



Ravalli County Planning Department
215 South 4th Street, Suite F
Hamilton, MT 59840
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OG-25-04-172

Date: April 24th, 2025
To: Adjoining Property Owners
From: Rob Livesay, Planning Director
Cc: Outgoing Correspondence File
Enc: Location Map

Subject: Ravalli County Board of County Commissioners Continuance Hearing and Balloon Test Notice for Wireless Communication Facility Request - Vertical Bridge US-MT-5077 302 Black Bear Lane

This letter is to inform you that the Ravalli County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) will hold a continuance of the public hearing held on April 11th, 2025 to resume review of Wireless Communication Facility Permit Application (WCFP-24-10). Furthermore, the BCC has requested that a Balloon Test be completed to allow residents in the area to observe the visual impacts of the proposed Wireless Communication Tower proposed at 302 Black Bear Lane, Hamilton. The Balloon Test is scheduled for Saturday May 10th, 2025 between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and if weather prevents flying that day, Sunday May 11th, 2025 (same time). They also requested that residents within one-mile of the proposed tower be notified of the continuance hearing and Balloon Test. Instructions for the Balloon Test are provided on page 2 of this notice. Please follow the instructions.

Continuance Hearing Information:

The Ravalli County Planning Department received Wireless Communication Facility Permit Application (WCFP-24-10) on September 4th, 2024. The Applicant is Vertical Bridge Holding LLC, representing T-Mobile. The application is proposing a new wireless communication tower at 302 Black Bear Lane, Hamilton, MT 59840. A previous application (WCFP-23-02) proposing a wireless communication tower at 302 Black Bear Lane, Hamilton, MT 59840 was denied by Ravalli County due to lack of evidence to meet the spacing requirement exception defined under Section 4.C of the Ravalli County Wireless Communication Facility Ordinance No. 13 (WCFO). The Ravalli County Planning Department deemed Application (WCFP-24-10) sufficient on March 14th, 2025 as it contains all the required materials required by the WCFO. The application has now been forwarded onto the Ravalli County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for their consideration, specifically, the spacing exception as described in Section 4.C of the WCFO. **The first hearing was held on April 11th, 2025 and the BCC voted to continue the hearing to a later date. The continuance of the hearing has been scheduled for June 3rd, 2025 at 1:30 PM.**

Information describing the proposal is available for inspection at the Planning Department, in the County Administrative Center, 215 S. 4th St., Suite F, Hamilton, MT 59840. The Planning Department Staff Report is posted on our website here: <https://ravalli.us/179/Zoning>. Written comments are encouraged to be submitted to the Planning Department prior to the date of the continuance hearing and will be forwarded to the BCC (planning@rc.mt.gov).

The BCC will hold a Continuance Hearing of the April 11th, 2025 Public Hearing on the proposal on June 3rd, 2025 at 1:30 PM., in the County Administrative Center (BCC Conference Room, 3rd Floor,

Hamilton). The BCC will also accept verbal or written comments from the public. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the BCC may make a final decision on the proposal.

Balloon Test Information:

The **Balloon is test scheduled for Saturday, May 10, 2025**, and if weather prevents flying that day, **Sunday May 11, 2025**.

- Red balloon to fly from **7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**
- **See instructions below** for taking and submitting photos.
- Photos must be submitted to County staff by **May 19, 2025**.
 - Email photos and supporting evidence to planning@rc.mt.gov

Instructions for taking and submitting photos as evidence:

*******Applicant's professional photographer** is available to take photos from your home during the balloon test. If you would like this assistance, please contact Ben Marcus at bmarcus@networkconnex.com to make arrangements.

If you take/submit your own photos, they will be more credible if you do the following:

- Submit the photos as digital files.
- Take at least one photo from your home itself. You may take additional photos from other points on your property if you wish.
- Each photo should be submitted with clear support for where you were standing when it was taken. Good supporting information would include:
 - GPS coordinates (latitude and longitude) and altitude of location. You may confirm this information various ways with a cell phone or other device. For iPhones, the Compass app shows coordinates and altitude. (Make sure you have location settings on for your Compass app first.)
 - A map of the location where the photo was taken. Turn on location settings for your Camera app to get a map of the location.
 - A photo of the location from which photo was taken (with clear points of reference visible).
- Each photo should be submitted with information about your camera settings for the shot. A 70mm lens reproduces what is generally considered eye view for human vision – what you would see with your eyes when looking at the same view. The “portrait” option on an iPhone is close to a 70mm lens.
- Provide your property address and/or tax parcel number with your submittal.

For further questions regarding the Balloon Test, please contact Ben Marcus at bmarcus@networkconnex.com to make arrangements.