



United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Navajo Region
P. O. Box 1060
Gallup, New Mexico 87305



MC 620: Division of Environmental, Cultural & Safety Management

JUL 15 2000

Mr. Leonard Robbins
Denali Environmental Services
P.O. Box 1127
Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504

Dear Mr. Robbins:

EA-08-075

The request for a categorical exclusion for the Gibson Peak Tower Addition and Expansion of Existing Control Building, on Gibson Peak, McKinley County, New Mexico, has been reviewed in the Division of Environmental, Cultural and Safety Management, Navajo Regional Office. The proposed project involves: construction of a second tower and antenna, 348 feet high, with guy cable support anchors, and the expansion of the existing control building within the lease area. The first tower, constructed in 1989 (EA-88-169), would be reduced from 220 feet high to 120 feet high. The existing facility is located on a 3.6-acre parcel of Indian Allotment land in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 24, T16N, R18W, NMPM. The tower is located in the Rock Springs Chapter east of Yatahey, New Mexico, and the access is from Superman Canyon, Church Rock Chapter.

Mr. Ron Malecki, the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife (NNDFW), Natural Heritage Program (NHP), and Mr. Ron Maldonado, the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department (NNHPD), were consulted verbally. They informed that any pre-existing resource consultations under a current termed lease are still valid, i.e., Cultural Resources Compliance Form (CRCF) NAO Project No. NTM-87-305, and the May 10, 1989, letter from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Categorical exclusion is approved based on information provided in the environmental documents. Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations, 40 CFR 1508.4 and 516 DM 10 (Department Manual), Appendix 10.5, Categorical Exclusions, (A) "Operation, maintenance, and replacement of existing facilities" allow the proposed undertaking to be categorically excluded.

The project categorical exclusion with supporting documents, designated as EA-08-075, is on file and available for review in Room 129, Division of Environmental, Cultural and Safety Management, Navajo Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 301 West Hill Street, Gallup, New Mexico 87301. If you have questions, you may contact Ms. Harrilene J. Yazzie, Regional NEPA Coordinator, at (505) 863-8287.

Sincerely,

Irvin Bekis

ACTING Regional Director, Navajo

cc: George Malti, Millennium Media, Inc., P.O. Box 420, Gallup, New Mexico 87305