

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Project Lead: J. Hufnagle

Field Office: Sierra Front

Lead Office: Sierra Front

Case File/Project Number: NVN 090096

Applicable Categorical Exclusion (cite section): *516 DM 11.9 E. Realty* (16) Acquisition of easements for an existing road or issuance of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purposes.

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2012-0014-CX

Project Name: Eagle Ridge/Talapoosa Comm Site Lease – ANTC

Project Description: Arizona Nevada Tower Corporation (ANTC) has applied for communication lease for a multi-use communication facility within a 100 foot by 100 foot area on the Eagle Ridge/Talapoosa Communication site; a developed site with a variety of communication uses and users. A temporary construction area 50 in width around the site perimeter is also proposed. ANTC proposes to install a 10 foot by 16 foot radio equipment shelter with a brown/tan pebble texture finish on a concrete slab foundation and a 120 foot tall self-support lattice tower. The site would be fenced for security with 6 foot chain link fencing material. The site adjoins an existing access road and is close to existing electric power. ANTC has also applied for authorization for installation of an overhead electric line approximately 200 feet in length and 10 feet in width, an access road 120 feet in length and 10 feet in width and buried fiber optic communication line, 400 feet in length. Further details on construction equipment and construction methods are provided in a plan of development submitted as part of the lease application. According to the applicant, the project is an essential component to provide microwave interconnect to bring wireless internet service to rural Nevada. Additionally the facilities would be built to accommodate additional communication service providers. Construction of the communication facilities is proposed for Spring of 2012 over a 6-month period. ANTC has also requested the ROW include access across public land on the main road to the peak from US 95A which is authorized under N-1119 and N-60749.

Applicant Name: Arizona Nevada Tower Corporation

Project Location: Mount Diablo Meridian

T 19 N, R 24 E, sec. 28, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ (site).

Access Road Legal Description

T 18 N, R 24 E, sec. 2, lots 1 and 2, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

T 18 N, R 25 E, sec. 6, lots 3 and 4.

T 19 N, R 24 E, sec. 28, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

sec. 34, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

sec. 36, lot 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

BLM Acres for the Project Area: Approximately 0.6 acres (0.28 acres temporary construction area plus 0.23 acres lease area, plus small area for new facilities outside lease area including fiber optic cable, road and electric) ROW for existing access road – 27,500 feet by 50 feet

Land Use Plan Conformance (cite reference/page number): Lands and Realty Administrative Actions 3. All applicants for right-of-way grants, whether or not they are within corridors, are subject to standard approval procedures as outlined in the right-of-way regulations (43 CFR 2802)/ROW-4

Name of Plan: NV – Carson City RMP.

Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances: The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria:

(Specialist review: initial in appropriate box)

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (project lead/P&EC)		JAT
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas? (wildlife biologist, hydrologist, outdoor recreation planner, archeologist)		PZ ADC RGC
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (project lead/P&EC)		JAT
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (project lead/P&EC)		JAT
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		JAT
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		JAT
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office? (archeologist)		RGC
8. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species? (wildlife biologist, botanist)		PZ DT
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (project lead/P&EC)		JAT
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? (project lead/P&EC)		JAT
11. Would the Proposed Action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)? (archeologist)		RGC
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)? (botanist)		DT

SPECIALISTS' REVIEW: During ID Team consideration of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

Jo Ann Hufnagle, Realty Specialist
Arthur Callan, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Niki Cutler, Hydrologist
Jim Carter, Archaeologist
Pilar Ziegler, Wildlife Biologist/BLM Sensitive Species - Wildlife
Dean Tonenna, Botanist - Natural Resource Specialist/BLM Sensitive Species - Plants
Brian Buttazoni, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Although BLM Sensitive Species is not described in one of the 12 extraordinary circumstances question, review of the applicability of this CX has taken them into consideration.

CONCLUSION: Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

DECISION: It is my decision to implement the action, as described, and approve a 20-year communication lease to Arizona Nevada Tower Corporation subject to standard communication lease terms and conditions and the following special stipulation:

All above-ground structures not subject to safety requirements shall be painted by the holder to blend with the natural color of the landscape. The paint used shall be a color which simulates "Standard Environmental Colors" June 2008. The colors selected for this site are Carlsbad Canyon or Shadow Gray. (Color chart is attached.)

The Holder shall construct, operate, and maintain the facilities, improvements, and structures within this right-of-way in strict conformity with the Plan of Development (POD) that was approved and made part of the grant. Any relocation, additional construction, or use that is not in accord with the approved POD shall not be initiated without the prior written approval of the Authorized Officer. A copy of the complete right-of-way grant, including all stipulations, and approved POD, shall be made available to the Authorized Officer on the right-of-way area during construction. Noncompliance with the above will be grounds for immediate temporary suspension of activities if it constitutes a threat to public health and safety of the environment.

Approved by:



Léon Thomas
Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office

6-13-12

(date)