



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Chesapeake Bay Field Office
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401
410/573 4575



Online Certification Letter for Telecommunication Tower Projects

Today's date:

Project Name:

Dear Applicant for online certification of telecommunication tower projects:

Thank you for choosing to use the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Chesapeake Bay Field Office online project review certification resource. This letter confirms that you have reviewed the conditions in which this online service can be used.

Based on this information and in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), we certify that federally proposed or listed endangered or threatened species may exist within the project area, however the telecommunication tower activities listed on the CBFO website will have “no effect” on these federally proposed or listed endangered or threatened species. Therefore, no Biological Assessment or further section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required. Should project plans change, or if additional information on the distribution of listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

In addition to threatened and endangered species and their critical habitats, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also protects migratory birds under Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712). Migratory birds have been documented regularly colliding with communication towers. To help minimize potential impacts to migratory birds, we advise consulting our Recommended Best Practices for Communication Tower Design, Siting, Construction, Operation, Maintenance, and Decommissioning: <https://www.fws.gov/media/recommended-best-practices-communication-tower-design-siting-construction-operation>.

This response relates only to federally protected threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction. For additional information on threatened or endangered species in Maryland, you should contact the Maryland Wildlife and Heritage Division at (410) 260-8573. For information in Delaware you should contact the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Species Conservation and Research Program at (302) 735-8658. For information in the District of Columbia, you should contact the National Park Service at (202) 339-8309.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also works with other Federal agencies and states to minimize loss of wetlands, reduce impacts to fish and migratory birds, including bald eagles, and restore habitat for wildlife.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information relative to fish and wildlife issues, and thank you for your interest in these resources. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Chesapeake Bay Field Office Threatened and Endangered Species program at (410) 573-4527.

Sincerely,

Genevieve LaRouche
Field Supervisor