



**FEMA**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
LEON COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS TOWER  
LEON COUNTY, TEXAS  
HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM  
PROJECT # 2010-SS-T0-0008 (10036)**

BACKGROUND

In accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Subpart B, Agency Implementing Procedures, Part 10.9, an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ; 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). This EA informed FEMA's decision on whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The proposed project is to construct a 190-foot new free-standing communications tower located approximately 600 feet southeast of the intersection of FM 1511 and FM 831 in Leon County. This project will enable all emergency responders to communicate in this portion of Leon County during an emergency event. This project will also provide an alternate backup site for Leon County Justice Center and Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The Texas Department of Public Safety submitted the project under application number 2010-SS-T0-0008 (10036) of the Homeland Security Grant Program. This program provides funding to public safety agencies to construct and implement equipment and programs that will increase and protect critical communications infrastructure in the event of a natural disaster, terrorism event, as well as during routine operations.

Two project alternatives were considered in this EA: 1) No Action; and 2) Construction of a 190-foot new communications tower (Proposed Action). Under the No Action alternative, no telecommunications tower would be constructed. This alternative would jeopardize public safety by allowing the continuation of the existing, inadequate level of radio communications for public safety agencies.

The Proposed Action will consist of the construction of a 190-foot total height self-support telecommunications tower at 13958 FM 1511 Buffalo, Leon County, Texas 75831 (Latitude 31.417628, Longitude -95.911589). Located in a rural residential area, this project will enable all emergency responders to communicate in this portion of Leon County during an emergency event. This project will also provide an alternate backup site for Leon County Justice Center and Emergency Operational Center.

A public notice was posted in the *Centerville Press* newspaper on June 27, 2012, and the draft EA was made available for comment at the Centerville Post Office located at 322 East Saint

Marys Street, Centerville, TX 75833 and on the FEMA website for a 15-day public comment period. No comments were received from the public during the 15-day comment period.

## FINDINGS

The Proposed Action as described in the EA will not adversely impact geology, soil, seismicity, water resources, wetlands, floodplains, coastal resources, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species, historic properties, American Indian or religious sites, air quality, noise, infrastructure, utilities, transportation, waste management, or socioeconomic resources. Positive long-term impacts to socioeconomic and environmental justice are anticipated since the project will provide better emergency support to the community. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils, air quality, water quality, waste management, noise, traffic, and health and safety are anticipated. All populations, including minority and low-income populations, will benefit from the Proposed Action. All adverse impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas.

## CONDITIONS

The following conditions must be met as part of this project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize the receipt of federal funding.

1. 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.
2. Best available techniques to control erosion and sedimentation must be used. Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as runoff barriers will be utilized. All BMPs must follow the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) guidelines.
3. Excavated soil and waste materials must be managed and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations. If contaminated materials are discovered during the construction activities, the work will cease until the appropriate procedures can be implemented and permits obtained. Any hazardous materials discovered, generated, or used during construction will be handled and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.
4. Construction will take place during daytime hours and equipment will meet all local, state, and federal noise regulations.
5. Construction contractors will be required to comply with the federal and state health in accordance with OSHA safety regulations.

6. In the event that archeological deposits, including any Native American pottery, stone tools, bones, or human remains, are uncovered, the project shall be halted and the applicant shall stop all work immediately in the vicinity of the discovery and take reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. All archeological findings will be secured and access to the sensitive area restricted. The applicant will inform FEMA immediately and FEMA will consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) and Tribes and work in sensitive areas cannot resume until consultation is completed and appropriate measures have been taken to ensure that the project is in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).
7. Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other Laws and Executive Orders.

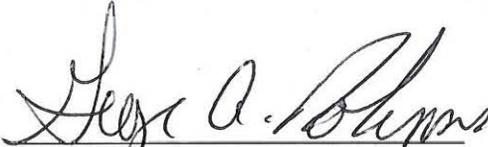
### CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of the EA, coordination with the appropriate agencies, and adherence to the project conditions set forth in this FONSI, FEMA has determined that the proposed project qualifies as a major federal action that will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment, nor does it have the potential for significant cumulative effects. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.9) and the proposed project as described in the attached EA may proceed.

### APPROVAL

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Jaynes, CHMM  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA Region 6

Date 7/12/12

  
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George A. Robinson  
Acting Regional Administrator  
FEMA Region 6

Date 7/13/12