

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

**To:** Connie Chen, Project Manager, CPUC  
**From:** Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager  
**Date:** November 8, 2019  
**Subject:** Monitoring Report #11 – October 13, 2019 to November 6, 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, as requested by phase, is provided in Table 1. No additional NTPs are required.

**Table 1**  
**Notice to Proceeds (NTPs)**

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	8/22/2019	9/9/2019	Phase III	Construction and installation of a new fiber optic broadband facility cable from MP 14.36 south to MP 12.2.

**CPUC Environmental Monitors (EMs):** Amanda Wild was on site October 31st.

**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, excavator with hammer attachment, and backhoe, were staged within the road. HDD equipment, excavator with hammer attachment, and backhoe were placed within the shoulder of the road, outside of all sensitive habitat and wetland areas.

Week specific activities are provided below.

***Week of October 13-October 19, 2019***

Between October 13 and October 19, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone’s biologist (Jacobs) conducted preconstruction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities. Drilling and one tie-in occurred in

Phase 3 between MP 13.07 and MP 14.41 and tie-in digging occurred in Phase 2 between MP 19.6 and MP 15.48. Construction consisted of up to three drill rigs and one tie-in crew.

Daily biological surveys were conducted, and biologists surveyed in front of crews no more than three days prior to start of ground-disturbing activity. All necessary BMPs were in place. Work was stopped early on October 16th due to rain.

There were several encroachments into sensitive habitat areas in Phase 3 during the week of October 13. Two frac-outs occurred in sensitive habitats that were immediately isolated and cleaned up upon identification. The first frac-out occurred overnight on October 15th at MP 14.05. It is presumed that underground pressure forced bore mud out since no drilling was occurring at the time of the discharge. The sensitive habitat had water present but no flow or connection to the Klamath River. Crews isolated the frac-out, used a vacuum to remove bore mud, and flushed and cleaned the area with water. Figure 1 shows the site after cleanup. The second frac-out occurred on October 17th in sensitive habitat located near MP 13.90. Immediately upon identification, it was isolated, vacuumed, and flushed with water to clean the area. Figure 2 shows the site after cleanup. The CPUC EM was notified of these frac-outs on October 22nd in the Monitoring Report.

On October 15th, the biologist identified a stake that had been moved into sensitive habitat located near MP 13.90 by drilling crews. The only impact to the sensitive habitat was on the periphery and by foot-traffic. The end-of-day cleanup on October 15th resulted in soil being pushed into two sensitive habitat areas at MP 14.00 and MP 13.80. One sensitive habitat area had standing water but no flow or connection to the Klamath River. At the second sensitive habitat area there was no water present. One tie-in location was on the edge of sensitive habitat in Phase 3. Due to previous drill pad disturbance, the tie-in crew mobilized from Phase 2 to Phase 3 to finalize the tie-in near the sensitive habitat area and clean up any disturbance along the edge. No other frac-out or other drill issues occurred.

Species observed throughout the week included: southern alligator lizard, American crow, American goldfinch, Anna's hummingbird, bald eagle, belted kingfisher, common merganser, common raven, dark-eyed junco, great-blue heron, northern flicker, osprey, song sparrow, Steller's jay, Western (California) scrub jay, black bear, mule deer, elk, mink, and western gray squirrel.

#### ***Week of October 20-26, 2019***

Between October 20 and 26, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities. Drilling occurred in Phase 3 between MP 14.00 and MP 14.46 and tie-in digging occurred in Phase 2 between MP 16.3 and MP 14.43. Construction consisted of up to two drilling crews and two tie-in crews. Drilling was nearly completed in Phase 3 on October 22, 2019 and two crews demobilized from the project.

Daily biological surveys were conducted, and biologists surveyed in front of crews no more than three days prior to start of ground-disturbing activity. All necessary BMPs were in place. One frac-out occurred on October 21 into sensitive habitat located at approximately MP 14.15. The frac-out was immediately contained, vacuumed, and flushed with water to clean the area. No bore mud reached the unnamed drainage at MP 14.11 with connection to the Klamath River. The cleaned site is presented in Figure 3. The CPUC EM was notified of the frac-out on October 24th. No other frac-out or drill issues occurred.

Species observed throughout the week included: American crow, American goldfinch, bald eagle, Canada goose, common raven, great-blue heron, mallard, northern flicker, osprey, red-tailed hawk, Steller's jay, black bear, black-tailed deer, and western gray squirrel.

#### ***Week of October 27-November 2, 2019***

Between October 27 and November 2, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-

construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities. Construction occurred in Phase 2 at MP 15.0 and in Phase 3 between MP 14.22 and MP 12.81. Construction consisted of one drilling crew and up to two tie-in crews. One small section at approximately MP 15.0 needed to be re-drilled; this was completed on October 28, 2019. All drilling for the project was completed on October 28. No work was conducted on Friday.

Daily biological surveys were conducted, and biologists surveyed in front of crews no more than three days prior to start of ground-disturbing activity. All necessary BMPs were in place. On October 30, tie-in crews worked adjacent to sensitive habitat at MP 13.75. A silt fence was installed, and all equipment was located on the roadway behind the silt fence (Figure 4). The sensitive habitat was isolated and there was no disturbance to the area (Figure 5). No other frac-out or drill issues occurred.

### ***Week of November 3-November 9, 2019***

November 4 through 6, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities. Construction occurred in Phase 3 from MP 12.81 to Ti-Bar Road, completing all digging within Phases 1, 2, and 3. Work consisted of up to two tie-in crews. Tie-in work was completed on November 5, 2019, and tie-in and biology crews demobilized from the Project on November 6.

Daily biological surveys were conducted, and biologists surveyed in front of crews prior to start of ground-disturbing activity. All necessary BMPs were in place. All staking and flagging were removed from Phases 1, 2, and 3.

### **CPUC EM Site Visit**

The CPUC EM conducted a final inspection on October 31 of the completed work areas throughout Phases 1, 2, and 3. The CPUC EM noted that all drill and tie-in sites were cleaned up and showed minimal signs of disturbance (Figures 6 and 7). All tie-in boxes south of MP 23.97 are still in need of paving around the edges (Figure 8). The Siskiyou Telephone Project Manager communicated that the weather has been too cold to pave these areas, so they may have to wait until next season. In that case, the gaps around the tie-in boxes will be back filled with gravel and paved next season when the weather warms up. The CPUC EM observed that all staking and flagging was still in place for all Phases of the project. The CPUC EM discussed this with the site biologist, and the biologist began removing staking and flagging from Phases 1 and 2 on October 31.

The CPUC EM met with Siskiyou Telephone's biologist at the site of current construction. Since all drilling has been completed, the CPUC EM only observed tie-in work between MP 13.41 and MP 13.2. The CPUC EM observed a total of three tie-in crews. The first crew was using a backhoe to trench at MP 13.52 (Figure 9). The second crew was hand-digging at MP 13.41 (Figure 10). The third crew was digging at MP 13.32 adjacent to sensitive habitat. The crew had erected a silt fence to prevent any soil from disturbing the sensitive habitat (Figure 11).

The CPUC EM and the site biologist inspected the remaining tie-in areas in Phase 3. It was determined that only one more tie-in was adjacent to sensitive habitat. The biologist re-posted a stake that had fallen and added staking/flagging to the sensitive habitat area to improve visibility.

### **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. Tribal Monitors were on site during the subject reporting period and no cultural resources were found.

3. The CPUC EM conducted a final inspection and 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.

### **Minor Project Changes (MPCs)**

No MPCs were required for the Siskiyou Telephone Project.

## PROJECT PHOTOS



Figure 1 – Cleaned up location within sensitive habitat where frac-out of bore mud occurred overnight near MP 14.05, October 24, 2019.



Figure 2 – Cleaned up location within sensitive habitat where nominal frac-out of bore mud occurred at MP 13.90, October 24, 2019.



Figure 3 – Cleaned up location within sensitive habitat where nominal frac-out of bore mud occurred at MP 14.15, October 24, 2019.



Figure 4 – Silt fence and tie-in work adjacent to sensitive habitat at MP 13.75, October 30, 2019.





Figure 5 – Cleaned up area adjacent to sensitive habitat at MP 13.75; no impacts to sensitive habitat, October 30, 2019.



Figure 6 – Clean drill and tie-in location in Phase 1, October 31, 2019



Figure 7 – Clean drill and tie-in location with minimal disturbance in Phase 1, October 31, 2019.



Figure 8 – Tie-in box still needing paving in Phase 2, October 31, 2019.



Figure 9 – Crew trenching with a backhoe at MP 13.52, October 31, 2019.



Figure 10 – Crew hand digging tie-in at MP 13.41, October 31, 2019.



Figure 11 – Crew digging adjacent to sensitive habitat at MP 13.31 with silt fence installed, October 31, 2019