



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yosemite National Park
P. O. Box 577
Yosemite, California 95389

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7615(YOSE-PM)

Memorandum

To: Sean McCabe, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2015-014 Yosemite Village Verizon Wireless Telecommunication Site Upgrade (57849)

The Executive Leadership Team has reviewed the proposed project and completed its environmental assessment documentation, and we have determined the following:

- There will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- There will be no adverse effect on historical, cultural, or archeological resources.
- There will not be serious or long-term undesirable environmental or visual effects.

The subject proposed project, therefore, is now cleared for all NEPA and NHPA compliance requirements as presented above. Project plans and specifications are approved and construction and/or project implementation can commence.

For the proposed project actions to be within compliance requirements during construction and/or project implementation, the following mitigations must be adhered to:

- Archaeological monitoring is recommended for all ground disturbing activities.
- Ensure the pole is a dark, non-reflective color or surface to minimize impacts to the view shed.

Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations: None

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 57849.

//Don L. Neubacher//
Don L. Neubacher

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

*The signed original of this document is on file at the
Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in
Yosemite National Park.*



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2015-014 Yosemite Village Verizon Wireless Telecommunication Site Upgrade

PEPC Project Number: 57849

Project Description:

Verizon Wireless has requested to reconstruct the existing wireless telecommunications site in Yosemite Valley. The existing site is located adjacent to the electrical substation and is made up of several equipment cabinets and a 65' wooden monopole. The existing site is 20 years old and has been modified several times. Currently AT&T Mobility and Verizon Wireless have facilities at the existing site. The reconstructed site would add a third telecommunications carrier, T-Mobile, to the site.

This project calls for the construction of a new steel monopole, 100' in height, and a reconstructed and enlarged communications equipment area. In order to design the foundation for the equipment area and the monopole, it is anticipated that they will need to conduct a minimum of two geotechnical borings, with a 4-inch bore hole, from 5 feet to 40 feet in depth. The area proposed to be excavated is approximately 800 square feet and 8 feet deep (to the bottom of excavation for the proposed retaining wall from the existing roadway grade). Historical records from the construction of the existing communications site, the electrical substation, and the nearby underground utilities indicate that this area has had substantial subsurface disturbance; it has already been excavated to at least 4 feet, and in certain areas probably 6 feet or more. The foundation for the monopole is estimated to be between 30 feet to 40 feet deep and 4 feet in diameter.

Clearance requires the removal of several trees, one 24-inch cedar and two smaller cedar trees less than 6 inches in diameter. To extend fiber optic cable to this site, a trench 85 feet long, 24 inches wide, and 36 inches deep will be dug from the south side of the electrical substation to the existing communications conduit recently built under the park communication data network project.

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- Archaeological monitoring is recommended for all ground disturbing activities.
- Ensure the pole is a dark, non-reflective color or surface to minimize impacts to the view shed.

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

C.12 Upgrading or adding new overhead utility facilities to existing poles, or replacement poles which do not change existing pole line configurations.

On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Superintendent: //Don L. Neubacher// **Date:** 7/1/15
Don L. Neubacher

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 06/11/2015

Updated May 2007 - per 2004 Departmental Manual revisions and proposed Director's Order 12 changes

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2015-014 Yosemite Village Verizon Wireless Telecommunication Site Upgrade
PEPC Project Number: 57849
Project Type: Right-of-Way Permit (ROW)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Sean McCabe

Is project a hot topic (controversial or sensitive issues that should be brought to attention of Regional Director)? No

B. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.		Negligible			The two geotechnical borings measure 4 inches in diameter and up to 40 feet deep. The monopole will be buried 40 feet deep in a 4 foot diameter hole.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
7. Marine or	No				

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
estuarine resources					
8. Floodplains or wetlands	No				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	No				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	No				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	No				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	No				
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	No				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	No				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	No				
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience,	No				

Environmental Screening Form (ESF) - Yosemite Village Verizon Wireless Telecommunication Site Upgrade - PEPC ID: 57849

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
aesthetic resources					
18. Archeological resources		Negligible			Yosemite Valley Archeological District
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				
20. Cultural landscapes		Negligible			Yosemite Valley Historic District
21. Ethnographic resources		Negligible			Resources with religious and cultural significance.
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	No				
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	No				
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				
25. Energy resources	No				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	No				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	No				
28. Urban quality,	No				

Environmental Screening Form (ESF) - Yosemite Village Verizon Wireless Telecommunication Site Upgrade - PEPC ID: 57849

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
gateway communities, etc.					
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	No				
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

C. MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		No		
B. 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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		No		
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		No		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant		No		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?				
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		No		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		No		
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?		No		
H. 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?		No		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		No		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		No		
K. 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 (Executive Order 13007)?		No		
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may		No		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?				

For the purpose of interpreting these procedures within the NPS, any action that has the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values would constitute an action that triggers the DOI exception for actions that threaten to violate a federal law for protection of the environment.

D. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? Yes
- 1.A. Did personnel conduct a site visit? No
2. Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? No
3. Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? No
4. Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? Yes, April 2015 Tribal Spreadsheet.
5. Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? (*e.g., other development projects in area or identified in GMP, adequate/available utilities to accomplish project*) No

E. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Randy Fong	Chief of Project Management
Jeff Hilliard	Chief of Administration Management
Ron Borne	Chief of Facilities Management
Linda C. Mazzu	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Kris Kirby	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Kevin Killian	Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection
Ashley Adams	Project Leader
Madelyn Ruffner	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Renea Kennec	NEPA Specialist

F. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for this stage of the subject project is complete.

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>6/16/15</u>
<u>//Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>6/29/15</u>
<u>//Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>6/30/15</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Don L. Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>7/1/15</u>

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PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: June 16, 2015

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2015-014 Yosemite Village Verizon Wireless Telecommunication Site Upgrade
PEPC Project Number: 57849
Project Type: Right-of-Way Permit (ROW)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Sean McCabe

PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST				
Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		No		
Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		No		
Park rare plants or vegetation?		No		
Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		No		
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
Entail ground disturbance?	Yes			The two geotechnical borings measure 4 inches in diameter and up to 40 feet deep. The monopole will be buried 40 feet deep in a 4 foot diameter hole.
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	Yes			Although the project area has been disturbed by past park developments, sensitive archaeological sites are located in close proximity. Archaeological monitoring is required for all ground disturbing activities. Verizon will be using a contract company to conduct the archaeological monitoring. YOSE Archaeology Branch is waiting for Verizon's selected contract company to submit an ARPA permit before proceeding with the project. Park compliance

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
				archaeologist needs two weeks' notice prior to project implementation.
Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?	Yes			A balloon test was conducted to determine the visual impacts of a new pole in the Yosemite Valley Historic District. It was generally not observed from most locations in Yosemite Valley, Glacier Point and the top of Yosemite Falls.
Has a National Register form been completed?	Yes			
Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?		No		
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?		No		
Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		No		
Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		No		
Remain consistent with its river segment classification?			N/A	
Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		No		
Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		No		
Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		No		
WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
Within designated Wilderness?		No		
Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. Project Description:

Project Name: 2015-014 Yosemite Village Verizon Wireless Telecommunication Site Upgrade
Prepared by: Renea Kennec **Date Prepared:** 06/11/2015 **Telephone:** 209-379-1038
PEPC Project Number: 57849

Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])
Yosemite Valley Historic District; Yosemite Valley Archeological District

3. **Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify historic properties?**

☐ No
☒ Yes

Source or reference:

4. Potentially Affected Resource:

Archeological resources affected:

Name and numbers: Yosemite Valley Archeological District
NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Archeological Resources Notes: Although the project area has been disturbed by past park developments, sensitive archaeological sites are located in close proximity. Archaeological monitoring is required for all ground disturbing activities. Verizon will be using a contract company to conduct the archaeological monitoring. YOSE Archaeology Branch is waiting for Verizon's selected contract company to submit an ARPA permit before proceeding with the project. Park compliance archaeologist needs two weeks notice prior to project implementation.

Cultural Landscapes Affected:

Name and numbers: Yosemite Valley Historic District
NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Ethnographic Resources Affected:

Name and numbers: Resources of Religious and Cultural Significance

5. **The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)**

☐ No Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

<u>No</u>	Replace historic features/elements in kind
<u>No</u>	Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure
<u>No</u>	Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)
<u>Yes</u>	Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape
<u>No</u>	Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible
<u>No</u>	Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible
<u>Yes</u>	Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources
<u>No</u>	Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources
<u>No</u>	Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)
<u>X</u>	Other (please specify): <div style="margin-left: 200px;">- A balloon test was conducted to determine the visual impacts of a new pole in the Yosemite Valley Historic District. It was generally not observed from most locations in Yosemite Valley, Glacier Point and the top of Yosemite Falls.</div>

6. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

[X] Anthropologist

Name: Mike Turek

Date: 05/14/2015

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: No Potential to Cause Effect No Historic Properties Affected X No Adverse

Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[X] Archeologist

Name: Sara Dolan

Date: 06/11/2015

Comments: Although the project area has been disturbed by past park developments, sensitive archaeological sites are located in close proximity. Archaeological monitoring is required for all ground disturbing activities. Verizon will be using a contract company to conduct the archaeological monitoring. YOSE Archaeology Branch is waiting for Verizon's selected contract company to submit an ARPA permit before proceeding with the project.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: No Potential to Cause Effect No Historic Properties Affected X No Adverse

Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Assessment of Effect Form - Yosemite Village Verizon Wireless Telecommunication Site Upgrade - PEPC ID: 57849

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Please contact Compliance Archaeologist Sara Dolan two weeks prior to project implementation.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

☒ Historical Architect

Name: Charles Tonetti

Date: 05/01/2015

Comments: No historic properties are impacted by the construction of the telecommunications site. The tower may impact historic structures view sheds depending on its height.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance ☐

Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: The installation of the telecommunications pole will impact the view shed of historic structures in the park. Color of pole shall be dark non-reflective surface to minimize impacts to view shed.

☒ Historical Landscape Architect

Name: Kevin McCardle

Date: 05/04/2015

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance ☐

Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Towers shall be painted dark brown to minimize visual impact.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

No Reviews From: Curator, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

☐ No Potential to Cause Effects
☐ No Historic Properties Affected
☒ No Adverse Effect
☐ Adverse Effect

2. Documentation Method:

☐ A. STANDARD 36 CFR PART 800 CONSULTATION

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

☐ B. STREAMLINED REVIEW UNDER THE 2008 SERVICEWIDE PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT (PA)

Assessment of Effect Form - Yosemite Village Verizon Wireless Telecommunication Site Upgrade - PEPC ID: 57849

The above action meets all conditions for a streamlined review under section III of the 2008 Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

APPLICABLE STREAMLINED REVIEW Criteria
(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

☐ C. PLAN-

/THPO

☐ H. Memo to ACHPRELATED UNDERTAKING

Consultation and review of the proposed undertaking were completed in the context of a plan review process, in accordance with the 2008 Servicewide PA and 36 CFR Part 800.

Specify plan/EA/EIS:

☒ D. UNDERTAKING RELATED TO ANOTHER AGREEMENT

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or counterpart regulations.

1999 Programmatic Agreement as amended in 2014.

☐ E. COMBINED NEPA/NHPA Document

Documentation is required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD has been developed and used so as also to meet the requirements of 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6

☐ G. Memo to SHPO

SHPO/THPO Notes:

3. Additional Consulting Parties Information:

Additional Consulting Parties: No

4. Stipulations and Conditions:

Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effect above is consistent with 36 CFR Part 800 criteria of effect or to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects.

5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures:

**Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties:
(Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)**

- **Assessment of Effect - Archaeological monitoring is recommended for all ground disturbing activities.**

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Historic Preservation Officer:

Kimball Koch //Kimball Koch// **Date:** 6/16/15

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.

Superintendent: //Don L. Neubacher// **Date:** 7/1/15

Don L. Neubacher

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Yosemite National Park.*