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

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 administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the construction of the following communication tower facility:

Tower	Height (Feet)	Type	Street	Town	County
30409 B	650	Guyed	Off County Road 600	Booneville	Tippah

The proposed telecommunications site 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.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the 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 EA 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 applicant initiated a public involvement process through a Public Notice and coordination with Federal and state agencies and organizations and interested Tribes.

The proposed project as described in the EA was 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), the

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP), 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. The Draft EA was made available to the public on September 22, 2011 for a 15-day comment period. No comments were received.

Through the preparation of the EA, FEMA identified a potential for cumulative impacts to migratory birds as a result of the MSWIN project as birds could be injured or killed by colliding in to guy wires and/or the tower structure, or could be disoriented by tower lighting. An Avian Mitigation Plan was developed by FEMA, MWCC and MDWFP to address these potential cumulative impacts. The FWS Jackson, MS Ecological Services Office reviewed this Avian Mitigation Plan. The plan identifies mitigation to reduce the cumulative impacts to migratory birds. Mitigation includes monitoring the presence of deceased birds at MSWIN tower sites and providing a collection kit on site to collect the remains and record the location of any deceased bird. The remains of the bird along with the data will be delivered to the MDWFP and included in the state's Avian Mortality database. The remains of the bird along with the data will be delivered to the MDWFP and included in the state's Avian Mortality database. If a particular tower is found to have adverse effects to migratory birds (greater than 10 kills per night) the towers will be reported to MDWFP, USFWS, and FEMA. MWCC will also provide an annual report documenting the number of avian deaths and provide that report to FEMA, USFWS (Jackson, MS Ecological Services office), and MDWFP for five years after all towers have been constructed.

CONDITIONS

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.

The applicant is responsible for implementing the Avian Mitigation Plan incorporated into the EA.

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.

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

FINDING

Based upon the EA and in accordance with 44 CFR Part 10 and E.O. 11988 and 11990, FEMA has determined that the proposed action 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 project may proceed.

Approved

NOV 01 2011

Jomar Maldonado
Environmental Officer
Federal Emergency Management Agency