

Testimonial: Ray Pealer

Profession: Building Biologist

I am an otherwise healthy 43-year-old male. I can do many things – I'd like to think I can do most anything - shovel snow for hours, hike for 15 miles in one day, do construction, landscaping, farming, just about anything imaginable, but put me in a room with wireless or "Wi-Fi", and I become, for the most part, non-functional.

I get headaches, fatigue, it's difficult to concentrate, I experience jitters or anxiety symptoms, sometimes my heart will race. I basically can't function if there is wireless around. I am less than myself. It is toxic to me, and I've learned to avoid it as much as possible.

So much has changed so quickly. When I think back to the first time that I made a connection between my health and wireless, it was when I was making a cell phone call to my wife on my way home from work. After a few minutes of talking, I had this piercing pain in the same side of my head as I was holding the phone.

I thought that it might just be something weird about me. I told my wife that I had to go, flipped off the phone, and tossed it onto the other seat. A minute later the piercing headache dissipated, however a lingering fog lingered in my brain. After experiencing those piercing headaches several times when using my cell phone, I just simply stopped using it. End of problem. The solution was within my hands.

This was back in the old days, when you had the ability to decide how much you were radiated. Those days changed for me when cell towers were erected near our neighborhood in the Hudson Valley of New York State. I went from sleeping solidly through the night, to having sleep problems for the first time ever. I didn't feel well. I was losing my health.

When driving past these cell towers, I would get the same headache as when using a cell phone. The further away I got, the better I felt.

I ended up buying an instrument that measured cell tower radiation. This yellow-knobbed "RF meter" showed me that the levels in my neighborhood were much higher than in places further from cell towers. I drove all over, tested all kinds of places, and through this process eventually realized that for my own sake, I needed to live far away from where these towers were situated. I chose a place really far away. I chose North- Central Vermont.

Yes, there were many other reasons to relocate to Vermont. The people were great. The landscape was beautiful. Vermont is a place like no other. It felt sacred. It felt like the land was cherished. People move from all over the country to Vermont for similar reasons.

After seven years of living in Vermont, we learned that a V-Tel tower was proposed to be erected on a hill less than a mile from our home in Calais. Another tower was going up in Cabot. Another tower in Woodbury. These towers were, according to the promotional literature, going to create a seamless canopy of connectivity across Vermont. That was the big plan.

I attended several meetings with other residents of Calais, and while we were successful in defeating this proposed tower, it felt to be a temporary victory. What I found incredibly disturbing though, was that in the process of challenging a proposed tower, you can't talk about health effects from radiation. It's not allowed. You can talk about reduced property values, you can talk about aesthetics, but you can't talk about your health. It doesn't matter if there is substantial research showing that this kind of radiation causes health effects. It's off limits, legally.

Not being able to defend our home against an environmental toxin that literally, thousands of peer-reviewed studies from around the world report it to be is, well, really sad. And frightening.

Not being able to defend Vermont, the most environmentally aware and pure state in the country, from this environmental toxin, was for me, too much to take. I chose to leave, and to go to a place where I didn't have to worry about losing my home, to an essentially unregulated radiation. I went to the only place in the United States that has any protection – a place in West Virginia near the National Radio Telescope where cell towers are not permitted.

I know I'm not alone in my EMF sensitivity. There are many people who are affected by wireless radiation. In my work as a health advocate in Vermont, I saw many folks connect the dots. We'd turn off their WiFi, and they'd sleep well for the first time in years. Other health issues would disappear, such as vertigo, headaches- a long list of ailments would improve, the same ailments that scientific research regularly reports, we saw disappear, once the radiation was removed.

It appears as if EMF issues are taking the same path as many other environmental and health issues have before. It takes decades for awareness to grow, and unfortunately this process requires, the population realizing, usually through a visible, cause and effect process, that a toxin is harmful.

The problem with EMF is that, A, it's invisible, B, folks are incredibly enthusiastic if not addicted to EMF emitting technology, and C: EMF is becoming nearly ubiquitous.

The real problem though, is with hope. A lack of hope. Many Vermonters, even the most environmentally aware types, believe that EMF is everywhere and that they can't do anything about it. As a result, they will turn their backs to the possible health effects that they or their children may be facing. I've heard so many Vermonters say "yes, wireless EMF may be harmful, but how am I going to avoid it? How are my children going to avoid it?"

I hope that, even if it is ahead of the curve by years, or even decades, Vermont will have the integrity and foresight, like it has with countless other issues, to be one of those rare places where this environmental health issue is addressed, and steps taken, so that its citizens can still choose how much they are radiated.

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