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Comments by Susie Molloy:

I am disabled by electromagnetic sensitivity and environmental illness, very reactive to chemicals and many foods. Though I was somewhat allergic to environmental exposures and foods as a child, my reactions dramatically increased after traveling to several foreign countries as a young adult. I was thoroughly immunized each time I left the country, and being hair-trigger allergic to mosquito bites, I sometimes applied DEET insect repellent head to toe for weeks at a time.

When I finally returned to the US, I lived primarily in San Francisco.

In 1981, I realized that suddenly I could no longer tolerate exposures to EMF emissions, chemicals of almost any kind, personal care products, cigarette smoke, cleaning products, fragrances, molds, nearly every different food I could find. The exposures would cause severe anaphylactic reactions and migraines. Those eventually abated over the years but were increasingly replaced by more chronic disabling effects that impaired my ability to walk and speak.

I relocated to a semi-isolated area in Northern California, where I'd grown up, and gradually regained a degree of focus, health and stamina that at least allowed me to function. After a few years, I returned to the SF Bay Area where I was able to attend school at SFSU and work, to a limited degree. After several years, both because the urban EMF exposures and pollution were increasing, and because I was less able to withstand them, I made a hard decision to move to the isolated high desert in Arizona where a compassionate friend rented rooms to me.

Over the following years of living in this environment I achieved a degree of remission, and was able to have a small, sturdy house built nearby with the accommodations that are essential for me to be able to live independently. In addition to carefully chosen and tested construction materials, I needed a paved sidewalk and ramps, grab bars, wide doorways, a copper landline phone, metal building exterior and roof, analog power meters, and a big driveway where guests could sleep in their tents or campers. I was able to develop a modest work life, although nearly always as a volunteer due to my limitations and variable stamina.

Several people from the Bay Area and elsewhere, who'd also become isolated and disabled by environmental factors, relocated here and built safe homes or brought small trailers. The land - old range cattle territory - was affordable at that time and much of it was off the electrical grid. It suited us, providing an urgently needed alternative to conventional threatening exposures. It gave us a chance to see whether we could stabilize. For many of us, it has been effective although certainly not a "cure", and eventually we've grown to become something of a loose knit community.

Twenty years ago, realizing that there may be many dozens (hundreds?) of people with this disability in Arizona alone, we proposed to the state Department of Housing to finance four houses here for low-income residents who need these certain kinds of protection. We've kept pesticides and harmful maintenance chemicals out, and kept our analog utility meters (no "smart" meters) and reliable copper landline phones (no cell phones).

This part of Arizona has become increasingly crowded, with a spike during COVID-19 when so many people fled the cities. We sense that the relative safety we've had here is soon to end. It's been great to finally have a paved road, and most of the new neighbors are nice enough despite their product choices. We are grateful to have bought big 40-acre lots back when they were affordable.

We are experiencing a huge threat now, because a telecom company, SBA, has gotten a permit to build a cell tower near us – three miles from my house, in direct line-of-site, and just several feet from the only road serving this entire enormous area. It is also next to our mailboxes that serve 90 households, and on the corner where the bus stops to pick up the waiting grade school children. Verizon is expected to put up their transmitting microwave equipment first, with about four other companies first, with four or so other companies soon to add their equipment.

We filed a lawsuit to stop this and are still in Court, working with everything we can to have that permit withdrawn or overturned and the cell tower stopped. Several of us doubt that our area will stay a safe enough place for us to live now. Regardless of what further shielding can be done on our houses, and what RF-blocking outfits we can wear, driving in and out of the neighborhood will mean a huge exposure and for some of us it will be incapacitating.

Those who live here, at least those who can go to public events, have explained and testified for all we're worth to make plain to our County government, SBA Communications, and the Courts what this cell tower is likely to mean for us, and to show how many viable alternate sites could be available to them. But they want this one, regardless of the cost, and the kind of cost, to the people who live here despite ADA and Fair Housing protections, and despite the recognition this specially-built accessible housing and its residents have had at the County and State level.

It appears that our efforts to keep our housing situation intact are on the verge of failing. Many of us are seniors, coping with a limiting disability as well as other effects of aging, with limited financial resources. We put what funds we had into finding a safe-enough place to risk moving, then building and shielding our homes to minimize contaminants and entry of electromagnetic fields and wifi. I don't know where I and the others like me will relocate, or whether there is any place safe enough to go.

We urgently need HHS to take the situation of disabled environmentally ill people seriously. The numbers of us continue to rise and we are without any protection – not even the Americans with Disabilities Act, or Fair Housing laws. Officials are not defending us, and we have made no meaningful impact on the telecom systems or on the consumer products manufacturers.

Without civil rights, or at least without enforcement of them, we have had no option but to keep moving farther out of the way of corporations that produce high-risk products, the “consumers” who buy and use them flagrantly, and public officials who look the other way as we become just more collateral damage.