

## RADIO FREQUENCY INTERFERENCE

Residents in the vicinity of the WCCO tower may experience radio frequency interference (RFI) on their telephones. WCCO reports this is a common complaint and attributes the problem to corrosion, and sometimes water in the phone lines and equipment, which when combined with the electronics in modern phones, modems, and fax machines, can pick up broadcast signals. WCCO suggests someone experiencing the problem should collect all of their phones (and other equipment) and test them one by one to determine which device is causing the problem. One bad device will cause problems on other devices and should be discarded.

Mr. Trent Clausen, Qwest regional Operations Director) stated RFI is a common complaint, especially in houses with older wiring. He said it often occurs when there is a change in broadcast equipment, an increase in power output, or a modification in the signal. Any customer experiencing "broadcast traffic" should call Qwest repair to report the problem. They will then be advised to purchase an inexpensive filter, or RF choke, at an electronics store, such as Radio Shack, for each phone. The RF chokes cost between \$2.00 and \$9.00, plug into the phone jack, and should solve the problem. He also noted that older and cheaper phones tend not to have the filtering capability of newer or better quality phones.