



**I'm from the
Government...
(*Planning Department*)
...and I'm Here!**

Presenter:

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Attorney at Law

Telecom Law Firm, P.C.

Los Angeles, California

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First...

A Debt of Gratitude



Thanks to the First Responders

And now...

On to the show!

Lawyers **LOVE** Disclaimers!

This lecture is for informational purposes only. Hopefully, you will find it entertaining, as well. If not, tough.

This lecture is not intended to provide legal advice, and may not reflect recent law changes, court cases, or ARRL petitions.

Also this lecture does not (necessarily) reflect the official positions, views, hopes, or even the deep, dark secret desires of the ARRL, any of my client local governments, or any person presently on this or any other planet.

Ta Da.



Get Ready... take aim ...



Dr. Jonathan Kramer, W6JLK (Extra Class)

Licensed has a Ham since 1971
Life Member of the ARRL since 1973ish
ARRL Volunteer Counsel, Volunteer Examiner
ARES LAX NW Member (until they figure me out)



FCC General Radio Telephone w/ Ship Radar

Originally 1st Phone/radar
GMRSS Maintainer & Operator

Worked for local, state, fed governments since 1984

Wireless siting reviews, including amateur tower apps, for nearly 30 years
Wireless Ordinances, Amateur Provisions
RF safety issues (Co-author of FCC's national guide to local governments)



I'm are ah lawyer

Admitted in California and New Mexico



I are really, really Smart. Just ask me.

JD

LL.M (IT/Telecom Law)

Doctor of Law & Policy

Regulatory Law and Policy Instructor at Northeastern University



Fire!

PRB 1...

“Waiter! Reality check, please!”

- National policy established by the FCC defining the relationship between antennas (antenna structures) and local zoning considerations.
- *Limited* preemption of local zoning considerations
- **Codified at 47 C.F.R. § 97.15(b), which says...**

PRB 1...

“Waiter! Reality check, please!”

Sec. 97.15 Station antenna structures.

(a) [deals with antennas in excess of 200' AGL or near public airports]

(b) Except as otherwise provided herein, a station antenna structure may be erected at heights and dimensions sufficient to accommodate amateur service communications. (State and local regulation of a station antenna structure must not preclude amateur service communications. Rather, it must reasonably accommodate such communications and must constitute the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the state or local authority's legitimate purpose. See PRB-1, 101 FCC 2d 952 (1985) for details.)

[64 FR 53242, Oct. 1, 1999]

PRB 1...

“Waiter! Reality check, please!”

- History
 - 1984: ARRL Petitions FCC to preempt local government restrictions on amateur radio antenna structures
 - 1985: FCC adopts PRB 1.
 - 1999: ARRL petitions FCC to extend PRB 1 to preempt CC&Rs (more on this, later).
 - 2000; ARRL petitions FCC to reconsider 1999 denial.

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California's PRB 1 Law

Gov. Code § 65850.3 (2003)



California's AB 1228 (Gov. Code § 65850.3) (2003)

65850.3. **Any** ordinance adopted by the legislative body of a city or county that regulates amateur radio station antenna structures shall allow those structures to be erected at heights and dimensions sufficient to accommodate amateur radio service communications, shall not preclude amateur radio service communications, shall reasonably accommodate amateur radio service communications, and shall constitute the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the city's or county's legitimate purpose. It is the intent of the Legislature in adding this section to the Government Code, to codify in state law the provisions of Section 97.15 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which expresses the Federal Communications Commission's limited preemption of local regulations governing amateur radio station facilities.

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HAM SHACK



CC&Rs: Read the fine print!

- CC&Rs = Covenants, Codes, and Restrictions
- Covenants = ***Enforceable promises.***
- Codes = ***Rules you're bound to follow.***
- Restrictions = (Huh? What restrictions?)
- Status of a ***private contract*** between consenting ***adults (ahem)***
- CC&R's can be 'enforced' by others bound by the same promise (an 'equitable servitude')
- How far is the boundary of enforcement? Sight? Feet?
- Is a non-interference covenant legal? (**likely yes**)



CC&Rs: Read the fine print!

- PRB 1 and CC&Rs (2001):

- **ARRL to FCC:**

- Ah, would you please extend PRB 1 to preempt those pesky CC&Rs and similar private contracts based on OTARD?

- **FCC to ARRL:**

- Thanks for asking, but the answer is **no**.

But while we're on the subject, we will talk about *OTARD*, and you *won't like* what we have to say.

H.R. 555

Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017

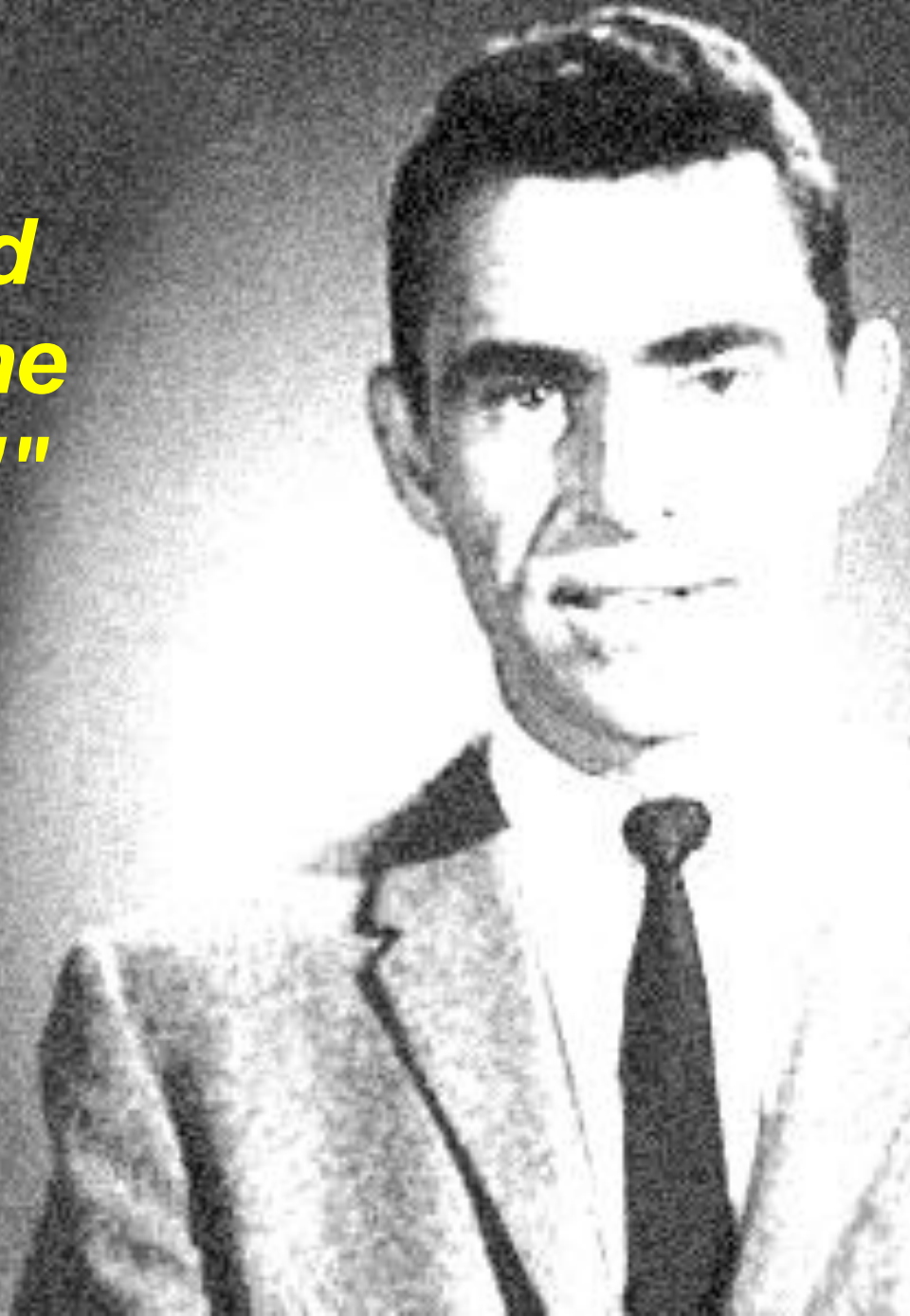
AN ACT

- To direct the Federal Communications Commission to amend its rules so as to prohibit the application to amateur stations of certain private land use restrictions, and for other purposes.
- *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, SECTION 1. Short title.*
- This Act may be cited as the “Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2024.”

(SOMETHING IS BETTER THAN NOTHING!)

***“That's the
signpost up ahead
- your next stop, the
Planning Counter!”***

...



PUTTING YOUR BEST FOOT (and Planning Case) FORWARD

- Some basics (Information collection):
 - **What, exactly, are the local zoning rules in your community governing amateur radio antenna structures? Get a copy (likely online) and study them. Add a musical score.**
 - **What previous cases have been decided under the current rules? Ask to review the files and find out why the cases were approved or disapproved. Explain why you're asking (“...so I can do the best job putting together a complete application...”)**
 - **Ask the counterperson for all of the forms you'll need, and find out all of the fees you may be asked to pay.**
 - **What about a fee waiver?**

PUTTING YOUR BEST FOOT (AND CASE) FORWARD

- Some more basics (Information display):
 - **Know, exactly, what you're going to ask permission to do.**
 - **Loser: "I want to put some antennas up about 65 feet in the air. I know what's best here, not you!"**
 - **Better: "I want to erect an XYZ tower with a LMN rotator and an ABC yagi. Here's a drawing..."**

YOUR PLANNER'S RESPONSE?

STOP! TAKE A BREATH...

- Things to remember...the odds are very high that:
 - Your planner has **little or no experience** with ham tower projects;
 - Your planner thinks **your project is just like a cell tower**;
 - Your planner has **no technical expertise**...
 - And...Your planner wants to take an immediate vacation!

STOP! TAKE A BREATH...

- And your planner might think that RF is...



PLANNER CPR:



- **HELP** restart your planner's heart by:
 - Keeping your voice calm and friendly at all times;
 - Take the time to explain, in detail, your project and why you need what you're asking for;
 - **How?**

Making Your Case

Planner: “Why does it have to be that tall? It not permitted by our code.”

Ham: “Let me show you the engineering for the XYZ Yagi antenna. That engineering justifies the height I need, and demonstrate that I comply with the federal and state laws that govern antenna height.”

- Roll your own antenna? NEC and EZNEC are your friends...use ‘um if you’ve got ‘um.
- Commercial antenna? Your antenna manufacturer is your friend...use ‘um to get NEC/EZNEC outputs.
- Show the relationship between height above terrain versus the angle of the main lobe (launch angle). Show the launch angle for multiple heights around your requested height. Explain why a low launch angle is critical for HF long-haul communications. ***This is likely the most important evidence you can submit to justify your height request!***
- **BEWARE: never, Never, NEVER use the “R WORD”**
- **...But be prepared to show compliance with FCC OET Bulletin 65 for amateur operations.**

Making Your Case

- **Before and at the hearing:**

- Find out what the hearing notice range is (typically 300 feet). Figure out who might have a problem with your project and reach out. Inviting your neighbors over before the hearing to discuss your project, and ham radio in general, is a good move. Talk about emergency communications. Be sure to mention you held the meeting at your hearing, **EVEN IF NO ONE SHOWED UP.**
- Get a copy of the planner's report as soon as it's available. Carefully review it. Be prepared to respond to every negative point (if any).
- Prepare ***and repeatedly practice*** an opening and closing speech. Practice responses to potential objections. Watch the clock! If you've never been to a planning hearing before, consider going to observe the process *before* it's your turn!

- **Dress in formal attire.**



Yes! In formal attire!

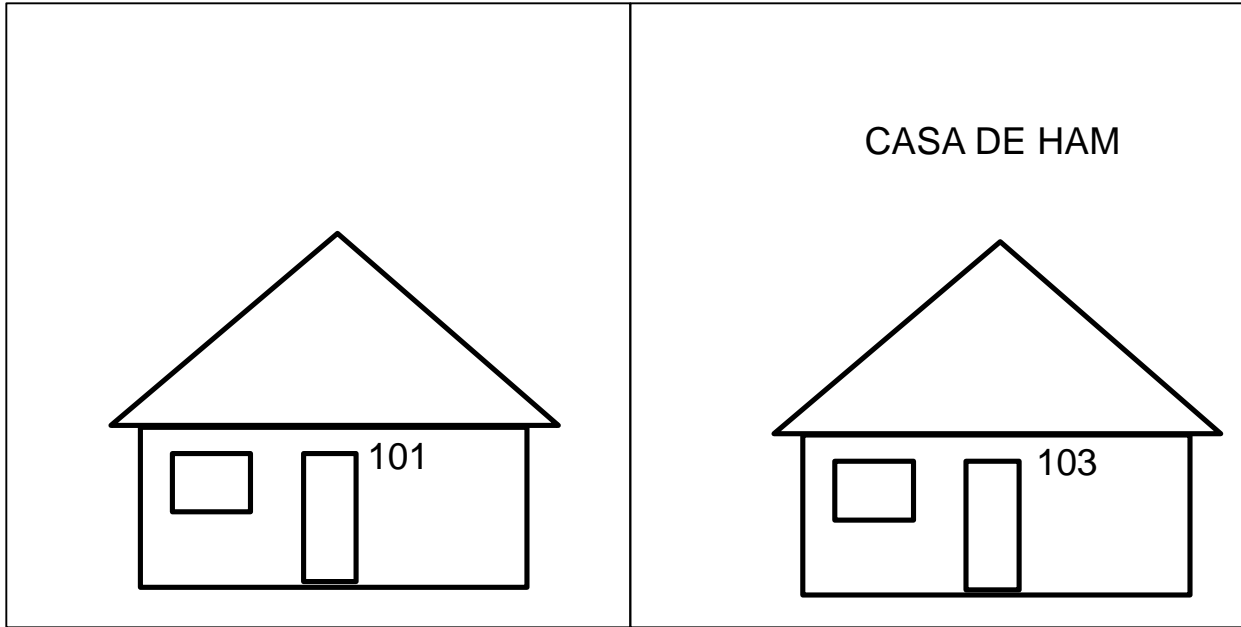
Making Your Case

- **At the hearing:**
 - **Explain why under both PRB 1 and G.C. § 65850.3 your project is justified *in light of the engineering documentation you have provided, and the special consideration of ham projects is required by those federal regulations and state laws.***
 - **IT'S CRITICAL TO GET OUT "THE TROOPS" (Hams, friendly neighbors, CERT members, ARES, others) TO THE HEARING, AND TO GET THEM TO SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF YOUR PROJECT!!!! (Each fills out their own speaker's card).**

Making Your Case

- **If you have to deal with an appeal:**
 - Get a copy of the formal reasons for denial. Your appeal **MUST** be timely, and you must address and appeal every basis of denial. (Fee waiver?)
 - **Explain, softly and clearly, why the initial decision maker erred. DO NOT ATTACK, but be clear, and explain (again) why, under both PRB 1 and Cal. G.C. § 65850.3, (and perhaps Section 6409(a)) the project is justified on evidence you provided.**
 - **IT'S EVEN MORE CRITICAL TO GET "THE TROOPS" (Hams, friendly neighbors, CERT, ARES, others) TO THE HEARING, AND TO GET THEM TO SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF YOUR APPEAL!!!! (Each fills out a speaker's card).**

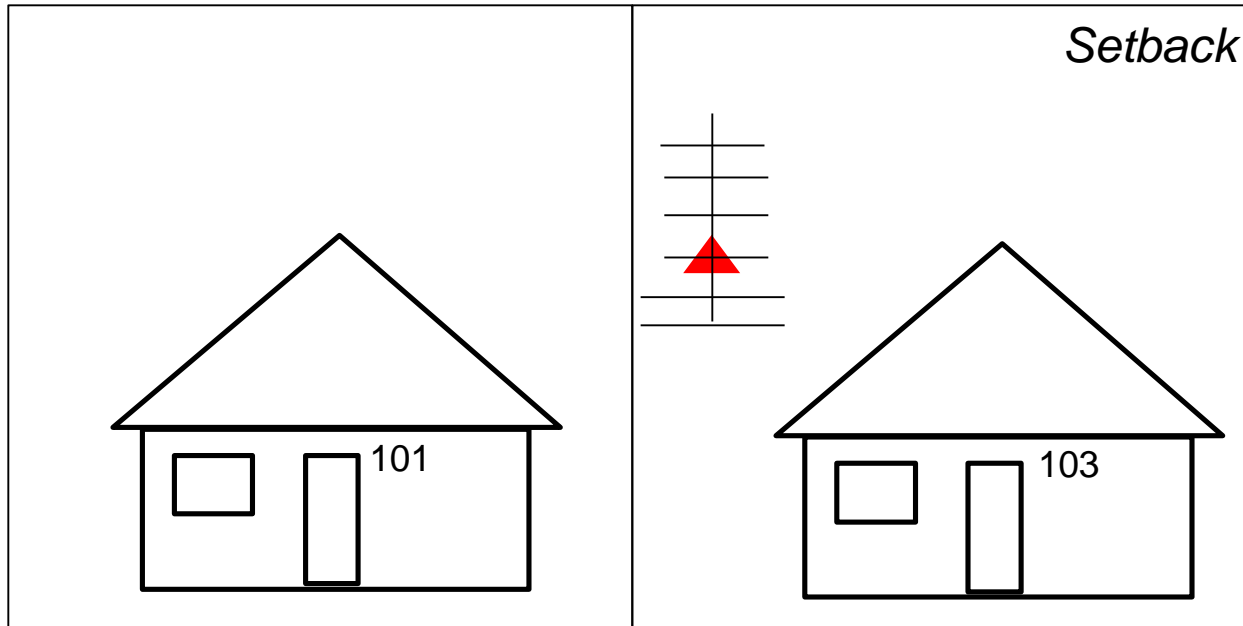
There are two planning cases you will lose



----- HAM AVENUE N.W. -----

Yeah, the perspectives are all screwed up. **Tough.**

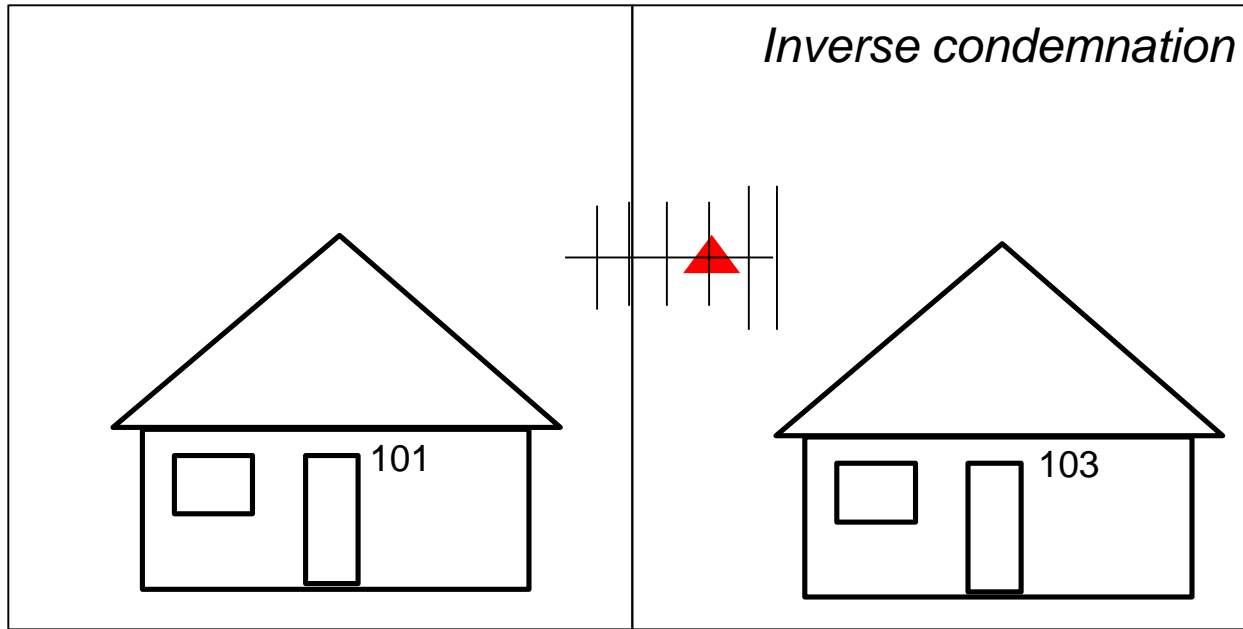
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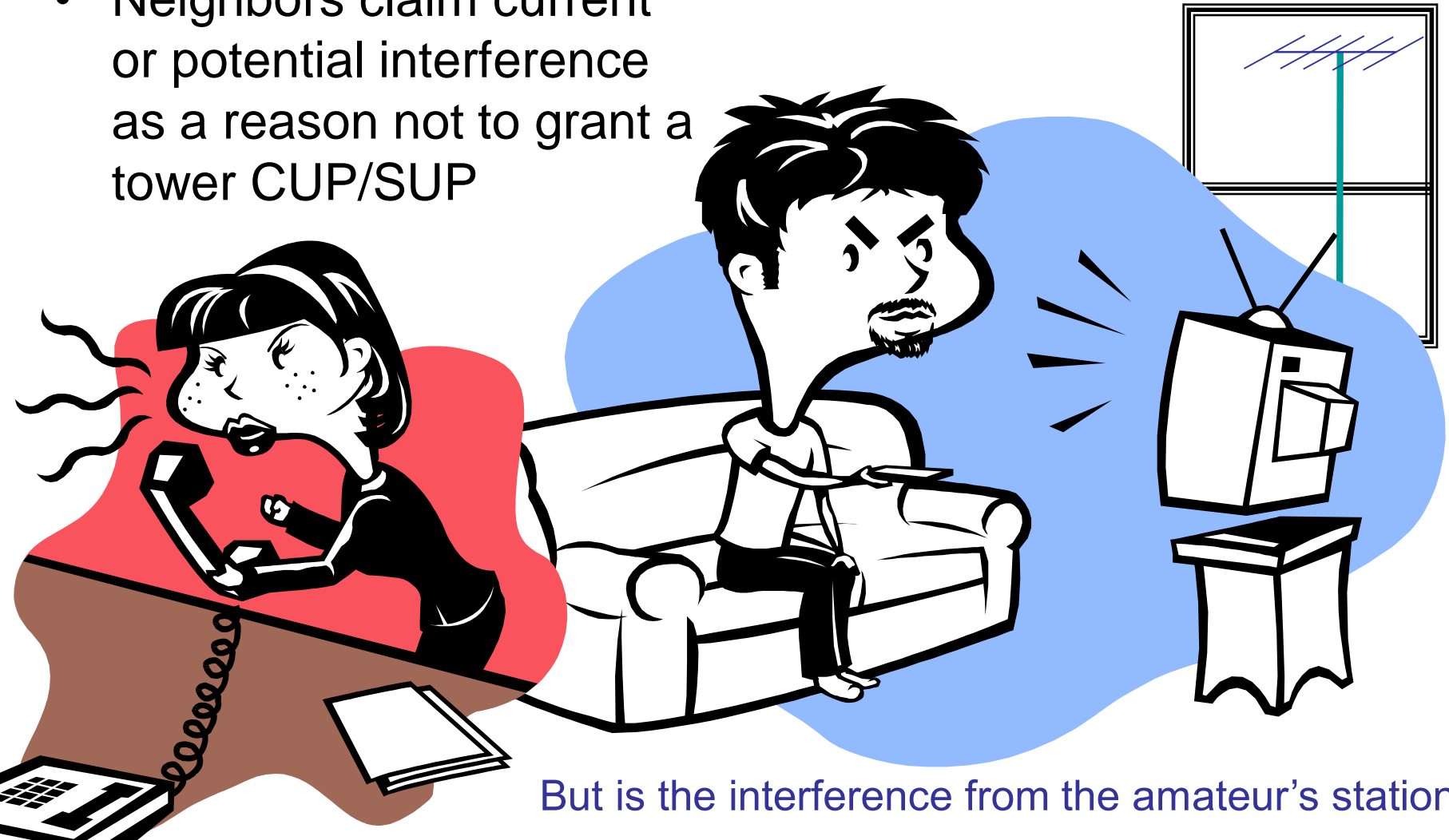


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Yo___'re Inte_fe_ring w____th me

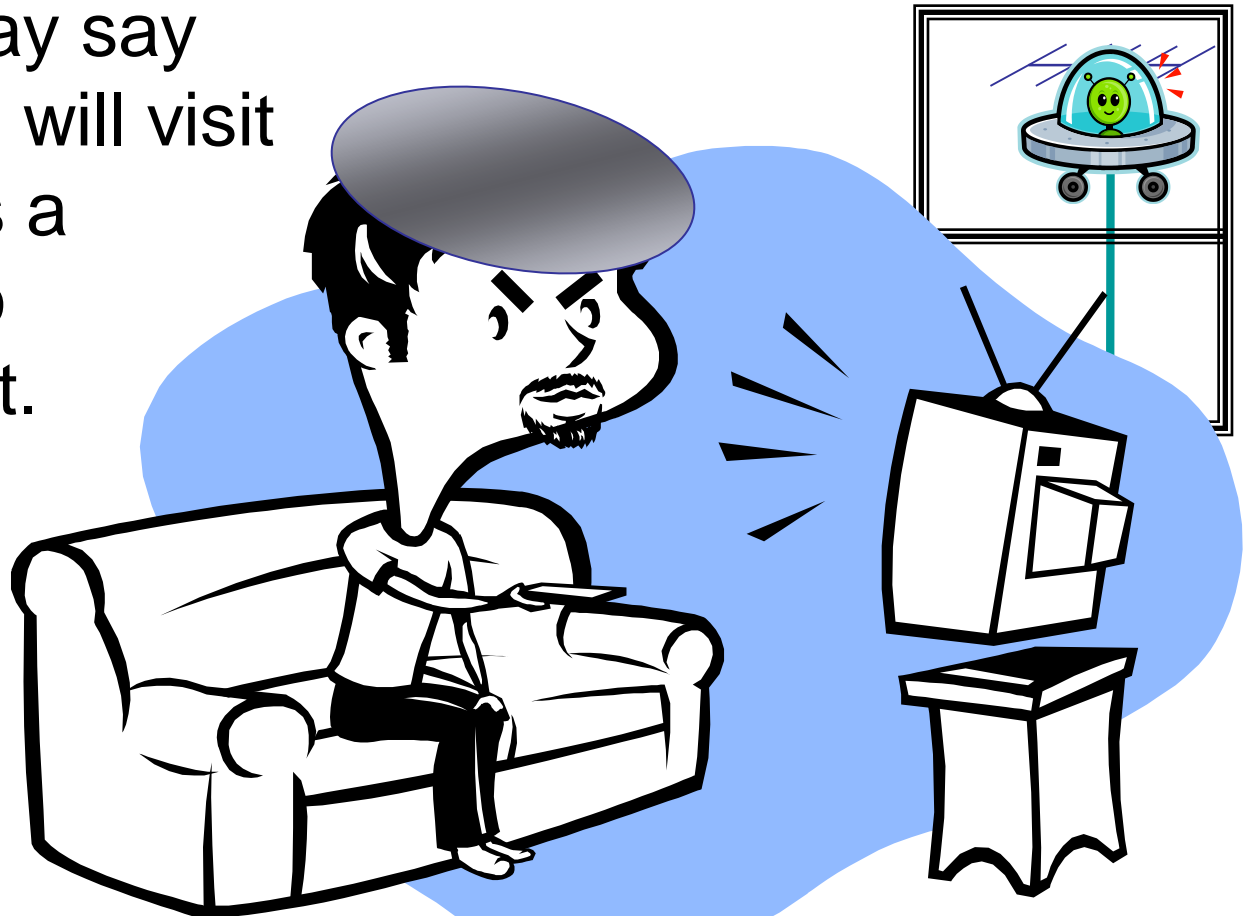
- Neighbors claim current or potential interference as a reason not to grant a tower CUP/SUP



But is the interference from the amateur's station?

Yoiu'sre Intuxzerfeering wizth my Telaevizsion

- Neighbors may say **space aliens** will visit your tower as a reason ***not*** to grant a permit.
- Offer them an aluminum foil cap!

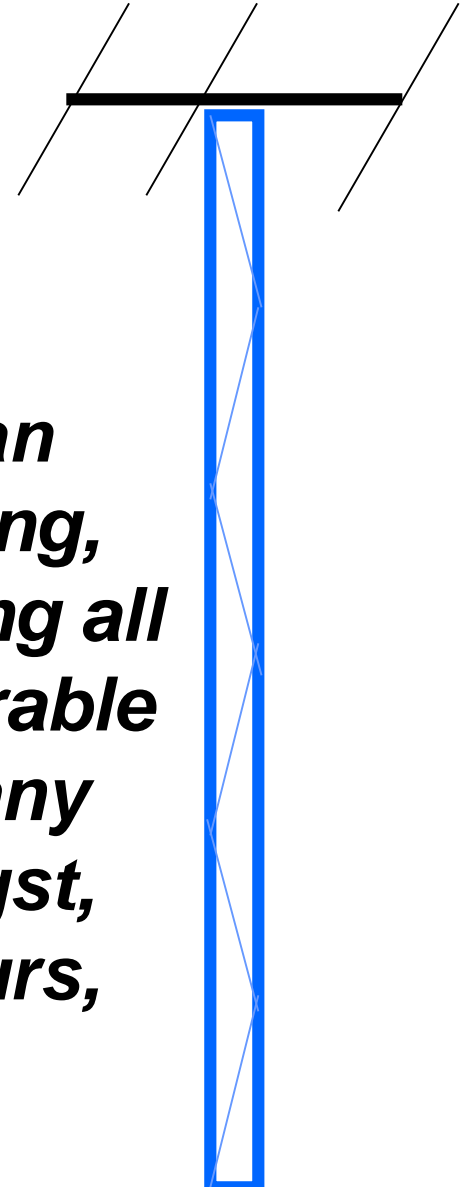


(NO! Just kidding!)

Yoiu'sre Intuxzerfeering wizth da Birdz

What neighbors may claim:

“Amateur antennas are absolutely an anti-American abomination, attracting, affecting, and afterwards annihilating all airborne aviary (and additional adorable and agile animals) approaching at any angle, all absolutely absent any angst, anger, and agitation against amateurs, anywhere and anytime!”



Common Objection:

“I don’t want that dammed cell tower thing next to my home!

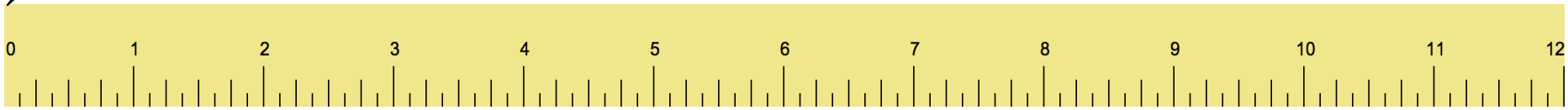
It’ll FRY my kids!

FCC RF Exposure Rules: 47 CFR 1.1307 *et seq*
Uncontrolled/General Population Guideline

No RF

Non-ionizing

Heating



0.26"

2% / 50x Safety Margin

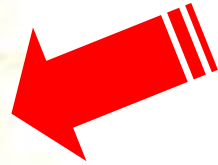
http://wireless.fcc.gov/siting/FCC_LSGAC_RF_Guide.pdf

**We're just 3 slides
away from the end
of this presentation!**

(Get your cell phone camera ready)



Not a space alien



My thanks to Dick Norton,
N6AA our ARRL
Southwestern Division
Director, for his **courage**
appointing me as a Volunteer
Counsel some 12 years ago!



**... YOU CAN DOWNLOAD AN
ADOBE PDF OF THIS INCREDIBLE
WIT AND WISDOM COLLECTION
FROM MY HAM RADIO WEB SITE:**

W6JLK.com/w6sd

Nope, sorry, I don't do VC work in planning cases unless it's on the government side (hey, they need the help, too!), but if you find yourself dealing with interference or FCC issues, give me a call!

Really Important Legal Notice

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Dr. Jonathan L. Kramer, W6JLK

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PS: If you're reading through these slides online without having first suffered through the live lecture, all I can say is, "too bad; so sad!" Certain portions of some of the slides won't make any sense to you if you weren't at the club meeting for the real thing. Some of the slides may not make sense to people where were actually at the club meeting. It's kind of like real life, don't you agree?