

# **SITE A**

# FCC Rule 1.1307 NEPA Screening



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Warren  
131 Rabbit Hill Road  
Warren, Connecticut

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*Prepared for:*  
Optasite Towers, LLC  
One Research Drive Suite 201  
Westborough, MA, 01581

September 24, 2008



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**FCC NEPA CHECKLIST**  
(47 CFR Subpart1, Chapter 1 Sections 1.1301-1.1319)

<b>Client: Optasite Towers, LLC</b>	<b>Site Name: Warren, CT</b>
<b>Location: 131 Rabbit Hill Warren, CT</b>	<b>KLF Project No: 96682</b>

Category	NEPA Special Interest Item	Potential Effect	
		Yes	No
1	<b>Wilderness Areas</b> Is the antenna structure located in an officially designated wilderness area?		X
2	<b>Wildlife Preserves</b> Is the antenna structure located in an officially designated wildlife preserve?		X
3a	<b>Threatened and Endangered Species</b> Will the antenna structure likely affect threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitats?		X
3b	<b>Threatened and Endangered Species</b> Will the antenna structure jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed endangered or threatened species?		X
3c	<b>Threatened and Endangered Species</b> Will the antenna structure result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitats?		X
4	<b>Historic Places</b> Will the antenna structure affect districts, sites, building, structures or objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, or culture that are listed, or potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)?		X
5	<b>Indian Religious Sites</b> Will the antenna structure affect Indian religious site(s)?		X
6	<b>Floodplains</b> Will the antenna structure be located in a flood plain?		X
7	<b>Surface Features</b> Will construction of the antenna structure involve significant change in surface features (e.g. wetlands, deforestation, or water diversion)?		X
8	<b>High Intensity White Lights</b> Is the antenna structure located in a residential neighborhood and required to be equipped with high intensity white lights?		X
9	a.) Will the antenna structure equal or exceed total power (of all channels) of 2000 Watts EPR (3280 Watts EIRP) and have antenna located less than 10 meters above ground level? <b>*Responsibility of Client</b>		NA
	b.) Will the roof-top antenna project equal or exceed total power (of all channels) of 2000 Watts ERP (3280 Watts EIRP)? <b>*Responsibility of Client</b>		NA

Preparer's Signature:	Date: September 24, 2008
Printed Name and Title: Ashley G. Hawes Project Scientist	

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## **I. Introduction**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was enacted to provide federal agencies with uniform national guidance for the protection of the human environment. Under NEPA guidelines, federal agencies are required to review the potential impacts of major federal actions on natural, cultural, and socioeconomic resources.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), as a federal agency, requires licensees to review their proposed actions to ensure NEPA compliance. The FCC's rules for implementing NEPA are detailed in Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1, Subpart I, rule sections 1.1301 to 1.1319. Section 1.1307 lists eight actions with potentially environmentally sensitive effects that, if significant, would require the preparation of an Environmental Assessment. These potential actions include:

- Actions that occur within an officially designated wilderness area.
- Actions that occur in an officially designated wildlife preserve.
- Actions that (i) may affect listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitats; or (ii) are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed endangered or threatened species or likely resulting the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitats, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- Actions that may affect districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering or culture and that are listed or are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Actions that may affect Indian religious sites.
- Actions that occur in a floodplain.
- Actions that will involve significant change in surface features, such as through wetland fill, deforestation, or water diversion.
- Antenna towers and/or supporting structures that are to be equipped with high intensity white lights and that are to be located in residential neighborhoods, as defined by the applicable zoning law.

If these effects are found to be insignificant, the project may be considered in compliance with NEPA and requires no further investigation.

## **II. Environmental Assessment**

The Warren project site is situated near 131 Rabbit Hill Road in Warren, Litchfield County, Connecticut. The site is a southwesterly sloping area consisting of undeveloped woodland surrounded by agricultural fields and containing numerous rock outcrops and boulders. In conjunction with the 160-foot proposed monopole telecommunications tower and equipment shelter, a 25-foot wide utility and access easement extending approximately 490 feet from Rabbit Hill Road will be constructed to allow for ease of access to the location for site work and maintenance activities. A barbed wire cow fence is proposed along the access easement, and an 8-foot high chain link fence is proposed to enclose the 60- by 60-foot compound within the 70- by 70-foot lease area. Underground power and telephone utility lines will be installed along the access road from an existing utility pole to provide power and telephone service to the proposed facility. Please refer to Appendices A and B for site location maps and proposed site plans.

On behalf of Optasite Towers, LLC, Kleinfelder performed a NEPA investigation to determine whether the proposed Warren telecommunications tower facility may potentially have environmentally sensitive effects through any of the eight defined actions. This was achieved through communication with multiple agencies and organizations, and by a review of publicly available databases, literature, and maps.

## **A. Wilderness Areas**

Based on a review of National Atlas and United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, the proposed project area is not located in an officially designated wilderness area. These maps include lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, and National Park Service. Please refer to Appendix C for supporting documentation.

## **B. Wildlife Preserves**

Based on a review of National Atlas and USGS topographic maps the proposed project area is not located in an officially designated wildlife preserve. These maps include lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, and National Park Service. Please refer to Appendix C for supporting documentation.

## **C. Threatened and Endangered Species**

A review of the Connecticut Natural Diversity Database Map, revised in June 2008, shows that the project area is outside of a Listed Species and Natural Communities shaded area, does not overlap a water body that has any shading, and is more than ½ mile upstream or downstream from a shaded area. Therefore, an impact on endangered or threatened species or significant natural communities is not likely and does not require a review by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

According to a letter from the USFWS on November 16, 2007, the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*), and small whorled pagonia (*Isotria medeoloides*) are known to occur in Litchfield County, Connecticut. However, the proposed project does not occur in an area known to support these species. Based upon this data and site observations, the proposed project will not impact listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats. Please refer to Appendix D for copies of all correspondence.

## **D. Historic Places/Cultural Resources**

To determine the potential impacts of the proposed project on historic, architectural, or archaeological resources, a Federal Communications Commission Form 620 New Tower Submission Packet was submitted to the Connecticut State Historic Preservation office (CTSHPO) on September 12, 2008. Included in the packet were letters inviting the Town of Warren and Warren Historical Society to comment on the potential effects of the project on districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, a Preliminary Archeological Assessment conducted by Heritage Consultants, LLC was included. The CTSHPO responded on September 16, 2008 that "the proposed undertaking will have no effect on historic, architectural, or archaeological resources listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places." Please refer to Appendix E for supporting documentation.

## **E. Indian Religious Sites**

Tribal Consultation was initiated through the FCC's electronic Tower Construction Notification System (TCNS) on August 13, 2008 to determine the potential impacts of the proposed project on Indian religious sites. This consultation was assigned Notification ID No. 43561. The Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, Narragansett Indian Tribe, and Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians were identified as having a geographic preference that includes the proposed project site. The Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians responded through TCNS on August 20, 2008 requesting site plans and additional information. The three tribes were notified of the project in writing on August 22, 2008 with a topographic map, site plans, and photographs attached.

The Mashantucket Pequot Tribe responded on August 28, 2008 stating that no properties of religious or cultural importance were known to exist in the proposed project area. The Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians responded on September 2, 2008 stating that the proposed activity does not appear to

endanger archaeological sites of interest to the tribe, and to defer to the State Archaeologist. To date, no response has been received from the Narragansett Indian Tribe.

After consultation with the Tribes and based upon the findings of the Preliminary Archaeological Assessment, it is concluded that the proposed project will have no significant impact on any Indian religious sites. Please refer to Appendix F for copies of all correspondence.

#### **F. Floodplains**

In order to determine the potential impacts of the proposed project on floodplains, the Federal Insurance Rate Map (Map Panel 0901750007B) was reviewed. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the proposed project area is not located within the 100-year floodplain. Please refer to Appendix G for supporting documentation.

#### **G. Surface Features**

According to the National Wetlands Inventory, USGS maps, and site observations, no wetlands or watercourses are present within the proposed site location or adjacent area. Therefore, we do not expect that the proposed facility will adversely impact surface water features. Please refer to Appendix H for supporting documentation.

#### **H. High Intensity Lighting**

High intensity lighting is not planned for this project and will therefore not have a significant impact on residential neighborhoods.

### **III. Conclusion**

Based on the comprehensive investigations and evaluations documented in this report, it is the professional opinion of Kleinfelder that the proposed development activities including the monopole structure and associated appurtenances and access areas will not have a significant environmental impact on any of the previously mentioned categorical resources and will therefore not require further actions to comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

# **SITE B**



# FCC Rule 1.1307 NEPA Screening



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Warren Site B  
131 Rabbit Hill Road  
Warren, Connecticut

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*Prepared for:*  
SBA Network Services, Inc.  
One Research Drive Suite 201  
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February 6, 2009



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**FCC NEPA CHECKLIST**  
(47 CFR Subpart1, Chapter 1 Sections 1.1301-1.1319)

<b>Client: SBA Network Services, Inc.</b>	<b>Site Name: SBA – Warren Site B</b>
<b>Location: 131 Rabbit Hill Warren, CT</b>	<b>KLF Project No: 99114</b>

Category	NEPA Special Interest Item	Potential Effect	
		Yes	No
1	<b>Wilderness Areas</b> Is the antenna structure located in an officially designated wilderness area?		X
2	<b>Wildlife Preserves</b> Is the antenna structure located in an officially designated wildlife preserve?		X
3a	<b>Threatened and Endangered Species</b> Will the antenna structure likely affect threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitats?		X
3b	<b>Threatened and Endangered Species</b> Will the antenna structure jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed endangered or threatened species?		X
3c	<b>Threatened and Endangered Species</b> Will the antenna structure result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitats?		X
4	<b>Historic Places</b> Will the antenna structure affect districts, sites, building, structures or objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, or culture that are listed, or potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)?		X
5	<b>Indian Religious Sites</b> Will the antenna structure affect Indian religious site(s)?		X
6	<b>Floodplains</b> Will the antenna structure be located in a flood plain?		X
7	<b>Surface Features</b> Will construction of the antenna structure involve significant change in surface features (e.g. wetlands, deforestation, or water diversion)?		X
8	<b>High Intensity White Lights</b> Is the antenna structure located in a residential neighborhood and required to be equipped with high intensity white lights?		X
9	a.) Will the antenna structure equal or exceed total power (of all channels) of 2000 Watts EPR (3280 Watts EIRP) and have antenna located less than 10 meters above ground level? <b>*Responsibility of Client</b>		NA
	b.) Will the roof-top antenna project equal or exceed total power (of all channels of 2000 Watts ERP (3280 Watts EIRP)? <b>*Responsibility of Client</b>		NA

Preparer's Signature: 	Date: February 6, 2009
Printed Name and Title: Ashley G. Hawes Project Scientist	

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## **I. Introduction**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was enacted to provide federal agencies with uniform national guidance for the protection of the human environment. Under NEPA guidelines, federal agencies are required to review the potential impacts of major federal actions on natural, cultural, and socioeconomic resources.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), as a federal agency, requires licensees to review their proposed actions to ensure NEPA compliance. The FCC's rules for implementing NEPA are detailed in Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1, Subpart I, rule sections 1.1301 to 1.1319. Section 1.1307 lists eight actions with potentially environmentally sensitive effects that, if significant, would require the preparation of an Environmental Assessment. These potential actions include:

- Actions that occur within an officially designated wilderness area.
- Actions that occur in an officially designated wildlife preserve.
- Actions that (i) may affect listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitats; or (ii) are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed endangered or threatened species or likely resulting the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitats, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- Actions that may affect districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering or culture and that are listed or are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Actions that may affect Indian religious sites.
- Actions that occur in a floodplain.
- Actions that will involve significant change in surface features, such as through wetland fill, deforestation, or water diversion.
- Antenna towers and/or supporting structures that are to be equipped with high intensity white lights and that are to be located in residential neighborhoods, as defined by the applicable zoning law.

If these effects are found to be insignificant, the project may be considered in compliance with NEPA and requires no further investigation.

## **II. Environmental Assessment**

The Warren Site B project site is situated near 131 Rabbit Hill Road in Warren, Litchfield County, Connecticut. The site is a southwesterly sloping area consisting of undeveloped pasture surrounded by agricultural fields and woodland. In conjunction with the 150-foot proposed monopole telecommunications tower and associated equipment shelter, a 25-foot wide access easement extending approximately 475 feet from Rabbit Hill Road will be constructed to allow for ease of access to the location for site work and maintenance activities. An 8-foot high chain link fence is proposed to enclose the 50- by 70-foot compound within the 70- by 70-foot lease area, with a barbed wire cow fence enclosing the compound and a portion of the access road. To provide power and telephone service to the proposed facility, aboveground power and telephone utility lines will be installed from an existing utility pole along Rabbit Hill Road to a new pole within a 20-foot wide utility easement. Underground utility lines will extend from the new utility pole into the lease area and compound. Please refer to Appendices A and B for site location maps and proposed site plans.

On behalf of SBA Network Services, Inc., Kleinfelder performed a NEPA investigation to determine whether the proposed Warren Site B telecommunications tower facility may potentially have environmentally sensitive effects through any of the eight defined actions. This was achieved through

communication with multiple agencies and organizations, and by a review of publicly available databases, literature, and maps.

## **A. Wilderness Areas**

Based on a review of National Atlas and United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, the proposed project area is not located in an officially designated wilderness area. These maps include lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, and National Park Service. Please refer to Appendix C for supporting documentation.

## **B. Wildlife Preserves**

Based on a review of National Atlas and USGS topographic maps the proposed project area is not located in an officially designated wildlife preserve. These maps include lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, and National Park Service. Please refer to Appendix C for supporting documentation.

## **C. Threatened and Endangered Species**

A review of the Connecticut Natural Diversity Database Map, revised in December 2008, showed that there are no state or federally listed species or significant natural communities located in or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project area. Therefore, an impact on endangered or threatened species or significant natural communities is not likely and does not require a review by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

According to a letter from the USFWS on November 16, 2007, the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*), and small whorled pagonia (*Isotria medeoloides*) are known to occur in Litchfield County, Connecticut. However, the proposed project does not occur in an area known to support these species. Based upon this data and site observations, the proposed project will not impact listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats. Please refer to Appendix D for copies of all correspondence.

## **D. Historic Places/Cultural Resources**

To determine the potential impacts of the proposed project on historic, architectural, or archaeological resources, a Federal Communications Commission Form 620 New Tower Submission Packet was submitted to the Connecticut State Historic Preservation office (CTSHPO) on January 14, 2009. Included in the packet were letters inviting the Town of Warren and Warren Historical Society to comment on the potential effects of the project on districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, a Preliminary Archeological Assessment conducted by Heritage Consultants, LLC was included. The CTSHPO responded on January 15, 2009 that "the proposed undertaking will have no effect on historic, architectural, or archaeological resources listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places." Please refer to Appendix E for supporting documentation.

## **E. Indian Religious Sites**

Tribal Consultation was initiated through the FCC's electronic Tower Construction Notification System (TCNS) on August 13, 2008 to determine the potential impacts of the proposed project on Indian religious sites. This consultation was assigned Notification ID No. 43561. The Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, Narragansett Indian Tribe, and Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians were identified as having a geographic preference that includes the proposed project site. The Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians responded through TCNS on August 20, 2008 requesting site plans and additional information. The three tribes were notified of the project in writing on August 22, 2008 with a topographic map, site plans, and photographs attached. The Mashantucket Pequot Tribe responded on August 28, 2008 stating that no properties of religious or cultural importance were known to exist in the proposed project area. The Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians responded on September 2, 2008

stating that the proposed activity does not appear to endanger archaeological sites of interest to the tribe, and to defer to the State Archaeologist.

A letter and supporting materials were distributed to the three Tribes on January 8, 2009 describing alterations to site location and design. These materials included amended site plans, topographic maps, and aerial photographs. The Mashantucket Pequot Tribe responded on January 10, 2009 stating that no properties of cultural or religious importance were known to exist in the proposed project area. The Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians responded on January 14, 2009 stating that the proposed activity does not appear to endanger archaeological sites of interest to the tribe, and to defer to the State Archaeologist.

To date, no response has been received from the Narragansett Indian Tribe.

After consultation with the Tribes and based upon the findings of the Preliminary Archaeological Assessment, it is concluded that the proposed project will have no significant impact on any Indian religious sites. Please refer to Appendix F for copies of all correspondence.

#### **F. Floodplains**

In order to determine the potential impacts of the proposed project on floodplains, the Federal Insurance Rate Map (Map Panel 0901750007B) was reviewed. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the proposed project area is not located within the 100-year floodplain. Please refer to Appendix G for supporting documentation.

#### **G. Surface Features**

One freshwater wetland system was delineated within 100 feet of the proposed project site. The wetland is classified as a palustrine scrub-shrub broad-leaved deciduous seasonally flooded (USFWS class: PSS1C) system that receives groundwater and overland flow from the agricultural fields topographically upgradient and east of the wetland. Ground disturbance associated with the proposed project is limited to the upland review area and occurs at least fifty feet from the wetland. Appropriate soil erosion and sediment control measures would provide sufficient protection to the surface water features from the proposed development activities. Please refer to Appendix H for supporting documentation.

#### **H. High Intensity Lighting**

High intensity lighting is not planned for this project and will therefore not have a significant impact on residential neighborhoods.

### **III. Conclusion**

Based on the comprehensive investigations and evaluations documented in this report, it is the professional opinion of Kleinfelder that the proposed development activities including the monopole structure and associated appurtenances and access areas will not have a significant environmental impact on any of the previously mentioned categorical resources and will therefore not require further actions to comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.