

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

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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

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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  
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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.

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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

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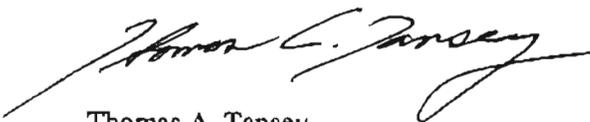
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Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, 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

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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.

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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

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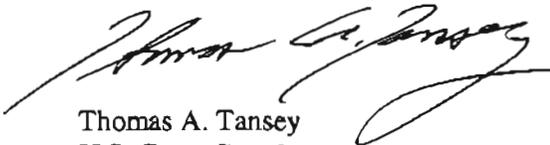
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist 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.

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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.

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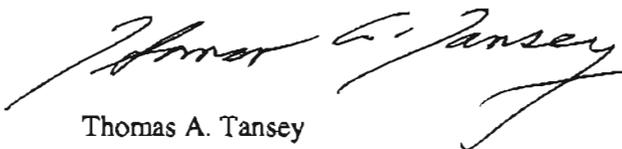
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June 30, 2009

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

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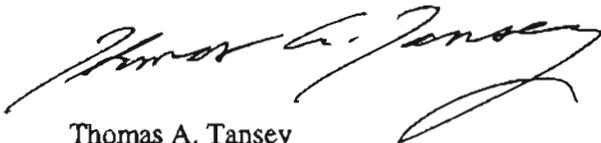
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Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site



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.

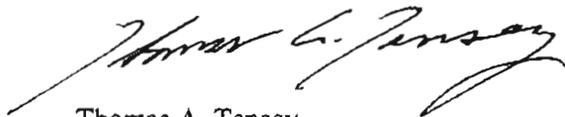
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist 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](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  
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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

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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.

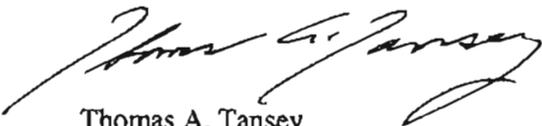
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Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, 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

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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) 475-3916

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

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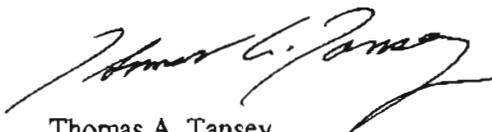
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist 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

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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.

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June 30, 2009

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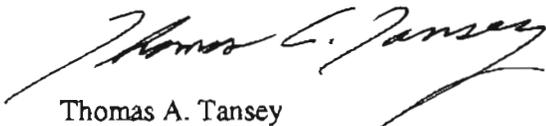
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist 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.

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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

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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.

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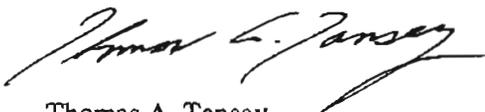
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Sincerely,



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

June 30, 2009

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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.

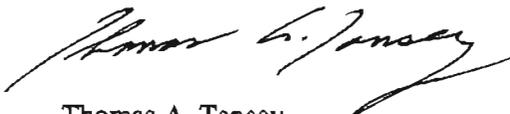
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist 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  
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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

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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

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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

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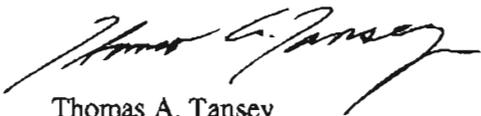
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist 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.

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U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager

June 30, 2009

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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) 475-3916

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.

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June 30, 2009

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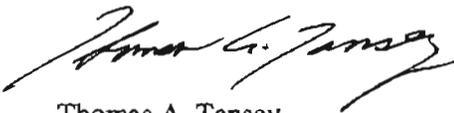
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Thomas A. Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Environmental Program Manager

June 30, 2009

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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:

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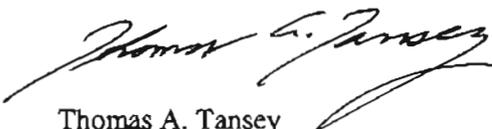
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U.S. Coast Guard  
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U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

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) 475-3916

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.

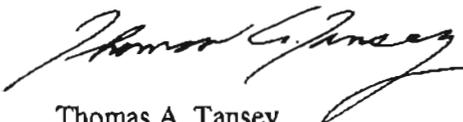
Alternative Two consists of constructing a new 525-foot tall guyed communications tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action; however, the new tower would be supported with 39 guy wires with bird diverters and would require six anchor points (Figure 4). The anchors would consist 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  
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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.

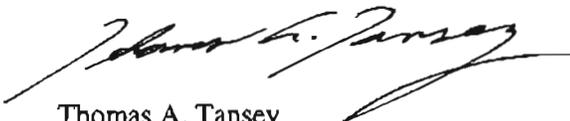
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Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, 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

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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

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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.

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Very Respectfully,



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

June 30, 2009

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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.

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June 30, 2009

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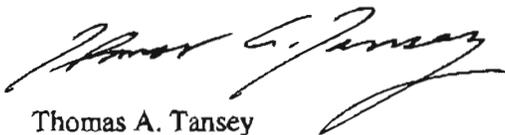
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Very Respectfully,



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

June 30, 2009

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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.

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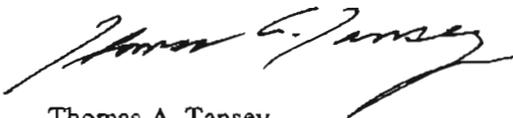
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Very Respectfully,



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

June 30, 2009

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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.

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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.

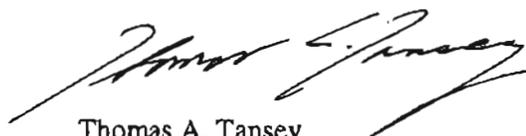
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Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, 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  
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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.

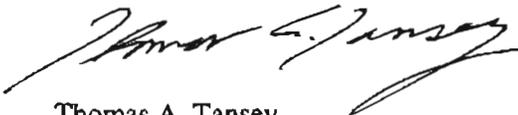
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Alternative Three consists of constructing a new 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances in the same location as the Proposed Action site (Figure 6). The foundation for the three-leg tower would consist of 72.5-foot-deep, 8-foot diameter, 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.

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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

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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.

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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

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Sincerely,



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

June 30, 2009

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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.

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June 30, 2009

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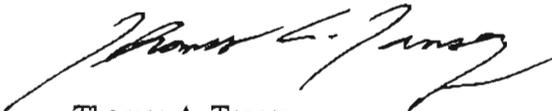
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Sincerely,



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

June 30, 2009

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Photographs 1-2 of existing conditions at the project site



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
 Division of Coastal Management  
 James H. Gregson  
 Director

Beverly Eaves Perdue  
 Governor

Dee Freeman  
 Secretary

**MEMORANDUM**

July 10, 2009

**RECEIVED**  
 JUL 27 2009

**Morehead City DCM**

**TO:** Brian Strong  
 NCDENR - Division of Parks and Recreation  
 512 North Salisbury Street, Seventh Floor  
 Raleigh, NC 27604-1170

**FROM:** Stephen Rynas, AICP; Federal Consistency Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Construction of a 525-Foot Tall Communications Tower (Rescue 21)  
 (DCM#20090091)

**LOCATION:** US Coast Guard Facility at Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina

This document is being circulated for consistency review and comment by **July 31, 2009**. The US Coast Guard is proposing to replace an existing 425-foot tall communications tower with a 525 foot tall guyed communications tower as part of its Rescue 21 program. The Rescue 21 program is the maritime equivalent to a "911" communications system. Also, please be aware that you may also be receiving a "duplicate" NEPA review request from the state Clearinghouse. The NEPA review and consistency review processes are separate, so please respond to both review requests. Your responses will assist us in determining whether the proposed project would be consistent with the State's Coastal Management Program. If the proposed project does not conform to your requirements, please identify the measures that would be necessary to bring the proposed project into conformance. If you have any additional questions regarding the proposed project you may contact me at 252-808-2808.

**REPLY:** \_\_\_\_\_ No Comment.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ This office supports the project as proposed.  
 ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ Comments to this project are attached.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ This office objects to the project as proposed.

Signed: Harry E. Whitcomb, Jr. Date: July 23, 2009

**CORRECTIONS:** Please identify any corrections, additions, or deletions that should be made in terms of contact information.

**RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:**

Stephen Rynas, Federal Consistency Coordinator  
 NC Division of Coastal Management  
 400 Commerce Avenue  
 Morehead City, NC 28557-3421



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Raleigh Field Office  
Post Office Box 33726  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27636-3726

July 16, 2009

Sherrill E. Edwards-Owens  
US Department of Homeland Security  
US Coast Guard  
2100 2<sup>nd</sup> ST SW STOP 7701  
Washington, DC 20593-7701

RE: Construction of a 525-ft Guyed Communications Tower, RFF Buxton, Dare County, NC

Dear Ms. Edwards-Owens:

This letter is to inform you of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's response pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*; MBTA) and the Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; ESA), to your communication tower project.

With regard to your subject project, we offer the following remarks.

### **Migratory Bird Treaty Act**

Based on the description of the tower design characteristics, we conclude that the design of the proposed communications tower does not minimize the potential hazard to avian species protected by the MBTA.

### **Endangered Species Act**

Based on the information provided, we concur with your determination that the proposed activities are not likely to adversely affect federally-listed threatened and endangered species. We believe that the requirements of section 7(a)(2) of the ESA have been satisfied. We remind you that obligations under section 7 consultation must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner that was not considered in this review; or, (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact this office as 919-856-4520.

Sincerely

  
Pete Benjamin  
Field Supervisor

**Received**

JUL 24 2009



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Beverly Eaves Perdue  
Governor

Dee Freeman  
Secretary

July 23, 2009

RECEIVED

JUL 27 2009

Morehead City DCM

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Stephen Rynas, Federal Consistency Coordinator  
NC Division of Coastal Management

FROM: <sup>HL</sup> Harry LeGrand, Natural Heritage Program

SUBJECT: Proposed Construction of a 525-Foot Tall Communications Tower (Rescue 21); Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Buxton, Dare County

REFERENCE: DCM#20090091

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.

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



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

July 24, 2009

Thomas A. Tansey  
Environmental Manager  
United States Coast Guard (CG-9331)  
2100 2<sup>ND</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20593-7701

Subject: Rescue 21 Radio Tower at Buxton, NC

Dear Mr. Tansey:

Region 4 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed your June 30, 2009, letter which announces U.S. Coast Guard's intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA). The proposed federal action is to replace existing emergency communications facilities with new equipment to include construction of a new, taller radio frequency tower at the Coast Guard station located near Buxton, NC on federal property. We are providing scoping comments on the EA in accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The EA will consider four alternative tower configurations in addition to the no-action alternative. While we have no specific comments at this time about the alternative tower configurations to be evaluated, we suggest that impacts to coastal dunes, wetlands and defined communities with high habitat value be minimized. Green building and energy conservation features should also be considered. The letter does not indicate whether this newer Rescue 21 Program would involve 24/7 staffing or be operated remotely. The facilities for supporting any on-site personnel should also be addressed.

The EA should consider a broader scope of alternatives to include other locations for this tower. Although there could be overriding technical reasons (that EPA is unaware of) for the selection of this Buxton location, it would be good to consider locations other than on Hatteras Island. We suggest this because of the vulnerability of this island to repetitive damage from coastal storms. EPA has a long history of interagency involvement evaluating transportation issues on the Outer Banks, specifically regarding NC Highway 12. Maintaining continual, long term highway access to the proposed site has been and is likely to continue to be problematic. If there could be other locations for the communications equipment or possible alternative technologies on the horizon to meet the purpose and need for emergency communication we suggest that they be considered in the EA. Your letter does not indicate the design life for this facility, but from the description of the possible tower support features, we surmise that the tower is being designed to withstand the extreme coastal forces and the predicted rise in sea level for a very long period of time.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the assessment of this facility. Please contact Ted Bisterfeld on my staff at email address [bisterfeld.ted@epa.gov](mailto:bisterfeld.ted@epa.gov) or by calling telephone number 404/562-9621.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heinz Mueller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief  
NEPA Program Office

**Received**

AUG 5 2009



# North Carolina Department of Administration

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Britt Cobb, Secretary

August 10, 2009

Mr. Thomas Tansey  
U.S. Coast Guard  
2100 2nd Street, SW STOP 7701  
Washington, DC 20593-7701

**Re: SCH File # 10-E-0000-0007; SCOPING; Construction of a 525-foot Guyed  
Communications Tower**

Dear Mr. Tansey:

The above referenced environmental impact information has been submitted to the State Clearinghouse under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act. According to G.S. 113A-10, when a state agency is required to prepare an environmental document under the provisions of federal law, the environmental document meets the provisions of the State Environmental Policy Act. Attached to this letter for your consideration are the comments made by agencies in the course of this review.

If any further environmental review documents are prepared for this project, they should be forwarded to this office for intergovernmental review.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie W. McMillan".

Valerie W. McMillan, Director  
State Environmental Review Clearinghouse

Attachments

cc: Region R

*Mailing Address:*  
1301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1301

*Telephone: (919)807-2425*  
*Fax (919)733-9571*  
*State Courier #51-01-00*  
*e-mail valerie.w.mcmillan@doa.nc.gov*

*Location Address:*  
116 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Beverly Eaves Perdue  
Governor

Dee Freeman  
Secretary

MEMORANDUM



TO: Valerie McMillan  
State Clearinghouse

FROM: Melba McGee   
Environmental Review Coordinator

RE: 10-0007 Proposed Communication Tower, Buxton in Dare County

DATE: July 29, 2009

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has reviewed the proposed information. The attached comments should be provided to the applicant for consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to review.

Attachments



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,



Stephen Rynas, AICP  
Federal Consistency Coordinator

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



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Division of Water Quality

Coleen H. Sullins  
Director



Beverly Eaves Perdue  
Governor

Dee Freeman  
Secretary

**MEMO**

**To:** Melba McGee, Environmental Coordinator, Office of Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs

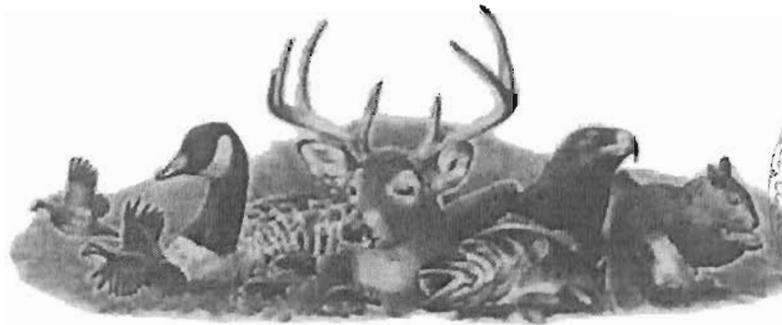
**Through:** Al Hodge, Supervisor Surface Water Protection

**From:** Roberto L. Scheller, Senior Environmental Specialist

**Subject:** **Comments on Project Review for U.S. Coast Guard Construction of 525-foot Guyed Communication Tower, RFF Buxton, Dare County**

**Date:** July 21, 2009

Review of the subject project found that the proposed project would not have any anticipated impacts on wetlands or surface waters. Should this change during the implementation of the proposed project this Office should be contacted immediately. If you should have any questions or require additional information you may e-mail me at [roberto.scheller@ncdenr.gov](mailto:roberto.scheller@ncdenr.gov) or contact me by phone at 252-948-3940.



## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Gordon Myers, Executive Director

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Melba McGee, Environmental Coordinator  
Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs  
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

**FROM:** Maria T. Dunn, Northeast Coastal Region Coordinator *Maria T. Dunn*  
Habitat Conservation Program

**DATE:** July 29, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Comments on USCG 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower, RFF Buxton,  
Dare County, North Carolina.  
**OLIA No. 10-0007**

Biologists with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) reviewed the project with regard to impacts of the project on fish and wildlife resources. Our comments are provided in accordance with the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act (G.S. 113A-1 et seq., as amended; 1 NCAC-25), provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the Coastal Area Management Act (G.S. 113A-100 through 113A-128), and Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (as amended).

The US Coast Guard (USCG) is proposing to construct a 525-foot guyed communications tower as part of the Rescue 21 program. Four alternatives for the communications tower have been proposed and include No Action, Alternative 1 (Proposed Action), Alternative 2, and Alternative 3. All alternatives are proposed to be located approximately 50 feet southwest of the existing tower located at RFF Buxton, 1.5 miles south of Buxton, NC. The No Action Alternative would allow the existing facilities, a 425-foot guyed wire tower, to remain as it is. Alternative 1, the Proposed Action, would replace the existing 425-foot tower with a 525-foot tower with 24 guyed wires. The tower foundation would consist of a 59-foot deep, 3.5-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caisson. The equipment compound would be 30-foot by 50-foot. Alternative 2 includes the construction of two 525-foot guyed wire towers. This option requires additional anchor points, but would have essentially the same compound dimensions and ground support equipment as the proposed action. Alternative 3 utilizes a 525-foot self-supported lattice tower and appurtenances with the foundation for the three-legged tower being 72.5-foot deep, 8-foot in diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons set 45 feet apart. The fenced compound dimensions would be increased to 65 feet by 70 feet, but the raised platform dimensions and associated ground support equipment would remain the same as the Proposed Action.

The NCWRC has reviewed the proposed alternatives and supports Alternative 3, not the Proposed Action Alternative 1. We have concerns with the impacts guyed wire systems have on migratory and local birds. These birds have the potential to be killed or injured while in flight due to collision with the tower and guyed wires. This area is within a major migratory route and is a concentration area for many local breeding birds and wintering species of high significance. Bird species of concern include the Federally Endangered and Federally Threatened populations of piping plovers, the State Threatened gull-billed tern as well as several other Species of Special Concern. To minimize the impacts of a tower in this area, we request the self supported lattice tower be constructed rather than a guyed wire system.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments during the early stages of this project. If you need further assistance or additional information, please contact me at (252) 948-3916.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

COUNTY: DARE

G06: COMMUNICATIONS (LINES,  
TOWERS)

STATE NUMBER: 10-E-0000-0007  
DATE RECEIVED: 07/09/2009  
AGENCY RESPONSE: 08/03/2009  
REVIEW CLOSED: 08/07/2009

RECEIVED  
JUL 10 2009

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

CH 09 - 1579

MS RENEE GLEDHILL-EARLEY  
CLEARINGHOUSE COORDINATOR  
DEPT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
MSC 4617 - ARCHIVES BUILDING  
RALEIGH NC

Please expedite review  
by July 23, per applicant

REVIEW DISTRIBUTION

ALBEMARLE REG PLANNING COMM  
CC&PS - DIV OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
DENR - COASTAL MGT  
DENR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS  
DEPT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES  
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

A - (NC) 7/14/09  
LJA

PROJECT INFORMATION

APPLICANT: U.S. Coast Guard  
TYPE: National Environmental Policy Act  
Scoping

H - DARE (15) 7/17/09

DESC: Construction of a 525-foot Guyed Communications Tower - the foundation for the three-leg tower involves 72.5 foot deep, 8-foot diameter, drilled and reinforced concrete caissons

The attached project has been submitted to the N. C. State Clearinghouse for intergovernmental review. Please review and submit your response by the above indicated date to 1301 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1301.

Due 7/20/09

If additional review time is needed, please contact this office at (919)807-2425.

AS A RESULT OF THIS REVIEW THE FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED:  NO COMMENT  COMMENTS ATTACHED

SIGNED BY:

Renee Gledhill-Earley

DATE:

7.17.09



JUL 13 2009



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
State Historic Preservation Office

Peter B. Sandbeck, Administrator

Beverly Hayes Perdue, Governor  
Linda A. Carlisle, Secretary  
Jeffrey J. Crow, Deputy Secretary

Office of Archives and History  
Division of Historical Resources  
David Brook, Director

July 17, 2009

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



Re: Construction of a 525' guyed communications tower, for Rescue 21, RFF Buxton, Dare County, CT09-1579

Dear Mr. Tansey:

We have received a scoping notification from the State Clearinghouse and a Consistency Determination Request from the Division of Coastal Management for the above referenced undertaking. While we note that the request for scoping comments is in anticipation of the Coast Guard's preparing an Environmental Assessment for the proposed undertaking, we are providing more detailed comments as we have serious reservations about the proposal.

The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse is located just to the northeast of the proposed undertaking. The lighthouse is a National Historic Landmark that is considered a national and state treasure and which the National Park Service, with taxpayers' monies, has taken great pains to protect well into the future. While we understand that there is an existing tower located at the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) in Buxton, we strongly object to any construction at the site that would result in a tower more than 2 ½ times taller than the lighthouse plus have numerous antennae and antenna arrays mounted on it. Whether guyed or self-supporting such a tower with its attendant antennae would have an adverse effect on the lighthouse. We, therefore, recommend that the US Coast Guard find another location along the North Carolina coast for any such tower.

If the Coast Guard continues to investigate a 538' structure at the proposed location, consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act will be necessary with all the affected parties and, in accordance with 36 CFR 800.10 "Special requirements for protecting National Historic Landmarks," require the involvement of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment,

contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,

*Renee Gledhill-Earley*

*P* Peter Sandbeck

cc: Valerie McMillan, SCH  
Stephen Rynas, DCM  
Doug Stover, NPS



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

July 29, 2009

Regulatory Division

Subject: USCG - RFF Buxton, NC  
Regulatory Action ID No. 2009-01412

US Department of Homeland Security  
United States Coast Guard  
Commandant (CG-9331)  
Attn: Thomas A. Tansey  
2100 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW, STOP 7701  
Washington, DC 20593-7701

Dear Mr. Tansey:

This letter is in response your request, dated July 24, 2009, for comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the construction of the Remote Fixed Facility (RFF) Buxton, North Carolina. Based on the information provided in the DEA, jurisdictional areas as defined at 33 CFR 328.3(a) have been identified within the proposed project area. Therefore, Department of the Army (DA) permit authorization pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended, may be required for the discharge of dredged, excavated or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands associated with this project.

It appears that the proposed project may involve locating the guy wire anchors (5.5-foot diameter by 52-foot deep concrete caisson) in jurisdictional areas. Furthermore, in order to construct the anchors, temporary access to the anchor locations will be required. Wetland impacts should be minimized to the maximum extent possible by considering the use of weight distribution mats for equipment access to the anchor sites. If this method is determined not be feasible, any temporary access road should be confined to the smallest footprint required for equipment access and all fill material placed on filter fabric and removed upon completion of construction. All anchor shaft drilled earthen spoil should be disposed of on upland areas and not side cast into wetlands. In pouring the concrete caissons, methods must be employed to avoid any contact of "live" concrete with surface waters. A restoration plan should be developed for all temporary disturbed wetland areas returning the area to pre-construction conditions following the completion of the project. The plan should include revegetation of the disturbed area using only endemic plant species

The type of authorization and any specific permit requirements will depend on the final design, extent of the fill work within jurisdictional areas, construction methods and other public interest and environmental factors. Based on the project description in the above referenced document and the current estimated level of aquatic resource impacts associated with the proposed project, the project may qualify for authorization under the Department of the Army

nationwide permit program, specifically nationwide permit number 12. For more information concerning the use of nationwide permits, please review our web site at:

<http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/WETLANDS/NWP2007/nationwide-permits-2007.html>

We appreciate this opportunity to provide you with our comments. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss our comments further, please call me at the Wilmington Regulatory Division Office at 910-251-4172.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard K. Spencer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard K. Spencer  
Military Regulatory Project Manager

**Received**  
AUG 12 2009

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
155C Airport Road  
Washington, North Carolina 27889

Rodney Woolard, District Conservationist  
Phone: (252) 946-4989, ext. 3  
Fax: (252) 946-2501  
E-mail: rodney.woolard@nc.usda.gov

July 29, 2009

COMMANDANT (CG-9331)  
ATTN: Mr. Thomas A. Tansey  
Environmental Program Manager  
U.S. Coast Guard  
2100 2<sup>ND</sup> Street SW STOP 7701  
Washington, DC 20593-7701

Dear Mr. Tansey:

In response to your June 30 and the subsequent July 24 mailing of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction of a 525 foot Guyed Communications Tower in Buxton, NC the Natural Resources Conservation Service's program areas are not involved. Due to impacts which are non-agricultural and outside of our program areas from a Farm Bill perspective our comments are limited.

While wetlands are delineated on your proposal and the need for a Section 404 permit is addressed in the EA let me encourage you to contact the N.C. Division of Water Resources on wetland impacts. As stated in the EA there are no impacts on prime farmland.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rodney Woolard".

Rodney Woolard  
District Conservationist

Cc: Dare Soil and Water Conservation District

**Received**

**AUG 6 2009**

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

Beverly Eaves Perdue  
Governor

James H. Gregson  
Director

Dee Freeman  
Secretary

August 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:** Comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment Related to a Proposed Communications Tower, Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina (SCH#10-0035, DCM#20090099, and DCM#20090107)

Dear Ms. McGee:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft environmental assessment (EA) "*Construction of Remote Fixed Facility Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina*" (July 2009) prepared for the US Coast by the URS Group, Inc. for the proposed 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 review is to assess the adequacy of the environmental analysis contained in the draft EA. 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 DCM comment period for consistency review closed on July 31, 2009.

Comments were received from three State agencies expressing concern over the proposed 525 foot tall guyed wire tower. The consistency review comments were forwarded to the Coast Guard on August 10, 2009 for a response. As of the date of this letter, the Coast Guard has not provided a response to the concerns expressed. As such, the concerns raised by the State agencies remain current in terms of the NEPA review process. The State agencies comments have been attached for reference. DCM requests that the USCG respond to those comments in terms of both the NEPA review process and the consistency review process.

- The NEPA process and the consistency review processes are separate review processes. Furthermore, 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 review process has the potential to “*short circuit*” the consistency review process. As noted above, various State agencies have expressed environmental concerns that need to be resolved before the consistency review process is completed.

Additionally, scoping comments on this proposed project by State agencies were due to the State Clearinghouse by July 22, 2009. We received a copy of the draft EA on July 28, 2009. Based on the short-time span between when scoping comments were due and the release of the draft EA we request that the USCG explain how the scoping comments were utilized in the preparation of the draft EA.

- We had recommended in our scoping comment letter of July 21, 2009 that the proposed EA contain graphics depicting any Areas of Environmental Concern (AEC) that may exist in the project vicinity. Additionally, we recommend the inclusion of graphics that distinguished CAMA coastal wetlands from Section 404 wetlands.

Figure 14 of the draft EA depicts wetlands, but it does not show AEC boundaries that may exist, nor does it distinguish between CAMA coastal wetlands and Section 404 wetlands.

- Section 2.2.2 of the draft EA discusses the potential construction of the new tower at the former USCG Group Hatteras property. This alternative was dismissed “*Due to the large number of buildings and support facilities on this 16-acre parcel, this land was determined to be unsuitable for the construction of a tall guyed tower.*” While this statement may be factually correct it is conclusionary in nature and does not necessarily establish a compelling reason for dismissing this approach without further analysis. For example, the site has been “*closed*” and designated as surplus property. As such it would be available for use and is a larger site than the proposed site (16 acres versus 11.25 acres). Some of the abandoned buildings on site could be removed to make the site suitable for a communication’s tower.

The analysis contained in Section 2.2.2 of the draft EA did not reveal features that could make the USCG Group Hatteras property a superior alternative. For example, it did not disclose whether any wetlands exist at this site. If wetlands do not exist at the former USCG Group Hatteras property, the new tower could be constructed without wetland impacts. This would be an environmentally preferred alternative. Moreover, unanswered in Section 2.2.2 is the issue of which site would be a better location for the tower based on its intended use as a communication facility.

Once the environmental concerns are resolved, we look forward to supporting the USCG in its efforts to implement a “911” radio communication system that will save lives and improve maritime safety. Thank you for your consideration of the North Carolina Coastal Management Program.

Sincerely,



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



United States Department of the Interior  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
OUTER BANKS GROUP



Fort Raleigh National Historic Site                      Wright Brothers National Memorial  
Cape Hatteras National Seashore  
1401 National Park Drive  
Manteo, North Carolina 27954

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7615 (CAHA)

AUG 27 2009

COMMANDANT (CG-9331)  
Attn: Thomas A. Tansey  
US Coast Guard  
2100 2nd St. Stop 7701  
Washington DC 20593-7701

Re:        Review of the July 2009 Draft Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a Remote Fixed Facility Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Tansey,

On July 27, 2009, the National Park Service (NPS) received the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Construction of a Remote Fixed Facility at Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina prepared by URS Group, Inc. for the United States Coast Guard (USCG). We have reviewed the document and offer the following comments.

The proposed project appears to be necessary to meet the objective of providing enhanced maritime search and rescue communications for the Sector North Carolina Area of Responsibility and benefit the United States' homeland security capabilities.

The NPS acknowledges that the USCG retains ownership and unrestricted right to operate, maintain, and add a communications tower and associated buildings and equipment as necessary for the USCG's national distress system. This understanding was documented in the enclosed letter, dated June 30, 2004, from the US General Services Administration to the NPS regarding the transfer of the 11.25-acre parcel.

We support Option 2 of the Proposed Action to replace the existing 425-foot-tall USCG tower with a 525-foot-tall unpainted tower. We believe that using the unpainted guyed tower, even with the addition of FAA daytime lighting, would cause less visual impact at the nearby Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, a National Historic Landmark, than the other action alternatives being considered.

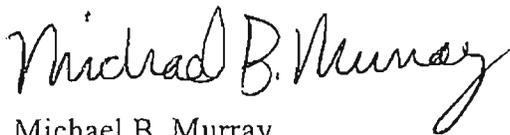
TAKE PRIDE<sup>®</sup>  
IN AMERICA 

We noted that the EA states that purchasing wetland mitigation credits, in lieu of fee mitigation, is being considered. The NPS requests that wetland mitigation occur within Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The NPS would work with the USCG to identify restoration and mitigation options to be described in a Wetlands Restoration Plan.

We appreciate that the USCG fully intends to continue to accommodate equipment of public service agencies, including the NPS, on the replacement tower. The NPS would work with the USCG on modifications to the electric service provided to the tower and associated equipment via the former USCG garage at the project site.

Thank you for providing us an opportunity to comment on the proposed action. The NPS does not expect implementation of the Proposed Action, Option 2 would have any unacceptable adverse impacts on park resources or visitor experience at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (252) 473-2111, extension 148.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael B. Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "B".

Michael B. Murray  
Superintendent

Enclosure



GSA Southeast Sunbelt Region

June 30, 2004

*Current Buxton High Level Site, NC*  
4-U-NC-0739

Mr. William W. Schenk  
Regional Director  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Southeast Regional Office  
Atlanta Federal Center  
1924 Building  
100 Alabama Street S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30303



Ref.: Old Group Cape Hatteras  
Parcel #2, Buxton, Cape Hatteras Island  
Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Schenk:

On March 5, 2003, you requested a no cost transfer to the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS) of 11.25 acres (2.474 hectares) of land, more or less, at the Old Group Cape Hatteras, parcel #2, Buxton, Dare County, North Carolina, the General Services Administration's control number 4-U-NC-0739, and the improvements and related personal property located thereon, reported December 10, 2002, as excess to the needs of the Department of Homeland Security, United States Coast Guard (USCG).

As evidenced by the attached letter, dated June 14, 2004, the Office of Management and Budget has approved your no cost transfer request.

Accordingly, pursuant to Public Law 107-217, the Property Act, as amended, and acting under authority delegated to me, I hereby transfer the property without reimbursement to the Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS). The property is transferred subject to compliance by the NPS with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, including the preparation of an environmental impact statement if required. The property is transferred subject to compliance by the NPS with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Executive Order 11593.

U.S. General Services Administration  
401 West Peachtree Street, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
www.gsa.gov

The following conditions and restrictions apply to this property transfer:

- \* The USCG retains ownership of and the unrestricted right to operate and maintain the tower known as Buxton High Level Site.
- \* The USCG retains the right to build any support buildings to facilitate equipment in support of the existing tower.
- The USCG retains the right to leave equipment in place during the time a new building is being constructed.
- \* The USCG retains 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 property is located within a 100-year flood plain.
- The property is a Jurisdictional Wetland.
- \* The USCG retains the unrestricted right to keep its tower and associated equipment known as the Buxton High Level Site on the land, along with the unrestricted right of ingress and egress.
- \* The USCG retains the right to construct a new building to house/support equipment necessary to operate the Buxton High Level Site and such a building will be sited by the USCG.

Chief Warrant Officer, Scott Romero, Commander United States Coast Guard Group, Cape Hatteras, P. O. Box 604, Buxton, North Carolina 27902-0604 will act for the USCG in arranging for the transfer of custody and accountability of the property and in other matters related to the transfer. His telephone number is (252) 995-6437.

A copy of our letter of same date to, Captian J. Manik, Commandant, United States Coast Guard (G-SEC), Room 6108, 2100 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001, is enclosed for your information. His telephone number is (202) 267-1987. It is requested that you acknowledge receipt of this communication in the space provided on the enclosed copy of this letter and return it to this office, and that such steps as necessary be taken by your Agency to consummate the transaction.

If there are any questions, please call Mr. Ernest Cooper of my staff at (404) 331-2368.

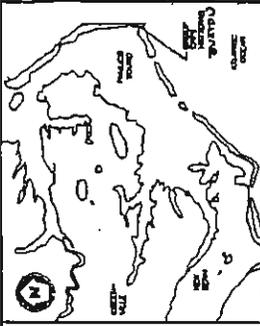
Sincerely,

  
 James B. Brandon  
 Zonal Chief, Northern Branch  
 Property Disposal Division

Enclosures

Name:   
 Title: Chief Land Resource Program Act  
 Date: 01-18-2005

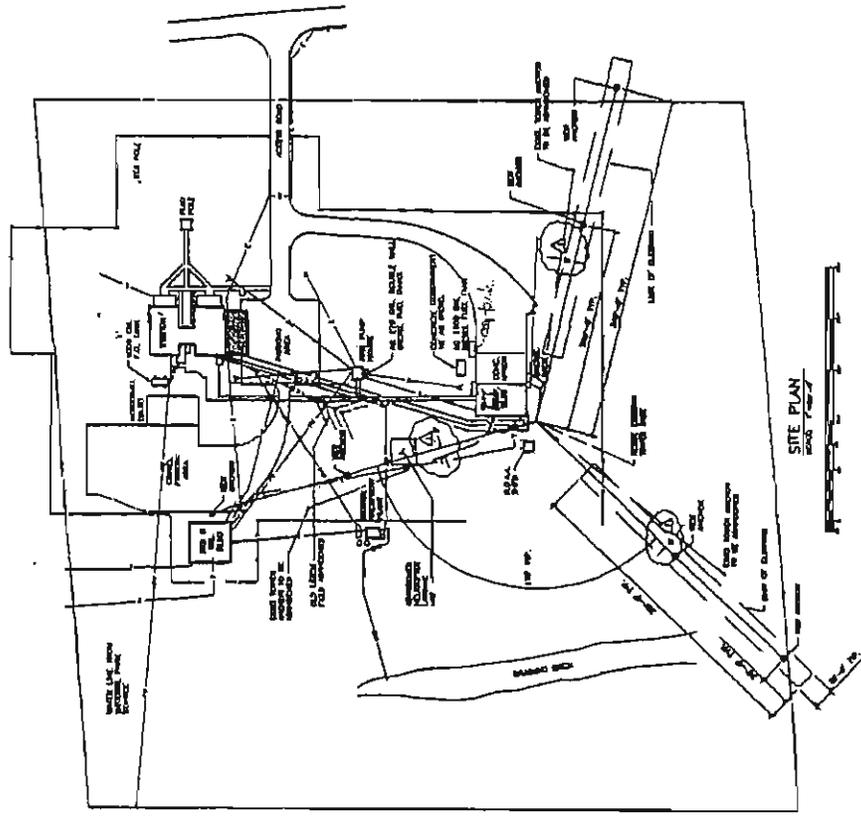
cc: Captain J. Manik, USCG  
 Ms. Laurette Tully, USCG  
 Mr. G. A. Burg, USCG



LEGEND

---	EXISTING LINE	---	NEW PROPERTY
---	PROPOSED	---	PAVING
---	NEW SWATH	---	NEW SWATH
---	NEW IN LINE	---	PROPOSED SWATH
---	PROPOSED SWATH	---	PROPOSED SWATH
---	PROPOSED SWATH	---	PROPOSED SWATH
---	PROPOSED SWATH	---	PROPOSED SWATH
---	PROPOSED SWATH	---	PROPOSED SWATH

U.S. COAST GUARD		CLEVELAND, OH	
CIVIL ENGINEERING UNIT			
REPLACE 425 FT. GUYED TOWER			
OLD GROUP CAPE HATTERAS		NORTH CAROLINA	
BLUETON			
SITE PLAN			
P/N 05-2026		5402-D	
DATE: 05/20/01		SCALE: AS SHOWN	
DRAWN BY: [Name]		CHECKED BY: [Name]	
APPROVED BY: [Name]		DATE: 05/20/01	
PROJECT NO. 05-2026		SHEET NO. 1 OF 3	



ATTACHMENT A



**North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
State Historic Preservation Office**

Peter B. Sandbeck, Administrator

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor  
Linda A. Carlisle, Secretary  
Jeffrey J. Crow, Deputy Secretary

Office of Archives and History  
Division of Historical Resources  
David Brook, Director

October 8, 2009

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

Re: Construction of a 525' guyed-wire communications tower for Rescue 21, RFF Buxton, Dare County, CT09-1579

Dear Mr. Tansey:

This letter is to follow up on our conference call of September 24, 2009 and subsequent on-site meeting at Cape Hatteras Light Station on October 1, 2009. Both the conference call and site visit were very helpful to my understanding of the proposed Rescue 21 facility, background of the site, and existing conditions.

Based on the information provided on-site and in your Powerpoint presentation, we have determined that the three alternatives for the proposed undertaking will have the following effects upon the Cape Hatteras Light Station National Historic Landmark.

- A 525' self support tower will adversely affect the historic property.
- A 525' unpainted, guyed-wire tower with daytime strobe flashers will adversely affect the historic property.
- A 525' guyed-wire tower, painted aviation red and white, without daytime lighting will not adversely affect the historic property, if the following conditions are implemented throughout the life of the project
  - No dish-type antennae will be permitted on the new tower.
  - Proposals for any additional antennae on the new tower beyond those proposed for Rescue 21 and the reinstallation of the current antennae, owned by other agencies, shall be reviewed by the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey J. Crow  
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Michael Murray, NPS  
Doug Stover, NPS  
Stephen Rynas, DCM



November 18, 2009

Federal Consistency Coordinator  
NC Division of Coastal Management  
Attn: Mr. Stephen Rynas  
400 Commerce Ave.  
Morehead City, NC 28557-3421

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

Dear Mr. Rynas:

At your request, I am writing to address several issues that were raised by North Carolina agencies about the U.S. Coast Guard's proposed replacement of our existing HLS Buxton, 425-foot tall, guyed communications tower with a 100-foot taller structure. There were two primary concerns expressed by State agencies as part of their review of the Coast Guard's Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination:

- a. The potential for an adverse visual effect to the National Historic Landmark, Cape Hatteras Light;
- b. The potential of bird strikes on a guyed tower versus a self-supported tower without guy wires;

As part of the Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act consultation process, the Coast Guard held discussions with Dr. Jeffrey J. Crow, State Historic Preservation Officer. On October 1, 2009, Dr. Crow had an opportunity to view the existing tower from both the ground level and upper railing at Cape Hatteras Light. He was also presented with additional information to answer his questions on site selection and photographs of existing guyed towers at other locations with installed bird flight diverter devices on the guy wires. At a distance, the diverter devices are not visible to the naked eye. After careful consideration of the various tower design options, Dr. Crow concluded that a 525-foot guyed-wire tower, painted aviation red and white, without daytime lighting will not adversely affect the historic property, if the following conditions are implemented throughout the life of the project:

- No dish-type antennae will be permitted on the new tower.
- Proposals for any additional antennae on the new tower beyond those proposed for Rescue 21 and the reinstallation of the current antennae, owned by other agencies, shall be reviewed by the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office.

As a result of our discussions with Dr. Crow and in order to avoid an adverse visual effect to the Cape Hatteras Light, the Coast Guard has agreed to use the painted, 24-guy wire tower design alternative and to follow the additional above stipulations regarding dish-type antennas or any future requests for additional antennae installations on the proposed RFF Buxton tower. A copy of Dr. Crow's letter, dated October 8, 2009, is attached. As there will be no adverse effect if a painted, guy-wire design tower is used, this concludes the Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act consultation process.

In regards to the potential of bird strikes on a guyed tower versus a self-supported tower, Ms. Maria T. Dunn, Northeast Coastal Region Coordinator, Habitat Conservation Program, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, expressed her agency's concern with the potential effect of guyed wire towers on

November 18, 2009

migratory and local birds. Ms. Dunn requested that a self-supported tower design be used versus a guyed tower. Mr. Harry LeGrand, Natural Heritage Program, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources also expressed his agency's concern that a guyed tower along this major migratory route has the potential to be a "major bird-tower strike structure". Mr. LeGrand encouraged the Coast Guard to work with the staff of the National Park Service concerning potential ground monitoring around the tower site at dawn, particularly in the fall season.

In order to greatly reduce the likelihood of bird strikes on a guyed tower, the Coast Guard intends to install bird flight diverter devices on all twenty-four supporting guy wires. As the existing 18-guy wire tower has no diverter devices, we believe this will be a vast improvement over the status quo option even with the addition of six more guy wires and the 100-foot increase in tower height. After careful consideration of the many different types of available devices, we believe that yellow, helical spiral diverter devices will be the best choice for this application. The devices are made of a flexible ultraviolet resistant polyvinyl chloride (PVC) rod designed to wrap around the guy wires. The devices will be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended spacing every fifteen feet along the length of each wire. Two manufacturers of the helical spiral device are Dulmison® and Preformed Line Products®.

The bird flight diverter devices are designed to increase the visual signature of the otherwise gray steel guy wires and serve as a visual warning of an obstruction to birds in flight. Although manufactured in both gray and yellow material, yellow will be the preferred color of the device on this installation for added visibility to migrating birds. Birds are known to have excellent color vision, superior to primates, including four different types of color receptors. Although visible at close range to birds in flight, the devices are not visible from a considerable distance, such as from the Cape Hatteras Light, and will not cause an adverse visual effect to the historic lighthouse. This has been proven by visual inspection of existing guyed towers and power lines with various types of diverter devices installed, some much larger than the helical spiral design. Although ground monitoring studies have not been funded or included in the planned replacement of the HLS Buxton tower, the Coast Guard would be willing to allow the RFF Buxton tower to be used for future scientific studies and would work closely with biologists at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore should a third party organization make a request to conduct ground monitoring during fall migrations.

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 by the USACE Wilmington District. The wetlands delineation identified two Clean Water Act, Section 404 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 freshwater wetlands, but not coastal wetlands, entirely on property owned by the Federal Government. The area is not considered a State of North Carolina Area of Environmental Concern (AEC).

Design of this project has limited the amount of permanent impacts to 0.057 acre of freshwater, Clean Water Act, Section 404 jurisdictional wetlands, entirely contained on Federal property under the administrative control of the U.S. Coast Guard. All temporarily impacted areas will be returned to their pre-construction contours and replanted with native plant species per a wetland restoration planting plan that will be reviewed and approved by the USACE. All erosion control measures will be removed once

November 18, 2009

Design of this project has limited the amount of permanent impacts to 0.057 acre of freshwater, Clean Water Act, Section 404 jurisdictional wetlands, entirely contained on Federal property under the administrative control of the U.S. Coast Guard. All temporarily impacted areas will be returned to their pre-construction contours and replanted with native plant species per a wetland restoration planting plan that will be reviewed and approved by the USACE. All erosion control measures will be removed once the area has been stabilized. In order to mitigate for permanent impacts to Jurisdictional Waters, wetland restoration credits will be purchased from the Great Dismal Swamp Mitigation Bank. Stream mitigation credits will be purchased at a ratio of 2:1 per USACE guidance and as confirmed by Mr. Tom Steffens of the USACE. A total of 0.12 mitigation credits will be purchased at a cost of \$1,620. The Great Dismal Swamp Mitigation Bank has been contacted and confirmed that credits are available for this project. The Coast Guard is in the process of purchasing the partial credits prior to submission of the Preconstruction Notification Form to the USACE, Wilmington District.

Via previous email correspondence and in order to address the concerns of several State agencies as previously mentioned, the Coast Guard had extended the period for your agency's review of the Proposed Action and our consistency determination until December 18, 2009. Although Federal lands are excluded from the North Carolina Coastal Management Program (CMP) under 15 CFR 923.33, any activity on Federal lands that has reasonably foreseeable coastal effects must be consistent with the North Carolina CMP. Because construction of RFF Buxton has potential coastal zone spillover effects, the Coast Guard is required to evaluate the Proposed Action relative to the North Carolina CMP.

After review of the North Carolina CMP and enforceable policies of your management program, the Coast Guard restates its consistency determination that the replacement of the existing Coast Guard owned, 425-foot tall guyed tower with a 525-foot tall guyed tower and ground support equipment on Federal land is an action which will be undertaken in a manner consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of North Carolina's approved coastal management program per the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (as amended through P.L. 104-105), and 15 CFR 930.36 and 930.39. The Coast Guard requests that your agency provide your written concurrence with our consistency determination by December 18, 2009. 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  
Environmental Program Manager  
Rescue 21 Project Office  
U.S. Coast Guard

Encl: (1) Letter dated October 8, 2009, from Dr. Jeffrey J. Crow, State Historic Preservation Officer

Copy: Ms. Melba McGee, Environmental Coordinator, Office of Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Environment and Natural Resources.