ATTACHMENT 4

Environmental Assessment Statement

I. PHYSICAL IMPACT

A. WATER FLOW AND QUALITY

A stream and associated wetland area were delineated on the site intersecting the proposed access drive. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) determined that a Category 1 Programmatic General Permit for minimal impacts projects is applicable to the proposed facility provided that the Category 1 Programmatic General Permit conditions are met. Construction of the access drive on the subject site includes a thirty-six (36) inch concrete bottomless arch culvert to cross a narrow delineated stream and wetland. Best Management Practices to control storm water and soil erosion during construction will be implemented. The equipment associated with the facility will discharge no pollutants to area surface or groundwater systems.

B. AIR QUALITY

Under ordinary operating conditions, the equipment that would be used at the proposed facility would emit no air pollutants of any kind.

C. LAND

Clearing and grading will be necessary for the access drive and compound area. Construction of the access drive on the subject site includes a thirty-six (36) inch concrete bottomless arch culvert to cross a narrow delineated stream and wetland. The remaining land of the lessor would remain unchanged by the construction and operation of the facility.

D. NOISE

The equipment to be in operation at the facility would not emit noise other than that provided by the operation of the installed heating, air-conditioning and ventilation system. Some construction related noise would be anticipated during facility construction, which is expected to take approximately four to six weeks. Temporary power outages could involve sound from an emergency generator.

E. POWER DENSITY

The worst-case calculation of power density from AT&T's operations at the facility would be 5.96% of the MPE standard. Attached is a copy of the Power Density Report dated January 5, 2011.

F. VISIBILITY

The potential visual impact of the proposed facility was determined by preparation of the attached Visual Report prepared by Infinigy Engineering. The potential visibility of the proposed monopole was assessed within an approximate two-mile radius. As shown in the report, visibility is not expected from the Town-designated historic site of Chamberlain Mill or the Stoggy Hollow Restaurant and General Store. Only limited intermittent visibility of the top portion of the proposed facility from approximately ¼ mile away is anticipated from the western portion of Barber Road, at Town-designated scenic road. Anticipated visibility from the few homes on Barber Road, Shaw Road and Route 171 are significantly reduced or eliminated for a 110' tall monopole. Within the two-mile radius study area, areas of anticipated year-round visibility of the 150' tall monopole above or through the tree canopy include approximately 134 acres or 1.67% of the two-mile radius study area (8,024 acres).

II. SCENIC, NATURAL, HISTORIC & RECREATIONAL VALUES

The parcel on which the facility is located exhibits no unique scenic, natural, historic or recreational characteristics. North Atlantic Towers retained the services of Infinigy Engineering & Surveying ("Infinigy") to evaluate the proposed Facility in accordance with the FCC's regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"). Based on Infinigy's review, the proposed Facility will have no significant impact on any of the FCC NEPA regulatory criteria. As part of Infinigy's review, the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer ("SHPO") was consulted and the SHPO determined that the proposed facility will have "no adverse effect" on archaeological or architectural resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. A copy of the SHPO's no adverse effect determination is attached.

Tony Wells C Squared Systems 920 Candia Road Manchester, NH 03109 603-657-9702 Tony.Wells@csquaredsystems.com



January 5, 2011

Connecticut Siting Council

Subject: New Cingular Wireless, Woodstock, CT

Dear Connecticut Siting Council:

C Squared Systems has been retained by New Cingular Wireless to investigate the RF Power Density at the proposed site located on Route 198 in Woodstock, CT.

Calculations were done in accordance with FCC OET Bulletin 65. These worst-case calculations assume that all transmitters are simultaneously operating at full power and pointing directly at the ground. The calculation point is 6 feet above ground level to model the RF power density at the head of a person standing at the base of the tower.

Location	Carrier	Antenna Centerline Height Above Ground Level (Ft.)	Operating Frequency (MHz)	Number of Trans.	Effective Radiated Power (ERP) Per Transmitter (Watts)	Power Density (mw/cm²)	Limit	% FCC MPE Limit General Public/ Uncontrolled
Ground Level	AT&T UMTS	147	880	1	500	0.0090	0.5867	1.54%
	AT&T UMTS	147	1900	1	500	0.0090	1.0000	0.90%
	AT&T GSM	147	880	3	296	0.0161	0.5867	2.74%
	AT&T GSM	147	1900	1	427	0.0077	1.0000	0.77%
	Total							5.96%

Summary: Under worst-case assumptions, the RF Power Density at the proposed site located on Route 198 in Woodstock, CT will not exceed 5.96% of the FCC MPE limit for General Public/Uncontrolled Environments.

Sincerely,

Anthony Wells Managing Partner

anthony wells



New York Office 11 Herbert Drive Latham, NY 12110 Phone: (518) 690-0790

ax: (518) 690-0793 www.lnfinigy.com

February 11, 2011

Mr. Roger Laperna North Atlantic Towers, LLC 1001 3rd Ave West, Suite 420 Bradenton, FL 34205

Subject: Wetland Evaluation Memorandum Update

Site: CT1182/Woodstock, CT

Infinigy # 226-064

Dear Mr. Laperna:

In September 2010, Infinigy Engineering PLLC (Infinigy) conducted a wetland evaluation in connection with the proposed North Atlantic Towers telecommunications facility located in Woodstock, Connecticut. The evaluation was focused on the proposed lease area, where the tower and equipment are to be located, and the route for the proposed access road to the facility. During the wetland evaluation, a stream and associated wetland were identified intersecting the proposed access route. No other surface waters or wetlands were identified within the area of study.

Wetlands within the State of Connecticut are regulated by both state and federal regulatory authorities. The New England District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) has issued a Programmatic General Permit (PGP) to expedite review of minimal impact projects in coastal and inland waters and wetlands within the State of Connecticut. In October 2010, Infinigy contacted the ACOE to determine its desired approach for permitting of the proposed project in light of the identified stream and wetland. Based on discussion with ACOE, the following Category 1 Programmatic General Permit conditions must be met to fall within this less stringent review:

- Less than 5,000 SF of Inland Waters, Waterway and/or Wetland Fill and Secondary Impacts. Fill impacts include all temporary and permanent fill and excavation discharges resulting from a single and complete project, see #5 of General Requirements. Secondary impacts include but are not limited include to impacts to inland waters, waterways or wetlands drained, dredged, flooded, cleared or degraded resulting from a single and complete project. (See 40 CFR 230.11 (g) and (h))
- The tributary watershed to the culvert is < 1.0 Sq. Mile (640 Acres).
- The culvert gradient (slope) is no steeper that the streambed gradient immediately upstream or downstream of the culvert.
- For the crossing constructed using a single box or pipe arch culvert, the inverts are set > 12 inches below the stream bed elevation.
- For the crossing constructed using multiple box or pipe arch culvert, the inverts of one of the boxes or pipe arch culverts are set > 12 inches below grade.

Mr. Roger Laperna February 11, 2011 Page 2

- For a crossing constructed using a culvert pipe, the inverts are set such that > 25% of the pipe or 12 inches, which is less, is set below the streambed elevation.
- The culvert is backfilled with natural substrate material matching upstream and downstream streambed substrate.
- The structure does not otherwise impede the passage of fish and other aquatic organisms.
- The structure allows for continuous flow of the 50-year frequency storm flows.
- Not within a FEMA floodplain
- No Threatened/Endangered Species impacts
- No Wild and Scenic Rivers within 0.25 miles
- No vernal pool impacts
- No cultural resource impacts

Infinigy has received correspondence from the ACOE indicating that, provided we maintain the criteria of the category 1 PGP, then formal submittal to ACOE is not required, although State regulatory agency authorization will be required. Attached herewith please find the latest correspondence between *Infinigy's* Wetland Ecologist, Mr. Mark Kiburz, CPESC, PWS-IT and a representative from the ACOE.

While the specifics of the wetland crossing are still in the design process, the final design by *Infinigy* will minimize the impact to the wetland itself and the immediate surrounding area. Construction details will be produced and incorporated into the site plans to provide a safe and suitable wetland crossing that minimizes the total disturbance.

Please feel free to contact me or Mark Kiburz at (518) 690-0790 with questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Infinigy Engineering, PLLC

John L. Favreau, CHMM

Director of Environmental Services

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Screening Report



Prepared For:

North Atlantic Towers 1001 3rd West Avenue, Suite 420 Bradenton, FL 34205

Woodstock

Woodstock - CT1125 Route 198 Town of Woodstock, Windham County, Connecticut

Prepared By:



11 Herbert Drive Latham, New York 12110

Infinigy Project # 226-064

Site Report Issued: March 11, 2011

Executive Summary

Facility: NAT/Woodstock

Route 198, Town of Woodstock, Windham County, Connecticut 06282

Infinigy Project #226-064

Infinigy Engineering PLLC (*Infinigy*) was retained by North Atlantic Towers, LLC to complete an environmental screening of the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Special Interest Items outlined in 47 CFR 1.1307 (a)(1) through (8). The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Screen Report, (NEPA Screening) contained here within satisfies the Communications Commission (FCC) in 47 CFR 1.1307, and general industry standards.

Infinigy has completed the NEPA Screening for the proposed North Atlantic Towers, LLC telecommunication project site known as NAT/Woodstock, located on Route 198 in the Town of Woodstock, Windham County, Connecticut. The Subject Property consists of a 100' x 100' lease area and associated access road situated on two contiguous parent parcels which, together comprise ±150.69 acres of land along the west side of Route 198 in the Town of Woodstock, Windham County, Connecticut. The parent parcels are identified as Tax Map Parcels Section 5789, Lot 37, Blocks 24 and 26-1 on the current official tax map of the Town of Woodstock, and are owned by Thomas F. Harvey, Kevin J. Reagan and Paul B. Dinwoodie. The proposed telecommunication facility to be constructed on the Subject Property will consist of a 150-foot monopole-style tower and associated ground level equipment cabinets/shelters, within a 75' x 75' fenced equipment compound. The Subject Property is located approximately 0.69 miles north of the intersection of Bigelow Hollow Road and Eastford Road, and will be accessed from Route 198 via a proposed gravel access road. For the purposes of this report, the Subject Property is limited to the proposed North Atlantic Towers lease area and access road.

Based upon the findings of the attached National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Checklist, NEPA Summary Report and associated documentation for the above referenced site, it appears that the proposed installation will not adversely impact any of the criteria as outlined in 1.1307(a) items (1) through (8) and preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) is not required.

This report was completed according to the terms and conditions authorized by North Atlantic Towers, LLC. There are no intended or unintended third party beneficiaries to this report, unless specifically named. *Infinigy* is an independent contractor, not an employee of either the property owner or the project proponent, and its compensation was not based on the findings or recommendations made in the report or on the closing of any business transaction. Note that the findings of this report are based on the project specifications provided to *Infinigy* described in this report. In the event that the design or location of the installation changes, please contact *Infinigy* as additional review and/or consultation may be required.

We appreciate the opportunity to assist you with this project. Please feel free to contact our office at (518) 690-0790 if you have any questions or if we may be of further assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Infinigy Engineering PLLC

Lisa Isabella

SHPO/TPHO Compliance Coordinator

Mark Kiburz, CPESC, PWS-IT

Wetland Ecologist

John L. Favreau, CHMM

Director of Environmental Services

Appendix A – NEPA Checklist

Appendix B - FCC NEPA Summary Report

Appendix C - Figures, Drawings, and Maps

Appendix D - SHPO Correspondence

Appendix E – Tribal Correspondence

Appendix F – Land Capability Map

Appendix G – Federal/State/Local Correspondence and Supporting Documents

Appendix H – National Wetland Inventory and USGS Soil Survey Maps

Appendix I – FEMA Floodplain Maps

NEPA Land Use Screening Checklist Infinigy Site Type: Site ID: NAT/Woodstock Engineering **☒** Raw Land **PLLC** Tower Collocation Site Address: Route 198 Other Collocation Woodstock, CT 06282 Tower Replacement FCC NEPA **Consulting Agency** NP Check appropriate boxes below Category Contact Reference No Adverse Potential Exempt form **NPA Applies Document Impact** Adverse Review **Impact** Designated National Park Service Section \times Wilderness US Forest Service 3.4.1 Areas Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Designated National Park Service Section \times Wildlife **US Forest Service** 3.4.1 Preserves **BLM** Threatened or US Fish & Wildlife Section \boxtimes Endangered Service - Field 3.4.2 Species & Office (USFWS) Critical Habitats Historic Places State Historic Section Collocation X Preservation Officer 3.4.3 Agreement (SHPO) applies: SHPO Tribal Historic Consultation Preservation Officer Completed (THPO) Nationwide Agreement Exclusion applies: American Indian Indian Religious Section Collocation $|\mathbf{x}|$ Sites Tribes 3.4.5 Agreement Bureau of Indian applies: Tribal Affairs Consultation Completed Nationwide Agreement Exclusion applies: Floodplain Federal Emergency Section $|\mathbf{x}|$ Management Agency 3.4.7 (FEMA) Wetland & USFWS NWI Maps Section X Surface US Army Corps of 3.4.8 Engineers (ACOE) Waterways

Signature: _	John L. Tavreau	Company: <u>Infinigy Engineering PLI</u>	<u>.C</u>
Print Name: _	VJOHN L. FAVRENU	Date: 3/11/11	

FCC NEPA Summary Report (47 CFR Subpart I, Chapter I, Sections 1.1301 – 1.1319)

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the basic national charter for protection of the environment, requires all Federal agencies to incorporate environmental considerations into the decision making process. As a licensing agency, the Federal Communications Agency (FCC) requires all of its licensees, such as wireless communication service provider facilities, to review the potential environmental consequences of their proposed actions. The FCC's regulations for implementing NEPA are found at Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1, Subpart I, rule sections 1.1301 to 1.1319.

The FCC NEPA regulations define specific situations under t1.1306 that "categorically exclude" certain undertakings from "environmental processing" all actions except those actions specifically identified and defined under t1.1307. Therefore, it is understood that if a proposed facility project site does not impact one of the listed categories identified in t1.1307, the project is deemed to have *No Significant Impact* and no submission or further action with regard to the FCC is required. However, it is recommended that the client maintain copies of the documentation supporting the finding of No Significant Impact in the event that the information is requested by the FCC (t1.13079).

For applications where it is determined the proposed project may have a significant impact as defined under t1.1308, The FCC's NEPA regulations require license applicants to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) and file the EA with the FCC for review by the FCC Enforcement Division. If, after consulting with all appropriate agencies, the Enforcement Division determines that the proposed project will have significant impact upon the environment, the licensee is given the opportunity to mitigate the environmental effects and amend its original application. If the Environmental Division agrees that the mitigation measures taken eliminate the negative environmental impacts they will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and approve the application.

If the Enforcement Division determines a FONSI is not applicable the applicant must prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under t1.1304.

Pursuant to the FCC's regulations, the NEPA Screening prepared by *Infinigy* provides a determination of whether the proposed telecommunications facility will have a significant impact on the environment and therefore be categorically excluded from further environmental processing or review.

Under FCC NEPA regulation t1.1307, an Environmental Assessment must be prepared for any project site that meets one of the following listed conditions:

- Facility is located in an officially designated wilderness area.
- Facility is located in an officially designated wildlife preserve.
- Facilities that will likely affect listed, threatened or endangered species or designated critical
 habitats; are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed threatened or
 endangered species or designated critical habitats or likely to result in the destruction or
 adverse modification or proposed critical habitats as defined within the Endangered Species
 Act of 1973.

- Facilities that may affect districts, sites, buildings or other structures that are considered significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and engineering or culture that are listed or are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Facilities that may affect religious Indian religious sites.
- Facilities located within a flood plain.
- Facilities that involve significant changes in surface features.
- Antenna towers equipped with high intensity white lights that are located within a residential neighborhood.
- Facilities that may result in human exposure to radiofrequency radiation in excess of the applicable safety standards (t1.1307).

This NEPA Screening Report has been prepared for the proposed telecommunications facility known as NAT/Woodstock and is a summary of the actions undertaken by *Infinigy* to ensure that the proposed NAT telecommunications facility would not significantly impact any of the FCC NEPA items referenced above.

PROJECT SUMMARY

North Atlantic Towers, LLC proposes to construct a telecommunications facility including a 150-foot monopole tower within a 100' x 100' lease area (Subject Property), and gravel access road situated on two contiguous parent parcels comprising ± 150.69 acres of land (Parcel ID: Section 5789 Lot 37 Blocks 24 and 26-1) located along the west side of Route 198 in the Town of Woodstock, Windham County, Connecticut. The parent parcels are owned by Thomas F. Harvey, Kevin J. Reagan and Paul B. Dinwoodie. The Subject Property is located approximately 0.69 miles north of the intersection of Bigelow Hollow Road and Eastford Road. The proposed telecommunications monopole tower and equipment compound are designed to provide space for future carriers' equipment and antenna structures. The Subject Property is limited to the proposed North Atlantic Towers lease area and is located at an elevation of approximately ± 795 feet above mean sea level (AMSL).

The parent parcels consist primarily of rolling and hilly, undeveloped woodlands. A single-family residence is also present on one of the parcels, proximate to Route 198.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

t1.1307 (a) (1) OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED WILDERNESS AREA

According to a review of the Land Resources Map (Appendix C) and the Department of Agriculture's list of wilderness areas (http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=NWPS), the Project Site is not located in an officially designated wilderness area. In addition, according to *Infinigy's* review of available on-line resources, the Project Site is not located in a National Park (www.nps.gov/gis), NPS Interactive Map Center), within a ½ mile of a designated Scenic and Wild River (http://www.rivers.gov/wildriverslist.html), a land area managed by the Bureau of Land Management (www.blm.gov/nhp/facts/index.htm), or within 1 mile of a National Scenic Trail as identified by the National Park Service (http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/nts/nts trails.html).

It is the opinion of *Infinigy* that the proposed project will have no significant impact with regard to this FCC NEPA regulatory item.

t1.1307 (a) (2) OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED WILDLIFE PRESERVE

According to a review of the Department of Interior, Department of Fish and Wildlife Service's New England Field Offices Consultation with Federal Agencies (Section 7) publication

(http://www.fws.gov/newengland/EndangeredSpec-Consultation.htm), the Project Site is not located in an officially designated wildlife preserve. In addition, according to *Infinigy's* review of available on-line resources, the Project Site is not located in a United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge (http://www.fws.gov/refuges/refugeLocatorMaps/index.html).

It is the opinion of *Infinigy* that the proposed project will have no significant impact with regard to this FCC NEPA regulatory item.

t1.1307 (a) (3) <u>LISTED, THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES/DESIGNATED</u> <u>CRITICAL HABITATS</u>

Section 1.1307(a)(3) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §1.1307(a)(3), requires applicants, licensees, and tower owners (Applicants) to consider the impact of proposed facilities under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), 16 U.S.C. s. 1531 et seq. Applicants must determine whether any proposed facilities may affect listed, threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitats, or are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitats. Applicants are also required to notify the FCC and file an environmental assessment if any of these conditions exist.

According to the US Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Services "Service Guidance on the Siting, Construction, Operation and Decommissioning of Communications Towers" the construction of new towers creates a potentially significant impact on migratory birds, especially some 350 species of night-migrating birds. The Guidance document further states that The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712) prohibits the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Department of the Interior. While the Act has no provision for allowing unauthorized take, it must be recognized that some birds may be killed at structures such as communications towers even if all reasonable measures to avoid it are implemented. The Service's Division of Law Enforcement carries out its mission to protect migratory birds not only through investigations and enforcement, but also through fostering relationships with individuals and industries that proactively seek to eliminate their impacts on migratory birds. While it is not possible under the Act to absolve individuals or companies from liability if they follow these recommended guidelines, the Division of Law Enforcement and Department of Justice have used enforcement and prosecutorial discretion in the past regarding individuals or companies who have made good faith efforts to avoid the take of migratory birds.

In an effort to streamline the evaluation process and aid in the siting of proposed facilities, the following voluntary guidelines and recommendations were established:

- 1. Any company/applicant/licensee proposing to construct a new communications tower should be strongly encouraged to collocate the communications equipment on an existing communication tower or other structure (*e.g.*, billboard, water tower, or building mount). Depending on tower load factors, from 6 to 10 providers may collocate on an existing tower.
- 2. If collocation is not feasible and a new tower or towers are to be constructed, communications service providers should be strongly encouraged to construct towers no more than 199 feet above ground level (AGL), using construction techniques which do not require guy wires (*e.g.*, use a lattice structure, monopole, etc.). Such towers should be unlighted if Federal Aviation Administration regulations permit.
- 3. If constructing multiple towers, providers should consider the cumulative impacts of all of those towers to migratory birds and threatened and endangered species as well as the impacts of each individual tower.

- 4. If at all possible, new towers should be sited within existing "antenna farms" (clusters of towers). Towers should not be sited in or near wetlands, other known bird concentration areas (*e.g.*, state or Federal refuges, staging areas, rookeries), in known migratory or daily movement flyways, or in habitat of threatened or endangered species. Towers should not be sited in areas with a high incidence of fog, mist, and low ceilings.
- 5. If taller (>199 feet AGL) towers requiring lights for aviation safety must be constructed, the minimum amount of pilot warning and obstruction avoidance lighting required by the FAA should be used. Unless otherwise required by the FAA, only white (preferable) or red strobe lights should be used at night, and these should be the minimum number, minimum intensity, and minimum number of flashes per minute (longest duration between flashes) allowable by the FAA. The use of solid red or pulsating red warning lights at night should be avoided. Current research indicates that solid or pulsating (beacon) red lights attract night-migrating birds at a much higher rate than white strobe lights. Red strobe lights have not yet been studied.
- 6. Tower designs using guy wires for support which are proposed to be located in known raptor or waterbird concentration areas or daily movement routes, or in major diurnal migratory bird movement routes or stopover sites, should have daytime visual markers on the wires to prevent collisions by these diurnally moving species. (For guidance on markers, see *Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC)*. 1994. Mitigating Bird Collisions with Power Lines: The State of the Art in 1994. Edison Electric Institute, Washington, D.C., 78 pp, and Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC). 1996. Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines. Edison Electric Institute/Raptor Research Foundation, Washington, D.C., 128 pp. Copies can be obtained via the Internet at http://www.eei.org/resources/pubcat/enviro/, or by calling 1-800/334-5453).
- 7. Towers and appendant facilities should be sited, designed and constructed so as to avoid or minimize habitat loss within and adjacent to the tower "footprint". However, a larger tower footprint is preferable to the use of guy wires in construction. Road access and fencing should be minimized to reduce or prevent habitat fragmentation and disturbance, and to reduce above ground obstacles to birds in flight.
- 8. If significant numbers of breeding, feeding, or roosting birds are known to habitually use the proposed tower construction area, relocation to an alternate site should be recommended. If this is not an option, seasonal restrictions on construction may be advisable in order to avoid disturbance during periods of high bird activity.
- 9. In order to reduce the number of towers needed in the future, providers should be encouraged to design new towers structurally and electrically to accommodate the applicant/licensee's antennas and comparable antennas for at least two additional users (minimum of three users for each tower structure), unless this design would require the addition of lights or guy wires to an otherwise unlighted and/or unguyed tower.
- 10. Security lighting for on-ground facilities and equipment should be down-shielded to keep light within the boundaries of the site.
- 11. If a tower is constructed or proposed for construction, service personnel or researchers from the Communication Tower Working Group should be allowed access to the site to evaluate bird use, conduct dead-bird searches, to place net catchments below the towers but above the ground, and to place radar, Global Positioning System, infrared, thermal imagery, and acoustical monitoring equipment as necessary to assess and verify bird movements and to gain information on the impacts of various tower sizes, configurations, and lighting systems.

12. Towers no longer in use or determined to be obsolete should be removed within 12 months of cessation of use.

According to a review of the Department of Interior, Department of Fish and Wildlife Service's New England Field Office Consultation available on-line resources procedures http://www.fws.gov/endangered/ the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) New England Field Office has indicated that Section 7 consultation applicants must follow the following procedure:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) New England Field Office recognizes that individual project review by the Service is not required under certain conditions. The Service provides the following comments in accordance with provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1940 (MBTA) (40 Stat. 755; 16 U.S.C. 703-712), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (16 U.S.C. 668-688d), and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (83 Stat. 852; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*).

Migratory birds are a Federal trust resource and are protected under the MBTA. Communication towers and antennae may pose a hazard to migratory birds in flight and may pose a threat to nesting birds in the vicinity. Risk assessment factors include tower height, physical design, lighting, and site location relative to migratory corridors and bird concentration areas.

The Service has determined that the following proposed actions are not likely to adversely affect Federally-listed species in New Hampshire, nor have any significant impacts on migratory birds or other trust resources:

- Co-location of new equipment and antennae with an existing structure (tower, water tank, large building, etc.) where all ground disturbance occurs within previously disturbed areas and where such activities do not increase the existing height or require the addition of guy wires;
- Routine maintenance of existing tower sites (e.g., painting, antennae replacement); and
- Repair or replacement of existing towers and/or equipment, provided such activities do not increase the existing tower height or require the addition of guy wires.

As of March 11, 2011, the USFWS has no species identified within Windham County classified as endangered (E) or threatened (T).

In accordance with the US FWS New England Field Office website instructions: *Project Review Process for Projects WITH Any Federal Agency Involvement* publication (http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/es/S7.htm), the US Fish and Wildlife Service New England Field Office requests the following process be followed:

- Step 1: Determine whether any listed, proposed, or candidate species (T/E species) are likely to occur within the proposed project action area based on **location** of the proposed project:
- **A.** Choose your county for a list of Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species and List of Extirpated Species.
- **B.** Contact the Connecticut Bureau of Natural Resources (CTBNR) for additional information on Federally- and State-listed species. Please note that the CTBNR provides information on **known** occurrences; this information does not replace field surveys as most project sites have not been previously surveyed specifically for listed species.

If the proposed project occurs in a county with no known listed or candidate species present, no further coordination with the Service is needed. However, until the proposed project is complete, we recommend that you check our species lists every 90 days to ensure that listed species presence/absence information for the proposed project is current.

If the proposed project occurs in a county with known occurrences of T/E species, proceed to Step 2.

Step 2: Determine whether any T/E species are likely to occur within the proposed project area based on the **habitat** present within the proposed project action area.

Review the information we have provided, information from the CTBNR, and any other sources of information available to you to determine types of habitat the species use.

Determine whether your proposed project action area has any potential for listed species habitat (e.g., are trees present - Indiana bats, are wetlands present - Bog turtles). After this initial coarse review, determine whether any more detailed surveys may be appropriate (e.g., Phase 1 survey for Bog turtles).

You will find that survey protocols are available for some species but not for others. Follow the steps provided for each species. If you have any questions regarding species that do not have specific protocols, please contact our office for technical assistance.

If the CTBNR does not identify any listed species for the proposed project AND there is no potential habitat for any listed species within the action area, no further coordination with the Service is required.

The FWS by Town Threatened and Endangered Species in Connecticut report does not indicate Windham county as having known federally protect threatened and endangered species.

Based upon the proposed design (self-supporting monopole) and height (150 feet AGL) it is unlikely that the proposed telecommunications installation would adversely impact migratory bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Endangered Species Act.

Based upon a review of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's map of Natural Diversity Database Areas, the Project Site is not located in an area where known state or federal listed species have been identified or designated significant natural communities are present.

Based upon mapping and conditions observed during *Infinigy's* site visit, it is the opinion of *Infinigy* that the proposed project will have no significant impact with regard to this FCC NEPA regulatory item. Information obtained and reviewed to support this determination is included in Appendix G.

t1.1307 (a) (4) <u>SECTION 106 CONSULATION</u>

In 1966, the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) successfully delegated Section 106 compliance to the individual State Historic Preservation Offices. The NHPA requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of discretionary Undertakings on Historic Properties that are included or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. In March 2005, the FCC adopted the National Programmatic Agreement (NPA) which effectively:

• excludes from Section 106 review certain Undertakings involving the construction and modification of Facilities, and

• streamlines and tailors the Section 106 review process for other Undertakings involving the construction and modification of Facilities.

Undertakings that fall within the Exclusions listed in the NPA III.A through III.F are exempt from Section 106 review by the SHPO/THPO, the FCC and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Thus, these excluded Undertakings shall not be submitted to the SHPO/THPO for review. Determinations that an exemption applies to an Undertaking and the supporting documentation should be retained by the Applicant. The NPA does not require the use of Secretary of Interior qualified staff to determine whether exclusion applies.

If, upon review of the Exclusions listed in the NPA the applicant determines that the proposed telecommunication project does not fall within the Exclusion identified in the NPA, the applicant must initiate the Consultation process as set forth in Section 106 through submission of the appropriate FCC Form 620 (New Tower Construction) or FCC Form 621 (Co-location).

Infinigy reviewed the proposed project plans against the Exclusions of the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement Regarding the Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act review process (NPA). *Infinigy* concluded that the proposed tower construction does not meet any of the Exclusions listed in Section III of the NPA. Therefore, consultation with the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism Office (SHPO) was required.

On August 2 and 3, 2010, Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage) Performed an evaluation of the proposed project site for the likelihood of containing archaeological resources. According to the report prepared by Heritage, dated September 14, 2010, the findings concluded that:

No archaeological sites, historic districts or properties listed in the National Register of
Historic Places are located within a 0.5-mile radius of the proposed project area. It is the
professional opinion of Heritage Consultants, LLC that the proposed undertaking will have no
effect on historic properties.

Infinigy submitted project plans, the results of the archaeological studies, and a request for comment on FCC Form 620 to the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on November 9, 2010. Based upon review of project information and the findings of the archaeological evaluation conducted by Heritage, it is the opinion of the Connecticut SHPO that the proposed telecommunications facility will have no adverse effect on architectural or archaeological resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, as documented in its letter dated December 16, 2010.

In the unlikely event that unanticipated Historic Properties, cultural artifacts, archeological deposits, or human remains are inadvertently encountered during the proposed construction and associated excavation activities, North Atlantic Towers must halt activities immediately and contact the appropriate local officials and state agencies, in accordance with Federal and State regulations (36 CFR 800.13(b)).

t1.1307 (a) (5) INDIAN RELIGIOUS SITES

Based on the requirements of the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement Regarding the Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act Review Process (NPA), applicants must demonstrate "good faith efforts' to identify and Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian Organization (NHO) that attaches religious or cultural significance to Historic Properties that may be affected by the Undertaking. As stated within the FCC regulations, use the of FCC's Tower Construction Notification System (TCNS) to initiate consultation with Indian Tribes and NHO's, "shall constitute a reasonable and good faith effort with respect to ensuring Section 106 compliance *Infinigy* determined that Tribal and NHO Consultation

was required for this project because the proposed tower construction did not meet Exclusions A, B, C or F of the NPA.

Infinigy submitted documentation regarding the proposed project to the FCC's Tower Construction Notification System (TCNS). On April 2, 2010 the FCC's TCNS sent the project information to Tribes listed on their database who have interest in the state in which the project is planned. Additionally, *Infinigy* submitted follow-up requests for comment to each of the Tribes indicated by the TCNS to have a potential interest in the area of the project.

Tribal communication to date for this project is summarized in the following table.

Tribe Name	Initial Notification	Response to Initial Contact	Second Contact	Response to Second	Recommended Action
	(via TCNS)		Attempt	Attempt	
Narragansett	07/30/2010	7/28/2010	7/29/10 mailed	9/27/2010	No Further
Indian Tribe		initiated formal	informoration	mailed out	Action
		consultation	for review	tribal fee;	
				reminder email	
				sent 10/28/10;	
				10 day letter	
				sent 11/5/2010;	
				12/20/10 sent	
				email request;	
				as of 3/11/11,	
				no response	
				received.	
Mashantucket	07/30/2010	8/11/2010 no	n/a	n/a	No Further
Pequot Tribe		knowledge of			Action
		historic properties			

In the unlikely event that unanticipated Historic Properties, cultural artifacts, archeological deposits, or human remains are inadvertently encountered during the proposed construction and associated excavation activities, Florida Tower Partners must halt activities immediately and contact the appropriate tribal governments, local officials and state agencies, in accordance with Federal and State regulations (36 CFR 800.13(b)).

It is the opinion of *Infinigy* that the proposed project will have no significant impact with regard to this FCC NEPA regulatory item.

Correspondence between *Infinigy* and the Tribes, including copies of the Tower Construction Notification System emails, follow-up correspondence, and Tribal responses are appended to this Report (Appendix E).

t1.1307 (a) (6) <u>FEMA 100 YEAR FLOODPLAIN</u>

Executive Order (EO) 11988 states that "each agency has a responsibility to evaluate the potential effects of any actions it may take in a floodplain; to ensure that its planning programs and budget request reflect consideration of flood hazards and floodplain management". Furthermore, EO 11988 Section 6 defines a "base flood" and "floodplain" as follows:

- The term "base flood" shall mean that flood which has a one percent or greater chance of occurrence in any given year.
- The term "floodplan" shall mean the lowland and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and

coastal waters, including flood prone areas of offshore islands, including at a minimum, that area subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.

In compliance with FCC 1.1307, *Infinigy* evaluated the potential that the proposed telecommunication facility would be located within the 100 year flood plain through a review of the USGS topographic map associated with the area of the Subject Property, and US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mapping information.

According to the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map, Community Map Number 0901200015B and 0901200021B for the Town of Woodstock, County of Windham, Connecticut, (attached as Appendix H), the Subject Property is not located within a 100-year floodplain.

It is the opinion of *Infinigy* that the proposed project will have no significant impact with regard to this FCC NEPA regulatory item.

t1.1307 (a) (7) IMPACTS TO SURFACE FEATURES

It is *Infinigy's* opinion that no documented or potential wetlands are located at or within a 100-foot radius of the proposed tower location based upon the following facts:

- Limited or no hydric vegetation was observed at the tower site. Additionally, no surface water was observed at the proposed tower site.
- According to a review of the United States Fish and Wildlife National Wetlands Inventory Wetlands Mapper (information available online at http://wetlandsfws.er.usgs.gov/imf/imf.jsp?site=NWI_CONUS), no mapped wetlands are located at or within close proximity to the proposed tower site (Appendix H).
- According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey (WSS) website (http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/) the dominant soil composition in the vicinity of the Subject Property is classified as Charlton-Chatfield complex (73C) soil series (Appendix H).
- Charlton-Chatfield complex (73C) consists of well-drained soils formed in coarse-loamy melt-out till derived from granite and/or schist and/or gneiss.

The Subject Property is located at an elevation of approximately ± 795 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). The remainder of the parent parcel includes approximately ± 150 acres of undeveloped forested land, with a single-family residence located proximate to Route 198. The Subject Property is generally characterized as an undeveloped wooded portion of the parent parcel with access from Route 198, via a portion of an existing driveway (which serves the single-family residence) and a proposed gravel access road. The overall topography of the surrounding area consists of hilly terrain.

Based on the findings of a wetland delineation conducted by *Infinigy* during September 2010, a stream and associated wetland are present along a portion of the proposed telecommunications facility access route. No other surface waters or wetlands were identified on the Subject Property or proposed access route.

Wetlands within the State of Connecticut are regulated by both state and federal regulatory authorities. In October 2010, *Infinigy* contacted the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to determine the ACOE's desired approach for permitting of the proposed project. It is our understanding that the project, as currently proposed, will meet the requirements of the joint State of Connecticut and ACOE Category 1 Programmatic General Permit for wetland disturbance. *Infinigy* received correspondence

from the ACOE on February 11, 2011 indicating its concurrence with our determination. Final permitting requirements for the proposed project will be determined by the Connecticut Siting Council.

Based upon the plans provided, as proposed the installation will not involve the removal of a significant amount of mature trees or the destruction of protected endangered habitat, therefore, the project will not result in deforestation. According to the proposed plans, surface water body diversion will not occur.

It is the opinion of *Infinigy* that the proposed project will have no significant impact with regard to this FCC NEPA regulatory item.

t1.1307 (a) (8) HIGH INTENSITY WHITE LIGHTS/RESIDENTIAL ZONING

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires the use of high intensity lights on towers over 499 feet above ground surface as part of aviation avoidance marking. Towers that are less than 499 feet above ground level are not required to be equipped with high intensity lights.

According to client representatives and site plans, the proposed installation is less than 499 feet above ground level and will not include high intensity white lights or be located in a residential neighborhood.

Based upon the information provided by North Atlantic Towers, it is the opinion of *Infinigy* that the proposed project will have no significant impact with regard to this FCC NEPTA regulatory item.

t1.1307 (a) (9) HUMAN RADIO FREQUENCY (RF) EXPOSURE

9a. Will the antenna structure equal or exceed total power (of all channels) of 2000 Watts ERP (3280 EIRP) and have antenna located less than 10 meters above the ground?

According to client representatives and site plans, the proposed installation will not include antennas located less than 10 meters above the ground and is therefore categorically excluded from additional RF compliance showings.

Based on information provided by North Atlantic Towers, LLC it is the opinion of *Infinigy* that the proposed project will have no significant impact with regard to his FCC NEPA regulatory item.



11 Herbert Drive Latham, New York 12110

NATURAL DIVERSITY DATA BASE MAP

CLIENT NAME: North Atlantic Towers SITE LOCATION: Route 198 Woodstock, CT

PROJECT NAME: Woodstock

PROJECT NO.: 226-064

Natural Diversity Data Base Areas

WOODSTOCK, CT

December 2010



State and Federal Listed Species & Significant Natural Communities



NOTE: This map shows general locations of State and Federal Listed Species and Significant Natural Communities, Information on listed species is collected and compiled by the Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) from a number of data sources. Exact locations of species have been buffered to produce the general locations. Exact locations of species and communities occur somewhere in the shaded areas, not necessarily in the center.

This map is intended for use as a preliminary screening tool for conducting a Natural Diversity Data Base Review Request. To use the map, locate the project boundaries and any additional affected areas. If the project is within a shaded area; or overlapping a lake, pond or wetland that has shading; or upstream or downstream (by less than 1/2 mile) from a shaded area, the project may have a potential conflict with a listed species. For more information, complete a Request for Natural Diversity Data Base State Listed Species Review form (DEP-APP-007), and submit it to the NDDB along with the required maps and information. More detailed instructions are provided with the request form on the DEP website.

To view street labels, use the PDF Layers tab on the left. Expand the Layers and use the "eye" icons to change visibility.

QUESTIONS: DEP. Bureau of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division Phone (860) 424-3011 www.ct.gov/dep/nddbrequest

