

PROJECT MEMORANDUM

SISKIYOU TELEPHONE CO. HAPPY CAMP TO SOMES BAR FIBER CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

To: Connie Chen, Project Manager, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: August 2, 2019
Subject: Monitoring Report #5 – July 14, 2019 to July 27, 2019

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the Siskiyou Telephone Co. Happy Camp to Somes Bar Fiber Connectivity Project for the installation of a fiber optics line along Highway 96 in the Klamath National Forest.

A summary of the Notices to Proceed (NTPs) for construction is provided in Table 1 below.

CPUC Environmental Monitors (EMs): Jody Fessler and Amanda Wild were on site July 24.

Phase 1

NTP #1 was issued on February 20, 2019 for Phase 1 of the Happy Camp to Somes Bar Fiber Connectivity Project (Project). Under this NTP, Siskiyou Telephone received CPUC authorization to proceed with the construction and installation of a new fiber optic broadband facility cable within or adjacent to State Highway 96 (Caltrans right-of-way) in the Klamath National Forest from mile post (MP) 32.41 south to MP 24.0. NTP #1 included conditions that had to be satisfied prior to the start of construction.

Phase 2

NTP #2 was issued on June 17, 2019 for Phase 2 of the Happy Camp to Somes Bar Fiber Connectivity Project. Under this NTP, Siskiyou Telephone received CPUC authorization to proceed with the construction and installation of a new fiber optic broadband facility cable within or adjacent to State Highway 96 (Caltrans right-of-way) in the Klamath National forest from MP 24.0 to MP 14.36. NTP #2 included conditions that had to be satisfied prior to the start of construction.

An additional NTP will be required for the remainder of the Project.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY

During the subject reporting period, all traffic controls were in place prior to the start of construction. All sensitive habitat and potential wetland areas were well marked and pointed out/discussed with the construction supervisor prior to equipment placement. All equipment, with the exception of the horizontal directional drilling (HDD) equipment, were staged within the road. HDD equipment were placed within the shoulder of the road, outside of all sensitive habitat and wetland areas.

Week specific activities are provided below.

Week of July 14-20, 2019

Between July 14 and 20, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 28.29 and MP 25.55. Construction consisted of four drilling crews working Monday through Thursday and two drilling crews on Friday. Tie-in construction was also conducted during the week within the same area of Phase I.

Biological surveys were conducted daily and historic osprey nests monitored for activity. Since the northern spotted owl habitat (NSO Core between MP 27.8 and 26.9) exclusion buffer within Phase I ended on July 9, only one biological exclusion buffer (Nest #3) was in place the week of July 14th. Nest #3 (osprey) is located between MP 30.15 and 29.65. Siskiyou Telephone's biologist monitored the nest Monday through Friday and observed osprey perched on or next to the nest each day. No Project construction activities or staging occurred within this exclusion buffer. No frac-outs or other drill issues occurred, and all necessary BMPs were in place.

Wildlife observed throughout the week included Western fence lizard, American robin, California scrub jay, common raven, Downy woodpecker, mallard, osprey, red-tailed hawk, Steller's jay, turkey vulture, black-tailed deer, Western gray squirrel, and black bear.

Week of July 21-27, 2019

Between July 21 and 27, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 29.9 and MP 21.5. Construction consisted of three drill rigs working in Phase II between MP 21.5 and 23.5. Construction also included two tie-in crews within Phase 1 between MP 25.2 and 29.9.

Biological surveys were conducted daily and historic osprey nests monitored for activity. The Nest #3 (osprey) exclusion buffer was in place. Siskiyou Telephone's biologist monitored the nest Monday through Friday and observed osprey perched on or next to the nest each day. An active juvenile was thought to be sighted in the nest. No project construction activities or staging occurred within this exclusion buffer. No frac-outs or other drill issues occurred, and all necessary BMPs were in place.

CPUC EM Site Visit

The CPUC Environmental Monitors (EMs) conducted a site visit on July 24 and met with Siskiyou Telephone's biologist in the field. The CPUC EMs monitored Nest #3 but did not observe any activity in or around the nest. The EMs monitored several crews; the first crew was backfilling a tie-in connection hole at MP 28.75. This crew was adjacent to a wetland but all BMPs were in place, and a fiber roll was placed in the drainage area for sediment control (Figure 1). A crew was trenching at MP 28.5 (Figure 2) and the EMs inspected the active stockpiles of soils in this area. The stock piles were being stored properly in a location that did not risk flowing into the river (Figure 3). A third crew was drilling at MP 23.25, south of Swillup Creek (Figure 4). A fourth and final crew was drilling at MP 22.5 south. Each drill crew had the required spill containment materials and a vac-truck. Traffic controls and a pilot vehicle were set up along Highway 96. The CPUC EMs observed turkey vultures, common raven, white-tailed deer, osprey, and great blue heron.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

1. Siskiyou Telephone's biologist conducted monitoring and inspections each day of construction activities. Sensitive habitat and wetland areas were checked while inspecting the sites. Ongoing surveys for special-status species and nesting birds were also performed. The historic Osprey Nest #3 had an extended buffer established around it and a "no work zone".
2. No HDD frac-outs occurred into environmentally sensitive areas during the reporting period.
3. Tribal Monitors were on site during the subject reporting period and no cultural resources were found.
4. The CPUC EMs noted that the sites were neat and clean, and that SWPPP measures were in place. The sensitive habitat and wetland areas were staked/flagged. Traffic control signs were setup along Highway 96 with flaggers in place, and pilot cars escorted vehicles through the work areas. The site was in compliance with mitigation measures, Applicant Proposed Measures, and other permit requirements.

Notices to Proceed

Table 1 summarizes the Notices to Proceed (NTP) for the Siskiyou Telephone Project.

Table 1
Notice to Proceeds (NTPs)
(Updated 7/17/19)

NTP #	Date Requested	Date Issued	Phase	Description
NTP #1	2/08/19	2/20/19	Phase I	Construction and installation of a new fiber optic broadband facility cable within or adjacent to State Highway 96 (Caltrans right-of-way) in the Klamath National Forest from MP 32.4 south to MP 24.0
NTP #2	6/10/2019	6/17/2019	Phase II	Construction and installation of a new fiber optic broadband facility cable within or adjacent to State Highway 96 (Caltrans right-of-way) in the Klamath National Forest from MP 24.0 south to MP 14.34
NTP #3	PENDING			Construction and installation of a new fiber optic broadband facility cable from MP 14.36 south to MP 12.2.

Minor Project Changes (MPCs)

None at this time.

PROJECT PHOTOS



Figure 1 – Fiber roll in place for sediment control in drainage at MP 28.75 - July 24, 2019.



Figure 2 – Crew trenching in conduit at MP 28.5 southwest along Hwy 96 – view north, July 24, 2019.



Figure 3 – Temporary storage area of spoils from excavations – July 24, 2019.



Figure 4 – Crew boring south of Swillup Creek at MP 23.25, view north, July 24, 2019.

