



**FEMA**

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
PROPOSED COMMUNICATIONS TOWER FACILITIES  
STATE-WIDE, MISSISSIPPI**

**BACKGROUND**

The State of Mississippi Wireless Communication Commission (MWCC) (applicant) has applied for funding under the Mississippi Interoperable Communications Grant Program (MICGP) administered by FEMA for the construction of the following five communication tower facilities:

<b>Tower Site ID</b>	<b>Height (feet asl)</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Floodplain</b>	<b>Wetland</b>
20118	360	Guyed	Off of Dorsey Road	Grace	Issaquena	X	
20503	600	Guyed	Off of Firetower Road	Crawford	Lowndes		X
20507	450	Guyed	Off of Hwy 12/ Military Road	Columbus	Lowndes	X	X
20509	400	Guyed	Off of County Road 70	Woodland	Chickasaw		X
20117	330	Guyed	Off of Mississippi Hwy 1	Fitter	Issaquena	X	X

The proposed telecommunications sites would be part of the Mississippi Wireless Integrated Network (MSWIN) project, which is intended to provide and enhance interoperable communications uses for a wide variety of government, public safety, and first-responder users within the State of Mississippi.

Environmental Assessment (EAs) for each proposed site were prepared by the applicant in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508) implementing NEPA, and FEMA's regulations at 44 CFR Part 10 implementing NEPA. The EAs also consider impacts under other environmental and historic preservation laws and requirements, including the National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and Presidential Executive Orders (E.O.) 11988 (Floodplain Management) and 11990 (Protection of Wetlands).

The EAs evaluated the no action alternative and the proposed action alternative. These alternatives were evaluated for potential adverse impacts to wetlands and floodplains, threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, farmland, historic properties, and cultural resources. The proposed projects were coordinated with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and interested Tribes via the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) tower construction notification email system. As part of the EA process, the applicant requested public comments through a Public Notice in the Clarion Ledger on May 28, 2010. No comments were received.

The proposed projects are located in a wetland and/or floodplain. The projects have been modified to minimize impacts to or from the floodplain by protecting the communication facilities against a 500-year flood event by elevating the equipment at each facility above the 500-year flood elevation (where mapped), or by elevating the equipment a minimum of five feet above the 100-year base flood elevation in areas where the 500-year floodplain is not mapped. The projects located in wetlands are covered by Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permits and no compensatory mitigation is required because of the small amount of wetlands affected. The applicant will comply with the terms and conditions of the applicable Nationwide Permits

### **CONDITIONS**

The applicant will minimize impacts to or from floodplains by protecting the communication facilities against a 500-year flood event by elevating the equipment above the 500-year flood elevation (where mapped), or elevating the equipment a minimum of five feet above the 100-year base flood elevation in areas where the 500-year floodplain is not mapped.

The applicant will comply with the terms and conditions of the applicable Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permits for those projects affecting jurisdictional wetlands.

The applicant will allow FWS site visits for conducting avian collision and mortality surveys under the MBTA.

The applicant will monitor ground disturbance during the construction phase. If any potential human skeletal remains or historic or archeological materials are discovered, all ground-disturbing activities will immediately cease and the applicant will notify the coroner's office (in the case of human remains), MDAH, interested tribes (as listed in the Inadvertent Discovery section of the EAs), and FEMA.

The applicant is responsible for obtaining and complying with all required local, State and Federal permits and approvals, including any required by the FCC and the Federal

Aviation Administration. Failure to obtain all required permits and approvals may jeopardize federal funding.

**FINDING**

Based upon the EAs and in accordance with 44 CFR Part 10 and E.O. 11988 and 11990, FEMA has determined that the proposed actions would not have any significant adverse impacts on the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared and the proposed projects may proceed after 15 days from the issuance of this FONSI.

**Approved**



Jomar Maldonado  
Environmental Officer  
Federal Emergency Management Agency

6/14/2010