

September 21, 2009

Mr. Thomas Murray
Community Wireless Structures
2800 Shirlington Road
Suite 960
Arlington, VA 22206

Re: Greenway Exit 5 cell tower buffer — SPEX 2009-0030

Dear Mr. Murray:

At your request, on September 16th, I visited the Exit 5 site to make observations about the vegetation and project plans. After reviewing the plans and discussing the site with Loudoun County forester Dana Malone, I am of the opinion that the site footprint should remain as it is, and that the forest cover that will remain after project completion will meet the Loudoun County requirements for buffering the site.

The forest consists of scattered mature oaks, mostly white oak (*Quercus alba*) and red oak (*Quercus* spp.), and young hickory (*Carya* spp.). The understory is relatively open with sapling and young oaks, hickories, white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), shadbush (*Amelanchier* spp.), blackhaw viburnum (*Viburnum prunifolium*), and lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*). A few remnant eastern redcedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) are still there.

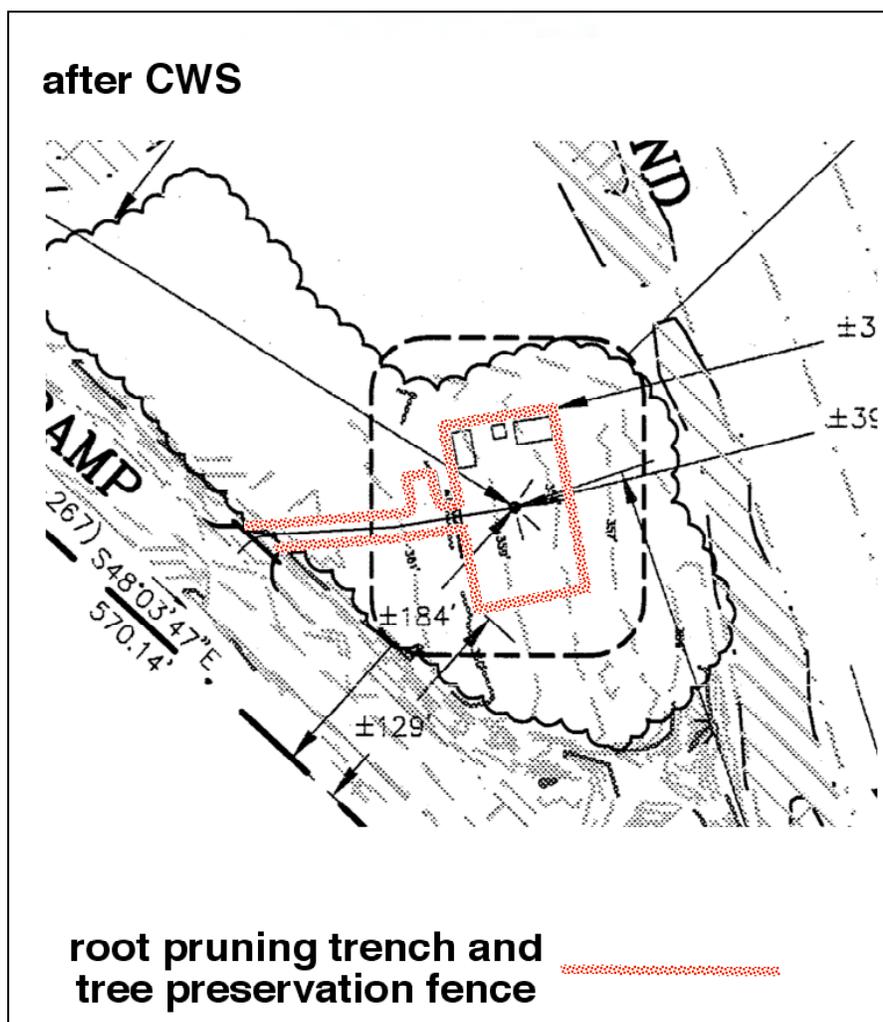
The condition of the overstory trees is either very good or poor. I suspect

that the trees in poor condition are declining due to a combination of construction damage when the Greenway was built and drought. Significant borer damage is evident in the declining trees.

However, the understory is in very good condition, and it is this component of the forest that will make up the buffer for this site and the future forest here.

You and I considered moving the footprint slightly to preserve additional large trees. However, no matter how we shifted the layout, preserving a mature tree on one side would jeopardize one on another side. So there was no net gain.

To maintain this buffer, I would suggest that the limits of clearing and grading for the facility footprint be rootpruned, and tree preservation fence be installed to limit activity to the area being cleared — see the drawing to the right. This will maximize survival of the trees outside the facility.



CWS should plan to monitor the condition of the remaining larger trees regularly after the project construction phase is finished. Any that decline should be taken down, leaving spars¹ and the debris on site as habitat, in order to protect the facility from damage.

The vegetation that remains after construction is deep and tall enough to provide the necessary buffer. This can be seen in the photographs at the end of this report; note the pink flagging tape along the LOC, which is highlighted for clarity by the red dotted lines.

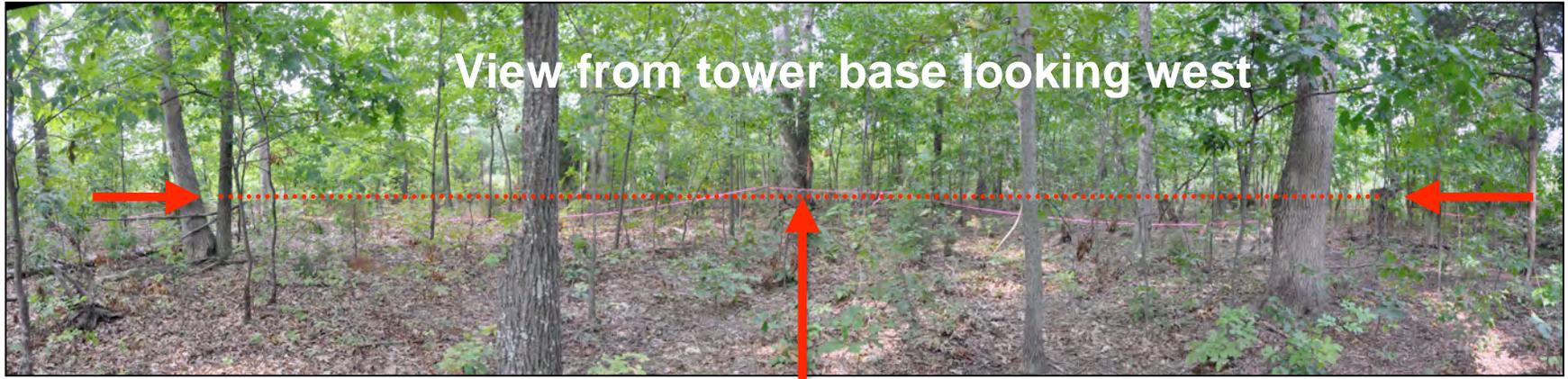
If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Milhous". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ed Milhous
Registered Consulting Arborist® #350

¹ A short trunk of a tree left standing when the tree is removed; provides excellent wildlife habitat.



Entrance to facility comes through here from the exit ramp



Limits of clearing and grading indicated by red dotted line, from arrow to arrow



View from tower base, looking east

Limits of clearing and grading indicated by red dotted line, from arrow to arrow



Limits of clearing and grading indicated by red dotted line, from arrow to arrow