Peabody Municipal Light Plant

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PRESS RELEASE

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The Peabody Municipal Light Plant (PMLP) is pleased to announce it has reached an agreement with Verizon to install wireless communication facilities onto utility poles in Peabody.

While the public debate about erecting a large-scale antenna in a South Peabody neighborhood was ongoing, and before the Appeals Court panel passed its decision, PMLP and Verizon, with cooperation from the Peabody Municipal Lightning Commission (PMLC) and Mayor Ted Bettencourt, negotiated an alternate solution. The agreement signed Thursday, October 8, by PMLP, the City of Peabody and Verizon, will allow for the installation of wireless communication facilities atop utility poles to mitigate Verizon's coverage gap. The installation of this equipment for Verizon will eliminate the need for the South Peabody tower.

The agreement, in part, addresses the 2018 Declarative Order by the FCC which opened the door for communication companies nationwide to install wireless communication facilities on utility poles within the public rights of way.

PMLC Chairman Robert O. Wheatley said, "As a result of the Declarative Order, PMLP needed to develop specifications and a comprehensive plan that governs how Verizon and other carriers will use utility poles in PMLP's service area for the new technology. The fees that PMLP will collect from Verizon will offset the costs associated with the work that PMLP will do to install the new equipment."

Manager of PMLP, Charles J. Orphanos, said, "This was a long process, that relied on everyone's cooperation and persistence. In the end, we feel this is a good agreement for the neighborhood in South Peabody and all our rate payers. I'd like to thank everyone at PMLP who has been involved in this process, the Commissioners of PMLP, the City of Peabody, and Verizon, who worked diligently to reach a mutually beneficial solution."

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