

Draft Environmental Assessment  
**Antelope Butte Communication Site**  
Interoperability Montana  
Homeland Security Grant Program  
HSGP 2008-GE-T8-0023  
*May 2011*



U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
500 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20472

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## **1.0 Introduction**

The proposed Antelope Butte Communications site would provide radio coverage in the Fort Union area; microwave connectivity and radio coverage in both Richland and Roosevelt Counties; and line-of-sight telecommunications for various federal, state, and local disaster and emergency personnel as part of the state-wide Interoperability Montana (IM) Communication Project. This project would be funded in part through grants received from the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP-2008-GE-T8-0023). When completed, it will be part of a system of approximately 140 sites providing a comprehensive emergency communications network across Montana. This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321 *et seq.*) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) NEPA implementing regulations (44 CFR § 10). The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that Federal agencies consider the environmental consequences of proposed actions before deciding to fund them.

## **2.0 Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve radio communications in northeast Montana for emergency services. Need results from isolation, topography, and great distances between communities and residences that limit communications in northeast Montana. Most residences have phone lines, however residences are widely scattered, and cellular phone service is intermittent and limited. Short-wave radio is the primary means of emergency communications, although service in some areas is currently sporadic or altogether lacking. These gaps in emergency communications hamper or slow response time in emergencies, and compromise law enforcement and fire suppression.

Richland and Roosevelt Counties have documented that they have limited or no radio coverage in the creeks along the Missouri River corridor, and drainages in the Antelope Butte area.

## **3.0 Alternatives**

Interoperability Montana established the following site criteria for the proposed action:

The site needs to be able to connect to the Statewide Interoperability System. The site must be in a location where it can provide microwave connectivity from the Fox Creek tower to the South, and to the Culbertson tower to the North. Sites must provide the microwave connectivity and radio coverage required by both Richland and Roosevelt Counties. The radio site needs to have an access road to the site, and the radios require commercial utility power to operate full time.

### **3.1 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, the Antelope Butte site would not be developed as a communications site, and the land would remain in its current rural, undeveloped state. The No

Action Alternative does not meet the purpose and need of the Proposed Action, but it is included in this document to provide a baseline for comparison of impacts with the Proposed Action.

### **3.2 Alternative Location 1 (Proposed Action)**

Interoperability Montana would construct a 150-foot self-supporting tower and associated equipment compound in Siney, Richland County, Montana. The proposed radio communications complex would include a 150' self-supporting tower for which a pad and pier foundation must be dug to depth of 5' by 25' square, a propane tank to provide fuel for the internal 60 Kw emergency generator on a 4' by 12' concrete pad, and a 12' by 30' equipment shelter on a concrete pad. Trenching for R56 grounding requires a 30-inch deep by 18-inch wide by 180-foot long trench to be dug around the shelter for grounding wires. The shelter foundation will be about 3 ft deep by 14 ft wide by 32 ft long. Access to the site from the west is approximately 700 feet from an unpaved road to the site location. Commercial utility power is approximately 450 feet from the proposed location. The site is located in a rural area in the northeast portion of Richland County. The site is a 100'x100' area that is part of a larger 80-acre tract of land located approximately 20 miles north-northwest of Sidney, Montana, in Section 21, Township 26 north, Range 58 east, at N 47° 59' 44.3", W 104° 13' 42.5". The parent tract of land is classified as grazing land, and the surrounding area is rural in nature, with the only development in the area consisting of an oil well approximately ¼ mile southeast of the proposed site.

The Antelope Butte site would contribute to the overall statewide effort to implement the IM Communication Project as funded through FEMA and DHS, and meet the objectives of the Montana Homeland Security Strategic Plan (MHSSP). Development and subsequent Governor's approval of the MHSSP resulted in-part from inadequacies in interoperable communications among first responders during recent multi-jurisdictional incidents around the country, specifically Hurricane Katrina, and 9/11 in New York City. Reason for these shortcomings were identified as aging and incompatible equipment, limited and fractured funding, limited and fragmented planning, lack of coordination and cooperation, and limited and fragmented radio frequency spectrum, all addressed by overarching MHSSP objectives. In summary, Interoperable Montana is a state-wide, standards-based voice and data communications network providing service to federal, state, local and tribal public safety responders.

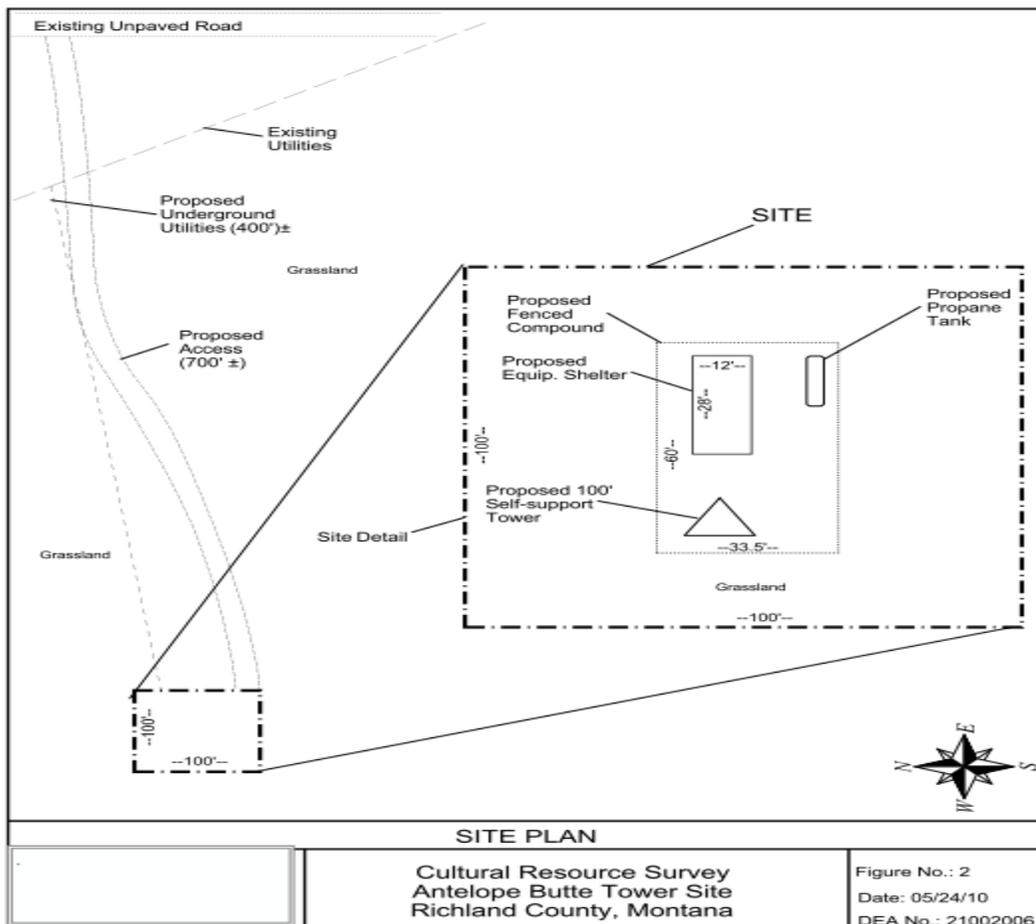
The Antelope Butte site was proposed after due diligence in locating a site in Northeast Montana that could provide the adequate radio coverage in that part of Richland and Roosevelt Counties. Individuals conducted an area visit and looked at possible locations South and North of the Antelope Butte location and found based on communications propagation maps that the Antelope Butte site provided the best radio coverage and also provided the required line of site microwave connectivity between the Fox Creek tower in Richland County to the Culbertson tower in Roosevelt County. There are no other sites within a 10 mile radius that provide the ability to connect the sites via microwave nor provides the needed radio coverage. The Antelope Butte site would also provide future cross-border coverage and connectivity into North Dakota.

### **3.3 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Discussion**

Another proposed site was evaluated but discarded because it would have been at a lower elevation and required a much taller tower which would not be generally accepted as best environmental practice. This site is approximately 450 feet southeast and downhill from Location 1, and would require a 350-foot self supporting tower and the site development specifications described above. The tower base would be approximately 200 feet by 200 feet (40,000 square

feet). There would be considerably more ground disturbance for the foundation due to the taller tower and larger base. The cost for additional concrete and tower materials renders this alternative cost prohibitive. The proposed Antelope Butte site was chosen as the preferred alternative site because it would only require a 150 foot self standing tower, where the other alternate site would have required a 300 foot or taller tower and larger microwave dishes. This reduced tower height and smaller and fewer MW dishes would be a more effective, environmentally sound solution.

Another alternative option considered was to use fiber optic cable connectivity, but this option would not be available without further build-out of the fiber infrastructure in this area. This would be another environmental concern due to the number of miles of ground disturbance and would also be cost prohibited to the project. There are no funds available for monthly costs to lease these services once the fiber construction costs were paid.



## 4.0 Affected Environment and Potential Impacts

The following section will describe existing conditions in the area as well as expected impacts resulting from the construction and operation of the proposed action.

### 4.1 Geology and Soils

*Proposed Action:* Soil resources include geologic features; and prime and unique farmlands, which are protected under the Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 (FPPA) (P.L. 97–98, 7 U.S.C. §4201). The FPPA applies to prime and unique farmlands and those that are of State and local importance. “Prime farmland” is defined as land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for successfully producing crops. “Unique” farmland is defined as land that is used for the production of certain high-value crops, such as citrus, tree nuts, olives, and fruits. The Act requires Federal agencies to examine the potentially adverse effects to these resources before approving any action that would irreversibly convert farmlands to nonfarm uses.

*Proposed Action:* Richland County, MT is part of the Missouri Plateau of the Great Plains physiographic region. No significant geologic features are mapped on the Geologic Structure and Contour Map of the Sidney 30' x 60' Quadrangle, issued by the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology. The proposed site is composed of Zahill loam, (15 to 65 percent slopes) which is not classified as prime farmland. Under the Proposed Action, the total area of disturbance is approximately 10,000 square feet. There would be no loss of unique geological resources, and no prime farmland would be converted to non-farm uses. The construction and operation of the tower would have no significant impacts to geology and soils.

*No Action Alternative:* Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no ground-disturbing activity, and therefore no impact to geology and soils

### 4.2 Air Quality and Noise

Air quality is measured by the concentration of various pollutants in the atmosphere, usually expressed in units of parts per million (ppm) or micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). The Clean Air Act (CAA) (P.L. 88–206, 42 United States Code [U.S.C.] §7401) requires the adoption of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to protect the public health and welfare from the effects of air pollution. Richland County, MT is in attainment for all NAAQS. Noise pollution is any form of unwanted sound. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has established 70 decibels as a safe average for a 24-hour day. Studies have shown that exposure to constant or high levels of noise can cause adverse health effects.

*Proposed Action:* The construction of the site would create minor air emissions such as fugitive dust resulting from ground disturbing activities. These emissions would be temporary, of short duration, and would have no significant impact on air quality. The operation of the tower would create minor air emissions in the event that the emergency generator is required for operation. These impacts would also be temporary, of short duration, and would have no significant impact on air quality. The proposed site is in a rural area and the only surrounding development is an oil well located approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile away. There are no sensitive receptors in the project vicinity.

There would be an increase in ambient noise levels during construction of the proposed site, but the impacts would be temporary and of short duration. The operation of the tower would not generate any noise with the exception of the occasional use of the emergency generator. Standard BMP for dust control and equipment maintenance will be implemented. There would be no significant impacts to noise as a result of the proposed project.

*No Action Alternative:* Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no ground-disturbing activity and no construction of a communication tower site, nor would any sources of emissions be created. There would be no impacts to ambient noise levels as a result of the No Action Alternative, because no construction would take place and a tower would not be located at the Antelope Butte site.

### **4.3 Water Resources**

Water resources are streams, lakes, rivers, and other aquatic habitats in an area and include surface water, groundwater, wetlands, floodplains, coastal resources, and wild and scenic rivers. Water resources—such as lakes, rivers, streams, canals, and drainage ditches—make up the surface hydrology of a given watershed. Federal statutes, executive orders (EO), and other regulations and directives protect water quality and the beneficial uses of water resources. EO 11988 (Floodplain Management) and EO 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) mandate the control of activities that indirectly influence water quality.

*Proposed Action:* There are no surface waters, wetlands, streams, lakes, rivers, or other aquatic habitats or water resources within 2,000 feet of the proposed tower site. According to information depicted on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel Number 3008C0575C, dated June 4, 2007, the site is located in an unshaded Flood Zone X, an area outside the 100-year and 500-year floodplains. Site reconnaissance visits and data available from the National Wetlands Inventory determined that there are no wetlands within 2,000 feet of the proposed project site (Figure 3.2). The proposed site is not in a coastal area. The proposed tower site is located more than two miles south of the Missouri River. The proposed project would not be built in a floodplain, nor would it encroach on any wetlands, surface waters, streams, lakes, rivers, or other water resources. The Proposed Action would have no direct or indirect significant impact on water resources.

*No Action Alternative:* Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no ground disturbance, and no potential to impact water resources.

### **4.4 Biological Resources**

Biological resources are animals, plants, and their habitats that are native to an area, including threatened or endangered species. In general, biological resources can include native and introduced plants that comprise the various habitats, animals present in such habitats, and natural areas that help support these plant and wildlife populations. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 U.S.C. §1531) requires Federal agencies to conserve endangered species by listing endangered and threatened species of plants and animals and designating the critical habitat for animal species. The ESA defines an endangered species as any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant area of its range and a threatened species as any species likely to become endangered in the near future.

#### **4.4.1 General Vegetation and Habitat**

*Proposed Action:* The site is a rural, undeveloped area. Vegetation at the site is dominated by grasses and forbs. Site visits concluded that no water bodies or wetland habitat were observed, and hydric soils and hydrophytic vegetation were not present. The site is not located on or near a Wilderness Area or Wildlife Preserve. The proposed compound would be 60' x 33.5' in size, and the development of the site would not require the removal of trees or shrubbery, nor changes to other surface features.

Under the Proposed Action, ground disturbance would be required, however the total amount of ground disturbance required would be within the 100' x 100' compound, and would be a small fraction of the 80 acre parcel within which the proposed tower site is located. There would be no significant impacts to general vegetation and habitat as a result of the construction of the proposed communications tower. The operation of the tower would have no impact on general vegetation and habitat.

*No Action Alternative:* Under the No Action Alternative there would be no ground disturbance, therefore no potential to disturb general vegetation and habitat. The No Action Alternative would have no impact to general vegetation and habitat.

#### **4.4.2 Threatened and Endangered Species and Migratory Birds**

A current listing of threatened and endangered (T&E) species in the area of the subject site was obtained from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) website. Using the FWS-supplied information in conjunction with original data, an Informal Biological Assessment (IBA) was conducted to determine if any of the listed or proposed T&E species were readily observable or whether habitat necessary to support the listed species is present on or in proximity to the site.

*Proposed Action:* The proposed action would involve approximately 10,000 sq. ft. of ground disturbance. The tower would be under 200 feet tall, would not have guy wires, would not require lighting and would otherwise conform to FWS "Service Guidance on Siting, Construction, Operation and Decommissioning of Communication Towers (September 2000)" ([www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/communicationtowers.html](http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/communicationtowers.html)) thereby minimizing impacts to migratory birds as required under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. §703)

The evaluation of flora and fauna in the site area used the current list of T&E species identified in Richland County, MT. No listed or proposed T&E species were observed on or in proximity to the site. Further, the proposed project is expected to have no effect on habitat that may be used by T&E species. Based on the data available and field observations, the proposed project is not expected to significantly impact T&E species or migratory birds. The site is not designated as critical habitat as defined in 50 CFR.

The FWS Montana Field Office was contacted by letter on April 29, 2010 to initiate informal Section 7 consultation under the ESA. FWS responded on June 1, 2010 and concurred that the "proposed action is not likely to adversely affect any federally-listed T&E species" and that adherence to the FWS Guidance on communications towers (required as a condition of approval) would "minimize impacts to migratory birds".

On July 14, 2010, notification was received that the tower height had changed from the originally-proposed 100-foot height to 150 feet. However, this change would not impact the size of the

project compound described in the correspondence with FWS, and would still adhere to the Service's guidance for communication towers. Since the change to the proposed project would not alter the conclusions reached in the IBA, no further consultation is required per the letter received from FWS.

*No Action Alternative:* Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no ground disturbance and no tower construction. The No Action Alternative would have no impact on T&E species or migratory birds.

#### **4.5 Historic and Cultural Resources**

Section 106 of The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) (P.L. 89-665, 16 U.S.C. §470) directs the Federal Government to consider the effects of its actions on historic and cultural resources through a four-step compliance process.

*Proposed Action:* A Section 106 review was conducted for the proposed tower construction project in accordance with the requirements stipulated by the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Nationwide Programmatic Agreement (NPA). The review defined the 100'x100' tower compound construction area and the proposed access/utility easements as the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for Direct Effects. The review defined an area one-half mile in radius from the site as the APE for Visual Effects. The Section 106 review concluded that there would be no historic properties affected within either APE. A completed FCC Form 620 was submitted to the Montana SHPO, requesting concurrence that the proposed project would have "No Effect" on historic or cultural resources in the area. By letter dated June 7, 2010, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred there would be no effect on historic and cultural resources as a result of the proposed action. If ground-disturbing activities occur and historical or archaeological materials are discovered, work shall stop immediately all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the property shall be taken; and FEMA and the SHPO should be notified as soon as possible.

As required by the NHPA, public participation as well as notification to local governments and other potentially interested parties was conducted. A public notice was published in the Sidney Herald on April 7, 2010 and April 14, 2010, inviting review and comment on the proposed project by the general public. This notice was provided for a 30-day comment period. No comments were received from the public.

Notification letters, dated March 22, 2010, inviting comment on the proposed tower project, were directed to the City of Sidney, Richland County, and the Montana Preservation Alliance. Since the site is outside of the City of Sidney, they declined to comment on the proposed undertaking. Richland County Commissioners reported that no known historic resources would be affected and supported the proposed undertaking. No response was received from the Montana Preservation Alliance. The lack of response has been taken as an indication that they have chosen not to participate in the review process.

As mentioned above, since the time of original communication with the consulting parties, the proposed tower height was changed from 100 feet to 150 feet. The change in tower height had no effect on the APE for Direct Effects or the APE for Visual Effects. However, notification letters, dated July 16, 2010 were directed to the SHPO and the aforementioned Potentially Interested

Parties, advising of the design modification, and requesting that any additional comments be made within 30 days. No response has been received.

*No Action Alternative:* No ground disturbance or tower construction would occur under the No Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative would have no impact to historic and cultural resources.

#### **4.5.1 Native American Resources**

A review of Native American-owned lands was conducted using available mapping and other data available from the Department of the Interior. In addition, in accordance with the requirements stipulated in the NPA, notification of the project was made via the FCC's Tower Construction Notification System (TCNS). Fifteen (15) Federally-recognized tribes, registered as having a potential interest in the geographic area of the project, were notified of the project by TCNS.

*Proposed Action:* Ten (10) tribes responded, stating that they had no objection to; or comments on, the proposed project. These tribes included:

- Blackfeet Nation
- Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
- Fort Belknap Community Council
- Fort Peck Tribes
- Northern Arapaho
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- Spirit Lake Nation
- Three Affiliated Tribes
- Trenton Indian Service Area
- Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

As mentioned above, since the time of original communication with the above-responding Tribes, the proposed tower height was changed from 100 to 150 feet. The change in tower height had no effect on the APE for Direct Effects or the APE for Visual Effects. Nonetheless, notification letters dated July 15, 2010 were directed to the responsive Tribes listed above advising of the design modification and requesting that any additional comments be made within 30 days. If any responses are received, the EA will be revised accordingly.

A reasonable and demonstrable effort was made to follow up with the Tribes that did not respond to the TCNS notification. All documentation is included in Appendix C. Responses were not received as of the time of writing, from the Chippewa Creek Tribe of the Rocky's Boy Reservation, the Crow Tribal Council, the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and the Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota.

The NPA Declaratory Ruling sets forth that the applicants' tribal consultation obligations under the NPA have been fulfilled for a project after two attempts have been made to consult over a 40-day period, and subsequently, additional attempts were made by the FCC over a 20-day period. On June 16, 2010, the non-responsive tribes were referred to the FCC for resolution via TCNS. On

June 17, 2010, the FCC issued a letter of notification confirming that they had contacted the above-referenced tribes as of that date. The letter further stated that if no statement of interest were received from the tribes within the ensuing 20-day period, obligations to continue to consult under Section IV of the NPA were complete. As of the time of writing, there have been no comments received, Therefore the Declaratory Ruling allows construction of the proposed tower site to proceed without further consultation with Native American tribes. If ground-disturbing activities occur and historical or archaeological materials are discovered, work shall stop immediately all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the property shall be taken; and FEMA and the THPO should be notified as soon as possible.

There would be no significant impact to Native American resources as a result of the Proposed Action.

*No Action Alternative:* There would be no ground disturbance or tower construction under the No Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative would have no impact to Native American resources.

#### **4.6 Land Use**

*Proposed Action:* The proposed site is currently classified as grazing lands, and is not developed. The land is not a designated Wilderness Area, nor is it in or adjacent to a designated Wildlife Preserve or other protected area. The land is not in, or within a mile of, a National Scenic Trail. While the construction and operation of a communication tower would represent a change in land use from the existing conditions at the site, the remainder of the larger parcel would be able to remain in its current classification of grazing land, and the overall change in land use would be minor. There would be no significant impacts to land use as a result of the Proposed Action.

*No Action Alternative:* Under the No Action Alternative, the tower would not be built and operated at the Antelope Butte site, therefore there would be no change from existing land uses. The No Action Alternative would have no impact to land use.

##### **4.6.1 Infrastructure**

Although the site is very rural and undeveloped, infrastructure currently exists that would have the capacity to support the proposed communications tower. Commercial utility power is approximately 450 feet from the proposed location, and there is currently a public access road to the site. The addition of the Proposed Action would improve interoperable emergency communications coverage in the area, and in the State as a whole, as part of the Interoperability Montana project. The requirements to power the Proposed Action would be within the capacity of the existing system, and the project would have no significant impacts to infrastructure. The No Action would have no impacts to infrastructure.

##### **4.6.2 Human Health and Safety, and Environmental Justice**

Human health and safety addresses workers' health and safety, and public safety during demolition and construction activities and during subsequent operations of those facilities. EO 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice (EJ) in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations) directs agencies to address environmental and human health conditions in minority and low-income communities. EJ addresses the disproportionate and adverse effects of a Federal action on low-income or minority populations.

*Proposed Action:* The proposed site is not adjacent to any residential populations, as it is a very rural area currently classified as grazing lands. There are no low-income populations or minority populations in the vicinity of the proposed project site. Interoperability Montana would ensure that regulations regarding workplace and tower construction safety were adhered to, and that the tower would meet all regulatory requirements for “maximum permissible exposure” of radiofrequency (RF) radiation. The project would have no disproportionately high and adverse impacts on those populations; the implementation of the project would provide a benefit for all residents of Richland County in the form of improved emergency response capability due to enhanced interoperable communications, and would have no impacts on environmental justice.

*No Action Alternative:* Under the No Action Alternative, the communication tower would not be constructed and existing gaps in coverage for interoperable communications would remain. Overall effectiveness of emergency responders would be compromised, and there would be an adverse impact to human health and safety, although the impact would not be significant. There would no disproportionate adverse impacts to low-income populations or minority populations as a result of the No Action Alternative, therefore there would be no impacts to environmental justice.

#### **4.7 Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts are the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

*Proposed Action:* When completed, the statewide Interoperability System will eventually be comprised of approximately 140 sites providing a comprehensive emergency communications network across Montana. The other towers are being constructed using funds from a variety of sources. The sites are widely distributed and at least 10 miles apart. They have been or will be built using similar materials and methods of construction. Only minor impacts to existing resources have been identified at other completed locations. Adherence to USFWS Guidance on Siting, Construction, Operation and Decommissioning of Communication Towers” is required as a condition of approval. Therefore, no cumulative impacts due to construction and/or maintenance of this tower are anticipated. However, cumulative impacts due to operation of the microwave radio system have not been considered as part of this EA.

*No Action Alternative:* Under the No Action Alternative there would be no construction of a communications tower site and there would be no cumulative impacts.

## **Summary Table**

The following table summarizes impacts of the proposed alternative to the affected environment(s) and resource areas. Under the no-action alternative there would be no construction of a communications tower and there would be no impacts to any resources:

| <b>Affected Environment/<br/>Resource Area</b> | <b>Impacts</b>                                    | <b>Agency<br/>Coordination/Permits</b>        | <b>Mitigation/BMPs</b>                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Geology and Soils                              | No Significant Impacts                            | Total area of disturbance is less than 1 acre | None                                                                                                                   |
| Air Quality and Noise                          | Minor, Short-term Impacts due during construction | None                                          | Standard BMP for dust control and equipment maintenance                                                                |
| Water Resources                                | No Significant Impacts                            | None                                          | None                                                                                                                   |
| Floodplains                                    | No Significant Impacts                            | Un-shaded Zone X Per FIRM 3008C0575C          | None                                                                                                                   |
| Wetlands                                       | No Significant Impacts                            | Site visit and NWI maps                       | None                                                                                                                   |
| Vegetation and Habitat                         | No Significant Impacts                            | None                                          | None                                                                                                                   |
| T&E Species and Migratory Birds                | No Significant Impacts                            | USFWS June 1, 2010                            | FWS "Service Guidance on Siting, Construction, Operation and Decommissioning of Communication Towers (September 2000)" |
| Historic and Cultural Resources                | No Significant Impacts                            | SHPO June 7, 2010                             | Standard 'Discovery Clause' applies                                                                                    |
| Native American Resources                      | No Significant Impacts                            | FCC June 17, 2010                             | Standard 'Discovery Clause' applies                                                                                    |
| Land Use                                       | No Significant Impacts                            | None                                          | None                                                                                                                   |
| Infrastructure                                 | No Significant Impacts                            | None                                          | None                                                                                                                   |
| Human Health & Safety and EJ                   | No Significant Impacts                            | None                                          | None                                                                                                                   |
| Cumulative Impacts                             | No Significant Impacts                            | USFWS June 1, 2010                            | FWS "Service Guidance on Siting, Construction, Operation and Decommissioning of Communication Towers (September 2000)" |

## **5.0 Agency Coordination, Public Involvement and Permits**

### **5.1 Agency Coordination**

The following agencies and entities were contacted:

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Montana Historical Society (State Historic Preservation Office)  
City of Sidney  
Richland County  
Montana Preservation Alliance  
Blackfeet Nation  
Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma  
Fort Belknap Community Council  
Fort Peck Tribes  
Northern Arapaho  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe  
Spirit Lake Nation  
Three Affiliated Tribes  
Trenton Indian Service Area  
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa  
Chippewa Creek Tribe of the Rocky's Boy Reservation  
Crow Tribal Council  
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes  
Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota

Copies of correspondence and contact information can be found in Appendix C.

### **5.2 Public Involvement**

A public notice was published in the Sidney Herald on April 7, 2010 and April 14, 2010, inviting review and comment on the proposed project by the general public. This notice was provided for a 30-day comment period. No comments were received from the public. Availability of this Environmental Assessment (EA) will be published with a 15-day comment period. Any comments received will be addressed in the Final EA.

### **5.3 Permits**

The applicant and their contractors are required to comply with all applicable federal, state tribal and local laws, regulations, etc. and obtain all required permits.

## **6.0 List of Preparers**

### **Interoperability Montana**

Kevin Burski, Executive Director  
2717 Skyway Drive, Suite F  
Helena, MT 59602

### **Dynamic Environmental Associates**

Timothy Gilliland, Project Manager  
Virginia Janssen, Principal Investigator  
3850 Lake Street, Suite C  
Macon, GA 31204

### **Booz, Allen, Hamilton**

Amanda Pereira, GPD Contract Support  
8283 Greensboro Drive  
McLean, Virginia 22101

### **FEMA Region VIII**

Richard Myers, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer,  
DFC, Building 710, Box 25267  
Denver, CO 80225-0267  
Telephone: 303-235-4926

## **7.0 Appendices**

Appendix A - Maps

Appendix B – Photographs

Appendix C - Correspondence