

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

To: Connie Chen, Project Manager, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: October 7, 2019
Subject: Monitoring Report #9 – September 15, 2019 to September 28, 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 below.

CPUC Environmental Monitors (EMs): Amanda Wild and Grace Weeks were on site September 25th.

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 15-21, 2019

Between September 15 and 21, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 14.6 and MP 15.6 and between MP 29.6 and MP 30.5. Construction consisted of three drill rigs and two tie-in crews. Construction was shut down early Monday and Tuesday due to rain.

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 22-28, 2019

Between September 22 and 28, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 14.6 and MP 13.3. 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. On Monday, work was conducted adjacent to previously mapped sensitive habitats, specifically a wet ditch with hydrophytic vegetation. The Project biologist discussed the work to be conducted with the drilling contractor and agreed on appropriate BMPs to minimize any potential effect to the area. No frac-outs or other drill issues occurred, and all necessary BMPs were in place.

CPUC EM Site Visit

The CPUC EMs conducted a site visit on September 25 and met with Siskiyou Telephone’s biologist in the field. The CPUC EMs monitored several construction crews. The first crew was drilling north at MP 14.4, near a sensitive habitat. The crew was staged outside of the habitat, but a port-a-potty had been placed directly on top of the habitat (Figure 1). The Project biologist immediately had the facility moved onto the pavement and away from the sensitive habitat. This crew had absorbent pads under their trucks as BMPs to avoid leaks or spills from equipment (Figure 2). A second crew was drilling south at MP 14.50. This crew had their bore pit taped off with caution tape to increase safety awareness. The third crew was drilling south at MP 14.52 and also had absorbent pads under their trucks. 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 monitored a backhoe at MP 14.63 cleaning up a previous bore site to restore it to pre-existing conditions.

The CPUC EMs reviewed the staking and flagging that had been recently completed for the wetland and sensitive habitat preconstruction survey. Each wetland/SH area was properly flagged and marked to document the area (see Figures 3 and 4). However, some of the flagging was not very visible, so the biologist planned to improve the staking and flagging so it would be more visible.

The CPUC EMs spoke with the Siskiyou Telephone Project Manager regarding future construction plans. The crews plan to begin drilling at Ti Bar (MP 12.2) and work their way towards Phase II.

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 10/07/19)

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 #	Date Requested	Date Issued	Phase	Description
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 – Port-a-potty placed on wetland/sensitive habitat – view north, September 25, 2019.



Figure 2 – Absorbent placed under equipment to avoid leaks – September 25, 2019.



Figure 3 - Staking and flagging of wetland/SH, MP 13.67, September 25, 2019.



Figure 4 – Staking and flagging of wet culvert, MP 12.59. September 25, 2019.