



May 9, 2024

ETS Construction, Inc.
3227 Wellington Court
Raleigh, NC 27526

Catawba County Planning Department
PO Box 389
25 Government Drive
Newton, NC 28658

Subject: Response to County Q&A

To whom it may concern:

Duke Energy has submitted a special use permit application with Catawba County for a wireless communication new tower at 3545 Tower Road in Maiden, North Carolina. The purpose of this statement is to provide additional information to address the questions of Catawba County.

Pursuant to Sec. 44-685.05 (c), Location of wireless facilities and wireless support structures, of the Catawba County Ordinance, an application must address collocation as an option.

ETS worked with Duke to review all the existing towers within a 1-mile search ring. No existing towers within the 1-mile search ring have the capacity or structural classification requirements needed. Duke has the towers designed to the highest classification standard Risk Category III in the industry (TIA-222) and most commercial towers are not designed to that Risk Category. The inventory of available towers was likely constructed prior to the current revision of the standard (Rev H), Duke's tower will be designed to the current Revision.

Pursuant to Sec. 44-685.05 (e) Location of wireless facilities and wireless support structures, of the Catawba County Ordinance, the county may approve any site within an area in the above list of priorities, provided that the county finds that the proposed site is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the county and its inhabitants and will not have a negative effect on the nature and character of the community and neighborhood so long as it is consistent with state law.

This application provides documentation that the tower will meet State laws and codes. The industry standard TIA-222 has been accepted by the State for their towers. Duke Energy's new telecommunications tower will be consistent with State law.

Pursuant to Sec. 44-685.05 (f) Location of wireless facilities and wireless support structures, of the Catawba County Ordinance, the applicant must submit a written report demonstrating the applicant's review of the above locations in order of priority, demonstrating the technological reason for the site selection. If appropriate, based on selecting a site of lower priority, a detailed written explanation as to why sites of a higher priority were not selected must be included with the application.

No existing towers within the 1-mile search ring have the structural classification requirements needed. Duke has the towers designed to the highest classification standard Risk Category III in the industry (TIA-222) and most commercial towers are not designed to that Risk Category. The inventory of available towers was likely constructed prior to the current revision of the standard (Rev H), Duke's tower will be designed to the current Revision. The requested location is paramount to Duke's network modernization plan due to radio coverage in the area and to provide communications to existing Duke towers within the area.

Pursuant to Sec. 44-685.15 (4) Submittal requirements—New wireless support structures and wireless facilities, a copy of the FCC license applicable for the intended use of the structure.

All existing antennas on the old tower are licensed or approved by the FCC and we've amended the existing license to cover the additional antennas for the new tower. The amendment has been filed with the FCC and we're expecting it back from the FCC by the end of June 2024.

Pursuant to Sec. 44-685.15 (16) Submittal requirements—New wireless support structures and wireless facilities, A written report demonstrating meaningful efforts to secure shared use of existing wireless support structures or the use of alternative buildings or other structures within the county that are at or above the surrounding tree height or the tallest obstruction and are within one mile of the proposed tower. Copies of written requests and responses for shared use must be provided along with any letters of rejection stating the reason for rejection.

A written report demonstrating meaningful efforts to secure shared use of existing wireless support structures or the use of alternative buildings or other structures within the county that are at or above the surrounding tree height or the tallest obstruction and are within one mile of the proposed tower. Copies of written requests and responses for shared use must be provided along with any letters of rejection stating the reason for rejection.

An exhaustive 1-mile search proved that none of the towers within the search area would support Duke Energy's intended uses and was not feasible or practicable. Therefore, no rejection letters exist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Eric Dickerson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

J. Eric Dickerson, E.I., CWI, GC
Executive Vice President
Engineered Tower Solutions, PLLC