

**APPENDIX A**  
**AGENCY COORDINATION**





June 30, 2009

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Raleigh Ecological Services Field Office  
Attn: Mr. Pete Benjamin, Field Supervisor  
P.O. Box 33726  
Raleigh, NC 27636-3726

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Mr. Benjamin:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency

generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

When compared to the existing tower, there will be no change in the color (red), intensity (2,000 candela), or flash rate (20 fpm) of the nighttime FAA obstruction lighting for any of the replacement tower alternatives. Red LED lighting will replace the existing red incandescent nighttime lights. Only an unpainted tower option would require high intensity daytime white strobe lighting. The potential effect of high intensity strobe lighting to daytime sea turtle hatchling emergence on a beach located approximately 0.5 miles away is believed to be less than significant due to the presence of ambient natural lighting including the sun.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is responsible for requesting your assistance and concurrence in our determination, in accordance with Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act, that the Proposed Action is not likely to have an adverse effect on the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat. The Coast Guard has determined that the replacement of the existing 425-ft guyed tower with a 525-ft tall guyed tower equipped with bird flight diverter devices and associated ground support equipment are not major construction activities in accordance with 50 CFR 402.02 and would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The Coast Guard understands that communication towers have been found

June 30, 2009

to present a potential risk from collisions to migratory birds and has considered the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Interim Guidelines for Recommendations on Communications Tower Siting, Construction, Operation, and Decommissioning" to the maximum extent practicable.

Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or [Sherrill.E.Edwards-Owens@uscg.mil](mailto:Sherrill.E.Edwards-Owens@uscg.mil).

Sincerely,



Sherrill E. Edwards-Owens  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Pea Island Wildlife Refuge Office  
Attn: Mr. Mike Bryant, Refuge Manager  
P.O. Box 1969  
Manteo, NC 27954-1969

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Mr. Bryant:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency

June 30, 2009

generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

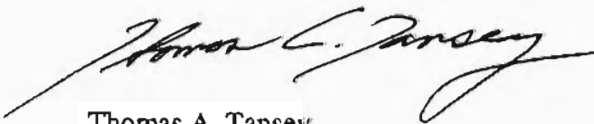
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your agency review the Proposed Action and provide comments and any available information on resources under your agency's jurisdiction within the project area. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or [Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil](mailto:Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil).

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager



June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

U.S. EPA Region 4  
Attn: Mr. Stan Meiburg, Acting Regional Administrator  
61 Forsyth St., SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303-3104

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Mr. Meiburg:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire

June 30, 2009

and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

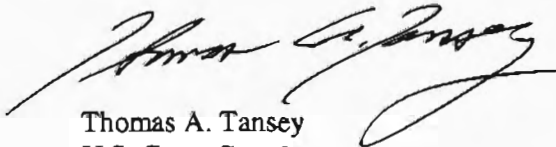
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your agency review the Proposed Action and provide comments and any available information on resources under your agency's jurisdiction within the project area. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or [Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil](mailto:Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil).

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager

June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Washington Field Office  
Attn: Rodney Woolard, District Conservationist  
155C Airport Road  
Washington, NC 27889-9684

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Mr. Woolard:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency

June 30, 2009

generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

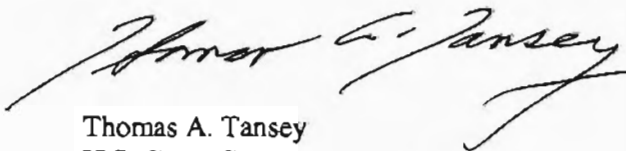
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your agency review the Proposed Action and provide comments and any available information on resources under your agency's jurisdiction within the project area. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or [Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil](mailto:Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil).

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager



June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

NC DENR Washington Regional Office  
Attn: Ms. Kathy Ford, Admin. Office Manager  
943 Washington Square Mall  
Washington, NC 27889

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Ms. Ford:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire

June 30, 2009

and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

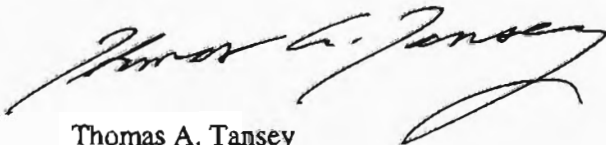
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your agency review the Proposed Action and provide comments and any available information on resources under your agency's jurisdiction within the project area. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager

June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

NC Natural Heritage Program  
Attn: Ms. Linda Pearsall, Program Director  
1601 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Ms. Pearsall:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire

June 30, 2009

and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

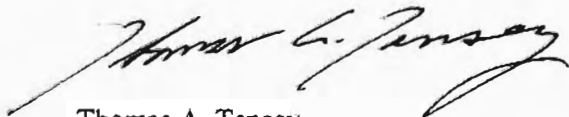
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your agency review the Proposed Action and provide comments and any available information on resources under your agency's jurisdiction within the project area. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager



June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

NC DENR Division of Parks & Recreation  
Attn: Mr. Lewis Leford, Director  
1615 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27700

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Mr. Leford:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire

June 30, 2009

and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

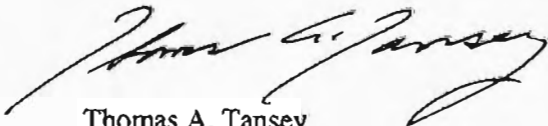
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your agency review the Proposed Action and provide comments and any available information on resources under your agency's jurisdiction within the project area. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or [Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil](mailto:Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil).

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager

June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

Dare County Manager  
Attn: Mr. Terry Wheeler  
County Administration Building  
P.O. Box 1000  
Manteo, NC 27954

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Mr. Wheeler:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot

June 30, 2009

concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

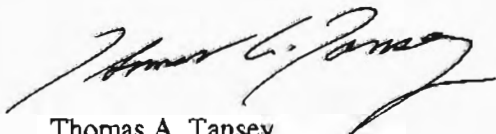
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your office review the Proposed Action and provide comments and any available information on resources under your office's jurisdiction within the project area. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager



June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

Dare County Planning Department  
Attn: Mr. Raymond Sturza, Planning Director  
County Administration Building  
P.O. Box 1000  
Manteo, NC 27954

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Mr. Sturza:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot

June 30, 2009

concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

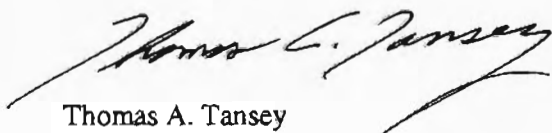
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your agency review the Proposed Action and provide comments and any available information on resources under your agency's jurisdiction within the project area. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager

June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

Dare County Parks & Recreation Department  
Attn: Ms. Jackie Gray, Hatteras Land Supervisor  
The Fessenden Center  
P.O. Box 859  
Manteo, NC 27920

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Ms. Gray:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot

June 30, 2009

concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

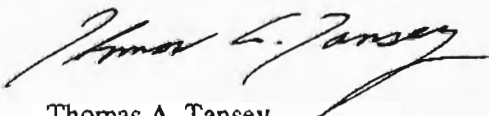
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your agency review the Proposed Action and provide comments and any available information on resources under your agency's jurisdiction within the project area. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager



June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

Dare County Emergency Management  
Attn: Ms. N.H. Sandy Sanderson, Em. Mgmt. Coordinator  
Dare County Em. Mgmt. Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
1044 Driftwood Drive  
Manteo, NC 27954

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Ms. Sanderson:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot

June 30, 2009

concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

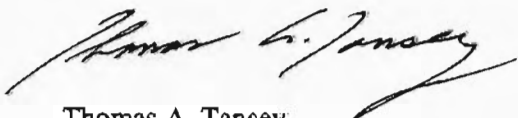
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your agency review the Proposed Action and provide comments and any available information on resources under your agency's jurisdiction within the project area. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or [Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil](mailto:Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil).

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager

June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

Dare County Sheriff's Office  
Attn: Sheriff Rodney Midgett  
962 Marshall C. Collins Drive  
P.O. Box 757  
Manteo, NC 27954

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Sheriff Midgett:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot

June 30, 2009

concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

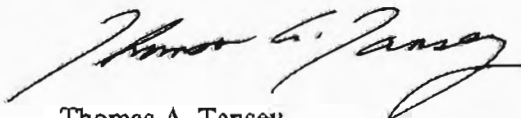
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your office review the Proposed Action and provide comments and any available information on resources under your office's jurisdiction within the project area. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager



June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

Hatteras Volunteer Fire Department  
Attn: Chief Richard Marlin  
P.O. Box 251  
Hatteras, NC 27943

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Chief Marlin:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency

June 30, 2009

generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

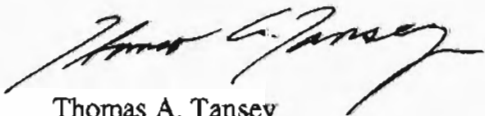
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your office review the Proposed Action and provide comments and any available information on resources under your office's jurisdiction within the project area. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or [Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil](mailto:Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil).

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager

June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

Hatteras Island Rescue Squad, Inc.  
Attn: Chief Ed Marks  
48103 Highway 12  
Buxton, NC 27920

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Chief Marks:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency

June 30, 2009

generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

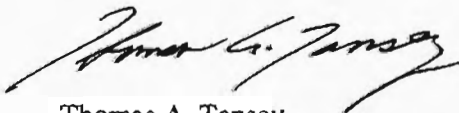
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your office review the Proposed Action and provide comments and any available information on resources under your office's jurisdiction within the project area. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or [Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil](mailto:Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil).

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager



June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

Nags Head Police Department  
Attn: Mr. Charles Cameron  
5401 S. Croatan Highway  
Nags Head, NC 27959

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Mr. Cameron:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency

June 30, 2009

generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

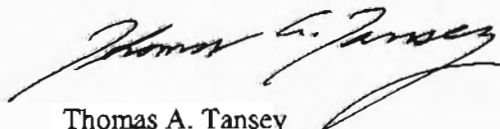
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your office review the Proposed Action and provide comments and any available information on resources under your office's jurisdiction within the project area. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager

June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

Dare County Commissioners  
Attn: Commissioner Allen Burrus  
Dare County Administrative Annex  
954 Marshall C. Collins Drive  
Manteo, NC 27954

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Commissioner Burrus:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot

June 30, 2009

concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

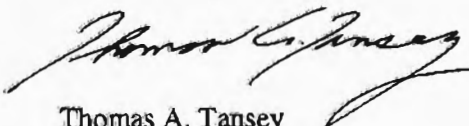
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your office review the Proposed Action and provide comments and any available information on resources under your office's jurisdiction within the project area. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager



June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFP Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

The Honorable Richard Burr  
100 Coast Line St., Room 210  
Rocky Mount, NC 27804

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Senator Burr:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire

June 30, 2009

and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

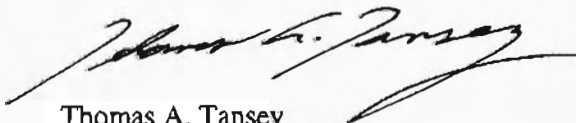
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your office review the Proposed Action and provide comments no later than 5:00 PM on July 17, 2009. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please have a member of your staff contact me at (202) 475-3293 or [Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil](mailto:Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil).

Very Respectfully,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager

June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

The Honorable Kay Hagan  
310 New Bern Ave., Suite 122  
Raleigh, NC 27601

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Senator Hagan:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire

June 30, 2009

and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

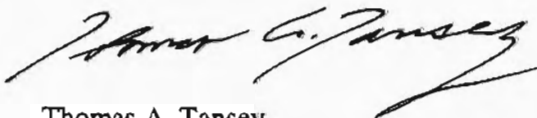
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your office review the Proposed Action and provide comments no later than 5:00 PM on July 17, 2009. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please have a member of your staff contact me at (202) 475-3293 or [Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil](mailto:Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil).

Very Respectfully,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager



June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

The Honorable Walter Jones  
1105-C Corporate Drive  
Greenville, NC 27858

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Representative Jones:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire

June 30, 2009

and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

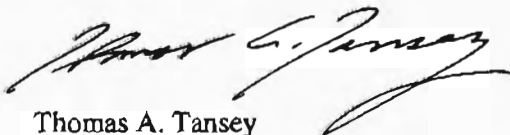
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your office review the Proposed Action and provide comments no later than 5:00 PM on July 17, 2009. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please have a member of your staff contact me at (202) 475-3293 or [Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil](mailto:Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil).

Very Respectfully,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager

June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

The Honorable Marc Basnight  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2007  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Senator Basnight:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire

June 30, 2009

and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

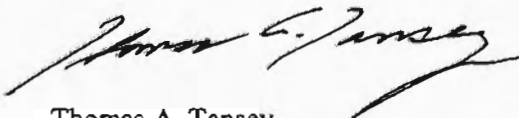
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your office review the Proposed Action and provide comments no later than 5:00 PM on July 17, 2009. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please have a member of your staff contact me at (202) 475-3293 or [Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil](mailto:Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil).

Very Respectfully,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager



June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

The Honorable Timothy Spear  
Legislative Office Building, Room 402  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Representative Spear:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire

June 30, 2009

and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

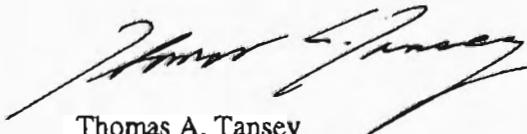
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your office review the Proposed Action and provide comments no later than 5:00 PM on July 17, 2009. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please have a member of your staff contact me at (202) 475-3293 or [Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil](mailto:Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil).

Very Respectfully,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager

June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

The Nature Conservancy  
North Carolina Chapter Office  
Attn: Mr. Fred Annand, Associate Director  
4705 University Drive, Suite 290  
Durham, NC 27707

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Mr. Annand:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot

June 30, 2009

concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

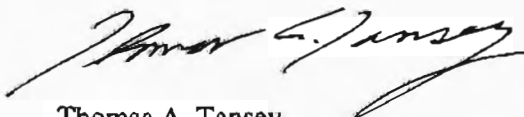
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your office review the Proposed Action and provide comments no later than 5:00 PM on July 17, 2009. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager



June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

The Outer Banks Lighthouse Society  
Attn: Ms. Bett Padgett, OBLHS President  
P.O. Box 1005  
Morehead City, NC 28557

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Ms. Padgett:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency

June 30, 2009

generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

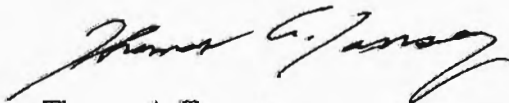
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your office review the Proposed Action and provide comments no later than 5:00 PM on July 17, 2009. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager

June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFP Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





June 30, 2009

The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce  
Attn: Mr. John Bone, President  
P.O. Box 1757  
Kill Devil Hill, NC 27948

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Mr. Bone:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency

June 30, 2009

generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

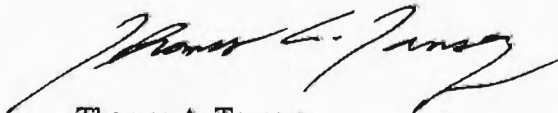
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your office review the Proposed Action and provide comments no later than 5:00 PM on July 17, 2009. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager



June 30, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





July 9, 2009

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Wilmington District Office, CESA-W-RG-L  
Attn: Mr. David Timpy, NEPA & CAMA Coordinator  
69 Darlington Ave.  
Wilmington, NC 28403

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina (USACE Action Id. SAW-2008-01210)**

Dear Mr. Timpy:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency

July 9, 2009

generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

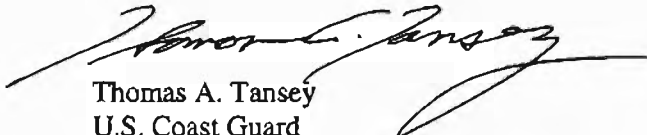
According to the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map, two nontidal wetlands are within the project site boundaries. A wetlands delineation was completed by Carolina Wetland Services (CWS) on November 19, 2007 and a jurisdictional determination, dated 6/4/08, was received from the USACE Wilmington Regulatory Division (Action Id. SAW-2008-01210). The wetlands delineation identified two jurisdictional vegetated wetland areas and two jurisdictional unnamed tributaries to the Atlantic Ocean within the project site. This region of the Atlantic Ocean is within the Pasquotank River basin and is rated as "primary recreation, salt water" (SB waters) by the North Carolina Division of Water Quality. The site is in a Coastal Area Management Act county and portions of the project will occur in wetlands, but not coastal wetlands, entirely on property owned by the Federal Government. CWS concluded that the area is not considered an Area of Environmental Concern (AEC).

Pending receipt of NHPA Section 106, ESA Section 7, and CZMA agency response letters, the Coast Guard will be submitting a Preconstruction Notification Form (PCN) in anticipation of using a Nationwide Permit for the necessary wetlands fill in order to install two guy wire anchors for the proposed alternative. In consultations with Ms. Sherrill Edwards-Owens in our office, USACE Wilmington Regulatory Field Office Project Manager, Mr. Tom Steffens, has indicated that proposed tower construction at Buxton would best fall under Nationwide Permit #12 for Utility Line Activities, as the construction of a communications tower would be considered a utility line as long as the construction area is less than 0.5 acre. Mr. Steffens also indicated that compensatory mitigation will be required. Ms. Sherrill Edwards-Owens (tel. 202-475-3175) will continue to be our office's point of contact for eventual submission of the PCN form to Mr. Steffens.

July 9, 2009

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your agency review the Proposed Action and provide comments and any available information on resources under your agency's jurisdiction within the project area no later than 5:00 PM on July 24, 2009. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,



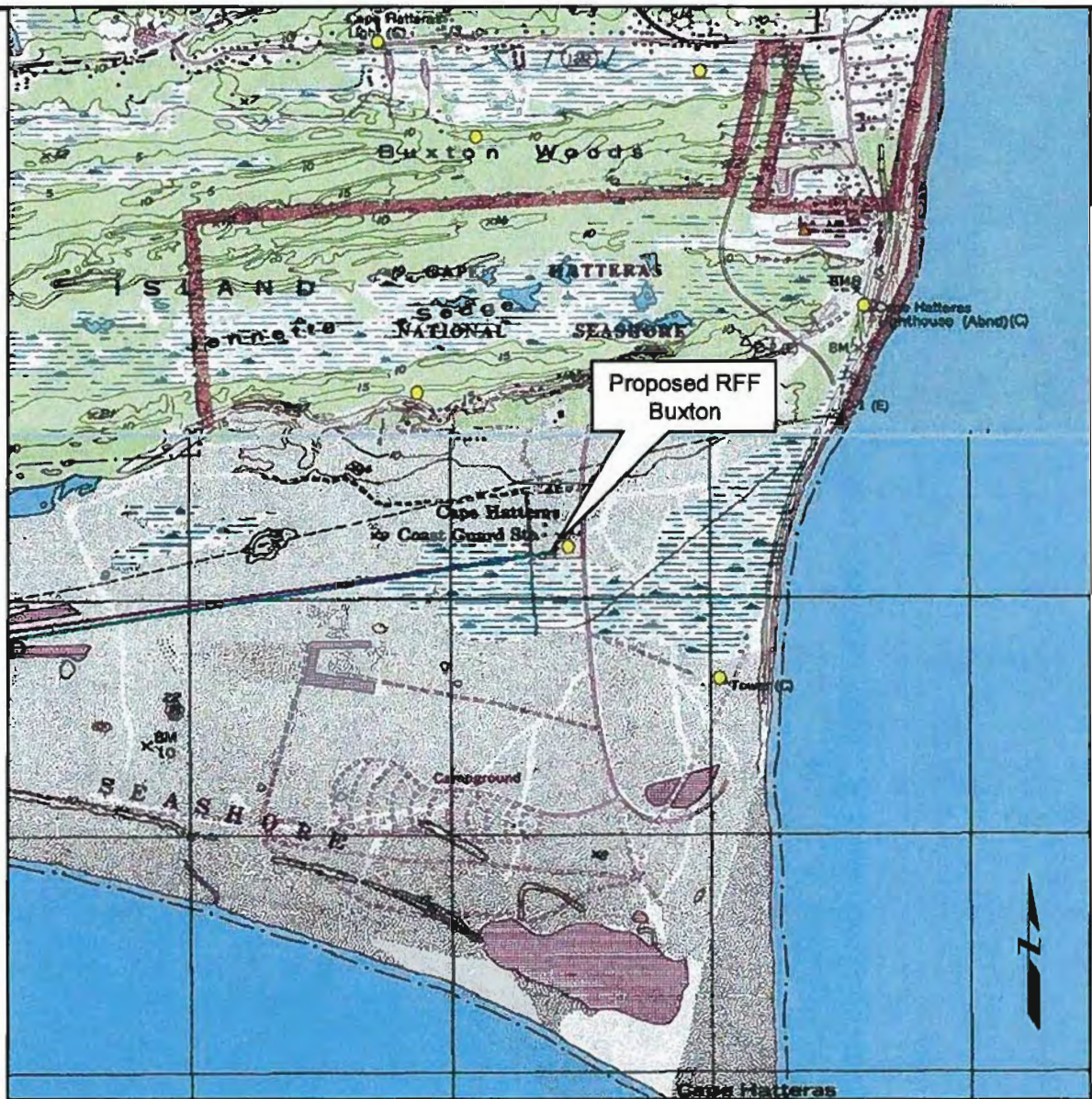
Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager


Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site

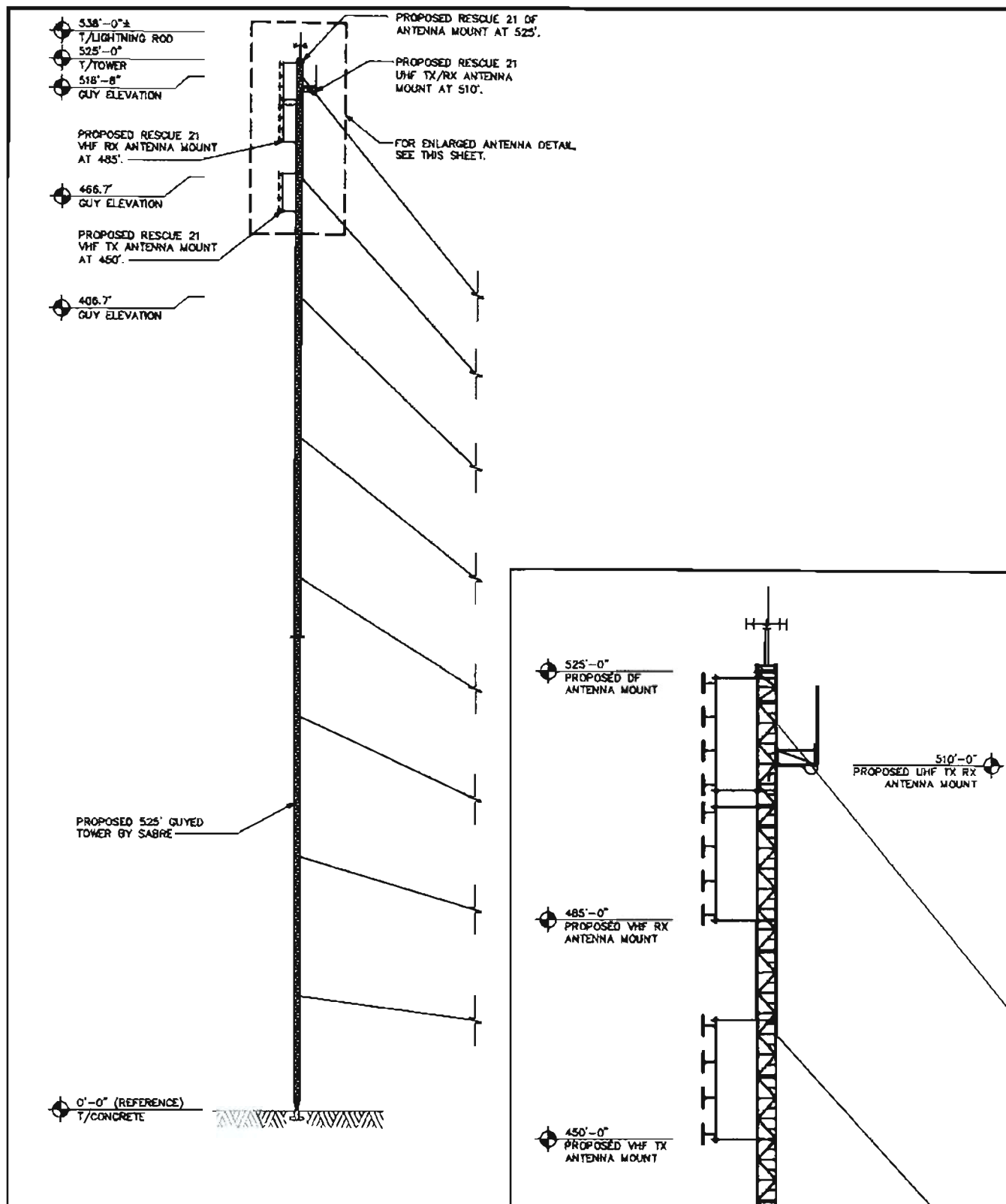
Copy: Mr. Tom Steffens, Project Manager, USACE Wilmington Regulatory Field Office







Title		Site Location	
		Proj No: 15301803	
		Figure	1
Client: U.S. Coast Guard			
Project: RFF Buxton, NC			



Title

24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation



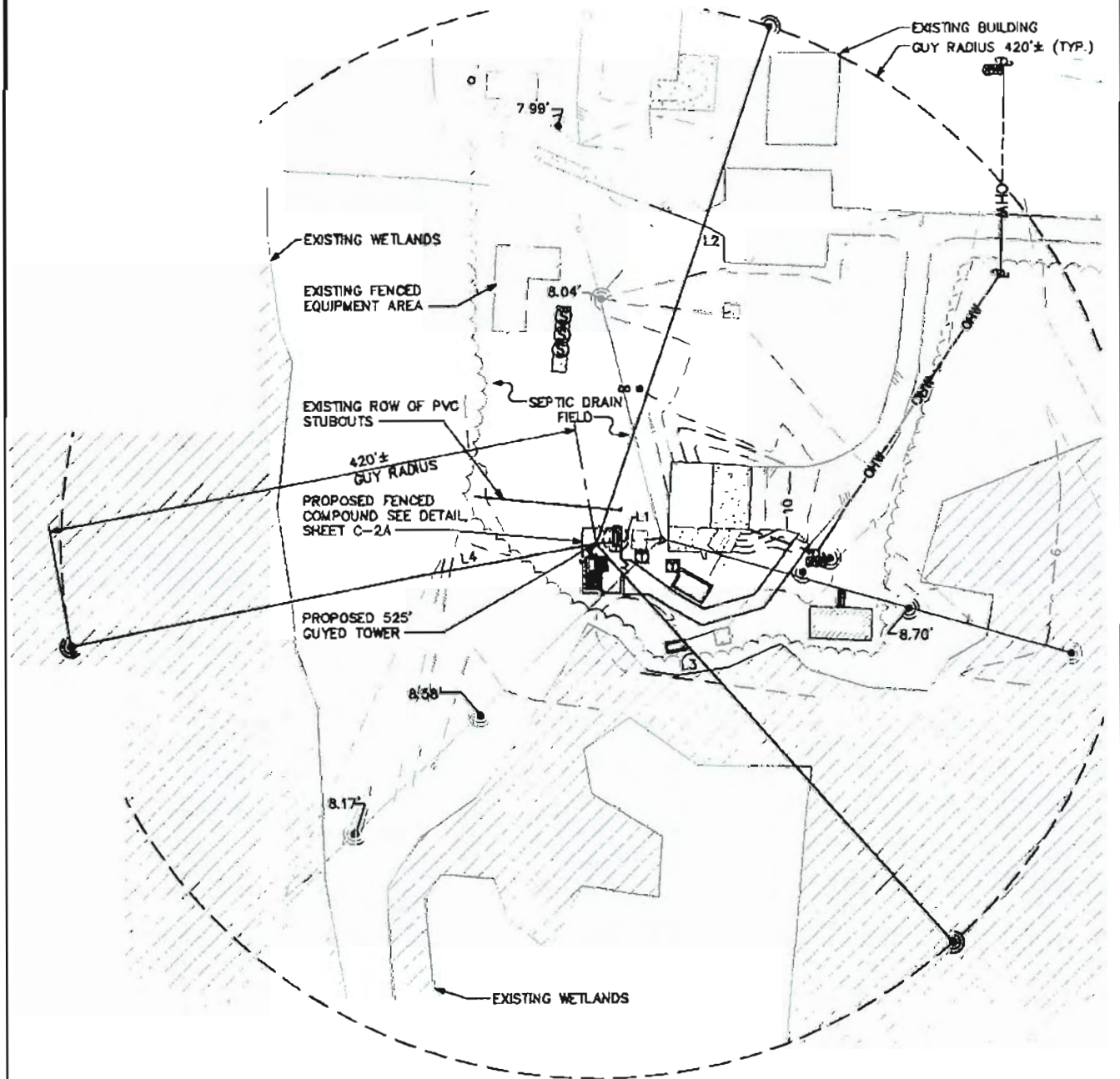
Proj No: 15301803

Figure 2

Client: U.S. Coast Guard

Project: RFF Buxton, NC





Title

### 24 Guy Wire Site Plan



Proj No: 15301803

Figure **3**

Client: U.S. Coast Guard

Project: RFF Buxton, NC

538'-0"±  
T/LIGHTNING ROD  
525'-0"  
T/TOWER  
516'-8"  
GUY ELEVATION

476'-8"  
GUY ELEVATION  
PROPOSED RESCUE 21  
VHF/RX ANTENNA MOUNT  
AT 485'. SEE ANTENNA  
MOUNT DETAILS, SHEET  
C-7 & C-8.

426'-8"  
GUY ELEVATION  
PROPOSED RESCUE 21  
VHF/TX ANTENNA MOUNT  
AT 450'. SEE ANTENNA  
MOUNT DETAILS, SHEET  
C-7 & C-8.

PROPOSED RESCUE 21 DF ANTENNA MOUNT  
AT 525'. FOR DETAILS, SEE SHEET S-9 & S-10.

PROPOSED RESCUE 21  
UHF TX/RX ANTENNA  
MOUNT AT 510'. SEE ANTENNA  
MOUNT DETAILS, SHEET  
C-7 & C-8.

FOR ENLARGED ANTENNA DETAIL  
SEE THIS SHEET.

0 50 100

SCALE IN FEET

SCALE: 1" = 50'

PROPOSED 525' GUYED  
TOWER BY SABRE

525'-0"  
PROPOSED DF  
ANTENNA MOUNT

485'-0"  
PROPOSED VHF RX  
ANTENNA MOUNT

450'-0"  
PROPOSED VHF TX  
ANTENNA MOUNT

510'-0"  
PROPOSED UHF TX RX  
ANTENNA MOUNT

0'-0" (REFERENCE)  
T/CONCRETE

Title

39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation



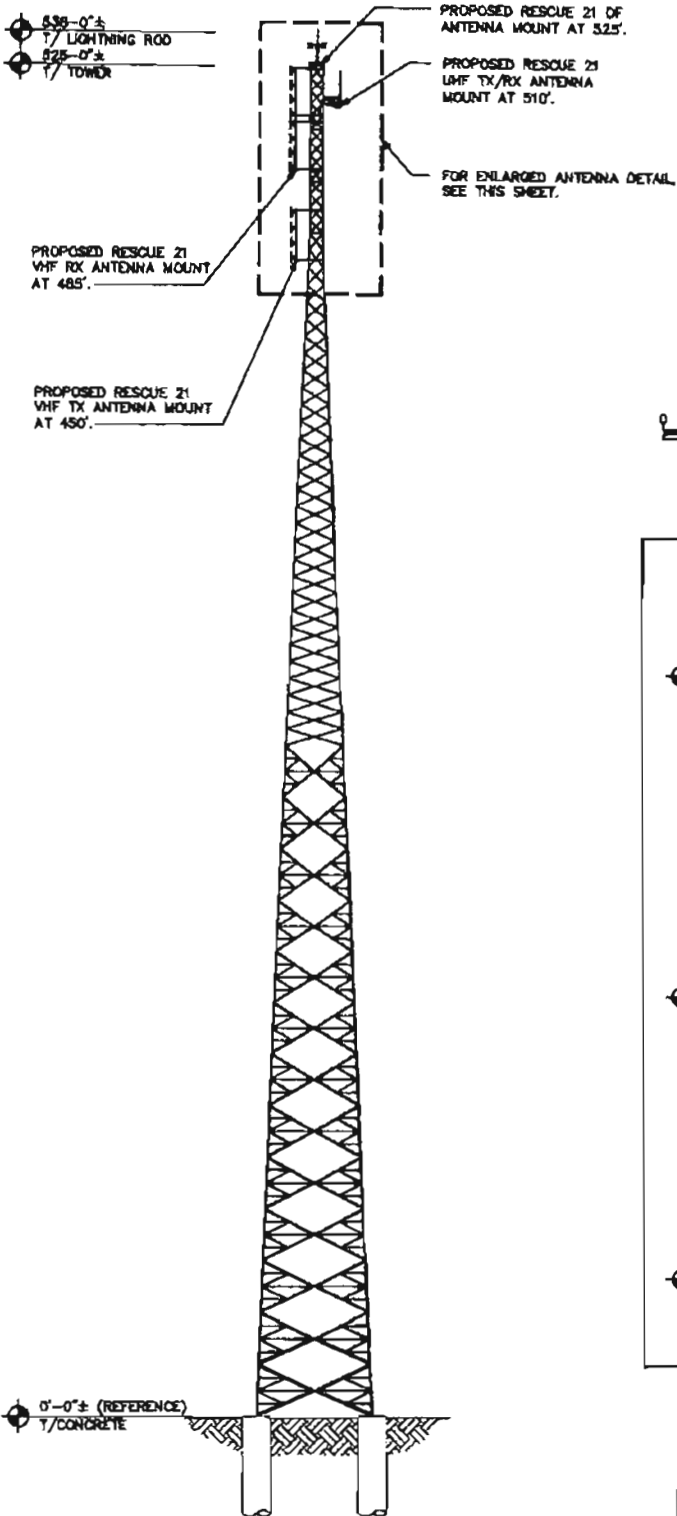
Proj No: 15301803

Figure 4

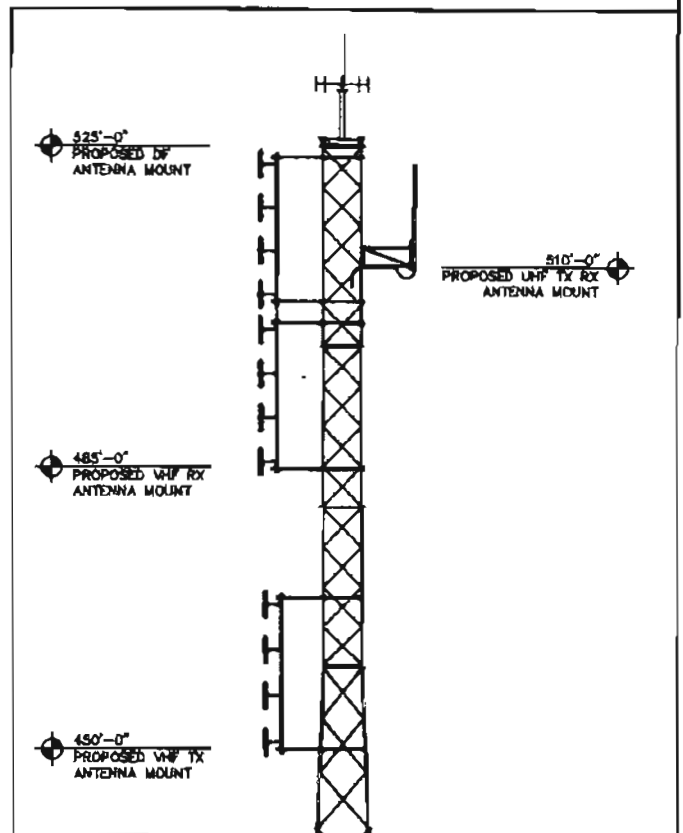
Client: U.S. Coast Guard

Project: RFF Buxton, NC





0 50 100  
SCALE IN FEET  
SCALE: 1" = 50'



Title

**Self Supported Tower Elevation**

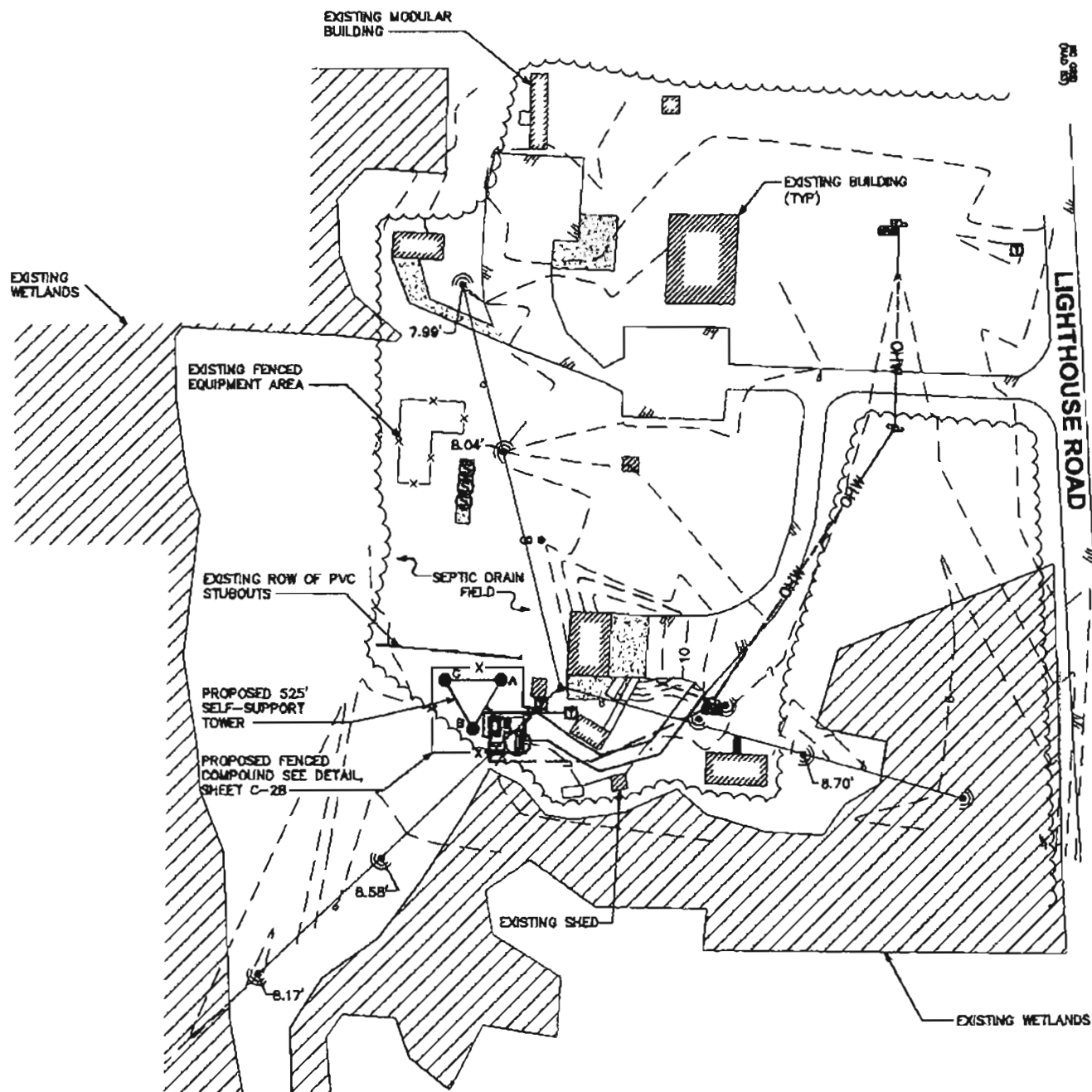


Proj No: 15301803

Figure **6**

Client: U.S. Coast Guard

Project: RFF Buxton, NC



Title

# Self Supported Tower Site Plan



Proj No: 15301803

Figure 7

Client: U.S. Coast Guard

Project: RFF Buxton, NC





## PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG

**Client Name:**  
USCG

**Site Location:**  
Buxton, NC

**Project No:** 15301803

**Photo No.**  
1

**Date:**  
04/2009

**Direction Photo Taken:**  
West

**Description:**  
View of Existing Coast  
Guard Station Looking  
West.



**Photo No.**  
2

**Date:**  
04/2009

**Direction Photo Taken:**  
East

**Description:**  
View of Existing Coast  
Guard Station Looking  
East.





North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Division of Land Resources  
Land Quality Section

James D. Simons, PG, PE  
Director and State Geologist

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor  
Dee Freeman, Secretary

July 7, 2009

Commandant (CG-9331)  
ATTN: Mr. Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
2100 2<sup>ND</sup> St. SW Stop 7701  
Washington, DC 20593-7701

RE: Project Review - 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower  
RFF Buxton, Dare County North Carolina

Dear Mr. Tansey:

I represent an agency that provides comment on environmental review documents concerning compliance with North Carolina's Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973. The Act requires that appropriate sediment control measures or devices be utilized during construction to restrain accelerated erosion and sedimentation of adjoining properties and watercourses. It further requires that any disturbed land be provided with a ground cover sufficient to restrain erosion upon project completion and that a site specific erosion and sedimentation control plan be submitted to and approved by the State prior to project initiation if at least one acre will be disturbed during the course of construction.

Upon review of the information provided for the referenced project, I have determined that less than one acre will be affected. Therefore, approval of an erosion and sedimentation control plan is not required.

Please feel free to contact this office if we may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Patrick H. McClain, PE  
Regional Engineer

**Received**  
JUL 15 2009







North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Beverly Eaves Perdue  
Governor

Dee Freeman  
Secretary

July 7, 2009

Mr. Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
2100 2<sup>nd</sup> St. SW Stop 7701  
Washington, DC 20593-7701

Subject: Proposed Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower; Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Buxton, Dare County

Dear Mr. Tansey:

The Natural Heritage Program has no record of rare species, significant natural communities, significant natural heritage areas, or conservation/managed areas at the site – other than the fact that the site lies on Cape Hatteras National Seashore, administered by the National Park Service. The proposed site is already heavily disturbed, with lawns and various structures; thus, no impacts to significant resources on the ground are anticipated.

On the other hand, the proposed tower will be essentially 100' taller than the existing tower, which will be replaced. A tower of 525' feet, located along the immediate coastline, has the potential to be a major bird-tower strike structure. Birds migrating at night, especially under cloudy or foggy skies, have a high potential to strike such a tower. This is especially true along a coastline, as birds would be descending in altitude to drop into forested cover, once they see the ocean (a barrier to further flight). Strikes are more likely to occur along the North Carolina coast in the fall season; there is relatively little coastal spring migration. However, heavy movements of nocturnal songbirds pass through the region from late July or August into October and perhaps November. Thus, it is extremely important that the U.S. Coast Guard have proper lighting and other structures necessary to avoid such impacts. We strongly encourage your agency to work with staff of the National Park Service concerning the bird-strike issue and potential monitoring of the site. Some monitoring of the ground around the tower at dawn is strongly encouraged, both to determine the amount of bird strikes and to salvage as specimens some less common bird species. Monitoring would be especially needed in the fall season, particularly after cloudy or rainy nights. Predators and scavengers, such as crows, owls, and foxes, take injured and dead birds beneath towers by first light – thus the need for early morning monitoring.

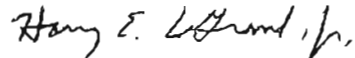
You may wish to check the Natural Heritage Program database website at [www.ncnhp.org](http://www.ncnhp.org) for a listing of rare plants and animals and significant natural communities in the county and on the quad map. Our Program also has a new website that allows users to obtain information on element occurrences and significant natural heritage areas within two miles of a given location:

<[http://nhpweb.enr.state.nc.us/nhis/public/gmap75\\_main.phtml](http://nhpweb.enr.state.nc.us/nhis/public/gmap75_main.phtml)>. The user name is "public" and the password is "heritage". You may want to click "Help" for more information.

NC OneMap now provides digital Natural Heritage data online for free. This service provides site specific information on GIS layers with Natural Heritage Program rare species occurrences and Significant Natural Heritage Areas. The NC OneMap website provides Element Occurrence (EO) ID numbers (instead of species name), and the data user is then encouraged to contact the Natural Heritage Program for detailed information. This service allows the user to quickly and efficiently get site specific NHP data without visiting the NHP workroom or waiting for the Information Request to be answered by NHP staff. For more information about data formats and access, visit [www.nconemap.com](http://www.nconemap.com), then click on "FTP Data Download", and then "nbeo.zip" [to the right of "Natural Heritage Element Occurrences"]. You may also e-mail NC OneMap at [dataq@ncmail.net](mailto:dataq@ncmail.net) for more information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 919-715-8697 if you have questions or need further information.

Sincerely,



Harry E. LeGrand, Jr., Zoologist  
Natural Heritage Program

cc: staff, Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Received

Received

JUL 16 2009



July 8, 2009

State Environmental Review Clearinghouse  
Attn: Ms. Valerie McMillan, Director  
1301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1301

**RE: Request for Project Review - Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower,  
RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Ms. McMillan:

The U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system, enhancing maritime safety by helping to minimize the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. The new communication equipment would fill in existing coverage gaps in the existing VHF-FM marine communication system used for Coast Guard operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and national defense. The combination of the proposed tower location and the 525-foot height would provide continuous Rescue 21 communications coverage for the Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina area of responsibility.

The EA will examine four project alternatives: a No Action Alternative, a Proposed Action Alternative, and two alternate tower designs (Alternatives Two and Three). Under the Proposed Action, the Coast Guard would construct a communications tower and associated equipment at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton site (Figure 1). The RFF Buxton site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Buxton within the limits of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore National Park and approximately 0.5 mile from the coastline at 46392 Cape Point Campground Road in Dare County, Buxton, North Carolina 27920 (35° 14' 45.0" N Latitude, 75° 32' 01.0" W Longitude). The proposed project site is an 11.25 acre tract of land originally used for Coast Guard Cape Hatteras Station.

The project design would be similar to Coast Guard facilities at other sites. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Coast Guard proposes to replace an existing U.S. Coast Guard-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18-guy wire communications tower with a 525-foot tall communications tower. The addition of a top-mounted direction finding (DF) antenna would increase the total height of the tower and added appurtenances to approximately 538 feet above ground level. The tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy wire anchor points (Figures 2 and 3). The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The new tower location would be approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower location. The Coast Guard is considering both painted and unpainted tower options. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high-intensity daytime lights in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards.

In addition to the new communications tower, the Proposed Action would also include a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency generator, and associated equipment. An 8-foot-tall chain link fence topped with 3-strand barbed wire

July 8, 2009

and a single vehicle access gate would surround the compound. Equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces or sparsely vegetated areas adjacent to the proposed site. Utilities for the new tower would be connected to existing nearby services.

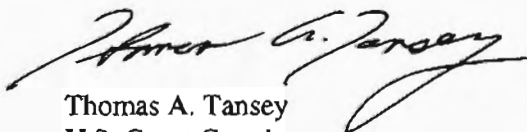
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist of buried horizontal 3-foot by 4-foot by 24-foot long blocks for the inner anchor points and 5-foot by 3.5-foot by 36-foot long blocks for the outer anchor points set within a 261-foot and 400-foot radius of the tower, respectively (Figure 5). The tower foundation would consist of a 56-foot-deep, 5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action. The compound dimensions and ground support equipment would be approximately the same as for the Proposed Action.

Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons (Figure 7). The three caissons would be set 45 feet apart. In order to accommodate the larger footprint for the three-leg tower, the fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet. The raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as described for the Proposed Action. Lighting versus painting options will be considered as described for the Proposed Action.

The Coast Guard has permitted several other public service agencies to maintain their own communications equipment on the existing tower, including the NPS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Dare County Emergency Services. The Coast Guard fully intends to design the replacement tower with sufficient structural and space capacity to continue to accommodate these existing non-Coast Guard public service agencies.

As the lead Federal agency, the Coast Guard is requesting that your agency review the Proposed Action and provide comments and any available information on resources under your agency's jurisdiction within the project area no later than 5:00 PM on July 24, 2009. Separate correspondence has already been sent directly to Mr. Stephen Rynas, Federal Consistency Coordinator, for his review under the provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Act. Correspondence is also being sent directly to Dr. Jeffrey Crow, State Historic Preservation Officer, under the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3293 or Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager

July 8, 2009

Encl: Figure 1 – Site Location of RFF Buxton site  
Figure 2 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 3 – Proposed Action: 24 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 4 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Tower Elevation  
Figure 5 – Alternative Two: 39 Guy Wire Site Plan  
Figure 6 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Elevation  
Figure 7 – Alternative Three: Self-Supported Tower Site Plan  
Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site





North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Division of Coastal Management

Beverly Eaves Perdue  
Governor

James H. Gregson  
Director

Dee Freeman  
Secretary

July 13, 2009

Thomas A. Tansey (CG-9331)  
Environmental Program Manager  
US Coast Guard  
2100 2<sup>nd</sup> St. SW Stop 7701  
Washington DC 20593-7701

SUBJECT: Status of Consistency Determination for the Proposed Construction of a 525-Foot Tall Communications Tower (Rescue 21) (DCM#20090091)

Dear Mr. Tansey:

We received your consistency determination on July 9, 2009 for the proposed removal of an existing communications tower and the installation of a replacement 525-foot tall guyed communications tower (plus associated equipment) that will be part of the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. The project has been distributed to State agencies that would have a regulatory interest in the proposed activity for review and comment. The public review period will close on July 31, 2009. Please be aware that as we continue to review this submission that we may request additional information. We intend to make a decision regarding whether the proposed activity would be consistent with the State's coastal program soon after.

Pursuant to 15 CFR 930.35 the State of North Carolina has sixty (60) days from the receipt of the consistency determination to either concur or object to your consistency determination unless an extension is agreed to. The sixtieth day is September 7, 2009.

The State is entitled, pursuant to 15 CFR 930.41(b), to an extension of up to fifteen (15) days if additional review time is necessary. Furthermore, final Federal agency action cannot be taken sooner than ninety (90) days from the State's receipt of the consistency determination unless State concurrence is obtained. Please feel free to contact me at 252-808-2808 if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration of the North Carolina Coastal Management Program.

Sincerely,

Stephen Rynas, AICP  
Federal Consistency Coordinator

Cc: Jim Gregson, Division of Coastal Management  
Doug Huggett, Division of Coastal Management  
Frank Jennings, Division of Coastal Management





U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



COMMANDANT (CG-9331)  
ATTN: Thomas A. Tansey  
US COAST GUARD

2100 2ND ST SW STOP 7701  
WASHINGTON DC 20593-7701

Phone: (202) 475-3293  
FAX: (202) 475-3918

July 16, 2009

Dr. Jeffrey Crow  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
North Carolina Office of Archives and History  
4610 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4610

**RE: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation and Request for Project Review –  
Construction of a 525-Foot-High Communication Tower, RFF Buxton, Dare  
County, North Carolina**

Dear Dr. Crow:

The U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) is in the process of modernizing and replacing its antiquated maritime search and rescue communications system in North Carolina as part of a nationwide mandate. The new equipment will serve to fill in existing coverage gaps in very high frequency-frequency modulation (VHF-FM) marine communications used for USCG operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and homeland security. The new system, known as Rescue 21, is the maritime equivalent of a "911" communications system. It is intended to enhance maritime safety by minimizing the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. Rescue 21 represents a quantum leap forward in coastal command and control and distress communications. It will enhance the United States' homeland security capabilities, as well as other safety and security missions, bringing tremendous benefits to both the USCG and the American public.

As part of this project, the USCG proposes to replace an existing USCG-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18 guy wire communications tower with a new 525-foot-tall tower on USCG-administered property in Buxton, North Carolina. The new tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy-wire anchor points. The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The project design for the proposed site includes construction of a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency generator, and associated equipment. The USCG is considering alternatives to construct a 39 guy wire tower or a self-supported tower and both painted and unpainted options for each alternative. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high intensity daytime lights in accordance with FAA Advisory Circular AC70/7460-1K, Change 2, *Obstruction Marking and Lighting*.

The USCG has determined that the replacement of the tower is an undertaking subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Accordingly, this letter represents the

July 16, 2009

USCG's formal initiation of the Section 106 consultation process for the proposed project. The enclosed Section 106 Compliance Needs Assessment Report (Section 106 Report) has been prepared to begin to identify historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed undertaking and to preliminarily assess the effects of the undertaking on those historic properties. The Section 106 Report was prepared as a companion to a Visual Impact Study, conducted as a component of the Environmental Assessment (EA) being prepared for this project in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321, 4331, 4332), the Council on Environmental Quality Implementing Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508), Department of Homeland Security Environmental Management Directive 023-01, Environmental Planning Program, and the USCG Commandant Instruction M16475.1D, National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts.

As delineated by the USCG and presented in the Section 106 Report, the APE for above-ground cultural resources is defined as the area within a 2-mile radius from the project site. The APE contains six properties that are either listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), formally determined eligible for listing in the NRHP, or potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP. The Cape Hatteras Light Station (DR 4) is listed in the NRHP and is a National Historic Landmark (NHL). The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Cabins (DR 7), the Urias Gaskins House (DR 614), and the Rollinson House (DR 615) have each been formally determined eligible for listing in the NRHP. The former USCG Station building (now a National Park Service Ranger's Office) and the WW II British Sailor Cemetery were identified as potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP.

For archaeological resources, the USCG has defined the APE as the footprint of the tower compound, as well as any area surrounding the tower that would be potentially disturbed during its construction or installation. Information about previously identified archaeological resources located within a 1-mile-radius of the project site was gathered to provide some information on the archaeological sensitivity of the project area. No formal archaeological assessment or survey was conducted as part of this study. However, discussions with Susan Myers, Site Registrar and Staff Archaeologist with the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, stated that her office had reviewed the proposed communications tower project as submitted by Carolina Wetlands Services in January 2008. At that time, the Office of State Archaeology commented that "No previously recorded archaeological sites [are] noted within the project area...It is unlikely that a NRHP eligible archaeological site will be adversely impacted by this project. An Archaeological survey is not recommended." Subsequent communication with John J. Mintz, Assistant State Archaeologist, revealed one previously recorded archaeological site within a 1-mile-radius of the project site. As noted by Mr. Mintz, the historic archaeological site 31DR79\*\* consisted of modern trash and is not considered NRHP-eligible.

The Section 106 Report applied the NHPA criteria of adverse effect to the proposed undertaking, and found that only one of the three alternatives under consideration for the proposed project – the self-supported communications tower – will result in **an adverse effect** to the NHL and

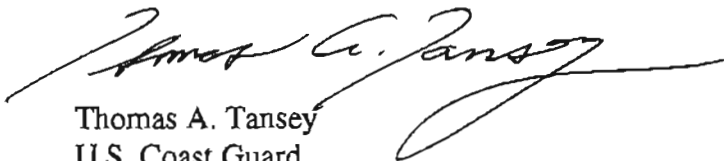
July 16, 2009

NRHP-listed Cape Hatteras Light Station. Although the proposed communications tower would be only 100 feet taller than the existing guy wire tower, a self-supported tower is a considerably more massive structure with a greater visual impact that would diminish the setting of the Cape Hatteras Light Station. The other alternatives, including the USCG's proposed alternative, i.e. a tower supported with 24 guy wires, would not create an adverse visual effect to the Cape Hatteras Light Station. The USCG also believes that a painted tower without daytime high intensity (270,000 candela) white strobe lighting would be less visually obtrusive than an unpainted tower equipped with high intensity white strobe lighting.

The USCG invites the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NC SHPO) to participate in Section 106 consultation on the undertaking described above, and requests that the NC SHPO review and comment on the enclosed Section 106 Report. The USCG has not yet determined which of the three alternatives will be selected for the proposed undertaking and requests the NC SHPO to comment on the proposed alternatives so that these comments may be considered as the project develops. As part of our notification procedures, a similar letter with enclosure is being sent to Mr. Mike Murray, Supervisor, Cape Hatteras National Seashore for comment. Public notice will also be made in two local papers inviting Section 106 comment at the time that the Draft Environmental Assessment is made available.

Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3292 or [Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil](mailto:Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil). I thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Tansey", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager

Encl: Section 106 Compliance Needs Assessment Report



U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



COMMANDANT (CG-9331)  
ATTN: Thomas A. Tansey  
US COAST GUARD

2100 2ND ST SW STOP 7701  
WASHINGTON DC 20583-7701

Phone: (202) 475-3293  
FAX: (202) 475-3916

July 17, 2009

National Park Service  
Cape Hatteras National Seashore  
Attn: Mr. Mike Murray, Park Superintendent  
1401 National Park Drive  
Manteo, NC 27954

**RE: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation and Request for Project Review – Construction of a 525-Foot-High Communication Tower, RFF Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina**

Dear Mr. Murray:

The U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) is in the process of modernizing and replacing its antiquated maritime search and rescue communications system in North Carolina as part of a nationwide mandate. The new equipment will serve to fill in existing coverage gaps in very high frequency-frequency modulation (VHF-FM) marine communications used for USCG operational missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, maritime pollution prevention and response, and homeland security. The new system, known as Rescue 21, is the maritime equivalent of a "911" communications system. It is intended to enhance maritime safety by minimizing the time that search and rescue teams spend looking for people in distress. Rescue 21 represents a quantum leap forward in coastal command and control and distress communications. It will enhance the United States' homeland security capabilities, as well as other safety and security missions, bringing tremendous benefits to both the USCG and the American public.

As you are aware, although the USCG, via the General Services Administration, transferred the majority of the former USCG Cape Hatteras Station property (a.k.a. Old Group Cape Hatteras, parcel #2) to the National Park Service in June 2004, the USCG retained the unrestricted right to add a communications tower(s) and associated buildings and equipment and make changes to the property as may be necessary for the USCG's national distress system. The "Rescue 21" communications system is an improvement and replacement of the USCG's national distress system and was originally referred to as the "National Distress and Response System Modernization Project".

As part of this project, the USCG proposes to replace an existing USCG-owned, 425-foot-tall, 18 guy wire communications tower with a new 525-foot-tall tower on USCG-administered property in Buxton, North Carolina. The new tower would be supported with 24 guy wires with bird flight diverters and 3 guy-wire anchor points. The anchors would consist of reinforced concrete caisson foundations that are 5.5 feet in diameter, 52 feet deep, and set within a 400-foot radius of the tower. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot-deep, 3.5-foot-diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The project design for the proposed site includes construction of a 30-foot by 50-foot equipment compound with an elevated 12-foot by 25-foot steel platform, an 8-foot by 12-foot concrete equipment shelter, a backup generator, a 500-gallon propane tank used to fuel the emergency generator, and associated equipment. The USCG is considering alternatives to construct a 39 guy wire tower or a self-supported tower and both painted and unpainted options for each alternative. A painted tower would not require daytime lights, whereas an unpainted tower would require high intensity daytime lights in accordance with FAA Advisory Circular AC70/7460-1K, Change 2, *Obstruction Marking and Lighting*.

July 17, 2009

The USCG has determined that the replacement of the tower is an undertaking subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Accordingly, this letter represents the USCG's formal initiation of the Section 106 consultation process for the proposed project. The enclosed Section 106 Compliance Needs Assessment Report (Section 106 Report) has been prepared to begin to identify historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed undertaking and to preliminarily assess the effects of the undertaking on those historic properties. The Section 106 Report was prepared as a companion to a Visual Impact Study, conducted as a component of the Environmental Assessment (EA) being prepared for this project in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321, 4331, 4332), the Council on Environmental Quality Implementing Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508), Department of Homeland Security Environmental Management Directive 023-01, Environmental Planning Program, and the USCG Commandant Instruction M16475.1D, National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts.

As delineated by the USCG and presented in the Section 106 Report, the APE for above-ground cultural resources is defined as the area within a 2-mile radius from the project site. The APE contains six properties that are either listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), formally determined eligible for listing in the NRHP, or potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP. The Cape Hatteras Light Station (DR 4) is listed in the NRHP and is a National Historic Landmark (NHL). The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Cabins (DR 7), the Urias Gaskins House (DR 614), and the Rollinson House (DR 615) have each been formally determined eligible for listing in the NRHP. The former USCG Station building (now a National Park Service Ranger's Office) and the WW II British Sailor Cemetery were identified as potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP.

For archaeological resources, the USCG has defined the APE as the footprint of the tower compound, as well as any area surrounding the tower that would be potentially disturbed during its construction or installation. Information about previously identified archaeological resources located within a 1-mile-radius of the project site was gathered to provide some information on the archaeological sensitivity of the project area. No formal archaeological assessment or survey was conducted as part of this study. However, discussions with Susan Myers, Site Registrar and Staff Archaeologist with the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, stated that her office had reviewed the proposed communications tower project as submitted by Carolina Wetlands Services in January 2008. At that time, the Office of State Archaeology commented that "No previously recorded archaeological sites [are] noted within the project area...It is unlikely that a NRHP eligible archaeological site will be adversely impacted by this project. An Archaeological survey is not recommended." Subsequent communication with John J. Mintz, Assistant State Archaeologist, revealed one previously recorded archaeological site within a 1-mile-radius of the project site. As noted by Mr. Mintz, the historic archaeological site 31DR79\*\* consisted of modern trash and is not considered NRHP-eligible.

The Section 106 Report applied the NHPA criteria of adverse effect to the proposed undertaking, and found that only one of the three alternatives under consideration for the proposed project – the self-supported communications tower – will result in an adverse effect to the NHL and NRHP-listed Cape Hatteras Light Station. Although the proposed communications tower would be only 100 feet taller than the existing guy wire tower, a self-supported tower is a considerably more massive structure with a greater visual impact that would diminish the setting of the Cape Hatteras Light Station. The other alternatives, including the USCG's proposed alternative, i.e. a tower supported with 24 guy wires, would not create an adverse visual effect to the Cape Hatteras Light Station. The USCG also believes that a

July 17, 2009

painted tower without daytime high intensity (270,000 candela) white strobe lighting would be less visually obtrusive than an unpainted tower equipped with high intensity white strobe lighting. There would be no change in the color, flash frequency, or intensity, for any of the alternatives when compared to the existing 425-foot tall guyed tower.

The USCG invites the National Park Service to participate in Section 106 consultation on the undertaking described above, and requests that your office review and comment on the enclosed Section 106 Report. Comments are requested within 30 days receipt of this letter. The USCG has not yet determined which of the three alternatives will be selected for the proposed undertaking and requests your office's comments on the proposed alternatives so that these comments may be considered as the project develops. As part of our notification procedures, a similar letter with enclosure has been sent to Dr. Jeffrey Crow, State Historic Preservation Officer for comment. Public notice will also be made in two local papers (Outer Banks Sentinel and Coast Times) inviting Section 106 comment at the time that the Draft Environmental Assessment is made available. Both paper and electronic copies of the Draft Environmental Assessment will be sent to your office for review and comment.

Please direct comments and information directly to me at the letterhead address. If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact me at (202) 475-3292 or [Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil](mailto:Thomas.A.Tansey@uscg.mil). I thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager

Encl: Section 106 Compliance Needs Assessment Report







North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Division of Coastal Management

Beverly Eaves Perdue  
Governor

James H. Gregson  
Director

Dee Freeman  
Secretary

July 21, 2009

Melba McGee  
Environmental Coordinator  
Office of Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
1601 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

SUBJECT: Scoping Comments Related to a Proposed Communications Tower, Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina (SCH#10-0007, DCM#20090088, and DCM#20090093)

Dear Ms. McGee:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the scoping request of the US Coast for a proposed environmental assessment (EA) that will evaluate the replacement of an existing communications tower with a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and associated equipment as part of the US Coast Guard's (USCG) Rescue 21 Program. The proposed communications tower will be located at the USCG facility in Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina. The purpose of this scoping review is to suggest to the USCG the environmental and regulatory topics that the proposed EA ought to evaluate. Below are the comments of the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (DCM).

- The proposed project will be occurring in, Dare County, one of North Carolina's twenty coastal counties. Consequently the USCG will require a consistency concurrence from DCM before the project can be initiated. The USCG submitted to DCM a consistency determination that was received by DCM on July 9, 2009. The proposed project has been distributed to State staff for evaluation. The consistency review period will close on July 31, 2009.
- The NEPA process and the consistency review processes are separate review processes. Additionally there is no requirement that an EA be prepared prior to the submission of a consistency determination. Nevertheless, the submission of a consistency determination before the completion of the environmental process has the potential to result in two "dissimilar" versions of the same project along with different mitigation measures. Should this situation arise there would be a necessity to reconcile the two versions of the proposed project. To minimize the potential for a dissimilar project emerging out of

these two review processes, we would encourage that the USCG, in the future, complete the environmental review process before submitting a project for consistency review.

- The proposed project anticipates some wetland impacts. We recommend the development of an alternative specifically designed to minimize habitat (including wetlands) impacts. Minimizing impacts could involve alternative antenna locations or alternative guy wire configurations.
- We recommend that the proposed EA contain graphics depicting any Areas of Environmental Concern (AEC) that may exist in the project vicinity. Additionally, we recommend that any graphic that depicts wetlands distinguish between CAMA coastal wetlands and Section 404 wetlands.
- We recommend that the proposed EA quantify the anticipated wetland impacts.
- Should there be any unavoidable habitat impacts, we recommend that the EA propose compensatory mitigation.
- The scoping request notes that support equipment will be placed on a "*raised platform*". To assure that the raised platform would survive a storm event, we recommend that the EA propose a platform that will be above the flood level and to establish that the communications system has been designed to survive a major storm event.
- We recommend that the EA, for purposes of demonstrating consistency with the State's coastal management program, use the Dare County 1994 Land Use Plan, approved on April 30, 1999.

Thank you for your consideration of the North Carolina Coastal Management Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Rynas', written in a cursive style.

Stephen Rynas, AICP  
Federal Consistency Coordinator

cc: Doug Huggett, Division of Coastal Management  
Frank Jennings, Division of Coastal Management  
Thomas A Tansey, US Coast Guard

Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Project Review Form

RECEIVED  
JUL 14 2009  
Morehead City DOM

Project Number <b>10-0007</b>	County <b>Dare</b>	Date Received <b>7/10/09</b>	Date Response Due (firm deadline) <b>7/22/09</b>
<b>Please expedite the review per applicant</b>			

This project is being reviewed as indicated below:

Regional Office	Regional Office Area	In-House Review
<input type="checkbox"/> Asheville	<input type="checkbox"/> Air	<input type="checkbox"/> Soil & Water <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Fisheries
<input type="checkbox"/> Fayetteville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal Management
<input type="checkbox"/> Mooresville	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquifer Protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Raleigh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Quality Engineer	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Resources _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington		<input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Health
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilmington		<input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation <input type="checkbox"/> Waste Mgmt
<input type="checkbox"/> Winston-Salem		<input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality <input type="checkbox"/> Radiation Protection
		<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Manager Sign-Off/Region:		Date:
		In-House Reviewer/Agency:

<p>Response (check all applicable)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No objection to project as proposed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No comment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient information to complete review</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify or attach comments)</p>
--

RETURN TO:  
Melba McGee  
Environmental Coordinator  
1601 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1601