

Tower Construction Notification System

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/outreach/notification>

What Is It?

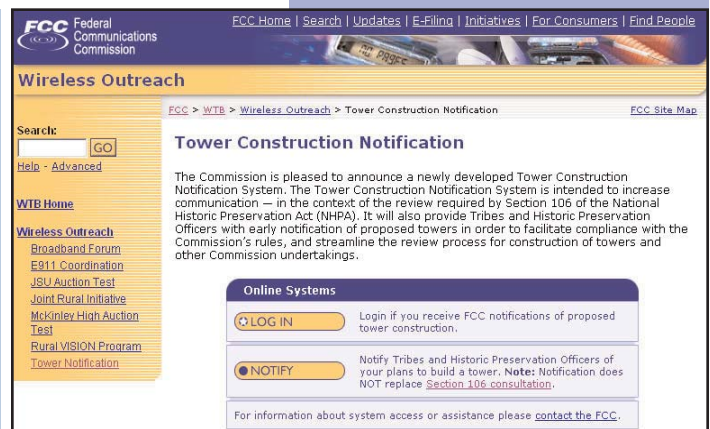
The Tower Construction Notification System (TCNS)

is an on-line, password-protected system that notifies federally recognized American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages (collectively, "Tribes"), Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs), and State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) of proposed communications tower constructions in areas of interest designated by the recipients.

The TCNS also provides a means for Tribes, NHOs, and SHPOs to respond directly to the companies as to whether they have concerns about the proposed tower construction.

GOAL

The TCNS is intended to advance the goal of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) to protect historic properties, including tribal religious and cultural sites, in an efficient and convenient manner that promotes the interests of both Tribes and the communications industry. Tribes indicate their geographic areas of interest by specifying the states or counties where they wish to hear about proposed construction.



The screenshot shows the FCC Wireless Outreach website. The main heading is "Tower Construction Notification". Below the heading, there is a paragraph explaining the system: "The Commission is pleased to announce a newly developed Tower Construction Notification System. The Tower Construction Notification System is intended to increase communication — in the context of the review required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). It will also provide Tribes and Historic Preservation Officers with early notification of proposed towers in order to facilitate compliance with the Commission's rules, and streamline the review process for construction of towers and other Commission undertakings." Below this text is an "Online Systems" section with two buttons: "LOG IN" (with a plus icon) and "NOTIFY" (with a minus icon). The "LOG IN" button has the text "Login if you receive FCC notifications of proposed tower construction." The "NOTIFY" button has the text "Notify Tribes and Historic Preservation Officers of your plans to build a tower. *Notes:* Notification does NOT replace [Section 106 consultation](#)." At the bottom of the "Online Systems" section, it says "For information about system access or assistance please [contact the FCC](#)."

What Can I Do?

Voluntarily Submit a Notification

The TCNS allows Tower Notifiers (tower builders, or entities representing tower builders, such as consultants) to voluntarily submit a notification to the Commission of a proposed tower construction.

The Commission will subsequently provide this information to Tribes, NHOs and SHPOs that express an interest in the relevant geographic area.

► Submit a New Notification:

Tower Notifiers can submit a new notification through the TCNS. Files such as photos or maps may be attached as part of the new notification. Upon submitting a new notification, the tower notifier will receive a confirmation screen assigning an ID number to the notification. An automated e-mail will also be sent to the Tower Notifier within a few days, advising it of the names of the Tribes, NHOs, and SHPOs who were sent the new tower notification, the name and contact information of their designated contact person, the location of the seat of the tribal governments of the Tribes and NHOs who were sent the new tower notification, and the form in which the notification was sent (e-mail and/or letter).



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▶ Refer a Notification to FCC:

Tower Notifiers may refer a notification of proposed tower construction to the FCC for further follow-up with Tribes and NHOs, whether or not the original notification was made through the TCNS.

▶ Update an Already Submitted Notification:

Tower Notifiers may update the status of a previously submitted notification from "Proposed" to "Abandoned" or from "Proposed" to "Constructed."

Tower notifiers must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and a Password to access the TCNS.

To obtain an FRN and Password:

Tower Notifiers must register with the Commission through the Commission Registration System (CORES). Tower Notifiers may access CORES by clicking on the "Register with the FCC" link on the the TCNS Login screen.

Why Should I Use It?

The TCNS may be used to help fulfill a prospective tower constructor's obligations with respect to Tribes and NHOs under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). On March 7, 2005, a Nationwide Programmatic Agreement (NPA) went into effect streamlining procedures for review of certain Commission undertakings for communications facilities under Section 106 of the NHPA. The NPA requires applicants to make reasonable and good faith efforts to identify and to ensure that contact is made with Tribes and NHOs that may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by an undertaking. Where a Tribe or NHO has voluntarily provided information to the TCNS regarding the geographic areas in which such historic properties may be located, reference to the TCNS constitutes a reasonable and good faith effort at identification with respect to that Tribe or NHO, and initial contact with Tribes and NHOs may be made through the TCNS. On October 6, 2005, the FCC released a Declaratory Ruling clarifying procedures to be followed when a Tribe or NHO does not timely respond to reasonable and good faith efforts at contact. See <http://wireless.fcc.gov/siting>

We emphasize to system users that the TCNS is a tool to facilitate Section 106 Consultation. The Commission recognizes its responsibility to carry out consultation with any Indian tribe or NHO regarding historic properties. The system is NOT to be used as a substitute for Section 106 Consultation. The information provided to and conveyed through the system does not necessarily reflect legal title and is not intended to be used to establish title to any lands described therein.

To view the "Tribal Participation" Segment of the FCC's Interactive Training Unit on the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement (NPA), go to:
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/siting/npa/npa.html>

How Do I Get Help?

For additional information or assistance, you may visit the Web at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/outreach/notification> or call the FCC Support Center at (877) 480-3201 (TTY 202-414-1255) and select Option #2.



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