

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

To: Connie Chen, Project Manager, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: September 23, 2019
Subject: Monitoring Report #8 – September 1, 2019 to September 14, 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): Amanda Wild and Grace Weeks were on site September 11th.

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.

Phase 3

NTP #3 was issued on September 9, 2019 for Phase 3 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 Six Rivers National Forest from MP 14.36 to MP 12.2. NTP #3 included conditions that need to be satisfied prior to the start of construction.

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 September 1-7, 2019

Between September 1 and 7, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 30.2 and MP 29.7 and at MP 15.9. Construction consisted of two drill rigs working in Phases I and II. No tie-in construction was performed during the week.

Daily biological surveys were conducted, and biologists surveyed in front of crews no more than three days prior to start of ground-disturbing activity. No frac-outs or other drill issues occurred, and all necessary BMPs were in place.

Week of September 8-14, 2019

Between September 8 and 14, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 15.0 and MP 16.0. Construction consisted of three drilling crews and no tie-in crews.

Daily biological surveys were conducted, and biologists surveyed in front of crews no more than three days prior to start of ground-disturbing activity. 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 September 11 and met with Siskiyou Telephone's biologist in the field. The CPUC EMs monitored several construction crews, working in Phase II between MP 15.94 and 15.08. The first crew was drilling south at MP 15.94. Their drill bit had just popped out of the ground (Figure 1). A second crew was set up at MP 15.62 but had not yet begun their drilling operations. A third crew was drilling at MP 15.08, headed north (Figure 2). 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 (Figure 3).

The Jacobs biologist was conducting the preconstruction biological survey in Phase III for wetland and sensitive habitats (SH). The CPUC EMs reviewed the staking and flagging that had been completed until that point. Each wetland/SH area was properly flagged and marked to document the area (see Figures 4 and 5).

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 were also performed.
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 (NTP)

NTP #3 was issued by CPUC on September 9, 2019. No additional NTPs are required. Table 1 summarizes the NTPs for the Siskiyou Telephone Project.

Table 1
Notice to Proceeds (NTPs)
(Updated 9/12/19)

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	6/17/19	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	8/22/2019	9/9/19	Phase III	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 – First crew with drill bit popped out and equipment staged properly in the road at MP 15.94– view north, September 11, 2019.



Figure 2 – Third crew drilling north at MP 15.08 – view south, September 11, 2019.



Figure 3 – Traffic controls and Pilot Car directing traffic through the construction site, September 11, 2019.



Figure 4 - Staking and Flagging of wetland/SH in Phase III, September 11, 2019.



Figure 5 – Marking and recording on each flagging of an SH or wetland area. Each area is given a letter for recording purposes. September 11, 2019.