13 March 2014

Ms. Lynne Fancy
Senior Director, Spectrum Management Operations
Industry Canada
235 Queen Street,
Ottawa ON K1A 0H5

Dear Ms. Fancy:

Re: Canada Gazette Notice No. DGSO-001-14 — “Consultation on Amendments to Industry Canada’s Antenna Tower Siting Procedures”

1. This submission concerning the above consultation document has been prepared by the Broadcasters Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), a broadcasting industry consultative group that deals with matters of an engineering nature of concern to private radio and television stations, networks and specialty services. The companies that sponsor the activities of the TCC are listed in Appendix 1.

2. Section 5.4 of the document says: “The following proposals are excluded from land-use authority and public consultation requirements, but must still satisfy the General Requirements outlined in Section 7:

   New Antenna Systems: where the height is less than 15 metres above ground level. This exclusion does not apply to antenna systems to be used by broadcasting undertakings or telecommunications carriers;”

3. Broadcasters believe that an exemption from LUA/public consultations should continue to apply to towers under 15m in height that are used by broadcasting undertakings for the transmission of signals not intended for direct reception by the general public. This would include auxiliary facilities such as:
   
   - land-mobile communication services;
   - point-to-point fixed services (e.g. studio-to-transmitter (STL) and other terrestrial microwave links);
   - electronic news gathering (ENG) links;
   - satellite up-links and down-links;
   - broadcasting receive-only antennas;
   - weather radars.
4. In the above cases, it would be discriminatory to require broadcasters to consult on auxiliary-use towers of any height, while allowing an exemption for other public or private organizations operating very similar facilities (e.g. taxi companies, program production companies, public safety agencies). Assuming that the Department agrees with this position, we would ask that the wording of the final policy document be clarified in such a way as to minimize any misinterpretation by LUAs, the public or the Department’s own regional inspectors. We suggest the following: “This exclusion does not apply to antenna systems used to broadcast signals intended for direct reception by the general public or to antenna systems employed by telecommunications carriers;”

5. Para 24 of the document says: “…the antenna siting procedures also provide municipalities and other land-use authorities with the latitude to exclude certain antenna systems from all, or part of, their consultation process or to have different public consultation processes tailored to different types of locations or structures.”

6. We understand this to say that, notwithstanding the revised requirements of CPC-2-0-03, if an LUA’s own process exempts towers taller than 15m, then the LUA height limit is what will be used to determine the necessity for consultations within that particular jurisdiction. If our interpretation is not correct, then we would ask that this particular section be re-worded to clarify what the Department means here.

7. All of which is respectfully submitted this 13th day of March 2014.

Sincerely,

Wayne A. Stacey
Secretary,
Broadcasters Technical Coordinating Committee
Appendix 1

TCC Sponsoring Organizations

Acadia Broadcasting Ltd.
   Bell Media
   Cogeco Inc.
   Corus Entertainment Inc.
Golden West Broadcasting Ltd.
   Harvard Broadcasting Inc.
Jim Pattison Broadcast Group
   Newcap Inc.
Pelmorex Communications Inc.
   Rawlco Radio Ltd.
   Rogers Media Inc.
   Shaw Media Inc.
   Thunder Bay Television Inc.

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