

**PRESS RELEASE: April 3, 2007**  
**Cell Towers and Wireless Technology Forum to Be Held**

An educational forum on the health and environmental effects of cell towers and other wireless technologies - such as WiFi and small wireless computer networks increasingly be being used in schools, libraries and homes - will be held at the Mt. Everett High School in Sheffield, Massachusetts, on April 14, 2007 from 1:00 - 5:00 PM. It is being sponsored by The EMR Policy Institute of Marshfield, Vermont, and Citizens Concerned About Wireless Technology (CCAWT) of Egremont, MA. Co-Sponsors are: The Berkshire Litchfield Environmental Council, Housatonic Environmental Action League, Housatonic River Initiative and The Berkshire Natural Resources Council.

Speakers include: Keynote, Martin Blank, Ph.D., Professor of Physiology and Cellular Biophysics at Columbia University; Raymond Kasevich, Chief Scientist at the Riga Institute and a specialist in radiofrequency radiation (RF) couplings with the environment as well as RF therapeutic applications; Whitney North Seymour, Jr., Esq., former federal prosecutor, author, and co-founder of The Natural Resources Defense Council; B. Blake Levitt, author of *Electromagnetic Fields, A Consumer's Guide to the Issues and How to Protect Ourselves* (Harcourt Brace, 1995), and the editor of *Cell Towers, Wireless Convenience? or Environmental Hazard?* (Safe Goods/New Century, 2001); and Janet Newton, President of the EMR Policy Institute. Co-moderators are Tony Blair, Esq., Selectman for Great Barrington, and B. Blake Levitt.

"Since the advent of cell phones in the late 1980's, the wireless revolution has grown to include everything from citywide WiFi to radiofrequency ID tags now imbedded in many consumer products," said Theresa Morrow of Egremont, one of the forum's organizers. "We are awash in increasing levels of RF, but is this safe? RF is a form of air pollution but few think of it that way, especially our legislators," she noted, adding "Many professionals, especially in Europe, now recommend prudent avoidance when it comes to RF exposure and children but we are clueless about this entire dialogue in America."

Several towns in Litchfield County, CT, have new proposals for cell towers, including New Milford, Washington, Kent and on the Sharon town line where a tower is proposed near West Cornwall's historic covered bridge. In the Berkshires and Dutchess/Columbia Counties in New York, there are numerous proposals for WiFi and cell towers. Telecommunications providers are building out their next generation of broadband wireless services, which include downloadable Internet, photos, text messages, TV, and music to cell phones and computers. Such new services require more RF bandwidth and additional use of the electromagnetic spectrum. According to industry site managers, towers now need to go every 1-3 miles apart. But many professionals today, including government regulators, say that the RF exposure standards at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) are obsolete and do not adequately protect the population. Whitney North Seymour Jr., has twice tried to sue the FCC into updating their standards which officially take no research past 1985 into consideration. Hundreds of studies have since found disturbing results, some with implications for human health. Other species may be affected too.

There are liability issues for towns that do not site telecom facilities in the best way possible. Unlike Massachusetts and New York, Connecticut has a centralized state Siting Council with final jurisdiction over tower placement, but Connecticut municipalities are nevertheless expected to participate in that agency's review process.

Mt. Everett High School is on Berkshire School Road between Routes 7 and 41. Registration begins at 12:30 PM. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, students are free. For information, contact Nancy Marcus at 413-644-3209 or [nirm@berkshire.net](mailto:nirm@berkshire.net) or B. Blake Levitt at 860-868-7437 or [blakelevit@cs.com](mailto:blakelevit@cs.com). Also see [www.emrpolicy.org](http://www.emrpolicy.org)

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Press Contacts/Interviews:  
B. Blake Levitt, [blakelevit@cs.com](mailto:blakelevit@cs.com) or 860-868-7437  
Janet Newton, [JNewton@emrpolicy.org](mailto:JNewton@emrpolicy.org) or 802-426-3035