

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 17, 2019
Subject: Monitoring Report #10 – September 29, 2019 to October 12, 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 and Grace Weeks were on site October 9th.

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 (SH) and wetland areas.

Week specific activities are provided below.

Week of September 29-October 5, 2019

Between September 29 and October 5, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone’s biologist (Jacobs) conducted preconstruction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 13.2 and MP 12.2 and between MP 21.0 and MP 21.2. Construction consisted of up to three drill rigs and two 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. All necessary BMPs were in place. The biologist added flagging to increase visibility at all Phase 3 sensitive habitat areas.

On October 9th, during the CPUC EM site visit, the EMs were informed of a frac-out that occurred on September 30th at MP 13.07 in Kennedy Creek (Figure 1), which is within California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) jurisdiction. At 12:40 pm the biological monitor observed cloudy water in a pool within the channel of Kennedy Creek. All construction activity was stopped, and a construction worker was lowered down the hill embankment to assess the condition of the creek and determine the location of the frac-out. The location of the frac-out could not be identified due to the steepness of the slope and the dense vegetation on the hillside (Figure 2). The majority of the cloudy water was detained by woody debris within the stream channel and some slight turbidity was observed below the pool, but no visible plumes were observed at or near the confluence of Kennedy Creek and the Klamath River. The driller was less than 40 feet from the end of the bore hole, so it was decided best to switch to water for drilling and complete the remaining feet of the bore. The biological monitor continued to monitor the muddy pool in Kennedy Creek. The Creek water was clear by 3:40 pm.

Species observed throughout the week included: bald eagle, Steller's jay, kingfisher, swift, swallow, and woodpecker.

Week of October 6-12, 2019

Between October 6 and 12, 2019, Siskiyou Telephone's biologist (Jacobs) conducted pre-construction sweeps and continued to monitor construction activities between MP 13.7 and MP 12.5 and between MP 20.3 and MP 19.6. Construction consisted of up to three drilling crews and two 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. One frac-out occurred (see discussion below). All necessary BMPs were in place. On Monday, one drilling crew worked adjacent to an ephemeral unnamed creek. All BMPs were in place and all work was conducted outside of sensitive habitat staking.

Species observed throughout the week included: osprey, song sparrow, mule deer, crow, phoebe, and ringtail (roadkill).

CPUC EM Site Visit

The CPUC EMs conducted a site visit on October 9 and met with Siskiyou Telephone's biologist in the field. The CPUC EMs monitored several construction crews. The first crew was hanging conduit from Clear Creek Bridge, using a truck with an access ladder and platform for safe access underneath the bridge (Figure 3). The second crew was set up to conduct tie-in work, but their water truck had been vandalized and was temporarily out of service, so they could not begin work. The CPUC EMs checked on this crew later in the day and their water truck had arrived, and work had begun. The third crew was drilling north at MP 13.5. The fourth crew was drilling north, near sensitive habitat (Figure 4) at MP13.32. The crew was staged just outside of the habitat. The fifth crew was drilling north at MP 13.30. The CPUC EMs observed a frac-out from this crew in a non-sensitive area (Figure 5). The CPUC EMs pointed this out to the drill crew and they were preparing to clean it up. 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 site biologist informed the CPUC EMs of a frac-out that occurred in Kennedy Creek on September 30th. The biologist said he would send a report with photos to describe the frac-out event; submitted October 14.

The CPUC EMs spoke with the Siskiyou Telephone Project Manager regarding future construction plans. Drilling is expected to be completed in the next week or two, with tie-in work remaining.

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. One HDD frac-out occurred into an environmentally sensitive area (Kennedy Creek) during the reporting period on September 30th. Siskiyou Telephone addressed the frac-out properly but failed to immediately notify the CPUC and CDFW of the frac-out, per Mitigation Measure B-3 and Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2018-0043-R1. Verbal notification was provided on October 9th and written notification was provided on October 14th.
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.

Minor Project Changes (MPCs)

None at this time.

PROJECT PHOTOS



Figure 1 – Drill setup west of Kennedy Creek – view west facing Ti Bar Road, September 29, 2019.



Figure 2 – Kennedy Creek hillside – view facing downslope, from top of embankment, September 29, 2019.



Figure 3 –Bridge handing operations at Clear Creek Bridge – view north, October 9, 2019.



Figure 4 – HDD equipment staged near sensitive habitat staking, October 9, 2019



Figure 5 – Frac-out needing clean-up, observed by CPUC EMs, MP 13.30, October 9, 2019.