



FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Proposed Central Maintenance Facility Radio Tower Project
Pierce County, Washington
State Homeland Security Grant Program: 2006-GE-T6-0059 (02)

Pierce County applied to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for funding assistance to build a new radio/communications tower at its Central Maintenance Facility near Spanaway, Washington. Funding was authorized through the State Homeland Security Grant Program which is administered by the Washington Military Department of Emergency Management. The grant program's goals include building homeland security capabilities at the state and local levels by implementing objectives included in the State Preparedness Report, consistent with Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-53).

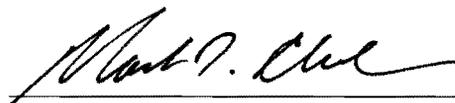
The Proposed Action includes construction of an approximately 250-foot lattice self-supporting communications tower and associated 360-sq-ft equipment building to be located at 4812 196th Street East, in Spanaway, Pierce County. The tower will be built in two phases. Phase 1 would consist of a 50-foot by 90-foot (4500-square-feet total) site preparation; cement foundation; installation of the first 160 feet of the steel radio tower with 17-foot antennas, bringing the height to 177 feet; installation of the equipment shelter; and a 6-foot chain-link fence with a gate. A maximum of four (4) six-foot diameter high-performance microwave dishes will be installed during Phase 1 at the heights of 158 feet and 128 feet. Phase 2 would increase the height of the tower by another 73 feet, bringing it to 250 feet in height, and will have four (4) more six-foot microwave dishes: two at 248 feet and two at 218 feet in height.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and FEMA's implementation regulations, FEMA prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate potential environmental impacts resulting from the alternatives presented in the EA and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impacts Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Alternatives evaluated in the EA included: No Action, i.e., continued use of existing communications equipment; and construction of the new communications tower (preferred alternative). Other alternatives were considered but not carried forth and are described in the EA. The Draft EA, including the reason for selection of the preferred alternative, was made available for public review and comment from May 19 to June 16, 2010. FEMA did not receive substantive comments on the Draft EA.

FINDINGS

Based upon the grant application, site and building design, EA (incorporated by reference), and attached Mitigation and Conservation Measures; and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10 for environmental consideration, including Executive Orders (EO) addressing floodplains (EO 11988), wetlands (EO 11990), and environmental justice (EO 12898), 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, based upon the findings above, may proceed.

APPROVAL



6-18-10

Mark G. Eberlein
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region 10

Date

Attachment A:

MITIGATION AND CONSERVATION MEASURES

Mitigation and conservation measures refer to actions that would minimize or eliminate potential adverse environmental impacts that could result from the Proposed Action:

- The County shall secure and comply with all applicable federal, state, and local project permitting.
- The County must complete its coastal zone management plan consistency determination from the WA Department of Ecology before proceeding.
- If site work exceeds 1 acre, the County must secure a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System General Construction Permit. During site work, the County is responsible for selecting, implementing, monitoring, and maintaining best management practices to control soil erosion and sediment, reduce spills and pollution, and provide habitat protection, consistent with permitting requirements.
- Site soils would be covered and/or wetted during construction as needed to minimize fugitive dust.
- In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity shall be discontinued, the area secured, and the State Historic Preservation Office and FEMA notified.
- If any hazardous materials are found during construction; these shall be characterized, remediated, and disposed of as appropriate, and otherwise handled in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
- The County must complete any necessary tower registration and licensing with the Federal Communications Commission.
- Any change to the approved scope of work in the FEMA grant application and in the EA, as described by the proposed alternative, will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other laws and Executive Orders.
- The County shall ensure modifications and additional equipment mounted during Phase II meets U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's September 14, 2000 *Guidance on the Siting, Construction, Operation, and Decommissioning of Communications Towers* to minimize adverse effect on migratory birds.
- The County shall ensure modifications and additional equipment mounted during Phase II meets Federal Aviation Administration requirements for air traffic safety.