



FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
City of Watertown 190' Communications Tower
DHS/FEMA Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant
Watertown, Codington County, SD
October 12, 2010

The City of Watertown, Codington County, South Dakota has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) for program funding under Section 601 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The FEMA grants funds under this program for activities which help to improve interoperable emergency communications, including communications in collective response to natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Executive Order (EO) 11988, Executive Order 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to assess the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the human and natural environment, and is incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND

Codington County, SD is subject to frequent flood events from the Big Sioux River and its tributaries. The county has experienced flood events 12 times in the past 75 years, most recently in 2001. Its first responders rely on emergency communications systems to effectively respond in these and other emergency events. The county is currently subject to inconsistent radio coverage, with large portions of the county out of range of interoperable emergency communications. These significant gaps in coverage have made it more difficult for first responders and emergency response personnel to respond effectively.

DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is the construction of telecommunication infrastructure, including a 190-foot tower with antennas, cabling, and associated electronic equipment, needed to provide improved radio coverage to the existing public safety radio communications system. The tower and appurtenances would be located on property owned and operated by the City of Watertown. The proposed project site is at the Watertown Police Department, 119 South Maple Watertown, SD 57201 (section 31, Township 117 N, Range 52 1W, Codington County, South Dakota). The proposed 190-foot tower will utilize an equilateral triangular pattern with either steel pipe or solid steel legs, and tubular or angle steel cross bracing with bolted construction.

The cross bracing is angular solid tubing and is welded to the legs. The sections are hot-dipped galvanized after fabrication. This tower shall be engineered to specifically meet and adequately handle the equipment to be installed.

MITIGATION AND STIPULATIONS

The following mitigation and stipulations upon which this finding is conditioned must be followed by the grant applicant and/or their contractors:

Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other Laws and Executive Orders.

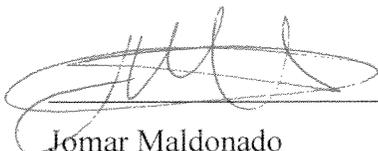
This review does not address all federal, state and local requirements. Acceptance of federal funding requires recipient to comply with all federal, state and local laws. Failure to obtain all appropriate federal, state and local environmental permits and clearances may jeopardize federal funding.

If ground disturbing activities occur during construction, applicant will monitor ground disturbance and if any potential archeological resources are discovered, will immediately cease construction in that area and notify the State and FEMA.

FINDINGS

Based upon the information contained in the Final Environmental Assessment completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, FEMA's regulations (44 CFR Part 10) for environmental considerations, and Executive Orders (EO) addressing Floodplains (EO 11988), Wetlands (EO 11990), the Endangered Species Act, and Environmental Justice (EO 12898), it is found that the Proposed Action with the prescribed mitigation measures and stipulations will have no significant adverse impact on the human environment. **As a result of this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared, and the Proposed Action with the associated mitigation measures and stipulations as described in the Environmental Assessment may proceed.

APPROVAL



Jomar Maldonado
FEMA Environmental Officer

11/2/2010

Date