



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Tennessee Ecological Services Field Office
446 Neal Street
Cookeville, TN 38501
Phone: (931) 528-6481 Fax: (931) 528-7075

Date:

Online Self Certification for Communication Tower Projects in Tennessee

Project Name:

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Tennessee Field Office online communication tower projects review procedures. By printing this letter, you are certifying that you have completed the online review procedures for the referenced project in accordance with all instructions provided, using the best available information to reach your conclusions. This letter completes the review of your project in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 703-712, 40 Stat. 755), as amended (MBTA); Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544, 87 Stat. 884), as amended (ESA); and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668c, 54 Stat. 250) as amended (Eagle Act). This letter also provides information for your project review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, 83 Stat. 852), as amended. A copy of this letter must be mailed to the address on the letterhead for this certification to be valid. This letter will be maintained in our records.

_____ is proposing a communication tower project in _____ County(ies), Tennessee, located at _____ latitude by _____ longitude .

The referenced communications tower project has incorporated the Service’s recommendations to avoid and minimize impacts to migratory birds to the extent practicable and meets the criteria for the “no effect” determination to federally listed threatened and endangered species and is “unlikely to disturb” bald eagles as outlined in the Service’s online review procedures (copy enclosed).

To minimize potential impacts to aquatic resources, the Service recommends strict sediment and erosion control measures as defined in applicable guidance or regulations specific to your location.

If you have any questions, contact Robbie Sykes of this office at (931) 525-4979 or via email at robbie_sykes@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Field Supervisor
Tennessee Field Office

Enclosure: Online communication tower projects review procedures

Self-Certification Procedure for Communication Tower Projects in Tennessee

To streamline the review process for communications tower projects, we have developed avoidance and minimization measures, no effect criteria, and procedures for project review. The measures, criteria, and procedures take into consideration available information on migratory birds, federally proposed/listed threatened or endangered species, federally designated critical habitat, and bald eagles within Virginia, in accordance with provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 703-712, 40 Stat. 755), as amended (MBTA); Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544, 87 Stat. 884), as amended (ESA); and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668c, 54 Stat. 250), as amended (Eagle Act). This process also provides information for your project review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, 83 Stat. 852), as amended.

Step 1. Migratory birds.

To minimize adverse impacts to migratory birds, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) strongly encourages co-locating with other equipment and/or lowering tower height to the extent practicable, minimizing lighting, locating the tower in urbanized or developed areas or other areas that do not provide potential habitat for migratory birds, and incorporating as many recommendations from the **Service Guidance on the Siting, Construction, Operation and Decommissioning of Communication Towers** as possible.

Step 2. Federally listed threatened and endangered species and bald eagles.

The following types of proposed actions will have "no effect" on federally proposed/listed threatened or endangered species, federally designated critical habitat, and are unlikely to disturb bald eagles:

- (A). Co-location of new equipment or antennae or any infrastructure improvements at an existing structure (tower, water tank, building, etc.) where all ground disturbance occurs within cleared or regularly mowed areas.
- (B). Routine maintenance or repair of existing towers or their sites.
- (C). Transfer of ownership of existing towers.

Step 3.

For projects that meet the criteria in Steps 1-2, no further coordination with the Service is needed. Complete the **self-certification letter** and submit electronically to **TFOProjectReview@fws.gov**. Please indicate in your email subject title you are submitting an "**online project review certification letter**." All project reviews will receive a return receipt to inform you that your project has been successfully submitted to this office.

Step 4.

If the project does not meet the criteria in Step 2, follow the **project review guidelines** for other projects.