

From: [Ronni Marie Collins](#)
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Cc: [Ronni](#)
Subject: Manastash Cell Tower Proposed Site Objection
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 12:45:33 PM
Attachments: [5G Neighborhood flyer rev 8-22.pdf](#)

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August 23, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:
ATTN: Commissioner Laura Osladacz
Mr. Chace Pedersen
Mr. Mark Cook
Ms. Jamey Ayling

I recently became aware of an application from Atlas Tower1, LLC to build a 100 ft. tall cell phone tower off Manastash Road at Blazing Sky Lane. This tower is proposed to be erected on the rural property of Victor Strand – this property is zoned residential and in the heart of the west side of Ellensburg a very desirable living area and very near where my family lives, and where we have community with our neighbors.

This particular location has very rare beauty of the Manastash ridge as well as is home within 1/2 mile of the Wenus Ridge/Wildlife Trail head which is visited by hundreds if not thousands of locals and people from all over to enjoy the beauty. This tower would be a disturbance unmeasurable to this particular rural area. We are deeply invested in our community as well as the potential for this 100 ft cell tower to be smack dab in the middle of our rural community.

For this reason, I am writing to express my opposition to this tower.

Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan clearly states: “One of the main attractions of the rural residential lifestyle is the low intensity of development and the corresponding sense of a slower pace of living. Part of what creates that attraction is the rural-level facilities and services. This Comprehensive Plan **supports and preserves** this rural lifestyle by limiting services, such as road maintenance and emergency responses to be limited and to decrease as the distance from the rural activity center or urban area increases.”

RR-G7: The County should consistently work to preserve and maintain the rural character of Kittitas County for the benefit of its residents.

RR-P16: Land use development within the Rural area that is not compatible with Kittitas County rural character or agricultural activities as defined in RCW 90.58.065(2)(a) will not be allowed.

RR-G12: Permit residential development in rural areas which enhance and protect rural character.

A 100 ft. galvanized cell phone tower (per Atlas site plan) is a complete disruption within this community. Atlas, a Colorado company, I suggest has never visited the actual site because if they did, they would not be able to truthfully state that the site was chosen to maximize visual aesthetics. This tower is in the heart of our community and would be unsightly from many distances North, South, East and West of its proposed location. It does not follow Kittitas own plan – it does not support or preserve our rural lifestyle. Of note, this west valley is flat farmland and butts up directly to the mountain ranges therefore you would see this 100 ft galvanized tower from every height and angle.

There are many aspects of this proposal as submitted by Atlas Tower 1, LLC that I object to that are in violation of Kittitas' own planning codes.

There are many issues at hand that could be discussed and here are a few of note why this proposal should be reconsidered:

- Application Errors/Omissions: Please reference the SEPA application which has critical missing or in error answers such as 1) Is this a critical coverage as outlined by the county's own standards laid out in the 2021 Comprehensive Plan under Utilities, Section 6:1? That section as defined by the WUTC, clearly states telephone service is a "landline phone service", not cell phone service so it cannot be a "critical" service that has to be provided, but a luxury service that should not be expected if it is not the **Right area** to build a tower. This area clearly is not the right area and should have been a red flag from the beginning. This area is a rural area, strictly zoned agricultural and residential.

- Property values decreased: Studies have shown that homes near cell towers lower property values.

[Cell Phone Towers \(nar.realtor\)](#)

- Health and Safety: What is the health safety to nearby neighborhoods of 5G?

More studies must be done before placing these close to humans, livestock, and wildlife not to mention various bodies of water including Kittitas Irrigation canals which are on this proposed property.

I respectfully appreciate your time, due diligence and consideration to reject this proposal as it clearly does not meet county standards.

Sincerely,

Ronni M. Collins

Sent from my iPho