

WirelessEstimator.com has been requested by the undersigned, Mr. Christian Anderson, Mr. Ed Dennis and Mr. Tom Miller, to submit their comments and recommendations to the Federal Communications Commission regarding:

**WT Docket No. 03-187, FCC 06-164, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,
"Effects of Communication Towers on Migratory Birds"**

The U.S Fish and Wildlife service says it has a national problem on its hands and has launched an effort to prevent birds from suffocating in the 20-foot-tall tanks called heater treaters, which are used to separate oil and salt water.

The problem was first noticed when wildlife officers found dozens of dead birds in the Wattenberg oil field north of Denver.

To solve the problem, the FWS is requiring the gas and oil companies to solve the problem, otherwise they will be fined.

Like the avian/tower concerns, the FWS said it was not sure how many birds were being killed, but knew it was a "serious problem".

Unlike enforcement of bird kills on towers, the companies using the heater treaters were under their jurisdiction and they could enforce a remedial program.

Like the avian/tower issue, the biologists do not know why they're attracted to heater treaters, where they end up dying because of the noxious gases.

Unlike the tower issue, it was quickly identified how to solve the problem by a simple use of covers over the openings.

The oil and gas industry didn't see this as a problem and it is quickly becoming a non-issue because the FWS identified the dilemma, offered a realistic solution and the fix was an inexpensive mesh screen.

Unfortunately, the FWS and other conservation groups are pushing for what they believe will be an easy fix of the bird kill problems by changing all red lighting to white strobe lighting. But they have absolutely no credible data that this fix will work.

Until such time that these groups produce scientific and acceptable data, the FCC should not enact any new rulemaking based upon inaccurate information that will slow the needed communications build-out, put an unfair burden upon small business owners and force homeowners to be inconvenienced by white strobe lights at night.

Christian Anderson
Denver, CO

 Dec 21 2006 004:45 AM

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I too have seen no evidence to support such wild claims of mass avian fatalities on or near communications towers. I have been on more than a thousand tower sites and I've seen four or five bird carcasses at the most.

As Safety Director and Training Services Manager for the past five years I have inspected nearly every tower site our company performs work on. These inspections are very detailed and comprehensive in nature and include structural condition assessments as well as environmental issues. I have conducted scores of training exercises on these sites in which the objective is to identify any and all health and safety issues that may affect our employees. The presence of dead birds would not only be noticed, it would be documented.

I am one of two employees here that have contracted the bird carrying fungus "histoplasmosis" while working on towers. This infection wreaked havoc on my system as well as sent the other employee to an ICU at a local hospital before he could be diagnosed. That was more than five years ago and as a result we all pay particular attention to the bird activity on and around our towers. It has been my observation that these towers do not harm birds, rather they represent a valuable asset to bird life in the form of nesting and perch sites.

Prior to a career change that brought me to this industry I was an erection foreman building and maintaining water tanks and towers. During that six year period I can say with all certainty that I have seen hundreds of dead birds in these water tanks. These tanks must be vented to accommodate the changing water level and the birds always seem to defeat the screens we would put in place to keep them out. The chlorine takes care of the obvious. I have yet to hear of an effort to ban drinking water.

Ed Dennis

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I have 32 years in the Public Safety field and I have never observed any dead birds at any site compound I have visited. For the last 28 years I have worked around the public safety towers in Maryland. That is over 130 sites, most self supporting but a few guyed over 500 foot towers.

Where is the problem? I don't see it.

And Maryland has the Chesapeake Bay to attract them.

Tom Miller
Baltimore, Maryland