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Executive Secretary

18 Feb '88

Date

3637 (10-81)

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

1325 G STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20576

Executive Registry

88-0648X

January 29, 1988

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Federal, District and Local Agencies

FROM: Robert E. Gresham
Acting Executive Director *REG*

SUBJECT: Microwave Antenna Guidelines for Federal Agencies

In June 1987, the Commission sent the draft report on the Guidelines and Submission Requirements for the Installation of Satellite Antennas on Federal Properties in the National Capital Region to all Federal, District and local agencies on its master mailing list. The comments received from this mailing were reviewed at the Commission's November 1987 meeting. The deliberations at that meeting resulted in a Final Draft of the Guidelines which were published in the Federal Register on November 18, 1987.

At its January 7, 1988 meeting, the Commission modified the Federal Register draft by:

1. changing the word "satellite" to "microwave" wherever it appears; and
2. clarifying the intent of the Guidelines in Section G to indicate:
 - a. that any existing microwave antennas which are moved or relocated require a Commission review; and
 - b. that the Commission encourages joint use of microwave antennas to limit their proliferation.

The Commission adopted the Guidelines on January 7, 1988. A copy is attached for your information and use. If you have any questions on the Guidelines, please contact Martin J. Rody (724-0179) of our staff.



NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

1325 G STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20576

GUIDELINES AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
FOR MICROWAVE ANTENNAS ON FEDERAL PROPERTY
IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

APPROVED: January 7, 1988

The National Capital Planning Commission finds that certain microwave antennas may adversely impact the aesthetics of the National Capital Region and the health and welfare of its population. Therefore, in order to minimize the visual impacts of microwave antennas on the skyline of the Nation's Capital and on the general appearance of Federal facilities and to protect the public from any potential adverse radio frequency bio-effect impacts from transmitting microwave antennas, the National Capital Planning Commission is providing the following Guidelines and Submission Requirements to be used by Federal agencies in the National Capital Region in the preparation and submission plans for antenna installations. (The National Capital Region includes Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland; Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William Counties, and the independent cities within the outer boundaries thereof in Virginia; and the District of Columbia).

A. Prior to the installation of any microwave antenna on Federal property in the National Capital Region, Federal agencies shall submit (pursuant to Section 5 of the National Capital Planning Act of 1952, as amended; Section 5-432, D. C. Code, in the District of Columbia; and as appropriate, Section 4 of the International Center Act of 1968, as amended) all such installation proposals to the National Capital Planning Commission for review and comment. Approval by the NCPC of such installations will be limited to five years. This time period may be increased to 10 years at the NCPC's discretion on sites outside the Monumental Core^{1/} and surrounding lands and designated Historic Districts.

1. Specific Submission Requirements:

- a. A statement of need--justifying the size of the antenna and other appropriate data regarding the particular installation consistent with security limitations.
- b. Site plan and building elevations (for antennas mounted on a building) showing the form, dimensions, and location of the antenna(s).
- c. Construction drawings showing the proposed method of installation.
- d. Description of the texture and color of materials to be used.

^{1/} The Monumental Core is defined in the Federal Facilities element of the "Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital."

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- e. Screening plan--including proposed materials, color and texture for rooftop installations. For ground-level installations also include the number, species, and size of trees or shrubs to be used as a screen.
- f. Site line studies illustrating the extent to which the proposed antenna(s) will be visible from the surrounding streets and public open spaces. These studies should include all alternatives considered.
- g. A review of alternatives considered to meet the telecommunication needs of the agency.

2. General Criteria Applying to Antenna Installations:

- a. No rooftop microwave antenna in the National Capital Region should exceed the height of the roof of any permitted penthouses on Federal buildings.
- b. Materials used in the construction of antennas and their mountings should not be bright, shiny, or reflective and should be of a color that blends with the surrounding building materials.
- c. Any masts or towers should be non-combustible, corrosion resistant, and protected against electrolytic action.
- d. All antennas should be adequately grounded to protect against a direct lightning strike.

B. Federal agencies may request an extension of the approval prior to expiration of the original approval. The request should be accompanied by a certification that:

- 1. The original installation is structurally sound and continues to meet all the submission requirements;
- 2. Clearly establishes the continued need for the installation;
- 3. Technological advances have not offered any alternatives that permit the elimination of the antenna or reduction in its size to minimize the visual impacts.
- 4. Any antenna installation which does not receive recertification by the NCPC should be dismantled and removed as soon as possible after the expiration of the NCPC's approval period.

C. To the extent possible, Federal agencies should anticipate the need for antennas on all new buildings and design such buildings in such a fashion as to screen the needed antennas in a manner appropriate to the design of each building.

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D. Rooftop antennas on existing Federal buildings or ground-level installations in the National Capital Region should be designed and installed in a manner that minimizes or eliminates their visual impacts on adjacent properties or public rights-of-way. Where appropriate to the character of a building, retro-fitting to screen antennas not accommodated in original building designs and plans should be considered. Various architectural solutions are possible for retro-fitting buildings to screen antenna installations. The architectural style, orientation, available rooftop space, and structural character of a building, as well as the heights of neighboring buildings, are all important considerations in the retro-fit option selected. A variety of materials, including plastic, fiberglass, and glass can be used to screen or obscure antennas. Any materials that do not block the passage of the radio frequency signals are suitable as a screen.

E. Reasonable precautions are necessary in locating and operating transmitting microwave antennas, because of potential adverse radio frequency bio-effects. In light of the numerous variables regarding power and frequency levels for each installation, electromagnetic radiation impacts will have to be evaluated on a site specific basis. All submissions to the NCPC for a transmitting microwave antenna should be accompanied by an environmental assessment. The environmental assessment shall include, among other considerations, an estimate of the electromagnetic radiation levels at 10, 50, 100, 500, 1,000 and 2,000 feet from the installation in milliwatts/centimeters squared and the safeguards proposed to protect the public from any potential adverse bio-effects. A manufacturers certification as to electromagnetic radiation at the above distances and a statement that the proposed antenna meets all American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) current radio frequency emission standards should be made part of the environmental assessment. The NCPC will continue to seek state-of-the-art information on health and human safety issues and shall apply that information and resulting awareness of issues in reviewing and approving antenna installations.

F. All agencies responsible for antenna installations existing at the time of the adoption of these Guidelines are required to apply for approval of all such installations within five years after the adoption of these Guidelines and Submission Requirements.

G. These Guidelines are general in nature and convey the spirit of the concerns regarding potential adverse visual and/or bio-effect impacts to be mitigated. Each installation is a special case and the appropriateness of the solutions selected to reduce the visual impacts will, in a large measure, be determined by the particular location or locations chosen for the installation and the architectural character of the building. These Guidelines provide general criteria to be applied on a case-by-case basis. It is the intent of these Guidelines to: (a) apply to any existing microwave antenna(s) which are moved or relocated to another location on the Federal facility and (b) to encourage the joint use of microwave antennas wherever possible.

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H. The NCPC will, in its review of proposals for microwave antenna installations, be particularly concerned with the agency's statement of need, justification of antenna size, and measures employed to minimize the visual impacts of the proposed installation. The NCPC will continue to review all satellite and terrestrial microwave antenna proposals, on a case-by-case basis, as a modification to previously approved site and building plans.

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 Please respond direct, with info copy to ES.

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[Signature]

Executive Secretary
 16 Nov '87
 Date

3637 (10-81)

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

1325 G STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20576

Executive Registry

87-3584X

November 10, 1987

TO: Selected Department of Defense Agencies

SUBJECT: Proposed Guidelines and Submission Requirements for the
Installation of Satellite Antennas on Federal Property in the
National Capital Region

The National Capital Planning Commission, at its meeting on October 1, 1987, authorized the publication of the enclosed proposed guidelines and submission requirements in the Federal Register for a thirty-day comment period. We expect this publication to appear in the Federal Register within the next few days.

If you desire to comment on these proposed guidelines and submission requirements, please address your comments by December 18, 1987, to:

Martin J. Rody
Director
Planning Services Division
National Capital Planning Commission
1325 G Street, NW., 10th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20576

Rae N. Allen
Secretary to the Commission



1-216-1R

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

1325 G STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20576

PROPOSED
GUIDELINES AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE INSTALLATION
OF SATELLITE ANTENNAS ON FEDERAL PROPERTY
IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION^{1/}

The National Capital Planning Commission finds that certain satellite antennas may adversely impact the aesthetics of the National Capital Region and the health and welfare of its population. Therefore, in order to minimize the visual impacts of satellite antennas on the skyline of the Nation's Capital and on the general appearance of Federal facilities, and to protect the public from any potential adverse radio frequency bio-effect impacts from transmitting microwave antennas, the National Capital Planning Commission is providing the following Guidelines and Submission Requirements to be used by Federal agencies in the National Capital Region in the preparation and submission of plans for antenna installations. (The National Capital Region includes Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland; Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince Williams Counties and the independent cities within the outer boundaries thereof in Virginia; and the District of Columbia).

I. Prior to the installation of any satellite antenna on Federal property in the National Capital Region, Federal agencies shall submit (pursuant to Section 5 of the National Capital Planning Act of 1952, as amended; Section 5-432, D.C. Code, in the District of Columbia; and as appropriate, Section 4 of the International Center Act of 1968, as amended) all such installation proposals to the National Capital Planning Commission for review and comment. Approval by the Commission of such installations will be limited to five years. This time period may be increased to ten years at the Commission's discretion on sites outside the Monumental Core* and surrounding lands and designated Historic Districts.

A. Specific Submission Requirements

1. A statement of need - justifying the size of the antenna and other appropriate data regarding the particular installation consistent with security limitations.
2. Site plan and building elevations (for antennas mounted on a building) showing the form, dimensions and location of the antenna(s).
3. Construction drawings showing the proposed method of installation.
4. Description of the texture and color of materials to be used.

* The Monumental Core as defined in the Federal Facilities element of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital.

^{1/} Authorized by the Commission for publication in the Federal Register for review and comment at its meeting on October 1, 1987.

5. Screening plan - including proposed materials, color and texture for rooftop installations. For ground-level installations also include the number, species and size of trees or shrubs to be used as a screen.

6. Site line studies illustrating the extent to which the proposed antenna(s) will be visible from the surrounding streets and public open spaces. These studies should include all alternatives considered.

7. A review of alternatives considered to meet the telecommunication needs of the agency.

B. General Criteria Applying to Antenna Installations

1. No rooftop satellite antenna in the National Capital Region should exceed the height of the roof of any permitted penthouses on Federal buildings.

2. Materials used in the construction of antennas and their mountings should not be bright, shiny or reflective and should be of a color that blends with the surrounding building materials.

3. Any masts or towers should be non-combustible, corrosion resistant and protected against electrolytic action.

4. All antennas should be adequately grounded to protect against a direct lightning strike.

II. Federal agencies may request an extension of the approval prior to expiration of the original approval. The request should be accompanied by a certification that: (1) the original installation is structurally sound and continues to meet all the submission requirements; (2) clearly establishes the continued need for the installation; and (3) technological advances have not offered any alternatives that permit the elimination of the antenna or reduction in its size to minimize the visual impacts. Any antenna installation which does not receive re-certification by the Commission should be dismantled and removed as soon as possible after the expiration of the Commission's approval period.

III. To the extent possible, Federal agencies should anticipate the need for antennas on all new buildings and design such building in such a fashion as to screen the needed antennas in a manner appropriate to the design of the building.

IV. Rooftop antennas on existing Federal buildings or ground level installations in the National Capital Region should be designed and installed in a manner that minimizes or eliminates their visual

impacts on adjacent properties or public rights-of-way. Where appropriate to the character of a building, retro-fitting to screen antennas not accommodated in original building designs and plans should be considered. Various architectural solutions are possible for retro-fitting buildings to screen antenna installations. The architectural style, orientation, available rooftop space, and structural character of a building, as well as the heights of neighboring buildings, are all important considerations in the retrofit option selected. A variety of materials, including plastic, fiberglass and glass can be used to screen or obscure antennas. Any materials that do not block the passage of the radio frequency signals are suitable as a screen.

V. Reasonable precautions are necessary in locating and operating transmitting microwave antennas, because of potential adverse radio frequency bio-effects. In light of the numerous variables regarding power and frequency levels for each installation, electromagnetic radiation impacts will have to be evaluated on a site specific basis. All submissions to the Commission for a transmitting microwave antenna should be accompanied by an environmental assessment. The environmental assessments shall include, among other considerations, an estimate of the electromagnetic radiation levels at 10, 50, 100, 500, 1,000 and 2,000 feet from the installation, in milliwatts/centimeter squared, and the safeguards proposed to protect the public from any potential adverse bio-effects. A manufacturers certification as to electromagnetic radiation at the above distances and a statement that the proposed antenna meets all American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) current radio frequency emission standards should be made part of the environmental assessment. The Commission will continue to seek state-of-the-art information on health and human safety issues and shall apply that information and resulting awareness of issues in reviewing and approving antenna installations.

VII. All agencies responsible for antenna installations existing at the time of the adoption of these Guidelines are required to apply for approval of all such installations within five years after the adoption of these Guidelines and Submission Requirements.

These Guidelines are general in nature and convey the "spirit" of the concerns regarding potential adverse visual and/or bio-effect impacts to be mitigated. Each installation is a special case and the appropriateness of the solutions selected to reduce the visual impacts will, in a large measure, be determined by the particular location or locations chosen for the installation and the architectural character of the building. These Guidelines provide general criteria to be applied on a case-by-case basis.

The Commission will, in its review of proposals for satellite antenna installations, be particularly concerned with the agency's statement of need, justification of antenna size and measures employed to minimize the visual impacts of the proposed installation. The Commission will continue to review all satellite and terrestrial microwave antenna proposals, on a case-by-case basis, as a modification to previously approved site and building plans.