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Return Address: Sprint PCS  
c/o Claudia Gemberlinger  
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4683 Chabot Drive, Suite 100  
Pleasanton, CA 94588

FILED  
SKAMANIA COUNTY WASH  
BY *Mericom*

OCT 3 3 17 PM '01  
*Olson*  
AUDITOR  
GARY H. OLSON

Skamania County  
Department of Planning and  
Community Development

Skamania County Courthouse Annex  
Post Office Box 790  
Stevenson, Washington 98648  
509 427-9458 FAX 509 427-8868

Letter Amendment to Director's Decision NSA-00-07

APPLICANT: Sprint PCS for Horst and Sanger Schwarz  
FILE NO.: Amendment to NSA-00-07  
REFERENCE NO.: Director's Decision for NSA-00-07 recorded in Book 215 Page 333  
Auditor's file # 142499 recorded on the 3rd day of October, 2001  
PROJECT: Construct a Utility Facility with Monopole Antenna inside a Fenced Compound  
LOCATION: 91 Cook-Underwood Road; Section 34 of T3N, Range 9E, W.M. and identified as Skamania Tax Lot #3-9-34-21-1000  
LEGAL: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Block 2 of the townsite of Cooks, according to the official plat thereof on file and record at page 33 of Plate, Records of Skamania County, Book A.  
ZONING: General Management Area - Residential 10 (R-10)

February 27, 2001

Dear Ms. Gemberlinger,

The Planning Department issued a final Director's Decision on January 22, 2001 for the above referenced application. On February 9, 2001 we received a letter from Claire Puchy, the Executive Director for the Columbia River Gorge Commission. The letter which I have enclosed requests that the proposed monopole approved in the NSA-00-07 Director's Decision be redesigned using stealth techniques to look like a tree with branches. Although this change is fairly minor, an amendment must be completed to approve the change in the monopole design as condition #8 of the original Director's Decision states:

*Superior*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Advised*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Noted*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Filed*  
\_\_\_\_\_

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- 8) Stealth techniques shall be used to disguise the monopole to appear in the likeness of a structure within the vicinity that is similar in height, such as a (fir) tree or a wood telephone pole. Design plans shall be submitted to the Planning Department prior to issuance of a building permit.

As we discussed and agreed to on the telephone and as stated in Ms. Puchy's letter, a tree design would blend better with the landscape because there are existing trees the same height as the proposed monopole, but not any telephone poles that are as high as the proposed monopole. Additionally, this change would be minor because the requirement to utilize a tree stealth design is already stated in condition #8, and the requested amendment would only require deleting the wood telephone stealth design from the design options. Therefore, this amendment is found minor and acceptable and condition #8 now states:

- 8) Stealth techniques shall be used to disguise the monopole to appear in the likeness of a structure within the vicinity that is similar in height, such as a (fir) tree or a wood telephone pole. In the event that the manufacturer cannot design the monopole to look like a tree with branches, the applicant shall determine if the monopole can look like the trunk of a tree (snag). Design plans shall be submitted to the Planning Department prior to issuance of a building permit.

Pursuant to SCC §22.06.080(B), a change or alteration to an approved action, if determined to be minor by the Director, may be "deemed consistent with the provisions of this Title and the findings and conclusions on the original application." I have determined that the proposed request constitutes a minor change, therefore, the original decision shall be amended to require the applicant to have the monopole designed to look like a (fir) tree with branches, or a snag if the manufacturer determines that the former tree with branches design is not possible.

All of the original conditions in the Director's Decision are still valid and shall be complied with. As a reminder, **THIS LETTER AMENDMENT NEEDS TO BE RECORDED AT THE COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE AS WAS YOUR DIRECTOR'S DECISION.** If you have any questions, please give me a call at 509-427-9458.

Sincerely,



Heather O'Donnell  
Associate Planner

#### APPEALS

This Administrative Decision of the Director shall be final unless reversed or modified on appeal. A written Notice of Appeal may be filed by an interested person within 20 days from the date hereof. Appeal may be made to the Skamania County Board of Adjustment, P.O. Box 790, Stevenson, WA 98648, on or before 3/19/01. Notice of Appeal forms are available at the Department Office.



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**WARNING**

On November 30, 1998 the Columbia River Gorge Commission overturned a Skamania County Director's Decision 18 months after the 20 day appeal period had expired. You are hereby warned that you are proceeding at your own risk and Skamania County will not be liable for any damages you incur in reliance upon your Director's Decision or any amendments thereto.

cc: Skamania County Building Department  
Skamania County Assessor's Office  
Persons submitting written comments in a timely manner  
Yakama Indian Nation  
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs  
Nez Perce Tribe  
Columbia River Gorge Commission  
U.S. Forest Service - NSA Office  
Board of County Commissioners

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Commission

Columbia River Gorge

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Post Office Box 730 • White Salmon Washington 98672 • 509 493 3323 • Fax 509 493 2229

February 7, 2001

Harpreet Sandhu  
Director  
Skamania County Department of Planning  
P.O. Box 790  
Stevenson, WA 98648

Dear Ms. Sandhu:

My staff has reviewed the Staff Report and Director's Decision for NSA-00-07 (Sprint, 60-foot monopole). We would like to comment on Condition 8, which states:

Stealth techniques shall be used to disguise the monopole to appear in the likeness of a structure within the vicinity that is similar in height, such as a (fir) tree or a wood telephone pole.


We support the use of stealth techniques, and understand that monopoles can be disguised to look like trees. In fact, several examples can be found at [www.valmont.com](http://www.valmont.com) and [www.utilitycamo.com](http://www.utilitycamo.com). Given that the building site for the monopole is visible from five Key Viewing Areas, we recommend that you require the applicant to use a monopole that is designed to look like a tree. This would ensure that the monopole would be visually subordinate, and would serve as a model for other similar facilities in the Gorge.

Condition 8 says the monopole could also look like a telephone pole. We do not encourage this option because a tree would blend with the landscape far better than a pole. This is true because the landscape includes many tall trees. In contrast, 60-foot poles are rare. Most nearby electric and telephone distribution lines are on poles that approximately 30-feet tall.

If the monopole cannot be designed like a tree with branches, the applicant should find out if its exterior could be manufactured to look like the trunk of a tree. In this manner, the monopole would resemble a snag with a textured and multicolored surface, rather than a smooth and featureless pole.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

  
Claire A. Puchy  
Executive Director

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