Case No. 19PD040

Legal Description:

Lot 1 of Thompson Tower Subdivision located in Section 14, T1N, R7E, BHM, Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota
August 27, 2019

Mr. Ken Young
Director Department of Community Development
City of Rapid City
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Subject: Hughes Network Systems, LLC Request to Install a 10M Antenna at the Golden West Tower Road Site

Dear Mr. Young:

Hughes Network Systems, LLC (HUGHES) is the global leader in broadband satellite technology and services for home and office. Its flagship high-speed satellite Internet service is HughesNet®, the world's largest satellite network with over 1.3 million residential and business customers across North and South America. Our current customer base in South Dakota is 4,435 users of HughesNet. The JUPITER™ System is the world's most widely deployed High-Throughput Satellite (HTS) platform, operating on more than 20 satellites by leading service providers, delivering a wide range of broadband enterprise, mobility and cellular backhaul applications.

To keep pace with growing industry needs, Hughes is working on its next generation satellite, Jupiter 3, which is planned to launch in April/May 2021. In parallel with the satellite launch, Hughes is working to establish 20 Gateway locations throughout the United States, west of the Mississippi. The Golden West, Rapid City site is a key component in this new network.

Each gateway will consist of a 9.2M or 10M antenna and one rack of equipment which will be housed in the antenna pedestal. The Golden West/Rapid City site will have 10M antenna installed. The site prep for these gateways will begin in the summer of 2019 and will continue throughout 2020.

It is essential that each site selected have a clear view of the south sky, redundant infrastructure to include power, cooling and fiber along with the ability for smart hands service. These key features are all present at the Golden West site which makes it a preferred location and would eliminate duplication of infrastructure and the expense of over $200K. The long-standing use of this location for other telecommunications facilities/structures and support utilities/hardware including our Jupiter 1 Gateway make this a logical, economical and reasonable location for the new antenna. Locating the antenna interior to the existing site and improvements will result in negligible impact to any of the surrounding properties or uses.

On behalf of Hughes Network Systems and the customers that rely on our communications technology and support, we respectfully request your recommendation of approval for the Major Amendment to the Planned Development to allow an additional 10M dish antenna as part of the Golden West communications facility on Tower Road.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 301.428.5829.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

James G. Muir, III
Vice President – Real Estate & Facilities

CC:
Bill Cook – Golden West