires approval from both the zoning board of appeals and town planning board in town. The town would get $24,000 yearly from Homeland Towers if approved with the money going toward the highway department, the *Examiner* reported.

FCC Recent Releases

FCC Recent Releases

Latest posting from the FCC 6/1/18

Click Here

Tower Calendar

See All Calendar Events

CCA Annual Convention

October 1-3, 2018 - Orlando, FL

cca annual convention

In an increasingly mobile world, carriers provide the services that make the Internet of Things possible. CCA's Annual Convention is the only North American event to focus exclusively on smart strategies, technology innovations, and business opportunities for carriers in this brave new world. As a result, it brings together more senior decision makers from more carrier organizations than any other tradeshow in the United States.

The Annual Convention's expanded educational program, networking opportunities and exhibit floor will explore technology trends that are changing the way we work and live, and will provide a platform for companies to reach the lucrative competitive carrier market, which spends $15 billion annually on products and services. Click here for more information or to register.

Tower Jobs

APC Towers - Positions Open

Based in Raleigh, North Carolina, APC Towers is a privately held owner, operator and developer of wireless communications infrastructure throughout the United States. APC Towers collaborates with wireless carriers to provide solutions to extend their coverage and capacity, ultimately enhancing their wireless networks. **They are currently looking to hire for the following positions**, click for more info:

Senior Director, Development

Project Director

Sioux Falls Towers – Crew Chief

Sioux Falls Tower is currently looking to hire a Crew Chief. The position will involve leading teams involved in installation, maintenance, and repairs or retrofitting of towers and antenna systems. Work is done under various weather conditions throughout the region for all major cellular carriers, utility & wind energy companies. Join a growing team at Sioux Falls Tower & Communications, a company dedicated to the well-being of their employees and with an established reputation as leaders in quality, integrity and experience since 1989. Click here for more information.

Tower Shots

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Winterport, ME contributed by Scott Smith.

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