

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OCTOBER 1, 2001**

**PROTOCOL FOR ESTABLISHING TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES  
CITY OF VAUGHAN  
FILE: 15.88**

**Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Planning recommends:

THAT the following report BE RECEIVED for information.

**Purpose**

To update Council with respect to establishing a common protocol within York Region for reviewing and processing proposals to locate telecommunication facilities.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

Early in 2001, a telecommunications tower was constructed on private property at 10090 Bathurst Street in Vaughan. This generated concerns from many Richmond Hill residents regarding the proximity of this structure to their homes. Negotiations resulted in the commitment by the company to dismantle and relocate this tower prior to the end of 2001. In consideration of this matter, Council resolved, on February 12, 2001, "that staff provide a report addressing the provision for site plan approval on communication tower applications".

Under the Radiocommunications Act, Industry Canada is responsible for regulating radiotelecommunications, and for licensing companies which install such facilities. Under the Act, the only local participation in installing a new facility is that the company must "consult" with the municipality. Telecommunication towers are permitted in any zone by the By-law and a building permit is not required, the only exception being the accessory mechanical sheds over 10m<sup>2</sup> in area.

Representatives of Industry Canada were invited to attend the March 2, 2001 meeting of the York Region Planning Commissioners/Directors for discussion of the process. It was agreed that the Region of York would co-ordinate the preparation of a common protocol for the regional municipalities, for the review and processing of proposals to locate telecommunication facilities.

On May 11, 2001, a working committee met to discuss the process and content of an effective protocol. A draft protocol was prepared and distributed to the nine area municipalities on August 1, 2001 for review. On August 24, 2001, a meeting was held at the Region of York with the area municipalities, to review and comment on the draft document. Once consensus is reached, the committee will solicit comments from Industry Canada and the telecommunications industry.

**Conclusion**

Completion of a protocol with input from the municipal representatives, the telecommunications industry and Industry Canada is targeted for this fall. In the interim, any proposals received by the Building Standards Department are being reviewed by the Planning Department and, if necessary, the applicants are requested to contact nearby landowners for their comments. Once completed, a final draft of the protocol will be forwarded to Committee of the Whole later this year for input and recommendations.

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Respectfully submitted,

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