

Mrs. Diane Rhéaume  
Secretary General  
Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0N2

By FAX 819-994-0218

Dear Mrs. Rhéaume:

Re: Article 7 of CRTC 2007-1;  
Application # 2006-0508-2 and #2006-0509-0

1. Community Awareness and Emergency Response, CAER, deals with safety issues arising in Sarnia, Ontario. Our community is located close to large chemical manufacturing, industrial, and oil refining plants, and presents a unique public safety challenge not just because of local industry, but because we are in a tornado zone as well.
2. Our organization has its origins in 1951, following a major explosion and fireball at one of the local petrochemical industries (Polysar). Drawn by curiosity and a lack of awareness of the potential danger, a large number of spectators arrived to watch the event. They put themselves in danger and hampered emergency vehicles. Afterwards, local industry, municipal authorities and citizens decided to work together and our efforts have become a model for other communities around the world.
3. We would like to express our support for the application now before you (application #2006-0508-2 and #2006-0509-0) and share our experience as a community that has been on the leading edge of emergency preparedness for many years.
4. We have a broadcast emergency alerting system here in Sarnia through Cogeco, our local cable TV provider. We appreciate their participation and support. However, it is our experience that for emergency notification and evacuations, many people do not get the broadcast information because they subscribe to other services. Satellite subscribers are not informed and neither are subscribers in cable systems on the periphery of the city.
5. We need a system that works automatically – whether or not local radio stations or cable offices have decision-making staff on the job at the time – and that reaches as many television viewers as possible. It should alert local radio with accurate information. Of course, we are prepared to use many other complementary methods to get our alerts out too – from sirens to door-to-door for evacuations.
6. The All Points Bulletin TV, in our understanding, would improve the safety and security of a community such as Sarnia and is worthy of due consideration.

7. We appreciate this opportunity to share our experience with you. We do not wish to appear at the public hearing.

Regards,

Gwen Hess  
CAER Administrator  
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