

**PUTNAM COUNTY TENNESSEE  
WIRELESS COMMUNICATION FACILITIES AND ANTENNAE ARRAYS  
REGULATION**

**SECTION I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this regulation is to control the siting and distribution of all wireless communication towers throughout Putnam County. The provisions of the regulation provide for the placement of wireless towers while protecting property from tower or antenna structure failure and visual impact. For the purposes of this regulation, wireless communication towers include lattice style towers, monopoles, microwave dishes, antennas and similar devices and structures for the purpose of transmitting or receiving any portion of the radio spectrum, regardless of whether for private or public use.

The goals of this regulation are:

- To encourage the placement of towers or antennas in non-residential areas;
- To minimize the number of towers or antennas within the community necessary to provide adequate personal wireless services to residents of Putnam County;
- To encourage the joint use of new and existing tower and antenna sites among service providers;
- To locate telecommunications towers and antennas in areas where adverse visual and operational impacts on the community are minimized;
- To avoid potential damage to adjacent properties;
- To encourage the design and construction of towers and antennas to minimize adverse visual impacts; and
- To enhance the ability of the providers of telecommunications services to deliver such services to the community effectively and efficiently.

**SECTION II. EXCEPTIONS**

All new towers or antennas as defined by this regulation within Putnam County shall be subject to these regulations, except as follows:

- a. Preexisting towers and preexisting antennas shall not be required to meet this regulation.
- b. Antennas or towers located on property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the Putnam County shall be exempt from the requirements of this regulation, provided a license or lease authorizing such antenna or tower has been reviewed and approved by Putnam County.

### SECTION III. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

An application must be submitted to erect a new wireless communication tower, or to increase the height of an existing tower. All applications shall comply with the following:

- A. Prior to scheduling a conference with the Putnam County Codes Department, as required by Subsection (B), the applicant shall mail written notice of the proposed erection of a wireless tower to all property owners of record within a radius of 1,320 feet distance from a tower up to 100 feet in height, and within 2,640 feet from a tower over 100 feet in height. The notice shall include the following:
  1. A vicinity map showing the proposed tower location and all tax lots within the notification area circle centered on the proposed location;
  2. A drawing showing the appearance of the proposed tower; and
  3. A statement requesting that the property owners provide the Putnam County Codes Department with any written comments regarding the proposed wireless communication tower within 15 days from the date the notice is mailed.
- B. The applicant shall schedule and attend a pre-application conference with the Putnam County Codes Department after mailing the notice required by Subsection (A) and prior to the submittal of an application. Any application for a wireless communication tower shall be designated as incomplete, unless the required pre-application conference with the Putnam County Codes Department has been completed and documented in writing.
- C. Each application for an antenna and/or tower permit provided to the Putnam County Codes Department the following:
  1. **Authorization.** Written authorization from the owner of the property where the tower will be located, and a copy of any lease agreement.
  2. **Service Area Map.** A map that shows the effective service area circle for the proposed tower and the properties within that circle, including the locations of existing telecommunications towers or monopoles.
  3. **Property Owner List.** A list of the property owners who were mailed the notice required by Subsection (A), a copy of the notice, and a signed affidavit that the notice was mailed.
  4. **Engineering Report.** A report prepared by a professional engineer licensed by the State of Tennessee describing the height and design of the tower, demonstrating the tower is in compliance with applicable structural standards, and

all building, electric and fire codes; and describing the tower's capacity, including the number and type of antennas it can accommodate.

- a. When an antenna is proposed to be mounted on an existing structure, the report shall indicate the existing structure's suitability and capability to accept the antenna and the proposed method for affixing the antenna to the structure. Complete details of all fixtures and couplings and the precise point of attachment shall be indicated.

5. **Written Report.** That adequately reports on the inventory of existing towers and antenna sites within a one-mile (1-mile) radius from the proposed site, outlining the opportunities for shared use as an alternative to the proposed use. The applicant must illustrate that the proposed tower or antenna cannot be accommodated on an existing approved tower or facility due to one or more of the following reasons:

- × Unwillingness of the owner to share the facility.
- × The equipment would exceed the structural capacity of the existing approved tower and facilities.
- × The planned equipment would cause frequency interference with other existing or planned equipment, which cannot be reasonably prevented.
- × Existing or approved towers or facilities do not have space on which proposed equipment can be placed so it can function effectively.
- × Other reasons make it impractical to place the proposed equipment by the applicant on existing towers or facilities.

6. **Site Plan.** A site plan shall be submitted to and approved by the Putnam County Codes Department prior to the issuance of a permit. The following standards shall be used in the design of the facilities:

- a. **Setbacks.** The minimum setbacks on all sides shall be equal to the height of the tower plus an additional twenty (20) feet, including any antennas or appurtenances, as measured from ground level. This setback shall be considered a fall zone. The fall zone setback requirement may be reduced or waived provided it can be demonstrated in a report prepared by a professional engineer licensed in the State of Tennessee that the communication tower will collapse if it falls and it is determined by administrative review that the tower does not pose a safety threat to adjacent property owners in the event of collapse. In such cases, the setback shall be equal to the distance specified in the engineer report or a minimum of fifty (50) feet, whichever is greater. In addition, no communication tower or shall be located closer than one-hundred (100) feet from an existing residential structure. Setbacks shall be measured from the base of the tower, or guy-wire supports for lattice towers, to the

property line. For ground structure associated with the tower and located at the same site the minimum setback on all sides shall be fifty (50) feet.

- b. **Landscaping and Screening.** The applicant shall make a good faith effort to site the facility in such a manner or location to minimize the impact on scenic views utilizing trees, vegetation or topography to the maximum extent possible.
- c. **Perimeter Fencing.** A chain-link fence or solid wall not less than eight (8) feet in height consisting of at least six (6) feet of material plus two (2) feet of barbed wire on the top of fence measured from finished grade of site shall be provided around the facility. Access to the facility shall be limited to a locked gate.
- d. **Lighting.** All artificial lighting deemed necessary or required by federal regulations shall be shielded and oriented inward within the facility so as not to project on the surrounding properties.
- e. **Visual Effects.** All towers shall either maintain galvanized steel finish or, subject to any applicable standards of the Federal Aviation Administration, painted a neutral color, so as to reduce visual obtrusiveness.
- f. **Standards.** All towers must meet or exceed current standards and regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Communication Commission, and any other agency of the state or federal government with the authority to regulate towers or antenna arrays. If such standards and/or regulations are changed, the owners of the towers and/or antennas shall bring towers and/or antennas into compliance with revised standards within six (6) months of the effective date of such standards and/or regulations unless a different compliance schedule is mandated by the controlling state or federal agency. Failure to bring towers and antennas into compliance shall constitute grounds for removal of the tower or antenna at the owner's expense. Each request for a permit must be accompanied by certified documentation or statement from a registered engineer or other professional indicating compliance with these standards.
- g. **Aircraft Hazard.** Communication facilities shall not encroach into or through any established public or private airport approach path as established by the Federal Aviation Administration.
- h. **Removal of Obsolete or Unused Facilities.** All obsolete or unused communication facilities shall be removed by the property owner within six (6) months of cessation of use. The applicant shall submit an executed Removal Agreement to ensure compliance with this requirement.
- I. **Facility Changes.** Any changes to antenna, reception, or transmitting devices shall require review in the same manner as the existing facility was originally approved.

- j. **Signs and Advertising.** The use of any portion of a tower for signs or advertising purposes including banners, streamers, etc. is prohibited except as needed for warning or identification.
- k. **Equipment Storage.** Mobile or immobile equipment not used in direct support of a tower facility shall not be stored or parked on site unless repairs are being made.
- l. **Maintenance.** Adequate inspection and maintenance shall be performed to insure the structural integrity of the facility and to prevent deteriorious conditions from occurring on the site. An annual report regarding the structural integrity of the facility shall be prepared by a professional engineer licensed by the State of Tennessee and submitted to the Putnam County Codes Department.
- m. **Road Access.** All access roads, including necessary drainage facilities, shall be constructed to meet the street construction specifications of the Putnam County Subdivision Regulations, except if allowed to be reduced by administrative review of the Putnam County Codes Department.