3249 O Street, SE
Washington, DC 20020
September 17, 2001

Board of Zoning
District of Columbia
441 Fourth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Application #16753

Ladies & Gentlemen:

I am writing to oppose the construction of a monopole to be located in the rear of Penn-Branch Shopping Center. I'm a resident of over 30 years in this community and live within 200 feet of the proposed site of the monopole.

I am fearful of the potential and long-term health risks involved with the emission of electromagnetic radiation from the monopole. I understand that there is no proven data to rule out any health risks and that the electromagnetic radiation from the monopole is in excess to the radiation emitted from a microwave oven. However, my microwave oven has a warning label (see attached) which states in part: "..... a) Do not attempt to operate this oven with the door open since open-door operation can result in harmful exposure to microwave energy ....." As we are aware the monopole is operating openly in the environment. 24 hours, 365 days a year.

On a daily basis, I'm inundated with commuter traffic on Pennsylvania and Branch Avenues, SE, in the mornings & evenings; helicopters flying over from Andrews AFB, Suitland, MD, all emitting carbon monoxide; within 200 feet of the proposed monopole are antennas on rooftops, churches, schools, & Penn-Branch Shopping Center, all emitting electro-magnetic radiation which I believe contributes to the unhealthy air I breathe.

Because of water and soil erosion problems in this area, I do not believe that the soil would hold such a big structure as a monopole. Most of the homes are built over underground streams and I fear that the monopole will fall causing devastating damages to the community.

The proposed site for the monopole will be very close to my backyard with a large base station, housing high voltage wires. My family (wife, children & grands), will lose access to the property in the yard due to excessive exposure of dangerous radiation that they would encounter in such close proximity. The monopole will detract from the scenic view we now enjoy in this beautiful community and decrease my property value given its close proximity to residential homes.

I worked very hard to acquire my home to provide comfort, peace, and contentment for my family, and if I can't continue to enjoy these amenities, and live without fear, it would be a great tragedy to a family, which is the foundation of our society. Request BZA to disaprove Application #16753.

Sincerely,

William Wilson, Jr.

cc Mayor Williams
All DC City Councilmembers

Attachment 1

BZA
Case No. 16753
Exhibit No. 104

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16753
EXHIBIT NO.104

Introduction to Microwaves and Microwave Cooking

MICROWAVES — AN ENERGY SOURCE

Microwaves are electro-magnetic waves or short radio waves. Microwaves are produced in your oven when the oven's magnetron tube converts electric current to microwave energy. The energy is directed at a "stirrer" (like a fan) which evenly distributes microwaves into the oven interior where they bounce off the metal interior.

Microwaves directly penetrate into food placed in the oven and agitate the food molecules. The increased friction between molecules produces heat much like when you rub your hands together to warm them. This heat is conducted throughout the food. Conventional ovens and surface units also cook foods by molecular action but first the air and/or the cooking utensil must be heated, then the heat is conducted to the food. Because the energy goes directly to the food in your microwave oven, the food is cooked faster and more efficiently than with conventional cooking.

Microwaves can be either ABSORBED, TRANSFERRED or REFLECTED.

Food will absorb microwaves because food contains moisture molecules.

Glass, paper and some plastics are transparent to microwaves. Microwaves are transferred or passed through these materials without heating them. In longer microwave cooking times, heat from the food will heat the cooking utensil.

Metal objects reflect microwaves. The interior of the oven is made of metal so that the microwaves will bounce off them and into the food placed in the oven. If metal is covering part of a food, microwave cooking will be slowed. Metal utensils such as spoons, forks or small pieces of foil for shielding should not touch oven surfaces because this could cause arcing (sparks) which can pit or burn the oven interior. See the "Utensil Chart", page 6, for more information on use of metal in your microwave oven.

COOKING WITH MICROWAVES

As with conventional cooking, you need to know some basic cooking principles to get the best results. When microwave cooking, the amount of time needed to cook a particular food is directly related to the food's STARTING TEMPERATURE, VOLUME AND DENSITY.

Starting Temperature: The colder the food, the longer it takes to cook. A cup filled with hot tap water will boil more quickly than the same cup filled with cold tap water.

Volume: As the volume of food increases, the cooking time increases. For example: one cup of water must be microwaved 2 to 3 minutes to heat. Two cups of water will require about 4 minutes to heat. You have increased the cooking time 1 to 2 minutes to allow for the second cup of water.

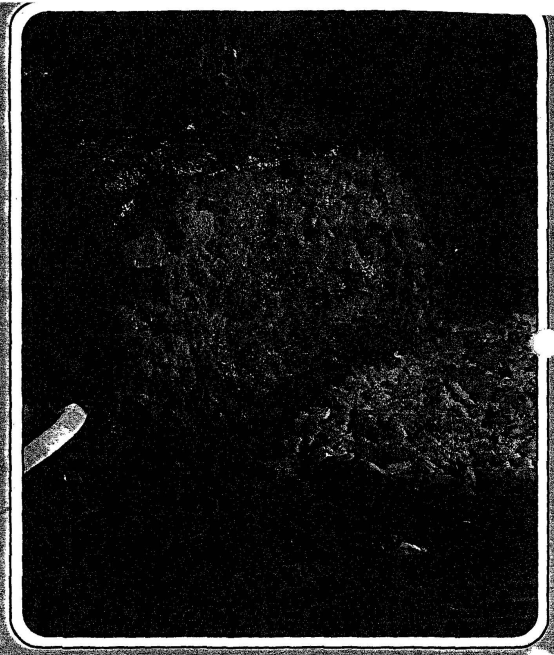
Precautions to Avoid Possible Exposure To Excessive Microwave Energy

A. Do not attempt to operate this oven with the door open since open-door operation can result in harmful exposure to microwave energy. It is important not to defeat or tamper with the safety interlocks.
B. Do not place any object between the oven front face and the door or allow soil or cleaner residue to accumulate on sealing surfaces.
C. Do not operate the oven if it is damaged. It is particularly important that the oven door close properly and that there is no damage to the (1) door (bent), (2) hinges and latches (broken or loosened), (3) door seals and sealing surfaces.
D. The oven should not be adjusted or repaired by anyone except properly qualified service personnel.

LITTON
Microwave Cooking

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microwave cooking guide

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