

NEW INDUSTRY CANADA ANTENNA SITING AND APPROVAL PROCEDURES

Industry Canada has released new antenna siting and approval procedures, to come into effect **January 1, 2008**. Key changes include clearer processes for public notification and consultation, and added community involvement.

Under the revised siting and approval procedures, before building a new structure, Industry Canada requires that proponents first explore the possibility of sharing an existing antenna system or using existing infrastructure – such as rooftops, water towers, etc. If neither of these options is feasible, the new procedures set out a detailed 120-day Land Use Authority (LUA) and public consultation process, including procedures and timelines around contacting the LUA, following LUA processes for antenna siting where these exist, notifying the public and responding to public concerns. The new procedures also contain a dispute resolution process in which, upon receipt of a written request from a stakeholder other than the general public concerning

“a reasonable and relevant concern,” the Department may either make a final decision on the issue, or suggest that the parties enter into an alternative dispute resolution process.

Some exclusions to the consultation requirements are included in the new procedures, most notably for maintenance or modification of existing structures, for temporary installations and for new antenna systems that are less than 15 metres above ground level.

UBCM would advise members of the need to establish local consultation processes for Land Use Authorities where these haven't yet been developed. Industry Canada has offered its assistance to local governments in developing these protocols

and has advised it will be publishing a Protocol Guide in the new year.

Further information on the new antenna siting and approval procedures is available on the Industry Canada website at www.ic.gc.ca – click on the “A-Z Index” link and select “Antenna Structures” from the alphabetical display.

UBCM has advised Industry Canada that it will monitor local government satisfaction with the new procedures as they take effect; and we would encourage you to contact Ken Vance at kvance@civicnet.bc.ca or 604-270-8226 ext. 114 if your local government encounters any issues in implementing the new procedures or establishing local consultation processes for LUAs.

Please make copies of this circular and distribute to Council/Board Members /Staff.