

Chair of Board, Morris Mellion MD, FAAFP (retired)
Secretary/Treasurer, Tom Factor
Members Devra Davis, PhD, MPH, President
Executive Director, Theodora Scarato, MSW
Program Administrator, Candace Woodbury

February 15, 2019

TO: Town of Jackson Mayor and Council and Teton County Commissioner
FROM: Environmental Health Trust
SUBJECT: Update on Scientific Risks of 5G and Policy Options

As a Jackson Hole based non-profit, [Environmental Health Trust](#) (EHT) is providing this important update on 5G technology, which is on its way to regions like ours. **We are sponsoring a public discussion of relevant issues, February 25th, starting at 6:00 PM, at the Jewish Community Center, Centennial Building, featuring world-renowned experts on the topic from Canada and the U.S. and would be happy to provide a private briefing to Council members and Commissioner earlier that day or make our experts available for subsequent consultations through other means.**

To implement the new 5G-ready infrastructure that will eventually support the Internet of Things, telecommunications companies plan to put hundreds of thousands of new antennas directly in front of homes, schools, and businesses that will also require many more large cell towers to support the infrastructure. Termed “small cells,” each new antenna can contain 1,000 simultaneously operating devices that send and receive high-frequency radiation.

Despite local objections, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and [a number in Congress](#), supported by industry, have been attempting to preempt all local control regarding 5G. Recently [Senator Richard Blumenthal and Congresswoman Anna Eshoo](#) have raised important questions regarding the lack of environmental, health and safety information on this system, much of which is being built on the backbone of publicly funded utility poles. The [National League of Cities](#) supports the Congresswoman’s proposed new congressional legislation (HR 530) to restore control over tower siting to localities.

Similar to cell phones and other wireless devices, these 5G “small cells” will emit microwave radiation. This radiation is associated with a wide array of adverse [health](#) and [environmental](#) effects, including but not limited to: disrupted [migration](#) and [orientation](#) of animals like birds and insects, [cancer](#), [reproductive harm](#), [DNA damage](#), [immune dysfunction](#), [damage to the blood brain barrier](#), [altered brain development](#), [disruptions to heart functioning](#), [mental health effects](#), [memory impairment](#), [sleep disturbances](#), and [tree/plant/crop](#) damage. It is a serious concern for [wildlife](#). As the [U.S. Department of Interior](#) has noted, radiation studies at cellular communication towers have documented “nest and site abandonment, plumage deterioration, locomotion problems, reduced survivorship, and death” among birds. Experts warn that [amphibians and insects](#) are at particular risk from 5G. Indeed, the technology may even be able to “[punch irreparable holes in the food web](#).”

Wireless radiation limits in the United States are over twenty years out of date and do not adequately protect public health or the environment. [As stated by the EPA](#), the FCC’s 1996 limits do not account for current cumulative, long-term exposures, nor are they designed to protect populations at greater risk such as children, pregnant women, the unborn, the elderly, those with chronic illness, electromagnetically sensitive individuals, etc. Many organizations like the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) have urged the FCC to update radiation standards to better protect children’s health and reflect current use patterns. However, the FCC has yet to do so.

Many countries such as China, India, Poland, Russia, Italy, and Switzerland have far more protective and strict [radiation limits](#) than the United States, setting exposure limits far lower than this country.

Ambient exposures to radiofrequency radiation will increase significantly with the rollout of 5G “small cell” wireless facilities to be placed right in front of homes. Industry [reports](#) state that full 5G deployment is not even possible in countries with more protective limits.

Scientists, doctors, and other experts around the world have called for [greater protection from wireless and electromagnetic radiation exposures](#) and a [moratorium on the rollout of 5G](#) until health and environmental hazards have been fully investigated by independent scientists.

Moreover, technological progress does not require this increase in radiation. [Wired systems are the safer, healthier alternative](#) to wireless systems, as they do not emit harmful radiofrequency radiation. They are also more energy efficient, cost-effective, and reliable.

In short, the 5G rollout will dramatically increase the prevalence of radiofrequency radiation, a [pollutant](#) with documented harms to human health and the environment. Please see the attached materials with information on 5G and what you can do to protect your city.

Sincerely,



Devra Davis, PhD, MPH

President, Environmental Health Trust

Visiting Prof. Hebrew Univ. Hadassah Medical Center &

Ondokuz Mayıs Univ. Medical School

Associate Editor, *Frontiers in Radiation and Health*

Attachments:

1. “Resources for Officials About Small Cells and 5G,” a PDF EHT put together to help city officials understand what 5G is, how it affects their localities, and what they can do
2. A compilation of the science behind 5G technology
3. [A summary of the FCC Small Cell Order prepared by Next Century Cities and attorney Mark Del Bianco](#)
4. Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Radiation and Health Recent US Government Reports: A Factsheet that links to the recent US government reports on the issue of wireless radiation and health.
5. [Letter from Blumenthal and Eshoo to FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr on the Safety of 5G](#)

For Express Mail
7100 N Rachel Way
Unit 6 Eagles Rest
Teton Village WY 83025



For U.S. Mail
P.O. Box 58
Teton Village WY 83025
www.ehtrust.org

SENT TO:

Mark Newcomb	mnewcomb@tetoncountywy.gov
Natalia D. Macker	nmacker@tetoncountywy.gov
Greg Epstein	gepstein@tetoncountywy.gov
Luther Propst	lpropst@tetoncountywy.gov
Mark Barron	mbarron@tetoncountywy.gov

Mayor: Pete Muldoon	pmuldoon@jacksonwy.gov
VMayor: Hailey Morton Levinson	hmortonlevinson@jacksonwy.gov
Councilman	
Jim Stanford	jstanford@jacksonwy.gov
Arne Jorgensen	ajorgensen@jacksonwy.gov
Jonathan Schechter	jschechter@jacksonwy.gov

Audrey Cohen-Davis - Town Attorney	acohendavis@jacksonwy.gov
Lea Colasuonno - Assistant Town Attorney	lcolasuonno@jacksonwy.gov