

**Washington State changes to SEPA exemptions for Telecom
SB 1183 Wireless Structures – effective July 28, 2013
(Seattle SEPA Ordinance SMC 25.05 will be amended later)**

Summary of telecom SEPA exemptions under RCW 43.21C.0384:

Decisions to site wireless service facilities are not subject to SEPA if those facilities meet the following standards:

- 1) New or replacement antennas and equipment added to existing structures, or added to replacement structures, as long as the proposal does not substantially change the physical dimensions of the structure, or
- 2) The project involves constructing a wireless service tower less than 60 feet in height that is located in a commercial, industrial, manufacturing, forest or agricultural zone.

This exemption does not apply to projects within a designated critical area.

New definitions in SEPA:

“Substantially Change the Physical Dimensions” means:

- (i) The mounting of equipment on a structure that would increase the height of the structure by more than ten percent, or twenty feet, whichever is greater; or
- (ii) The mounting of equipment that would involve adding an appurtenance to the body of the structure that would protrude from the edge of the structure more than twenty feet, or more than the width of the structure at the level of the appurtenance, whichever is greater.

“Wireless Services” means: wireless data and telecommunications services, including commercial mobile services, commercial mobile data services, unlicensed wireless services, and common carrier wireless exchange access services, as defined by federal laws and regulations.

“Wireless Service Facilities” means: facilities for the provision of wireless services.

“Collocation” means: the mounting or installation of equipment on an existing tower, building, or structure for the purpose of either transmitting or receiving, or both, radio frequency signals for communications purposes.

“Existing Structure” means: any existing tower, pole, building, or other structure capable of supporting wireless service facilities.