



## KITITITAS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

411 N. Ruby St., Suite 2, Ellensburg, WA 98926

CDS@CO.KITITITAS.WA.US

Office (509) 962-7506

"Building Partnerships – Building Communities"

### SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

#### ***Purpose of checklist:***

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

#### ***Instructions for applicants:***

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

#### ***Instructions for Lead Agencies:***

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

#### ***Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:*** [\[help\]](#)

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

#### **APPLICATION FEES:**

\$600.00 Kittitas County Community Development Services (KCCDS)\*\*

\$950.00\* Kittitas County Department of Public Works\*\*

\$275.00 Kittitas County Public Health

---

**\$1,825.00 Total fees due for this application** (One check made payable to KCCDS)

\*2 hours of review included in Public Works Fee. Additional review hours will be billed at \$243 per hour.

\*\* Note:KCCDS and PW fees are waived if project is a VSP sponsored fish enhancement project.

FOR STAFF USE ONLY

Application Received by (CDS Staff Signature):  _____	DATE:  _____	RECEIPT#  _____	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%;"></div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">DATE STAMP IN BOX</p>
---	--------------------	-----------------------	--

**A. Background** [\[help\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: [\[help\]](#)

**Department of Natural Resources Wild Horse Communication Tower**

2. Name of applicant: [\[help\]](#)

Kent Almond on behalf of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources

(DNR) 3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [\[help\]](#)

1111 Washington Street SE, Mail stop 47103, Olympia, WA, 98504  
360-338-5479  
kent.almond@dnr.wa.gov

4. Date checklist prepared: [\[help\]](#)

10/27/2022. Currently in the project design phase. The proposed site is situated adjacent to two (2) existing radio communication towers within the Puget Sound Energy Wild Horse Wind Farm and is on State Land.

5. Agency requesting checklist: [\[help\]](#)

Kittitas County Community Development Services

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): [\[help\]](#)

Design Phase: Estimated to end December 2022  
Construction Phase: Estimated from January 2023- July 2023.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. [\[help\]](#)

There are no plans for future expansion. Radio communication antennas will be placed on the tower once construction is complete to support DNR operations.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. [\[help\]](#)

1. There is a completed geotechnical soils analysis to establish the structural requirements for the tower's concrete foundation.
2. Archaeological study IAW GOV Executive Order #21-02 to determine historical use of the site.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. [\[help\]](#)

No.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. [\[help\]](#)

1. Kittitas County Administrative Conditional Use Permit
2. Kittitas County Preliminary Site Assessment
3. Kittitas County Building Permit for a building over 120 square feet

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.) [\[help\]](#)

The DNR plans to construct a communication tower on state land parcel #535234 at 25908 Vantage Highway, Ellensburg, WA 98926, latitude 47.003256, longitude -120.189532.

The project includes a 100-foot communication tower constructed on a 240 square foot concrete pad, structurally designed to accommodate site specific soil conditions and a precast 200 square foot concrete building for supporting communication equipment placed on a crushed stone compacted surface and connected to existing electrical infrastructure. There is no requirement for water or sewage connection at the site. The site construction will take place within a roughly 4000 square foot area.

The purpose of the project is to extend statewide radio communication infrastructure in support of agency activities.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist. [\[help\]](#)

Legal Description: Sec. 34; TWP 18; RGE 21  
Tax Parcel: 535234  
Address: 25908 Vantage Hwy, Ellensburg, WA 98926  
Latitude, Longitude: 47.003256, -120.189532

## B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS [\[help\]](#)

### 1. Earth [\[help\]](#)

a. General description of the site: [\[help\]](#)

The land parcel as a whole is comprised of rolling to hilly terrain with limited vegetation with some occurrences of steep to hazardous slopes greater than 35%. The construction area selected is flat. There are no steep or hazardous slopes within 250-feet or greater of the proposed construction site.

(circle one): **Flat** rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other \_\_\_\_\_

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? [\[help\]](#)

The steepest slope on the site is no greater than 2%.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

[\[help\]](#)

The site was previously occupied by a similar Bonneville Power Association communication tower until 2015 therefore the site soils are completely comprised of imported fill material to a depth of approximately 36 inches below ground level. Soil materials consist of the following four types of sediment:

Sediment 1: 2 inch or less angular crushed rock

Sediment 2: (SC) Brown and grey sand and clay mixtures

Sediment 3: Basaltic cobbles up to 6 inches diameter

Sediment 4: (GC) Gravel, clay sand mixtures with fine angular gravel up to ½-inch diameter

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. [\[help\]](#)

Excavation of roughly 480 cubic feet (12' x 20' x 2') to form and construct a concrete pad for the tower and an additional 100 cubic feet to establish electrical utility connection. Excess spoils will be removed off site. Select fill material will be transported from a locally sourced WSDOT approved facility incorporated into the electrical utility trench.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

Erosion is not likely to occur because there are no unstable slopes within the immediate vicinity of the project site.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? [\[help\]](#)

Of the approximate 4,000 square feet designated for the communication tower and building, roughly 10% will be covered with impervious surfaces after the project construction.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [\[help\]](#)

DNR will maintain the existing rip-rap surface of the site to promote drainage. Planned construction will also avoid areas with excessive slopes outside of the construction area.

## 2. Air [\[help\]](#)

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)

**Construction phase:** Limited to moderate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with equipment for erecting the tower and building complete with associated utilities. Excavation and grading will produce some dust however, water will be used to mitigate as well as reach the desired compaction density.

**Operation:** The communication tower is not planned to have a back-up generator or gas connection therefore will produce minimal emissions.

**Maintenance:** Limited emissions associated with travel to the site in order to perform maintenance.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Use water to mitigate dust emissions as well as achieve the desired compaction density during the site excavation and grading phase.

### 3. **Water** [\[help\]](#)

#### a. Surface Water:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. [\[help\]](#)

None.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. [\[help\]](#)

No

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. [\[help\]](#)

No.

#### b. Ground Water:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. [\[help\]](#)

None.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

Storm water is the primary source of runoff. The construction area is located on a flat hilltop that slopes to the west down an existing unimproved road with v ditches on both sides.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

No.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Water runoff will be controlled by maintaining the existing crushed surface top coat of stone and the generally flat surface with 2% or less slope within the construction zone.

4. **Plants** [\[help\]](#)

- a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site: [\[help\]](#)

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen,
- other evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine,
- other shrubs
- grass
- pasture
- crop or grain
- Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- other types of vegetation

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? [\[help\]](#)

There is no anticipated removal or alteration of vegetation proposed for the project.

- c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

None.

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: [\[help\]](#)

No landscaping measures are proposed for this construction project.

- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

None.

## 5. **Animals** [\[help\]](#)

- a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other \_\_\_\_\_

Common animals found in the area include but are not limited to songbirds, hawks, eagles, deer and local snakes.

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

None that are known.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. [\[help\]](#)

Yes. This site is part of an area classified as the Quilomene Deer winter range.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Inform individuals that are participating in construction and future operational requirements not to approach wildlife and clean up the site after each site visit to prevent incidents of wildlife interaction with individuals and/ or materials.

- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

None that are known.

## 6. **Energy and Natural Resources** [\[help\]](#)

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. [\[help\]](#)

Electricity will be the primary source of energy during the construction and future operational use. Additional sources of energy use during the construction phase include moderate fossil fuel use, eight (8) hours per day for approximately 2 - 4 weeks. Daily operational use: electricity to power radio equipment with battery back-ups (in the event of a power loss) and a small HVAC unit to condition the equipment space.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

No. The communication will be located on a hilltop between two other communication towers. The only other structures in the area are wind turbines from the Wild Horse Wind Farm.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?  
List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Energy metering is being considered for this project. No other energy conservation features are included in the proposal.

## 7. Environmental Health [\[help\]](#)

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal?  
If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

Limited risk of fire or explosion as a result of electric utility connection. DNR and contractor will ensure that a hazard safety plan is in effect and that utilities are not "live" during the process of connecting to existing electrical infrastructure.

- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses. [\[help\]](#)

None that are known.

- 2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity. [\[help\]](#)

No known hazardous liquid or gas transmission lines are located within the project area.

- 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project. [\[help\]](#)

No known toxic or hazardous chemicals will be used or stored at the site during the projects development or operational use.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required. [\[help\]](#)

Prior to construction, a private utility locate service will be used to identify unknown underground pipes or transmission lines in vicinity of the construction zone. The PUD will be notified prior to connection of electrical utilities to stop electrical transmission in the area in the event of emergency. Local electrical transmission to the site will deactivate electricity prior to electrical utility connection. In unexpected case of an unforeseen fire or explosion, 911 will be the primary means to notify emergency services for response.

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Daily safety meetings will be held on-site prior to work during the construction phase and there will be a safety response plan briefed and maintained on site discussing risks associated with environmental health hazards.

- b. Noise [\[help\]](#)

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? [\[help\]](#)

Construction related noise is expected from excavation machinery and vehicle traffic transporting personnel and material to the construction area. Noise related to construction will take place during the Kittitas County approved construction times.



- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. [\[help\]](#)

There will be very limited noise created from the project on a long-term basis. The construction area is situated within a gated parcel of state property that receives only minimal traffic from DNR or the Wild Horse Wind Farm for administrative or maintenance activities.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Construction will only take place during the Kittitas County authorized hours of construction. Vehicles and equipment will not sit idle with the engine on if not in use.

## 8. Land and Shoreline Use [\[help\]](#)

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

The current use of the site is for agricultural or forest use. The proposal will not affect the current land use on nearby or adjacent properties.

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? [\[help\]](#)

The project site is part of a state owned 640-acre parcel designated for agricultural or farm use. The project is not anticipated to convert any of the land to any other use. The project proposal is for less than one acre of the existing land parcel and will not be converted to nonfarm or non-forest use.

- 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how: [\[help\]](#)

No.

- c. Describe any structures on the site. [\[help\]](#)

Other structures within 500 feet of the site include two existing 50 foot communication towers and associated precast concrete buildings as well as multiple wind turbines associated with the Puget Sound Energy Wild Horse Wind Farm.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? [\[help\]](#)

No.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? [\[help\]](#)

Forest and Range zoning

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)

## Forest and Range

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)

None.

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? [\[help\]](#)

There will be no residence at the proposed project site once complete and limited site visits by one or two employees monthly for maintenance.

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? [\[help\]](#)

None.

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

The proposed project area is on state lands and not zoned for residential or commercial business use with the public. There will be no impact of displacement.

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: [\[help\]](#)

The project proposal is compatible with the existing and projected land use/ plans. There are currently other communication and energy producing assets on the parcel itself and adjoining parcels.

- m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: [\[help\]](#)

DNR will to maintain the property and equipment to prevent negative impacts to agricultural and forest lands.

## 9. Housing [\[help\]](#)

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)

None.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)

None.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

## 10. Aesthetics [\[help\]](#)

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? [\[help\]](#)

The communication tower without antennas will be no taller than 100 feet above ground level. The equipment room will be approximately 12' tall and made of painted concrete.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? [\[help\]](#)

Limited to none. The communication tower will be constructed of steel poles/ beams on a hilltop in a gated parcel within the Wild Horse Wind Farm.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

None.

## 11. Light and Glare [\[help\]](#)

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? [\[help\]](#)

None.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? [\[help\]](#)

No.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? [\[help\]](#)

None.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

None.

## 12. Recreation [\[help\]](#)

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? [\[help\]](#)

The Puget Sound Energy (PSE) Wild Horse Wind Farm visitors' center is located approximately one half mile to the northwest. The facility allows the public uninhibited views of the Cascade Mountains to include two volcanos. The communication tower will not impede the view.

The Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park and hiking trails are located approximately 9 miles to the southeast. The park affords the public multiple hiking trails and an opportunity to view petrified remnants of trees no longer indigenous to the area. The park and its trails will not be impacted by the communication tower project during construction or operation.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: [\[help\]](#)

The communication tower will be secured behind a locked gate and access is only granted with permission from the Department of Natural Resources or employees of the Wild Horse Wind Farm. There is no existing recreational use.

## 13. Historic and cultural preservation [\[help\]](#)

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. [\[help\]](#)

No. The site has undergone a previous review and consultation period with the Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) as well as Tribal consultation in 2006 for the construction of the adjacent Washington State Patrol (WSP) communication tower. The DNR conducted a similar review process with local Tribes and DAHP to meet the requirements of Governor's Executive Order #21-02.

- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc. [\[help\]](#)

The DNR has consulted with HRA, a private archeological consultation firm to receive a determination of non-significance through DAHP and local Indian Tribes. The consultation process included in depth research into the past DAHP review, a complete archeological survey utilizing GIS, historic maps and the DAHP Wizard online database.

- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required. [\[help\]](#)

A DNR Cultural Resource Technician and Project Manager will actively monitor construction during ground disturbing activities. There will be an active inadvertent discovery plan on site and it will be briefed prior to ground disturbing activities. In the event an archeological artifact is discovered, progress will halt and tribal consultation will continue to determine the necessary steps for mitigation.

#### 14. **Transportation** [\[help\]](#)

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. [\[help\]](#)

The nearest public roadway is approximately three-quarters of a mile to the North West and is the main access route to the Wild Horse Wind Farm Visitors' center. This road is a limited travel roadway that leads to the secured gate which provides access to the communication tower. It will be the main avenue of approach during the construction and operating period and can be access via Vantage Highway.

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? [\[help\]](#)

The site and geographic area are not currently served by public transit.

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? [\[help\]](#)

There is no proposal or need for the addition or removal of parking spaces. Once the construction is complete, the communication tower will be serviced on a quarterly basis. Otherwise, employees are not anticipated to occupy the site.

- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). [\[help\]](#)

There is no need to improve the existing roadways or transportation facilities.

- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and non-passenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? [\[help\]](#)

The completed project will result in roughly one vehicle trip per quarter (every 120 days) for scheduled preventative maintenance. Employees will not tend to the site except in limited occurrences of unexpected maintenance. In these events, the type of vehicle is expected to be medium duty pickup trucks or passenger vehicles.

- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

The proposal is will not affect movement of agricultural or forest products on roads or streets in the area.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

None.

## 15. Public Services [\[help\]](#)

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

There is no increased need for public services at the proposed site. The tower will however, house radio systems used by local and state agencies in fire fighting and other public service efforts.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. [\[help\]](#)

Once the tower is erected, the DNR will constantly monitor the service and conduct regularly scheduled maintenance. Gated access to the site is already established between employees of the DNR and the Wild Horse Wind Farm. The public is not permitted entrance without prior consent from either of the two listed parties therefore; there will be no impacts to public services.

## 16. Utilities [\[help\]](#)

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [\[help\]](#)

electricity natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,  
other \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. [\[help\]](#)

The DNR will utilized the existing PSE electrical utility connection on-site that feeds the adjacent two communication towers. This will require a private locate

to determine the best method of tying into the infrastructure, excavation of a trench, placing conduit and routing the electric utility into the building that houses the antenna infrastructure.

**C. Signature** [\[help\]](#)

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: *Kent Almond*

Name of signee Kent L. Almond

Position and Agency/Organization Project Manager/ Department of Natural Resources

Date Submitted: 1/26/2023

## D. supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [\[help\]](#)

(IT IS NOT NECESSARY to use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.