



FACT SHEET

Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) Programmatic Environmental Assessment

Background

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is an independent United States government agency, reporting directly to Congress. The FCC was established by the Communications Act of 1934 and is charged with regulating



interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable. The FCC's jurisdiction covers the 50 states, the District of Columbia and all U.S. possessions.

Under the Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) program, owners of antenna structures taller than 200 feet above



ground level or that may interfere with the flight path of a nearby airport must register those structures with the FCC. The antenna structure owner must also obtain painting and lighting specifications from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and include those specifications in its registration to the FCC prior to construction.

The ASR program allows the FCC to fulfill its statutory duty to require painting and lighting of antenna structures that may pose a hazard to air navigation. Through the program, the FCC maintains a database of communications structures that may affect aviation safety.

To comply with obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Commission is preparing a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) of its ASR program. The purpose of the PEA is to evaluate whether the ASR program and potential revisions to the program have a significant effect on the human environment, including effects on migratory birds.

Primary Issues

The primary issues to be addressed in the PEA are potential impacts of the ASR program on migratory birds as well as threatened and endangered species. The PEA will examine potential impacts from various tower types. The following variables will be examined:

- location
- height
- support structures or guy wires
- lighting

The PEA will also examine cumulative impacts to resources.



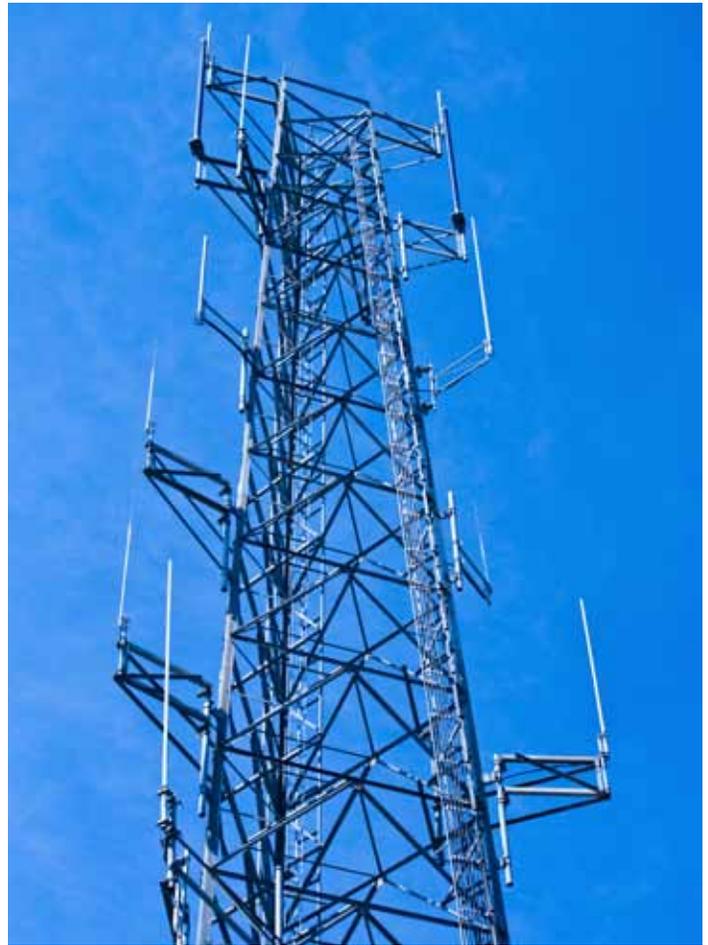
NEPA Process

As a licensing agency, the Commission complies with NEPA by requiring licensees and applicants to review their proposed actions for environmental consequences. The FCC's rules regarding the implementation of NEPA are found at Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1, Subpart I, sections 1.1301 to 1.1319.

Section 1.1305 of these Rules states that the Commission "has found no common pattern which would enable it to specify" any particular Commission action as always having a significant environmental impact under NEPA.

Projected Milestones

Public Notice of Scoping Meetings.....	November 12, 2010
Public Scoping Meetings	December 2010
Scoping Comments Due	January 14, 2011
Draft PEA Published	Spring 2011
Public Meetings.....	Spring/Summer 2011
Final PEA.....	Summer 2011



Thus, section 1.1306 of the Rules "categorically excludes from environmental processing" all Commission actions except for those specifically identified in section 1.1307. If a proposed action falls within one of the categories of section 1.1307, section 1.1308(a) requires the proponent to consider the potential effects from its construction of antenna facilities or structures on the human environment, and disclose those effects in an environmental assessment (EA) which is filed with the Commission for review.

Opportunities for Public Input

The FCC will engage stakeholders such as federal and state resource agencies, Tribal governments, local governments, environmental organizations, and the general public throughout the NEPA process. Those interested in participating in the NEPA process should refer to the list of Projected Milestones.

For More Information

For additional information on the ASR PEA, visit the FCC project website at <http://www.fcc.gov/pea>. This site will be updated throughout the life of the project and provides a calendar of events, downloadable information and links to related resources.