

MEDIA ALERT
May 7, 2002

For More Information Contact:
Deb Carney, Attorney for CARE/THREAT
Deb@carneylaw.net
303-526-0214
or
Laura Elliott, CARE Press Relations
Lelliott1@go.com
303-526-2842

**BIG TURNOUT EXPECTED FOR MOTHERS & OTHERS MARCH
PROTESTING TOWER & RADIATION INCREASES IN JEFFCO**

WHEN: Wednesday, May 8th at 4:30 PM

WHO: Mothers and others from the communities just west of the seat of Jefferson County government are picking up banners, putting on their THREAT (Tower Hazards and Radiation Exposure Above Tolerance) T-shirts and marching to ask their county to do the right thing by protecting their residents and businesses from the damaging effects of broadcast radiation, to unfurl the petition signed by over 3000 people urging Jefferson County to not permit any more increases in radiation levels and to remind Jefferson County of promises made to its residents.

WHAT: These communities are caught in the crossfire of powerful main beams of the broadcast radiation currently emanating from Mt. Morrison and Lookout Mountain that often already exceed FCC radiation limits. The first rezoning hearings for new tower and huge transmission buildings on both mountains begin next month. Although the tower proponents claim there will be less radiation, FCC construction permits for the antennas on the proposed towers reveal plans to increase the radiation and send out the powerful main signal 360 degrees, directly into the homes of thousands of nearby residents. Broadcast towers create visual and aesthetic concerns, critical preservation issues, and health and safety concerns for thousands of residents who live within the area affected by the radiation emissions from such broadcast antennas.

Broadcasters have repeatedly attempted to add more power to their existing towers and resist clarifications to the zoning resolution that would ensure compliance with Colorado zoning law prohibiting expansion and enlargement of nonconforming uses. The Planning Commission postponed deciding on these changes last March 6 and now the staff is requesting another postponement to July 5 due to intense broadcaster resistance.

WHERE: Jefferson County Administration Building, 100 Jefferson County Parkway, Suite 3550 in Golden. Beginning at the south east parking lot and continuing on the sidewalks leading from that parking lot to the outdoor atrium of the building on the west side.

BACKGROUND:

Historic Community. The “Gateway to the Rockies” is flanked by Mt. Morrison on the south and Lookout Mountain on the north. Mountain residents established a church and school on Lookout Mountain in the 1800’s. Early in the 20th century, Buffalo Bill was buried atop Lookout Mountain, his favorite spot in the west, and many tourists have traveled the Lariat Loop road to the Denver Mountain parks, looping through Evergreen, down to Morrison and Red Rocks. Lookout Mountain and Mt. Morrison are recognized as a part of the Lariat Loop Mountain Gateway Colorado Heritage area.
www.lariatloop.org.

Land Not Zoned for Towers. Almost all the broadcast towers on Lookout Mountain are nonconforming and were constructed right around the time Jefferson County established residential zoning on Lookout Mountain in 1955. 24 years ago, Jefferson County told concerned residents the antennas and towers posed no health risk and that they were temporary and would be removed. Radiation levels remained low until the late 70’s. From 1977 to the present, the amount of radiation from the Lookout Mountain broadcast towers has increased tenfold to eleven and one-half million watts. Similar increases have occurred on Mt. Morrison.

Eight Rezoning Attempts. Since 1983, Jefferson County and these residents have been through eight rezoning cases for towers on Mt. Morrison and Lookout Mountain. The proposal on Mt. Morrison is the third attempt to convert a short microwave relay tower presently being used illegally as a broadcast tower to a properly zoned broadcast tower with a large transmission building. Public Interest Communications (PIC), the group proposing to build the tower on Mt. Morrison, is an alliance comprised of Channel 6, Colorado Public Radio and KUVO. Curiously, these same PIC broadcasters are also included in the Lake Cedar Group broadcasters’ new proposal on Lookout Mountain.

Lake Cedar Group. Lake Cedar Group, which owns the parcel of land on top of Lookout Mt., was denied approval to build a 'supertower' (providing HDTV) based on their 1998 proposal. The broadcaster group responded to the commissioners’ ruling by filing a suit in Jefferson County Court and petitioned the FCC to reverse the ruling and asking the FCC to preempt the County Commissioner’s decision. Although Lake Cedar Group withdrew the suit in Jefferson County District Court shortly before the decision was due, these broadcasters did not withdraw their petition asking the FCC to preempt the rezoning denial. Lake Cedar Group’s attorney asked the FCC to wait and see whether the new Lake Cedar Group proposal will be denied.

The Lake Cedar Group proposal, when officially filed, will be the fifth attempt to rezone Lookout Mountain for a broadcast tower since 1983. Lake Cedar Group admitted at a recent “community” meeting on April 16th that they would be increasing the radiation levels south of their proposed tower on Lookout Mountain. Thousands of mountain residents live south of the Lake Cedar Group proposal. Four of the previous attempts were initiated by Boulder broadcast station, KTVJ, Channel 14. All of these previous attempts involved the parcel of land owned by Chicago broadcast executive Fred Eychaner. Eychaner is a leading individual contributors] to the Democratic National

Party, owner the Channel 20 tower on Mt. Morrison and a key Lake Cedar Group member.

Health Study. The Mt. Morrison, Lookout and Channel 6 towers have regularly exceeded FCC standard for radiation exposure. In 1999, the Colorado Department of Health's found significant elevations of brain cancer in the two areas closest to the Lookout Mountain towers. Experts hired by Lake Cedar Group testified before a Colorado Senate committee that no research was needed on the human health effects of long-term exposure to broadcast radiation. The committee then killed Rep. Witwer's bill for further research. Late last year, the National Institute of Health funded a research study into the health effects of the broadcast radiation on Lookout Mountain residents. The independent research is being conducted by CSU scientists and will be completed in three years.

Interference. The present broadcast radiation already causes such large-scale interference with electrical equipment that one resident's electric wheelchair suddenly turned, accelerated and raced over a cliff, putting the resident in intensive care for a month. A dog with a radio collar was discovered hiding in the fireplace because the broadcasters had increased power levels and the fireplace was the only place for the dog to stand without being shocked. Some parents cannot hear their baby's cries on baby monitors because the interference overrides the monitors and causes them to broadcast FM stations. Car doors lock, lights flash, garage doors open and all types of electronic equipment malfunctions due to interference. The FCC has turned a deaf ear to residents' requests for relief.

The future economic viability of large portions of Jefferson County may be at issue because of the adverse effects of broadcast interference with business and research equipment. The Department of Commerce testified that its Boulder labs research facility would be seriously harmed by the interference caused by the proposed Pinnacle broadcast tower site on Eldorado Mountain even though that tower would have been seven miles from the labs. A seven mile radius from Mt. Morrison or Lookout Mountain proposed tower sites encompasses thousands of present businesses, the Colorado School of Mines, Red Rocks Community College and much of the C-470 Development corridor.

Additional Background, details and position statements can be found by contacting:

Canyon Area Residents for the Environment-Canyon Area Residents for the Environment (CARE), an umbrella homeowners group for over 9000 people opposed to the introduction of more towers or radiation into the community, has been central in the debate over the concerns of health, safety and visual impact that the giant (140-700 feet) towers with high power broadcast antenna pose. www.C-A-R-E.org

Lake Cedar Group c/o the Grinnell Group 515-279-1026
PIC c/o attorney Martha Albright 303-534-6335

