



Canyon Area Residents for the Environment, Inc.

Golden, Colorado 80401

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **New Jeffco Commissioners To Decide Fate of “SuperTower” On Lookout Mountain**

### **New facts and compelling evidence on the risk and ramifications of proposed tower falling, being brought to new set of commissioners**

August 22, 2005 (Golden) --- In what many who have followed the last eight years of legal battles are calling a ‘significant change of the playing field’, the fight over whether high-power digital telecommunications towers should be constructed on Golden’s Lookout Mountain will be presented to a new Jefferson County Commissioner Board on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

In November 2004, Commissioners Pat Holloway and Michelle Lawrence ended their terms; Jim Congrove and Kevin McCaskey were elected to hold those offices. Commissioner Rick Sheehan resigned in February of this year, following allegations of improprieties; Dave Auburn was chosen by committee to replace him. These three new commissioners now make up the board that will decide the fate of the towers, August 30, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Jefferson County Courthouse. Public testimony will be allowed.

Since former county commissioners approved a proposal by Lake Cedar Group (a consortium of Denver-area television station owners) in 2003, the decision – and subsequent similar decisions – have been successfully appealed in Jefferson County Court by a partnership of the City of Golden, CARE (Canyon Area Residents for the Environment) and numerous homeowners associations in the Golden/Lookout Mountain/Genesee area.

Most recently, Jeffco District Judge R. Brooke Jackson decided that a new hearing must be held on whether the proposal complied with the Jefferson County zoning requirements for “tower setback”. Judge Jackson ruled that commissioners did not adequately consider the

possibilities and consequences if the tower or debris from the tower fell. Numerous structures and high-tension power transmission lines are in the tower vicinity, and hundreds of residents live downhill from the proposed new tower.

This hearing will focus on whether the location of the proposed tower violates the Jefferson County tower setback zoning resolution, which states: *“All new structures must be set back from the property line sufficient to prevent all icfall materials and debris from tower failure or collapse from falling onto occupied dwellings other than those occupied by the tower owner. Where more than one tower is located on a site, the set back between such towers shall be sufficient to prevent multiple failures in the event one tower falls.”* Statistically, more than 10 percent of wire-supported towers fail – most often during construction or dismantling phases.

The proposed tower, 730 feet high, would be larger than the tallest building in Denver and will more than double the radiation levels in some areas which are already experiencing high levels of RF exposure and interference of electronic equipment. Since 1998, Opposition groups to the tower construction – including homeowners groups as well as engineers, professors and medical experts – have succeeded in legally halting proposals to construct a massive antennae tower on Lookout Mountain.

### **Additional Background on SuperTower Issues Affecting Golden and Jefferson County**

The broadcast towers atop Lookout Mtn. serve television and FM radio stations. Four television Broadcasters (channels 4,7,9 and 20) formed a consortium called Lake Cedar Group (LCG). LCG is proposing to Jefferson County that they be allowed to build a ‘supertower’ that will emit even higher levels of radiation than the existing towers. The higher power would be used to broadcast High Definition Television (HDTV). Engineers have performed studies finding alternative sites that would provide equal or better broadcast coverage yet are not located at the same elevations as a highly populated residential area – thus greatly reducing the health risks to people.

Recent studies of cancer rate incidents as well as the biological effects of long-term radiation exposure on residents of Lookout Mountain reveal more scientific evidence on the effects of high-powered broadcast antennae. In July 2004, The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment released findings of a study tracking cancer rates in residents of Lookout Mountain and its surrounding areas. The study concluded that there is a statistically higher incidence of central nervous system cancers in those residents closest to the broadcast antennas.

In addition to the state study, the National Institute of Environmental Health commissioned Colorado State University to examine the effects of long-term exposure to radiation on hundreds of residents of Lookout Mountain. This three-year study, titled Human Responses to Residential RF Exposure, will be published in three separate parts later this year. It is expected to show how much radiation is in the area and its effect on biological functions.

As part of the CSU study, hundreds of residents were selected randomly and agreed to have their bodily functions measured and monitored for three consecutive days. This included wearing a

'watch' and fanny-pack devices that measured sleep patterns, cardiovascular and other vital signs. Participants gave blood samples and collected all urine output during that time period.

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For more detailed background, please visit the Canyon Area Residents for the Environment website:  
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