

Antenna Systems Siting Consultation Policy

Regional District of Central Okanagan
Electoral Area Services Committee Meeting

June 5, 2025

1450 K.L.O. Road
Kelowna, BC, V1W 3Z4
rdco.com



Purpose

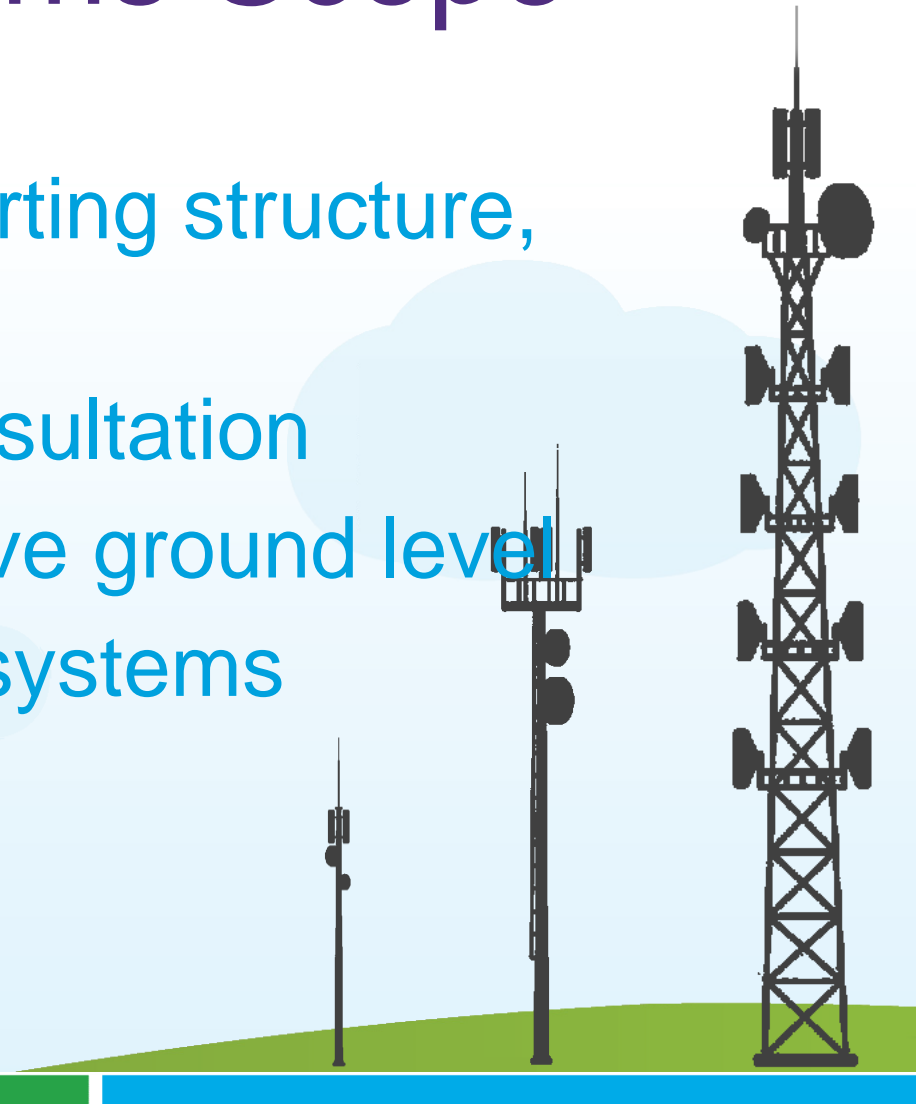
To review a proposed Antenna Systems Siting Consultation Policy and consider forwarding it to the Regional Board for approval.

Objectives

- To establish an increased notification distance for antenna systems that encompasses more parcels for meaningful public input.
- To establish standards that will allow the RDCO and its residents to effectively participate in and influence the placement of antenna systems proposed within the Electoral Areas.

Overview – Antenna Systems Scope

- Composed of an antenna and supporting structure, normally a tower
- Excluded from local government consultation
 - New antenna systems < 15m above ground level
 - Modifications to existing antenna systems
 - Non-tower structures
 - Temporary antenna systems



Overview – Antenna Systems in Canada

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), regulates tower siting.

RDCO cannot not prohibit antenna systems.
Permitted in all zones.

Proponents must advise local authorities, and notify residents...

- Following local policies if established, or
- Using **ISED's default consultation** process if no local policy exists

The company must consider community input and request a letter of concurrence from the local authority.



Scope of Authority

ISED Canada

**Responsible for the
orderly development of
telecommunications infrastructure**

Ensures Antenna Systems meet:

- Health Canada requirements
- Radio frequency immunity criteria
- Aeronautical safety responsibilities
- Environmental considerations
- Construction standards

RDCO

**Issue Letter of Concurrence or
Non-concurrence**

Letter will address the land use compatibility of each antenna system proposal, RDCO design and location preferences, adherence to the proposed policy, and comments from residents.

The RDCO is not the approving authority for antenna systems.

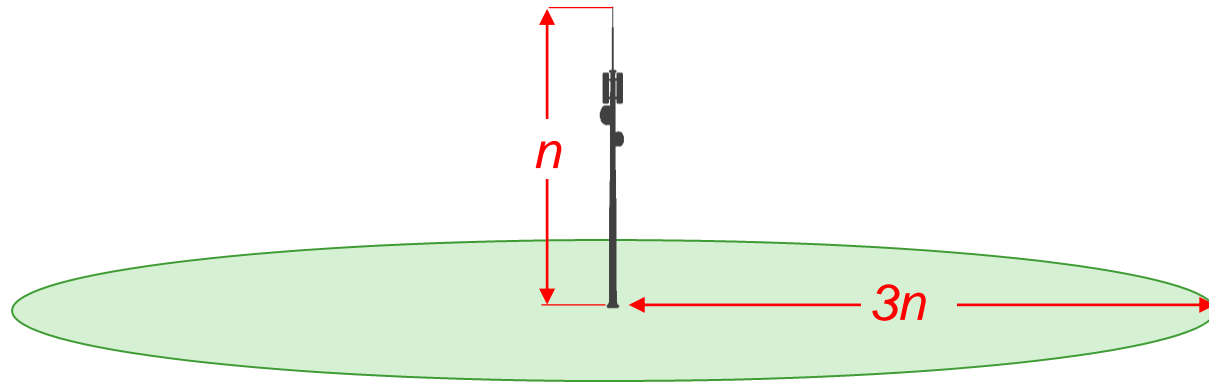
ISED default and proposed RDCO policy comparison

Considerations	ISED Default	RDCO Proposed Policy
Notification Distance	3x tower height	150m buffer (500m buffer in Joe Rich)
Design Preferences	N/A	Screening, colour, surface materials
Location Preferences	N/A	Development Permit Areas, views capes, natural vistas

Policy – Notification Requirements

ISED Default

3x tower height from
base of tower



RDCO Proposed Policy

150m from tower location
property boundary



*500m buffer for Joe Rich

Example: Notification Requirements

ISED Default

40m tower

(Properties within
120m of base would
be notified)

1 property
notified

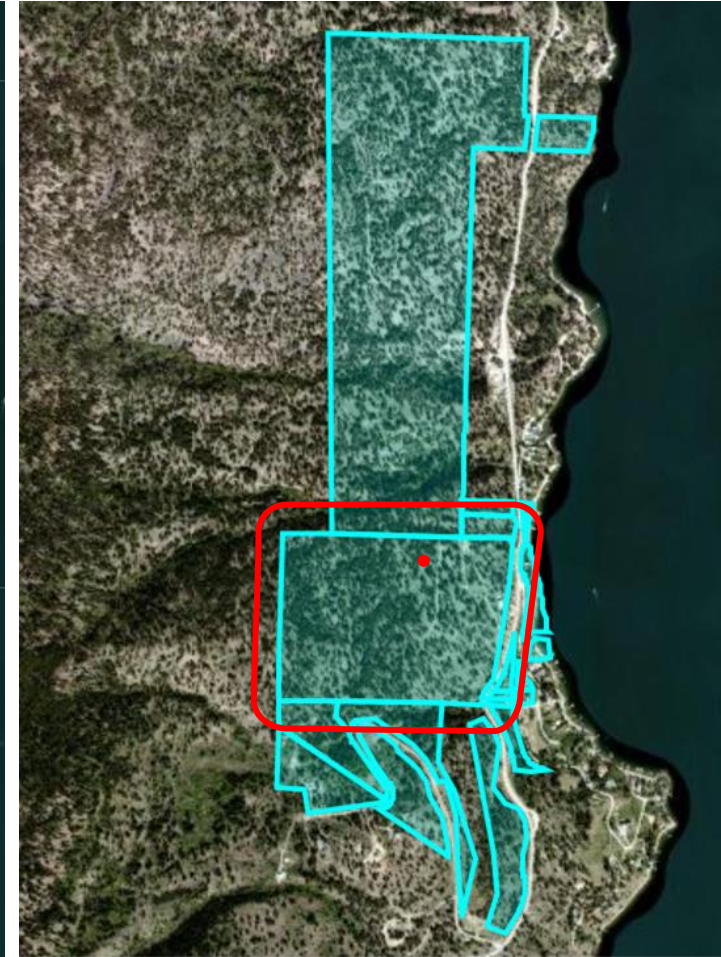


RDCO Proposed

40m tower

(Properties within 150m
of property boundary
would be notified)

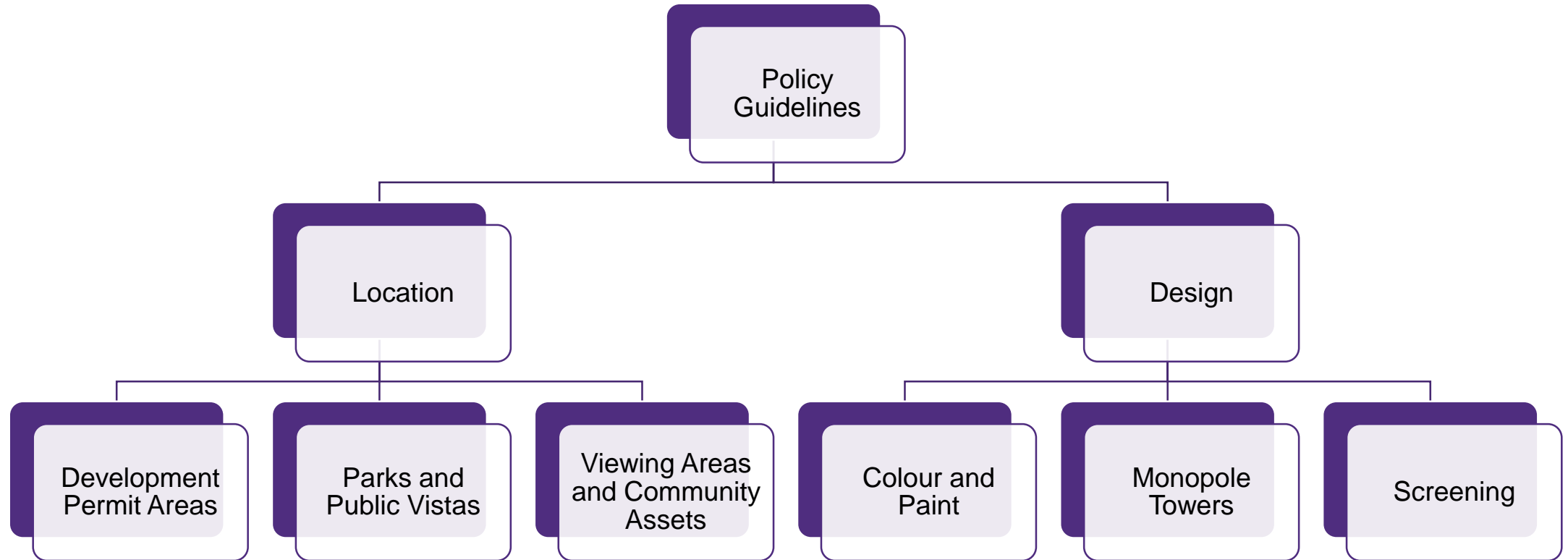
16 properties
notified



Public Reply Comments

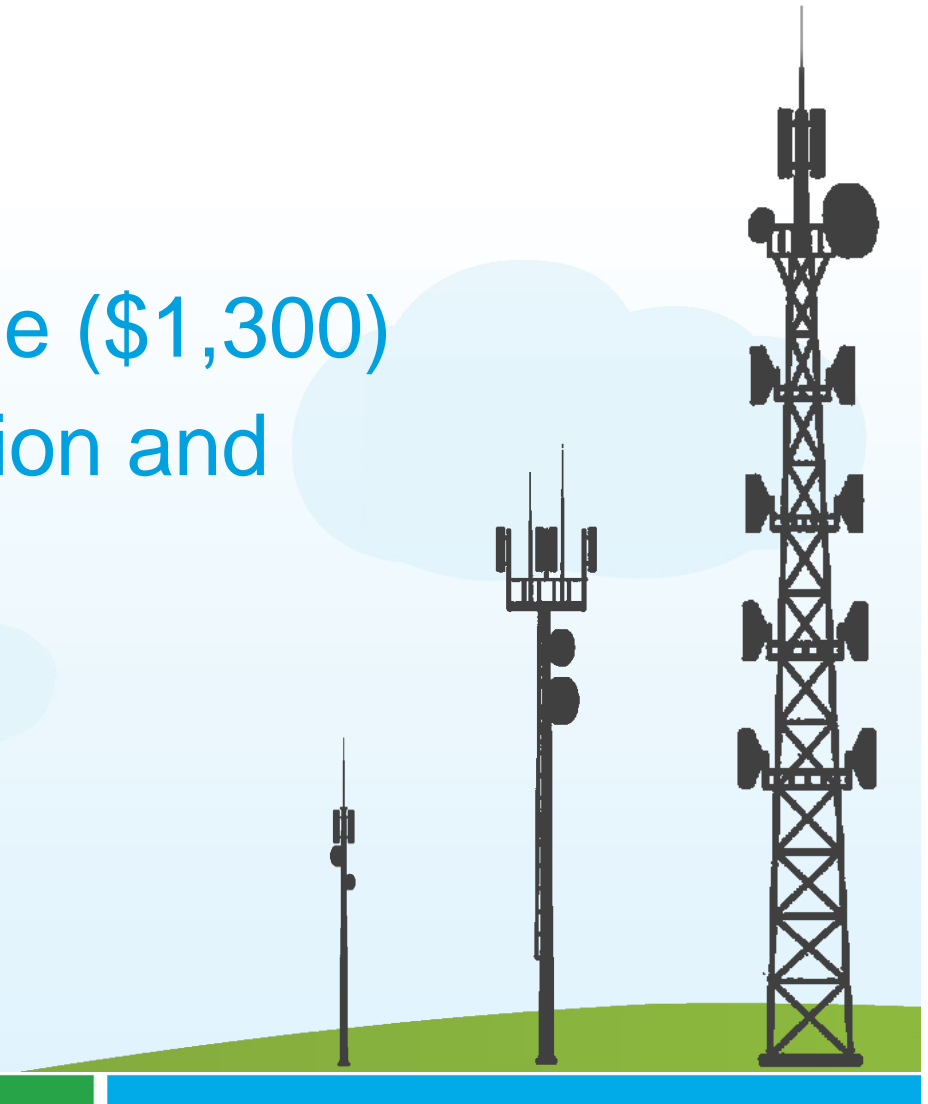
- Proponents must consider comments from residents within the prescribed notification distance
- Proponent must provide 21 days to comment
- However, ISED will not consider comments related to:
 - Issues with the telecommunication provider unrelated to the antenna installation
 - Potential effects on property values or taxes
 - Health Canada requirements

Policy – Design and Location Preferences



Process overview

- Pre-application discussion with staff
- Proponent submits proposal, pays fee (\$1,300)
- Proponent conducts public consultation and appropriate First Nations referrals
- Proponent submits results to RDCO
- RDCO Board considers whether to issue letter of concurrence



Benefits of the Policy

- Outlines the process for proponents to follow and consultation expectations
- Improved public consultation requirements and First Nations consultation
- Provides siting and design guidelines that consider local context
- Assists in providing telecommunication services to Electoral Areas by facilitating telecommunication opportunities
- Minimizes the amount of antenna systems by encouraging co-location

Referral comments

Westbank First Nation

- Approved policy with the condition that applications are referred to WFN

Planning Advisory Committee

- Supported by the PAC on September 12th 2024.

RDCO Parks

- Noted the importance of the notification buffer

Recommendation

- **THAT** the Electoral Area Services Committee recommends that the Regional Board approve BP24-2025, Antenna Systems Siting Consultation Policy, as outlined in the Report from the Director of Development & Engineering dated June 5, 2025.