

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 12, 2019
Subject: Monitoring Report #7 – August 11, 2019 to August 31, 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 August 28.

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 August 11-17, 2019

Between August 11 and 17, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 20.6 and MP 32.5. Construction consisted of three drill rigs working in Phase II between MP 20.6 and 19.6. Tie-in construction was also conducted within Phase 1 between MP 31.6 and 32.5.

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 12. Nest #3 (osprey) is located between MP 29.65 and 30.15. As indicated in the U.S. Forest Service – Happy Camp District Special Use Authorization Permit for this project, all LOP's for osprey will be lifted August 15, 2019. Siskiyou Telephone's biologist monitored the nest Monday through Friday and observed osprey (both adult and fledged young) perched on or next to and flying in the vicinity of 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 18-24, 2019

Between August 18 and 24, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 15.6 and MP 24.1. Construction consisted of three drilling crews working in Phase II between MP 20.2 and MP 15.6. Tie-in construction was also conducted within Phase II between MP 21.3 and MP 24.1.

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 18, located between MP 29.65 and 30.15. All LOP's for osprey were lifted after August 15, 2019. Nest #3 was active during the first part of the week, and Siskiyou Telephone's biologist monitored the nest Monday through Friday. The biologist observed osprey (both adult and fledged young) in the vicinity of the nest early in the week. No sign of the birds was noted toward the end of the week. 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 25-31, 2019

Between August 25 and 31, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 30.2 and MP 29.7. Construction consisted of two drilling crews working in Phase I.

Daily biological surveys were conducted, and historic osprey nests monitored for activity. All LOP's for osprey were lifted after August 15, 2019. Nest #3 was no longer active during the week, and therefore project work resumed within this area. Siskiyou Telephone's biologist recommended staging equipment as far from the nest as possible as an extra measure of protection. One frac-out at MP 29.8 occurred during the subject week, but away from sensitive habitat and wetland areas. The crew responded quickly to the frac-out and clean up occurred as discussed below. All necessary BMPs were in place.

CPUC EM Site Visit

The CPUC Environmental Monitors (EM) conducted a site visit on August 28 and met with Siskiyou Telephone's biologist in the field. The CPUC EMs monitored several construction crews, all working in Phase 1 in or at the outskirts of the previous Nest 3 Buffer, MP 29.65 to 30.15. The first crew was setting up their equipment at MP 30.16, preparing to drill north. A second crew was drilling at MP 30.00, drilling south (Figure 1). This second crew was nearest the osprey nest, but the crew was taking precautions to stage their equipment as far away from the nest as possible, per the direction of Siskiyou Telephone's biologist. A third crew was drilling at MP 29.75, headed north. The CPUC EMs observed this crew cleaning up a frac-

out at MP 29.8. The crew responded quickly and efficiently to the frac-out; it was not in a sensitive habitat or wetland area. The frac-out was excavated with a backhoe (Figure 2) and then vacuumed with a vac-truck (Figure 3) as drilling continued. 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 also reviewed Phase 3 slope and stability areas of concern with Siskiyou Telephone’s biologist. The EMs drove Phase 3 with the biologist and documented the areas of concern for further review.

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 buffer was lifted on August 15, 2019, and work resumed within the buffer area during the week of August 25, 2019.
2. One HDD frac-out occurred during the subject reporting period, but it did not affect any environmentally sensitive areas.
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 | 6/17/2019 | 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. |

Minor Project Changes (MPCs)

None at this time.

PROJECT PHOTOS



Figure 1 – Second crew drilling, with equipment staged properly in the road – view south, August 28, 2019.



Figure 2 – Crew excavating a pit to clean up frac-out at MP 29.8 – view north, August 28, 2019.



Figure 3 – Vac truck placed in position to clean up frac-out at MP 29.8, view north, August 28, 2019.