

## **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 22, 2019  
**Subject:** Monitoring Report #6 – July 28, 2019 to August 10, 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 was on site August 6.

### **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 28-August 3, 2019***

Between July 28 and August 3, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 20.95 and MP 30.45. Construction consisted of three drill rigs working in Phase II between MP 20.95 and 22.57. Tie-in construction was also conducted within Phase 1 between MP 25.2 and 30.45.

Daily biological surveys were conducted, and historic osprey nests monitored for activity. One biological exclusion buffer (Nest #3) was in place the week of July 28. Nest #3 (osprey) is located between MP 29.65 and 30.15. 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.

### ***Week of August 4-10, 2019***

Between August 4 and 10, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 20.0 and MP 21.75. Construction consisted of three drilling crews working Monday through Friday. Tie-in construction was also conducted on Thursday at approximately MP 30.45.

Daily biological surveys were conducted, and historic osprey nests monitored for activity. One biological exclusion buffer (Nest #3) was in place the week of August 4 located between MP 29.65 and 30.15. 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.

### **CPUC EM Site Visit**

The CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM) conducted a site visit on August 7 and met with Siskiyou Telephone's biologist in the field. The CPUC EM monitored Nest #3 in the morning and observed an adult and juvenile osprey flying and perching on or near the nest (Figure 1). The juvenile was also observed chattering once it returned to the nest. The CPUC EM monitored several construction crews. The first crew was drilling at MP 21.00, headed south. This crew was employing BMPs by placing a black absorbent pad under their vac-truck as a precaution (Figure 2) and employing two vac-trucks at one time. A second crew was drilling at MP 20.78, headed north. A third crew was drilling at MP 20.64, headed south. The CPUC EM observed this crew's drill bit "pop-out" of the ground, and the crew prepared to pull conduit back through the drill hole (Figure 3). 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 EM observed turkey vultures, common raven, and osprey.

### **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 8/22/19)

<b>NTP #</b>	<b>Date Requested</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Phase</b>	<b>Description</b>
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 – Juvenile osprey observed perched on Nest 3 – view through scope, August 7, 2019.



Figure 2 – Absorbent pad placed under vac-truck as precaution to avoid spills – view north, August 7, 2019.



Figure 3 – End of drill-bit “popped-out” at MP 20.64, view south, August 7, 2019.