



## Pinelands Preservation Alliance

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Protecting the Pinelands  
since 1989

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Dear Mr. Liggett, Mr. Lanute, and Pinelands Commission staff,

I am writing to express our concerns regarding the amendments to particularly the tower siting hierarchy. Several of the proposed changes reduce the ability of the Commission to lessen visual and construction impacts on the Pinelands from radio towers.

The existing siting policy states: "Except as otherwise specifically noted in this report, there will be a general presumption that a facility's final location will be within the immediate area of the location proposed in this Plan, i.e., the Pinelands management area group and municipality described in the Plan as further defined using the geographic coordinates prepared by the Commission's staff." It is troubling that the proposed amendment does not include the presumption that the radio tower be sited in the immediate area of the location indicated within the plan. Rather, the amendment immediately jumps to the three-mile search radius. The presumption that the radio tower be sited per the plan is essential, as the plan, and locations therein, were already vetted and approved by the Commission. If there is an opportunity for the tower to be sited in a less damaging site, that would be beneficial, but that is not included in the amendment language.

Other than the expansion of the search radius, none of the changes are required to actually site any of the towers. There is no expansion of eligible sites, just a change in how they are ranked. Thus, the only portion of the amendment that increases public safety is the change in search radius. The change to the siting hierarchy actually does a disservice to the safeguards set up in the original plan.

The siting policy then enters the hierarchy of siting preferences. After co-location, public lands are all treated equally, as long as the location is not in a more restrictive area than that proposed within the plan. This is concerning; if the Preservation Area, Special Agricultural Production Area, Forest Area, and Pinelands Villages are to be truly the least number regions as per the plan, any chance to move towers outside of these areas must be taken. The public lands must be subject to the same hierarchy as all other lands.

The new hierarchy also lists all publicly-owned land in regional growth areas, Pinelands Towns, and in the Garden State Parkway Overlay District as preferred sites, over all other non-publicly owned land. This preference does not separate out whether the publicly-owned land is developed. It is especially concerning that publicly owned land that may be held for recreation or conservation within these areas would be a preferred site for tower construction. While the Pinelands Commission may not have the authority under the CMP to ban construction on these sites, it can certainly *discourage* it as compared to other sites, and for the public interest it is compelled to do so.

Sincerely,

Katherine Smith  
Policy Advocate

Pinelands Preservation Alliance

**From:** "Lizzi Schippert" <openingyoureyes@verizon.net>  
**To:** <comments@njpines.state.nj.us>  
**Date:** 6/5/2017 7:50 PM  
**Subject:** comment on Radio Towers

The need for reliable wireless communication must be balanced with the protection of the fragile Pine Barrens ecosystem. Radio towers range in size from 150 to 250 ft.

Dear Decision Makers -

One must always balance 'progress' with the needs of the ecosystem. I live in Island Heights and two summers ago two MacMansions were built near us, one on the adjoining property and one behind us, across the lane. The Code Enforcement in this town did little or nothing to protect the already existing tree ordinance, construction trucks dug up the asphalt street behind our house, the construction men left their truck engines running, sometimes for the entire day, two years later there are still bits of insulation debris landing in my yard which have been carried by the wind - etc etc.

My point is that even if there are rules in place which should protect the environment, the contractors themselves, and their machines, seem to run wild with the 'importance' of their construction and it is the neighbors and environment, which suffer. In this case the neighbors are wild creatures dependent upon that environment and its integrity.

Please have ecological supervisors on hand so that if and where these towers are constructed there will be a clear voice to minimize collateral damage to the surroundings, including any temporary roadways which are made to access the site. It is essential that construction debris be removed completely.

Thank you for keeping the integrity of the environment foremost- don't indulge in careless destruction, and clean up after yourselves.

Lizzi Schippert

PO Box

Island Hts.,NJ 08732

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<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

**From:** sally dougan <saldougan@aol.com>  
**To:** <comments@njpines.state.nj.us>  
**Date:** 6/5/2017 10:35 PM  
**Subject:** Please do not amend the existing plan

Please do not amend the existing plan. To do so would endanger the few protections and certainty that we have for the treasured Pinelands. This shouldn't be toyed with!

It would be irresponsible and show lack of concern for the integrity of the important Pinelands area.

Thank you,

Sarah B. Dougan  
25 McCatharn Road  
Lebanon, NJ 08833

**From:** Jody <jodylynn123@comcast.net>  
**To:** <comments@njpines.state.nj.us>  
**Date:** 6/7/2017 4:17 PM  
**Subject:** radio towers

Dear Pinelands Committttee members,

I knew as soon as you allowed soccer tournaments and gas pipelines in the Pinelands, it would be just the start of further encroachment in this valuable asset of New Jersey and the world. Pretty soon, it will look like Trenton, Hoboken, or any other inhabited area of New Jersey. Please think and be very careful about where you allow these radio towers to be built. Thank your for your consideration.

Jody Vaughn

**From:** Jean Public <jeanpublic1@yahoo.com>  
**To:** "COMMENTS@NJPINES.STATE.NJ.US" <COMMENTS@NJPINES.STATE.NJ.US>  
**Date:** 6/8/2017 3:05 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Public Hearing on Radio Towers

MY COMMENT FOR THE RECORD IS TO INSTALL RADIO TOWERS OUTSIDE OF THE PINELANDS PRESERVATION AREA.I AM CERTAIN IN THESE TIMES OF TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS, THAT SUCH SITES CAN BE INSTALLED OUTSIDE THE PRESERVED PINELANDS AREA AND STILL SERVE THE INTERESTS OF ALL. WE DO NOT NEED AND SHOULD NOT ALLOWENDLESS UTILITY USE OF THE PINELANDS AREA. FAR TOO MUCH HAS DESTROYED WITHINT TH EPINELANDS ALREADY. THE ASSAULT ON NATURE BY NJ CORRPT GOVT IS EXTENSIVE. JEAN PUBLIEE JEANPUBLIC1@GMAIL.COM

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