



FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Nez Perce Tribe Redundant Telecommunications Tower, Kamiah, Idaho
Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program: EMW-2014-SS-0035-S01

The Nez Perce Tribe (Tribe) applied for and was awarded a U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Fiscal Year 2014 Tribal Homeland Security Grant to build a telecommunications tower and add equipment to two others. The project will help maintain connectivity of government facilities and the KIYE broadcast, and establish a redundant network link to serve the community of Kamiah, Idaho. The purpose of the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program is to help build and sustain tribal preparedness capabilities, including emergency communications.

The Proposed Action is located on the Nez Perce Reservation in Idaho near Kamiah. The Proposed Action primarily includes erecting a 140 ft. tall self-supporting lattice telecommunications tower within an 80 ft. by 80 ft. fenced compound, installing a small equipment hut, grading an access roadway to the site, excavating a trench to bury a power line to the tower site, and equipping the tower with two dish antenna. The new telecommunication tower is located off Woodland Road in Tribal Unit 62. In addition, telecommunications equipment (radios/antenna) will be placed on two existing towers to create a network ring. These other towers are located at KIYE on Tribal Unit 1359C at 401 Idaho Street in Kamiah (ASR 1274065); and on Tribal Unit 60 at 2948 Hwy. 64 in Nez Perce (ASR 1281282).

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and FEMA's implementing regulations, FEMA prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate potential environmental effects resulting from the alternatives presented in the EA and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Alternatives evaluated in the EA include: 1) No Action, and 2) the Proposed Action to deploy redundant fixed microwave communication paths to serve Kamiah. Alternative tower site locations were considered but not carried forth as described in the EA. The Draft EA was made available for public review and comment for 30 days beginning on August 18, 2015; no substantive comments were received. The Proposed Action is the preferred alternative because the No Action alternative would not address the purpose and need stated in the EA and no other practical alternatives were identified. Thus, the Proposed Action is selected.

FINDINGS

Based upon the Nez Perce Tribe programs' review, completed FEMA Environmental and Historic Preservation Screening Memo (EHPSM), the EA, and supporting documentation; and in accordance with 1) FEMA's regulations in 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10 for environmental considerations, including Executive Orders (EO) addressing floodplains (EO 11988), wetlands (EO 11990), and environmental justice (EO 12898); and 2) the Council on Environmental Quality's

regulations in 40 CFR Chapter 5 for implementing NEPA; FEMA determined the proposed project will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.8) and the project may proceed as described above with the below mitigation measures incorporated into the project implementation.

APPROVAL



Mark G. Eberlein
Acting Environmental Officer

9-21-15

Date

PERMITTING, PROJECT CONDITIONS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The following project conditions and mitigation measures are required during project implementation:

- The Tribe is responsible for securing all applicable Tribal, State and Federal permitting before site work and complying with conditions therein.
- Before and during site work, the Tribe is responsible for selecting, implementing, monitoring, and maintaining Best Management Practices to control soil erosion and sedimentation, reduce spills and pollution, and habitat protection.
- The Tribe should avoid construction activities, including staging and vegetation removal, within the project area between March and September (migratory bird nesting season). If activities must occur during migratory bird nesting season, then the Tribe must have a qualified biologist conduct a site survey of the project area to determine if there are active migratory bird nests in the area. If active migratory bird nests are identified and could be affected, then the Tribe must coordinate with the USFWS prior to proceeding with the work to determine if a permit under MBTA is required or if other measures can be taken to address adverse impacts to migratory birds.
- In the event that cultural resources are discovered during project activities, and in compliance with Tribal and Federal laws protecting cultural resources, including Section 106 of the NHPA, work in the immediate vicinity would cease, the area would be secured, and the THPO and FEMA would be notified.
- Any change to the approved scope of work would require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other laws and EOs before implementation.