

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FORM

ZION NATIONAL PARK

Project: Proposed Right-of-Way and Installation of a Verizon Wireless Cell Tower

Date: February 28, 2017

Zion NEPA Number: 2016-01

PEPC Project Number: 60937

Description of Action: Verizon is seeking authorization to construct a cellular facility near the Zion Canyon Visitor Center. The facility would be a stealth structure built to match the existing structures in the area (restrooms, VC). The antennas would be fully concealed inside the structure.

The specifics of the design are shown in the attached drawings and photo simulation. The building has two sections: (1) 18 X 18 feet square, 17 feet 7 inches tall, with a structure on top of that building (resembling the cooling towers on the restrooms and VC) to hide and hold the antenna about 12 X 12 feet square, the total building height is 36 feet 5 inches; (2) the other section is 12 feet X 11 feet 4 inches, and is 13 feet 9 inches tall. The entire building is just under 461 square feet. The larger section of the building with the tower would hold the HVAC (mounted on the outside of the building), battery pack, cell tower with antennas, and other computer equipment. The smaller section would hold a propane powered back-up generator for emergencies. Please refer to the attached drawings and photo simulation. There would be a propane tank located to the south of the building. The tank would be surrounded by a 10 foot wide X 18 feet long by 6 foot tall stone veneer wall with an access gate for filling the tank. (refer to plan drawings)

The structure would need to have electricity and fiber optic cable to operate. Refer to Environmental Screening Form 2016-35-ROW for So. Central_Rocky Mountain Power for the analysis to provide utilities to the Verizon site.

The project would take about 1 month to build and construction would be coordinated with the park to off peak visitation times. Once operational the site will enhance cell coverage for both the park and visitors. The site will be designed as a HUB, which means that in the future Verizon would be able to connect very small remote antennas in areas such as Headquarters and the EOC. These remote antennas would connect back to the HUB location via fiber optic lines greatly increasing the ability to provide coverage to a wider area with minimal visual impact.

Access to and from the facilities for maintenance and repairs would be on the existing dirt road the park uses to access the restrooms. The right-of-way would be 1,250 square feet and would last for 10 years with the potential for renewal.

Rationale:

This proposed action is located in the 2001 GMP Frontcountry High Development Zone. This zone provides visitors with highly structured opportunities to enjoy and learn about the park by means of motorized, primary roads. Visitors feel as though they are in a pocket of civilization surrounded by the park's natural beauty. The experience is highly social. Both natural process and natural landscapes are highly modified.

Visitor Experience. Visitors view the park landscape from the relative comfort of motor vehicles and highly developed facilities. Transportation, lodging, camping, orientation/information, and a wide variety of other services are readily available to help visitors learn about and enjoy the park's resources. Visitors feel secure in a developed environment. Because of the close proximity of facilities and services, visitors do not need to have a high degree of self-reliance or outdoor skills. Travel occurs mainly along primary or secondary roads or on walkways connecting facilities.

Management. Most management actions focus on maintaining facilities and providing high quality visitor experiences, with a secondary focus on mitigating impacts from human use. Actions that may be taken to manage visitors include: directing or limiting use via signs, fences, or pathways; educating visitors; and encouraging behaviors that protect resources and maintain visitor safety.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities and Development. Visitors can participate in a wide variety of highly structured and facility-dependent recreational activities. These activities revolve mainly around going to the visitor center enjoying motorized sightseeing, and camping in a developed campground or staying overnight in a lodge. The greatest variety of park-appropriate development is found in the frontcountry high development zone. Additionally, the greatest number and highest concentration of facilities are found here. This is the only zone where full-service visitor centers and developed campgrounds may occur. Other types of appropriate visitor facilities may include focused visitor facilities, paved or hardened walkways, nature trails and river put-in or take-out sites, restrooms, developed picnic areas, and interpretive facilities. Several other types of developments, including corrals, barns, entrance stations, utility lines, irrigation systems, diversion dams, and other structures associated with park operations and maintenance, may be permitted in this zone.

Project Location: Near Visitor Center

County: Washington **State:** UT

Mitigation:

- No outside lighting, on the building or free standing, will be allowed.
- Construction zones would be identified and fenced with construction tape, or some similar material prior to any construction activity. The fencing would define the construction zone and confine activity to the minimum area required for construction. Protection measures would be clearly stated in the construction specifications and workers would be instructed to avoid conducting activities beyond construction as defined by construction zone fencing.
- To avoid compaction from heavy equipment to surrounding areas, to the extent practicable, equipment would be kept inside the construction footprint. Equipment would be located outside of the construction footprint, when necessary, only when soil is dry. Compacted soils would be "ripped" or decompacted post-construction to enable revegetation.
- Revegetation and recontouring of disturbed areas would take place following construction and would be designed to minimize the visual intrusion of structures. Revegetation efforts would strive to reconstruct the natural spacing, abundance, and diversity of native plant species using native plants and seeds. Contractors would coordinate with Zion natural resources staff at least 4 weeks prior to construction to determine if plants within the construction area may be salvaged and used for restoration. Zion has its own native plant nursery where plants are grown and used to replenish park areas where native species have been damaged or destroyed. All disturbed areas would be restored as nearly as possible to pre-construction conditions shortly after construction activities are completed.
- Weed control methods would be implemented and monitored to minimize the introduction of noxious weeds, including spraying off construction equipment that enters the park.
- Because disturbed soils are susceptible to erosion, until revegetation takes place, standard erosion control measures (such as silt fences and/or sandbags) would be utilized to minimize potential soil erosion. BMPs would be implemented to minimize erosion leading to sedimentation in drainage areas. Organic mulches, such as straw bales, would not be used due to the risk of introducing exotic weeds.
- Fugitive dust generated by construction activities and equipment would be controlled by wetting the construction site, when necessary.
- To reduce noise and air emissions, construction equipment would not be permitted to idle for long periods of time.
- To minimize possible petrochemical leaks from construction equipment, contractors would regularly monitor and check construction equipment to identify and repair any leaks. Equipment must be free of any fluid leaks (fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid, etc.) upon arrival to the work site and will be inspected at the beginning of each shift for leaks. Leaking equipment will be removed off site for necessary repairs before the commencement of work.
- Spill containment kits and fire extinguishers shall be on-site at all times during any construction activities.

- The contractor shall submit a safety plan to the Park Safety Officer prior to commencement of work. Safety plan shall demonstrate compliance with OSHA and other applicable safety laws. It shall include an emergency safety plan and shall list contractor points of contact.
- Hard hats, safety vests, eye protection and other personal protective gear, as needed, shall be worn at all times when within the construction zone.
- Should construction unearth previously undiscovered cultural resources, work would be stopped in the area of any discovery and Zion would consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), as necessary, according to 36 CFR Section 800.13, *Post Review Discoveries*. In the unlikely event that human remains are discovered during construction, provisions outlined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 would be followed.
- Since the access road is used by the NPS, it must be kept open at all times to allow entry to the Visitor Center Restrooms, etc.
- Motorized equipment associated with the site (HVAC, generators, etc) must not "...exceed a noise level of 60 decibels measured on the A-weighted scale at 50 feet:..."
- Extra care should be taken during trenching operations to ensure that roots of nearby trees are not damaged.
- The project shall include a pre-construction meeting and a final inspection meeting, in addition to regularly scheduled project meetings and site visits.
- During construction, silt fencing shall be installed in appropriate areas around the work site to insure minimal run-off and siltation of the adjacent river.
- To minimize the amount of ground disturbance, staging and stockpiling areas shall be located in previously disturbed sites, away from visitor use areas to the greatest extent possible. All staging and stockpiling areas shall be returned to pre-construction conditions following construction.
- Staging and parking for vehicles, equipment and materials shall be confined to paved overlooks and parking areas. Other areas utilized shall be only as designated approved by the local Resource Management Specialist
- Provide temporary barriers to protect existing trees, plants, and root zones.
- To minimize potential impacts to park visitors, variations on construction timing may be considered.
- One option includes conducting the majority of the work in the offseason (winter) or shoulder seasons. Another option includes implementing daily construction activity curfews, such as not operating construction equipment between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. in the summer months (May through September), and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. in the winter months (October through April). The NPS would determine the construction schedule in consultation with the contractor.
- Additional mitigation / stipulations as part of the right-of-way permit.

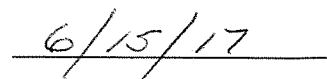
CE Citation: C. 18. Construction of minor structures, including small improved parking lots in previously disturbed or developed areas.

Decision: I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NPEA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

Superintendent:



Date:



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)
(Form Revised for FY2016)

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| A. PROJECT INFORMATION | |
| Park Name: | Zion National Park |
| ZION NEPA# 2016-01 | PEPC#60937 |
| Project Originator: | Kezia Nielsen |
| Project Title: | Proposed Right-of-Way and Installation of a Verizon Wireless Cell Tower |
| Contract # and Contractor Name: | |
| Administrative Record Location: | Resource Management and Research – NEPA folder FY2016 |
| Administrative Record Contact: | Kezia Nielsen – Environmental Protection Specialist |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| <p>B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION/LOCATION [Describe the proposed action and why it is needed. Include the location of the project, map of the project area, area that will be disturbed (linear feet, square feet, acres, etc.), duration of project, time of year the project is proposed to take place, tools needed to accomplish work, number of people needed to accomplish work, who will do the work (contract, NPS, etc.), and any other pertinent information the specialists will need to analyze the impacts of the action.]</p> <p>Verizon is seeking authorization to construct a cellular facility near the Zion Canyon Visitor Center. The facility would be a stealth structure built to match the existing structures in the area (restrooms, VC). The antennas would be fully concealed inside the structure.</p> <p>The specifics of the design are shown in the attached drawings and photo simulation. The building has two sections: (1) 18 X 18 feet square, 17 feet 7 inches tall, with a structure on top of that building (resembling the cooling towers on the restrooms and VC) to hide and hold the antenna about 12 X 12 feet square, the total building height is 36 feet 5 inches; (2) the other section is 12 feet X 11 feet 4 inches, and is 13 feet 9 inches tall. The entire building is just under 461 square feet. The larger section of the building with the tower would hold the HVAC (mounted on the outside of the building), battery pack, cell tower with antennas, and other computer equipment. The smaller section would hold a propane powered back-up generator for emergencies. Please refer to the attached drawings and photo simulation. There would be a propane tank located to the south of the building. The tank would be surrounded by a 10 foot wide X 18 feet long by 6 foot tall stone veneer wall with an access gate for filling the tank. (refer to plan drawings)</p> <p>The structure would need to have electricity and fiber optic cable to operate. Refer to Environmental Screening Form 2016-35-ROW for So. Central_Rocky Mountain Power for the analysis to provide utilities to the Verizon site.</p> <p>The project would take about 1 month to build and construction would be coordinated with the park to off peak visitation times. Once operational the site will enhance cell coverage for both the park and visitors. The site will be designed as a HUB, which means that in the future Verizon would be able to connect very small remote antennas in areas such as Headquarters and the EOC. These remote antennas would connect back to the HUB location via fiber optic lines greatly increasing the ability to provide coverage to a wider area with minimal visual impact.</p> <p>Access to and from the facilities for maintenance and repairs would be on the existing dirt road the park uses to access the restrooms. The right-of-way would be 1,250 square feet and would last for 10 years with the potential for renewal.</p> | |
| Date form initiated: | September 22, 2015 |
| Date anticipated compliance completion: | October 15, 2015 |
| Date anticipated construction/project start: | |

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <p>B. POTENTIAL AFFECTED RESOURCES – For those resources that may be impacted, describe the issues and potential impacts in the appropriate boxes below. Refer to NPS NEPA Handbook, Section 4.2.D.</p> | <p>Potential Effect – None</p> | <p>Potential Effect – Potential</p> | <p>If there is a Potential Effect, Describe and Analysis the Impacts Below – identify the specific resource affected, explain the issue, and the potential impacts</p> |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|

| B. POTENTIAL AFFECTED RESOURCES – For those resources that may be impacted, describe the issues and potential impacts in the appropriate boxes below. Refer to NPS NEPA Handbook, Section 4.2.D. | Potential Effect – None | Potential Effect – Potential | If there is a Potential Effect, Describe and Analysis the Impacts Below – identify the specific resource affected, explain the issue, and the potential impacts |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| AIR | | | |
| Air Quality | | X | Minor potential for fugitive dust during construction that could be mitigated with watering. |
| BIOLOGICAL | | | |
| Nonnative or Exotic Species Consider: the introduction or promotion of nonnative or exotic species | | X | Although ground disturbance is minimal it has potential to promote nonnative species. |
| Wildlife Species of Special Concern or their Habitat Consider: state listed, federal listed threatened or endangered, candidate, species proposed for listing, designated or proposed critical habitat, essential fish habitat | | X | “There is a growing level of anecdotal evidence linking effects of non-thermal, non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation from communication towers on nesting and roosting wild birds and other wildlife in the U.S.” (see DOI letter 2/7/2014) |
| Plant Species of Special Concern or their Habitat Consider: state listed, federal listed threatened or endangered, candidate, species proposed for listing, designated or proposed critical habitat | X | | |
| Vegetation Consider: mature forest, grasslands, rare, unusual vegetation | | X | Minimal and area has been disturbed previously and not unique vegetation found at the site. |
| Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species Consider: unique or important species/wildlife habitat, unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites, rare or unusual vegetation | | X | “There is a growing level of anecdotal evidence linking effects of non-thermal, non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation from communication towers on nesting and roosting wild birds and other wildlife in the U.S.” (see DOI letter 2/7/2014) |
| CULTURAL | | | |
| Archeological Resources | X | | |
| Cultural resources | X | | |
| Ethnographic Resources | X | | |
| Museum Collections Consider: objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections | X | | |
| Prehistoric/Historic Structures | X | | |
| GEOLOGICAL | | | |
| Geologic Features Consider: soils, caves, paleontological, geothermal and hydrothermal | | X | Soil disturbance during construction of about 1,000 ft ² and lasting disturbance for the structural foot print of about 500 ft ² . This area has been previously disturbed. Subsurface disturbance for running power and fiber optic cable would also occur but is not quantified at this time. This would also occur predominantly in |

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|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | | | areas of previous disturbance. |
| Geologic Processes Consider: shorelines, barrier islands, karst, geologic hazards | | X | The proposed sites are within the 100-year floodplain. During such a flood, flow would be shallow and velocities low in this area. |
| LIGHTSCAPES | | | |
| Lightscares | X | | No lighting is proposed for the outside of the structure. |
| OTHER | | | |
| Human Health and Safety | X | | |
| Other | X | | |
| SCIOECONOMIC | | | |
| Land Use | X | | |
| Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc. | X | | |
| Socioeconomics | X | | |
| SOUNDSCAPES | | | |
| Soundscapes | | X | The visitor center is a very noisy area (shuttles, parking area, vehicles, people), adding noise from the building construction will worsen visitors ability to experience the sounds of nature. Once the construction is completed, the noise producing elements of the structure include a propane powered generator, and two electric powered HVAC units. The generator will only run when electric power is not available and for maintenance. The generator will be housed in a concrete room that will help lessen the adverse impact. The HVAC units will be installed on the outside of the building. Noise from these units will be audible whenever they are running. The park will work with Verizon to help mitigate noise from these appliances (purchasing and installing the quietest units on the market, planting vegetation to help mask the noise, etc.). |
| VIEWSHEDS | | | |
| Viewsheds | | X | The area proposed for the new building and cell tower has experienced considerable disturbance over many years. Currently, the immediate area has a solar panel array, bridge over the Virgin River to a pedestrian entrance station, parking area, and the many structures associated with the visitor center complex. The pedestrian entrance station and visitor center complex were designed in the park rustic style (with native stone and wood timbers, etc.). The building proposed by Verizon is comprised of these same features. The actual cell tower would be inside the building and not seen from the outside. Any new structure has some effect on the viewshed, every effort has been made to mitigate all adverse effects |

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|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | | | of this structure on the viewshed. |
| VISITOR USE AND EXPERIENCE | | | |
| Recreation Resources | X | | |
| Visitor Use and Experience | | X | Currently cell phone coverage is spotty in the area of the visitor center. With the completion of the cell tower cell service will improve dramatically. This will also help the park provide more up-to-date information for visitors, so they can be better prepared. |
| WATER | | | |
| Floodplains | | X | The proposed sites are within the 100-year floodplain. During such a flood, flow would be shallow and velocities low in this area. The presence of the structure would not appreciably encroach on the stream channel or flood plain in a way that is significantly greater than current structures. |
| Stream Characteristics | X | | |
| Water Quality or quantity | X | | |
| Wetlands | X | | |
| WILDERNESS | | | |
| Wilderness | X | | |

| | | | |
|---|------------|-------------------------------|--|
| C. NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT/CRM | | Data entered by: Sarah Horton | |
| | Yes | No | Comment |
| Has the area been surveyed? (If the area has been surveyed please note title of survey and completion date) | X | | |
| Have NRHP resources been identified? (If area has been disturbed in the past, explain or attach additional sheets to describe nature, extent, & intensity of disturbance.) | | X | |
| Ground disturbance involved? | X | | |
| Archeological resources affected? (If present list property name, location, NR status, LCS, Park#) | | X | |
| Historic structures/resources affected? (If present list property name, location, NR status, LCS, Park#) | | X | |
| Cultural landscapes affected? (If present list property name, location, NR status, LCS, Park#) | | X | |
| Ethnographic resources affected? (If present list property name, location, NR status, LCS, Park#) | | X | |
| If yes, interested parties contacted? | | | Date: |
| Questions | Yes | No | Describe Resources/List of Traditionally Associated People(s) |
| Are there any native American sacred or culturally sensitive sites, locales (such as clan gathering or cultural event), or landscapes present in the project area? | | X | |
| Is the location information associated with these sites (such as in caves, contain burials or at the request of the Native American group(s)) considered to be sensitive and/or restricted information? | | X | |
| Have the associated Native American groups been consulted as to the project impacts, if any, to sacred or sensitive sites, locales, or landscapes? | | X | |
| Is implementation of the project likely to disturb human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony, as defined by NAGPRA? | | X | |
| Is an approved plan of action in place to address inadvertent discoveries of human remains, funerary objects, sacred sites, or objects of cultural patrimony? | | X | |
| Will the project result in the intentional excavation of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony? | | x | |
| The proposed action will: (check as many as apply) | Yes | No | |
| Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure. | | X | |
| Replace historic features/elements in kind. | | X | |
| Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure. | | X | |
| Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or elements (including terrain). | | X | |
| Add non-historic features/elements (including visual, audible, atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape. | | X | |

| Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible. | | | X |
|--|--------|--|---|
| Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources. | | | X |
| Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic fabric, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources. | | | X |
| Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, lease of land or structures). | | | X |
| Other: | | | |
| Assessment of Effect | Select | Documentation Method and Explanation [reference programmatic exclusion if appropriate] | |
| No Potential to Cause Effects | | 2008 Servicewide Programmatic Agreement Streamlined Activity III.C.8. Installation of environmental Monitoring Units. The overall footprint of the tower area is relatively small. The proposed access ROW is along an existing access the park currently uses for the VC restrooms. And the overall area has been previously disturbed by construction of the original A Loop of the Watchman Campground in the 1960s, and subsequent construction of the existing Zion Visitor Center. However, any trenching needed for underground utility lines may be monitored by an archaeologist. | |
| No Historic Properties Affected | X | | |
| No Adverse Effect | | | |
| Adverse Effect | | | |
| Undetermined | | | |

| D. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT | | | | Data entered by: Cassie Waters | |
|---|---|--|-----|--|--|
| | | | Yes | No | |
| Any threatened/endangered animal species in area? | | | X | | |
| If species in area: (check one) | | No Effect | | | |
| | X | Not Likely to Adversely Affect | | | |
| | | Likely to Adversely Affect (If checked, consider an EIS) | | | |
| If Biological Assessment prepared - date to FWS: | | | | | |
| Date FWS Response: | | | | | |
| Type of Consultation (formal or informal): | | | | | |
| Concurred | | Yes: | | No: | |
| Any State listed species in project area? | | Yes: X | | Notes on consultation: | |
| Could migratory birds be affected by the proposed action? | | Yes: X | | Explain: "There is a growing level of anecdotal evidence linking effects of non-thermal, non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation from communication towers on nesting and roosting wild birds and other wildlife in the U.S." (see DOI letter 2/7/2014) | |
| | | | | No: | |

| D. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT | | | | Data entered by: Laura Schrage | |
|--|--|--|-----|--------------------------------|--|
| | | | Yes | No | |
| Any threatened/endangered plant species in area? | | | | X | |
| If species in area: (check one) | | No Effect | | | |
| | | Not Likely to Adversely Affect | | | |
| | | Likely to Adversely Affect (If checked, consider an EIS) | | | |
| If Biological Assessment prepared - date to FWS: | | | | | |
| Date FWS Response: | | | | | |
| Type of Consultation (formal or informal): | | | | | |
| Concurred | | Yes: | | No: | |
| Any State listed species in project area? | | Yes: | | Notes on consultation: | |
| | | | | No:X | |

| | | | |
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| E. FLOODPLAINS/WETLANDS/§404 PERMITS | | Data entered by: David Sharrow | |
| | | Yes | No |
| Is the project in 100- or 500-year floodplain, flashflood hazard area? | X | Exempt from compliance with EO or statement of findings date: The proposed structure would be in the 100-year floodplain. Its character and location are consistent with the extent of facilities evaluated and approved in the Floodplains Statement of Findings in the ZION GMP, dated 5-2001. The presence of the proposed structure would not appreciably alter floodplain function more than existing structures in the area. | |
| Is project in wetland? | | Exempt from compliance with EO or statement of findings date: | X |
| COE Section 404 permit needed? | | Date issued: | X |
| State 401 certification? | | | X |
| State Section 401 permit? | | Date issued: | X |
| Erosion & sediment control plan required? | X | | |
| Any other permits required? | | Provide permit information: | X |

| | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------|----------------|
| F. OTHER LAWS | | Data entered by: Kezia Nielsen | |
| | | Yes | No |
| A. Does this project occur in or adjacent to designated, recommended, proposed, study, eligible, or potential wilderness? | | | X |
| B. Is the only place to conduct this project in wilderness? | | | X |
| C. Is the project necessary for the administration of the area as wilderness? | | | X |
| D. Would the project or any of its alternatives adversely affect (directly or indirectly) the wilderness character of designated, recommended, proposed, study, eligible, or potential wilderness? (if yes, minimum requirement analysis is required) | | | X |
| E. Does the project or any of its alternatives involve the use of any of the Wilderness Act Section 4(c) prohibited uses: commercial enterprise, permanent road, temporary road, motor vehicles, motorized equipment, motorboats, landing of aircraft, mechanical transport, structure, or installation? (if yes, minimum requirement analysis is required) | | | X |
| If the answer to the above D or E is YES then a Minimum Requirements Analysis is required. | | Initiation Date: | Approved Date: |
| Does the proposal occur within the bed or bank of a designated Wild and Scenic River? | | | X |
| If yes, answer the questions below. | | | |
| | 1. Is the project proposed in the bed or on the banks of a designated river? | | |
| | 2. Is the project proposed by a federal agency or it requires some type of federal assistance such as a permit, license, grant or loan? | | |
| If Yes to both conditions then a determination is required under Section 7 (see attached). | | | |
| OR | 1. Is the project proposed in the bed or on the banks of the river below, above or on a stream tributary to a designated river? | | |
| | 2. Is the project proposed by a federal agency or is some type of federal assistance such as a permit, license, grant or loan required? | | |
| | 3. Is the project likely to result in effects within a designated river? | | |
| Is Yes to all of the above conditions than a determination is required under Section 7 (see attached). | | | |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| | If a Section 7 determination was completed, dated completed: | | |
| | Summarize the effects of the proposed activity on the river's free-flowing condition: | | |
| | Summarize effects of the proposed activity on the river's water quality: | | |
| | Summarize any effects on the ORVs for which the river was designated: | | |
| | What is the Determination: | | |
| Will the proposal affect the river's outstanding remarkable values? | | | X |
| If YES explain | | | |
| National Trails concerns? | | | X |
| Air Quality consultation w/State? | | | X |
| Consistent w/Architectural Barriers, Rehabilitation, and Americans with Disabilities Acts? | | | X |
| Other: | | | X |

| | | | |
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| G. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT | | Data entered by: Kezia Nielsen | |
| X | CE Citation: C. 18. Construction of minor structures, including small improved parking lots, in previously disturbed or developed areas. | | |

| H. EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES | | | |
|--|-----|----|-------|
| If an extraordinary circumstances apply, you may not use a CE. In such circumstances you must either modify or mitigate the proposed action so that extraordinary circumstances no longer apply, or prepare and EA or EIS (46.205). | | | |
| If implemented, would the proposal: | Yes | No | Notes |
| A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety? | | X | |
| B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas? | | X | |
| C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))? | | X | |
| D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? | | X | |
| E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? | | X | |
| F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects? | | X | |
| G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either bureau or office? | | X | |
| H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species? | | X | |
| I. Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?* | | X | |
| J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low-income or minority populations (EO 12898)? | | X | |
| K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)? | | X | |
| L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)? | | X | |

I. MITIGATING MEASURES:

- No outside lighting, on the building or free standing, will be allowed.
- Construction zones would be identified and fenced with construction tape, or some similar material prior to any construction activity. The fencing would define the construction zone and confine activity to the minimum area required for construction. Protection measures would be clearly stated in the construction specifications and workers would be instructed to avoid conducting activities beyond construction as defined by construction zone fencing.
- To avoid compaction from heavy equipment to surrounding areas, to the extent practicable, equipment would be kept inside the construction footprint. Equipment would be located outside of the construction footprint, when necessary, only when soil is dry. Compacted soils would be “ripped” or decompacted post-construction to enable revegetation.
- Revegetation and recontouring of disturbed areas would take place following construction and would be designed to minimize the visual intrusion of structures. Revegetation efforts would strive to reconstruct the natural spacing, abundance, and diversity of native plant species using native plants and seeds. Contractors would coordinate with Zion natural resources staff at least 4 weeks prior to construction to determine if plants within the construction area may be salvaged and used for restoration. Zion has its own native plant nursery where plants are grown and used to replenish park areas where native species have been damaged or destroyed. All disturbed areas would be restored as nearly as possible to pre-construction conditions shortly after construction activities are completed.
- Weed control methods would be implemented and monitored to minimize the introduction of noxious weeds, including spraying off construction equipment that enters the park.
- Because disturbed soils are susceptible to erosion, until revegetation takes place, standard erosion control measures (such as silt fences and/or sandbags) would be utilized to minimize potential soil erosion. BMPs would be implemented to minimize erosion leading to sedimentation in drainage areas. Organic mulches, such as straw bales, would not be used due to the risk of introducing exotic weeds.
- Fugitive dust generated by construction activities and equipment would be controlled by wetting the construction site, when necessary.
- To reduce noise and air emissions, construction equipment would not be permitted to idle for long periods of time.
- To minimize possible petrochemical leaks from construction equipment, contractors would regularly monitor and check construction equipment to identify and repair any leaks. Equipment must be free of any fluid leaks (fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid, etc.) upon arrival to the work site and will be inspected at the beginning of each shift for leaks. Leaking equipment will be removed off site for necessary repairs before the commencement of work.
- Spill containment kits and fire extinguishers shall be on-site at all times during any construction activities.
- The contractor shall submit a safety plan to the Park Safety Officer prior to commencement of work. Safety plan shall demonstrate compliance with OSHA and other applicable safety laws. It shall include an emergency safety plan and shall list contractor points of contact.
- Hard hats, safety vests, eye protection and other personal protective gear, as needed, shall be worn at all times when within the construction zone.
- Should construction unearth previously undiscovered cultural resources, work would be stopped in the area of any discovery and Zion would consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), as necessary, according to 36 CFR Section 800.13, *Post Review Discoveries*. In the unlikely event that human remains are discovered during construction, provisions outlined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 would be followed.
- Since the access road is used by the NPS, it must be kept open at all times to allow entry to the Visitor Center Restrooms, etc.

- Motorized equipment associated with the site (HVAC, generators, etc) must not "...exceed a noise level of 60 decibels measured on the A-weighted scale at 50 feet:..."
- Extra care should be taken during trenching operations to ensure that roots of nearby trees are not damaged.
- The project shall include a pre-construction meeting and a final inspection meeting, in addition to regularly scheduled project meetings and site visits.
- During construction, silt fencing shall be installed in appropriate areas around the work site to insure minimal run-off and siltation of the adjacent river.
- To minimize the amount of ground disturbance, staging and stockpiling areas shall be located in previously disturbed sites, away from visitor use areas to the greatest extent possible. All staging and stockpiling areas shall be returned to pre-construction conditions following construction.
- Staging and parking for vehicles, equipment and materials shall be confined to paved overlooks and parking areas. Other areas utilized shall be only as designated approved by the local Resource Management Specialist
- Provide temporary barriers to protect existing trees, plants, and root zones.
- To minimize potential impacts to park visitors, variations on construction timing may be considered.
- One option includes conducting the majority of the work in the offseason (winter) or shoulder seasons. Another option includes implementing daily construction activity curfews, such as not operating construction equipment between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. in the summer months (May through September), and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. in the winter months (October through April). The NPS would determine the construction schedule in consultation with the contractor.

J. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORY

| Technical Specialists Names | Field of Expertise | Date Signed |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Sarah Horton /s/ | Cultural Resources | 10/9/15 |
| /s/ Cassie Waters | Wildlife | 10/2/2015 |
| /s/ Laura Schrage | Vegetation | 10/6/2015 |
| David Sharrow /s/ | Physical Resources | 10/15/2015 |
| Kezia Nielsen /s/ | Wilderness Coordinator | 10/15/15 |
| Greg Comer /s/ | Chief Resource Management & Research | 9/29/16 |
| Kezia Nielsen /s/ | NEPA & Planning | 10/15/15 |

K. MANAGEMENT TEAM SIGNATORY

| Management Team Names | Field of Expertise | Date Signed |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Notified by email 10/1/15 – no comments received | Chief of Interpretation | |
| Notified by email 10/1/15 – no comments received | Chief Ranger | |
| /s/ Jack Burns | Concession Management | 10.5.15 |
| /s/Taiga S. Rohrer | Fire Management | 10/6/2015 |
| /s/Matthew MacKay | B&U Foreman(acting) | 10/7/2015 |
| /s/swbelinte | R&T Foreman | 10/19/2015 |
| /s/ DBWebster | Chief of Administration | 10/1/15 |
| /s/ Amnesty Kochanowski | Safety & Occupational Health Manager | 10/6/2015 |

Review of Proposed Verizon Cell Tower at the Visitor Center - By Jim Butterfus 10/8/2015

- The exact location of the structure is a major concern. It needs to be designed so that it does not draw attention and looks like it is an adjacent smaller building that is associated with the comfort station. As it is depicted in the superimposed site photos it looks like it has been dropped out of the sky and it landed somewhat in front and to the northwest side of the comfort station and rotated so as to not line up with other structures. It needs to be closer to the comfort station and more behind it. The building should not

be located in the open area that is in front of the comfort station as this will draw considerable attention to this structure. The building location has been moved to the south and east, so that it is now located to the side and back of the Restrooms.

- Some of the alternatives for the South Entrance Area planning effort that is underway identify that general area as a possible relocated pedestrian entrance area for the park. The building location has been moved to the south and east so that it won't impact future planning for the South Entrance.
- Bringing fiber optic cable to the building will require trenching from the South Entrance/Watchman Campground road intersection to the site for the building. Connecting the building to electricity will most likely require trenching from the Rocky Mountain Power ground sleeve just east of the intersection of the bus shuttle entrance road with the Watchman Campground Road.
- The area impacted by the construction of the building will be several times the overall size of the footprint. A structure of this size and height will most likely require the 5 feet of over excavation similar to other buildings that we have constructed in that area.
- The solar panel array next to the comfort station may have to be moved so that the cell tower does not cast a shadow on it. The tower is situated to not cast a shadow on the solar panel.
- The building has 2 exterior mounted HVAC units which will most likely generate noise. There is also a backup generator inside the building that will also generate noise. The HVAC units will generate noise. The generator has been changed from a gas powered generator to a propane powered generator which is quieter. The generator would also be housed in a building which would dampen the noise.
- There are various utility lines (water, power, communications, and irrigation piping) that are running in that general area that need to be located for future design work for the project.

In conclusion it is possible to put the cell tower in that general area by the comfort station, but it is not as simple as it looks, if we want it to be done correctly and with the least amount of impacts possible.

Review Comments by David Sharrow

- A location near existing structures is preferred over a location nearer the river due to flood hazard concerns. During a 100-year or larger event the area is likely to be inundated with waters of low to moderate velocity. Water velocities will be lower nearer the existing structures because water depths will be less and because the existing structures will act to disrupt the flow patterns. Additionally, a structure closer to the river will disrupt water flow during a flood and has the potential to increase the water depth and velocity in that part of the channel increasing the risk of damage to other structures on park lands and across the river. The location of the structure has been moved south and east of the original location. Which takes it further away from the river and up in elevation, further protecting it from flooding.