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# INTERNET FOR ALL

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## Finding of No Significant Impact

*Healy Lake Village (NT22TBC0290015)*



U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration

# Finding of No Significant Impact

## National Telecommunications and Information Administration

### Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP)

#### Healy Lake Monopole Tower Overview

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This document serves as the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the following project awarded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). NTIA has completed the sufficiency review of the recipient's Environmental Assessment (EA) and has determined that the project will not have a significant impact on the environment. The FONSI contains information related to the review.

Recipient Name:	Healy Lake Village
Grant Project Name:	Monopole Tower Construction
Grant Award No.	NT22TBC0290015
Program Location:	Healy Lake, Alaska

#### Program Summary

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The NTIA awarded a grant to Healy Lake Village, through the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP), as authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Division N, Title IX, Section 905(c), Public Law 116-260, 134 Stat. 1182 (Dec. 27, 2020) (Act). TBCP provides new federal funding for grants to eligible entities to expand access to and adoption of: (i) broadband service on Tribal Land; or (ii) for programs that promote the use of broadband to access remote learning, telework, or telehealth resources during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Healy Lake Village project is called Monopole Tower Project and proposed activities are scheduled to occur in Healy Lake, Alaska.

Healy Lake Village completed an EA for this Project in July, 2023. NTIA reviewed the EA, determined it is sufficient, and adopted it as part of the development of this FONSI.

The Project includes:

- **Project Activity 1 (Preferred Alternative):** The project will provide for microwave broadband by installing a monopole at the project site and assisting households and buildings at the village site to connect to the Internet. The project site is .25 acres on private, cleared farmland near Cummings Road (closest community is Delta Junction). A gravel pad will be installed to avoid vegetation regrowth and provide stability for the monopole. Aside from the monopole, all that will be placed on the site is a Connex for storage of a generator and other materials, and solar panels. There are no utilities as the site will be powered by solar panels. The generator is only there for backup in the event that solar power is insufficient.

Based on a review of the analysis in the EA, NTIA has determined that the project, implemented in accordance with the preferred alternative, and incorporating best management practices

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(BMPs) and protective measures identified in the EA, will not result in any significant environmental impacts. Therefore, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. The basis for this determination is described in this FONSI.

Additional information and copies of the Executive Summary of the EA and FONSI are available to all interested persons and the public through the NTIA website

<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/node/8229> and the following contact:

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## Project Purpose and Need

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The purpose of this project is to provide affordable, reliable Internet connections to the homes and businesses located in the Healy Lake Village and surrounding area. This project would help bridge the digital divide and enable the Village to maintain and potentially increase its population by connecting every home and business to broadband Internet

Internet is now considered a basic utility (indeed, a basic need) in most American homes, yet the houses and few businesses in Healy Lake Village lack highly functioning Internet, there is no reliable, high speed (25 Mbps), Internet service for the Healy Lake area. The tribe's office's Internet is intermittent and it is difficult to carry out the business of the tribe. No existing broadband or digital inclusion plans exist at this time. Healy Lake has limited access to cell coverage, and the only option for data is satellite, which is spotty depending on weather, only accessible to limited locations due to homes that are unable to see the satellite due to obstruction. There are no opportunities to work or attend school remotely.

The tribe needs to provide affordable broadband programs for Healy Lake Village for telehealth, remote education, workforce and economic development, and digital inclusion and skills. Installing broadband in each household and business at a cost that is affordable to residents will enable the village to continue to exist and potentially grow, so that it could regain its school and increase business opportunities. This service will allow for remote/virtual education and classroom for students in the Healy Lake area. It will also allow older residents to access training which may improve employment opportunities, as well as supporting businesses in the local area and potential economic development. Functioning Internet is also critical for the health of residents, so they can be seen remotely by health professionals.

There are no households or businesses right now that can afford to pay high costs for satellite Internet. Nor can they access Internet from their cell phones, as service is poor. Thus, there is a critical need to provide affordable, reliable Internet to continue existence of the village and help rebuild the lost population.

In summary, the project and proposed action will allow for the following:

- Increased broadband Internet service for the Healy Lake Village
- Support for new frequencies (2.5 GHz) to improve and expand data coverage
- Facilitating reliable interoperable communications among health and education providers
- Enhancement of economic opportunities and health in Healy Lake Village.

## Project Description

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The following is a description of the Project:

The project will provide for microwave broadband by installing a monopole at the project site and assisting households and buildings at the village site to connect to the Internet. The project

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site is .25 acres on private, cleared farmland near Cummings Road (closest community is Delta Junction). A gravel pad will be installed to avoid vegetation regrowth and provide stability for the monopole. Aside from the monopole, all that will be placed on the site is a Connex for storage of a generator and other materials, and solar panels. There are no utilities as the site will be powered by solar panels. The generator is only there for backup in the event that solar power is insufficient.

The steps of construction are as follows:

1. Using an excavator, dig the hole for the monopole
2. Install the tower
3. Backfill and compaction
4. Install the radio equipment on the tower
5. Lay down the gravel on the pad (gravel truck will be stationed on the street, no need for a staging area)
6. Install the solar panels
7. Put the storage Connex on the site
8. Erect the fence
9. Clean up any debris at the site
10. Assist homeowners and building owners in Healy Lake installing the equipment should include phases of construction and operation/maintenance of the facility.

Fuel will be contained in a 1000-gallon steel tank constructed by Greer Tank and Welding. The tank will have secondary containment in a 110% steel containment vessel, also constructed by Greer Tank and Welding. The Tank and secondary containment will be placed in a watertight shipping container (Connex). A fuel meter will be installed and monitored remotely, via the network. Refueling will be in the fall before snow, and again after breakup in the spring. The fuel company is responsible for drip-free refueling.

## Analysis of Alternatives

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The recipient's EA includes an analysis of the alternatives for implementing the project to meet the purpose and need NTIA conducted a review of the recipient's analysis of alternatives for implementing the project to meet the purpose and need, including a review of the "no action" alternative, where applicable. Each alternative was evaluated for impacts against the "no action" alternative and impacts from other alternatives, as a component of selecting the preferred alternative. The following summarizes the alternatives analyzed in the EA.

### ***Alternative 1(Preferred Alternative):***

The project includes the construction of a single a 120-foot direct embedded, freestanding self-support monopole tower and associated equipment as a Transmission and Receiving Site for microwave broadband. Microwave Internet or Wireless Access (WLA) is a fixed wireless broadband connection delivered by high-capacity microwave radio link, which does



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not require any other infrastructure other than power, and a clear or near line of sight. This site was selected over other sites because it provides the best “line of sight”, meaning that the microwaves can pass between the tower and buildings to be served without obstruction from trees or hills.

The proposed tower site is located at Latitude 63°56'35.66"N, Longitude 144°55'56.01"W (NAD83) along Cummings Road on the edge of a hay/grain field on private property with an access road to the site. The site was cleared in the early 1980s for agricultural purposes. Healy Lake Village has already entered into a lease with the owner. An existing gravel access road will be used for site access for construction and operational maintenance. The area surrounding the proposed Tower is dominated by single-family residences in rural residential / agricultural community in Southeast Fairbanks.

The total ground-disturbance for the area is less than 0.25 acres, and the final site footprint will be approximately 0.25 acres.

The project site has shallow silty soils (less than one foot) on glacial gravel that are incredibly stable for construction, particularly as there is no permafrost beneath the site. The hole will be as small as can possibly be dug with an excavator: 23 feet deep, 6 feet wide, and 6 feet long. The bottom section of the pole will go in the hole, and material from the hole will be placed back around the pole. The hole will be saturated with water to avoid unsettled airspace between small particles that make up the gravel. This way, there will be no need for concrete and the area will not be significantly susceptible to frost heaving. Once the bottom is stable, three more sections will be stacked on top of the base to reach 120 feet. There is no need for pile driving. The gravel material that was removed from the hole will be used to secure the base by water compacting the gravel around the tower base. The topsoil will be returned around the base.

Access point radios and a point-to-point radio will be installed on the tower. The tower has already been registered with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) obstruction evaluation system.

A 20' steel shipping container (Connex) will be placed on pressure treated timbers on the property to hold equipment and fuel, including a diesel-powered generator, fuel tank, battery bank, charging system, electronics rack, and associated equipment. There will be venting and a fire suppression system within the Connex.

There will be no utility connections. There will be a small generator onsite to serve as a backup in the event that solar power fails or is insufficient (likely during the winter). Fuel will be contained in a 1000- gallon steel tank constructed by Greer Tank and Welding. The tank will have secondary containment in a 110% steel containment vessel, also constructed by Greer Tank and Welding. The tank and secondary containment will be placed in a watertight shipping container (Connex). A fuel meter will be installed and monitored remotely, via the network. Refueling will be in the fall before snow, and again after breakup in the spring. The fuel company is responsible for drip-free refueling. The tank will be maintained in this location for the life of the project, which is expected to be 40 years (the typical lifespan of this kind of tower). Given that the lifespan of the tank may be shorter (20 years), it will be replaced when and if needed. At the end of the lifespan of the tower, Healy Lake will evaluate whether the tower should be replaced with a similar construction or whether a better design is available.

A small gravel pad (25ft x 60ft x 6 inches) will be layered over the project site to create a level base for the equipment shelter and solar array, prevent grass from growing, and create a fire break for the equipment. Also, in the unlikely event of a fuel spill, remediation can be



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accomplished quickly and easily through removal of the gravel.

Holes (4" diameter) will be dug for fence posts and solar panel racks. Posts will be placed on ten-foot centers to support the solar panels next to the tower. Additional solar panels will be installed on the Connex. A chain link fence will be constructed around the gravel pad to deter people and animals from entering the site.

Given the permeability of the gravel and limited rainfall in the area, no stormwater controls will be needed. There is no support office located at the site, so there are no issues regarding construction of a building. DART is the only entity involved in this project. There is no other provider (e.g., AT&T) that will have any role in installation or maintenance.

Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) will be installed at homes and buildings in Healy Lake Village to provide for Internet connection. A CPE is a radio connected to a small dish antenna that will be pointed towards the tower. Each installation will vary some, but basically it will be installed in the most convenient place to get a line-of-sight link to the tower. In some cases, this will be on the side of the house, and in others up on a small pole (1-7/8" pipe) to clear obstructions. In the home there will be a small power supply (2" x 4.5" plug in box) and a small router that will provide wireless in the home and allow for plugging in up to 4 ethernet cables (for printers, TVs, etc.).

**No Action Alternative:** No action was also considered. This alternative represents conditions as they currently exist. The EA examined this alternative as the baseline for evaluating impacts relative to other alternatives being considered.

The no action alternative results in no further environmental impact to the area. The status quo would continue in terms of the lack of communication infrastructure for Healy Lake Village. The Village would forfeit its broadband grant and its spectrum license. The impact to the community from the potential loss of employment, education, telehealth, and broadband Internet service would be negative. The population would likely continue to decline and the village site could ultimately be abandoned. This would be inconsistent with the Biden Administration's efforts to bridge the digital divide, promote environmental justice, and uphold its trust duty to this tribe.

Without the project, essential Internet services in the community would continue to be absent, including needed services for the transportation shop, clinic, library and develop a secure link for telehealth and telemedicine services necessary in our remote location. A private place to participate in telehealth and telemedicine services is essential as

### ***Fiber Optic Cable***

The installation of fiber optic cable was considered, particularly as it could provide a greater level of service for residents (faster download and upload speeds, more data). But fiber optic cable has not been installed from the nearest city (Delta Junction) toward Healy Lake. Laying fiber optic cable underground would entail many miles of plowing, trenching, or directional bore techniques. The footprint would be far greater than 0.25 acres and would likely impact wetlands and habitat for wildlife. It would also be significantly more expensive, and potentially unaffordable for the project proponent (Healy Lake Village Council) and future customers. Given this expense, the alternative would not meet the purpose and need of the project and was dismissed.

### ***Tower Design Alternatives***

Two forms of alternatives towers were considered for this project included a guyed-type tower, and a free-standing lattice type tower. While the guyed- tower could have been

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cost-effective (although more expensive than the proposed monopole), according to FCC, based on previous U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) guidance, it would pose a significant danger to birds, given its height at over 300 feet and the lack of flashing lights. (FCC 2021). Thus, it would have a far greater environmental impact than the proposed action and was not considered further.

A free standing, latticed tower design was also considered. But installation is significantly more complicated due to the structural and foundational requirements. Thus, it was not cost-effective compared to the proposed action, and since it did not significantly differ in terms of environmental impacts, it was not considered further.

**Alternative Locations**

Several locations alternatives were considered for the tower. Line of site testing was used to determine which would work best. Line of sight testing was completed by Healy Lake Village’s contractor DART using a computer program called Link Planner made by Cambium (the company that makes the technology to install on homes). As shown in Figure 6, the tester inputs into Link Planner the location of two points and information regarding the topography at a given site, frequency, power, antenna type, etc. DART is able to correct for analyzing points with topography issues by using their own experience of the area combined with information from Google Earth. In this case, DART completed testing by considering the location of the homes in Healy Lake and various test sites.

One test site was located in the village itself on land owned by the village corporation, Mendas Cha-ag, adjacent to the tribal hall and washeteria. This site was not selected because it was potentially culturally inappropriate, and since it was so close to the homes and not elevated above them, there was not a clear line of site.

Locating a tower within the village was also problematic because the tribe has had a difficult time getting site control (lease or other permission to use land) from the landowner, Mendas Cha-ag corporation. Finally, maintenance to village sites would be problematic because there are times of the year when the village cannot be accessed (before freeze-up or during spring melt). Thus, given the technical, logistical political, and legal difficulties of locating a tower in the village, this alternative was dismissed from further consideration.

An additional site several hundred feet to the east of the preferred site was also considered, but the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers suggested moving the site a couple hundred feet to the west to create a greater buffer from the drainage that runs north to south through the field. The decision was made to move the project site as the Corps suggested.

**Findings and Conclusions**

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The recipient’s EA analyzed existing conditions and environmental consequences of the preferred alternative, other alternatives, and the no action alternative for potential impacts in the major resource areas of Noise, Air Quality (including greenhouse gases [GHGs]), Geology and Soils, Water Resources, Biological Resources, Historic and Cultural Resources, Aesthetic and Visual Resources, Land Use, Infrastructure, Socioeconomic Resources, and Human Health and Safety. The results of the analysis are summarized in the table below:



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Resource Area	Preferred Alternative	No Action Alternative
Noise	No Significant Impact	No Impact
Air Quality (including greenhouse gases [GHGs])	No Significant Impact	No Impact
Geology and Soils	No Significant Impact	No Impact
Water Resources	No Significant Impact	No Impact
Biological Resources	No Significant Impact	No Impact
Historic and Cultural Resources	No Significant Impact	No Impact
Aesthetic and Visual Resources	No Significant Impact	No Impact
Land Use	No Significant Impact	No Impact
Infrastructure	No Significant Impact	No Impact
Socioeconomic Resources	Beneficial Impact	Significant Impact
Human Health and Safety	Beneficial Impact	Significant Impact

The sections that follow provide a brief narrative for those resource areas where there has been a potential impact indicated in the table above or provide a summary of the results of required consultation with the appropriate agency or agencies.

### Water Resources

The project site for the Tower and the village site are both near the Tanana River. The village site is adjacent to Healy Lake. Other nearby water bodies include Healy River, Gerstle River, and Moose Lake. All have good water quality, as of 2022, none have been listed by the State of Alaska as “impaired.” (ADEC 2023).

The depth to groundwater measured at the USGS well closest to the project site is approximately 245 feet. (USGS). Ground-disturbing activities associated with the Proposed Action Alternative, including subsurface foundation removal and excavation of soils, would not extend to depths that would interfere with groundwater flow or quality.

The Proposed Action Alternative would not involve channeling, diverting, altering, filling, or withdrawing water from surface waterbodies or groundwater; would have no potential to permanently affect water quality in receiving waterbodies; and would not contribute to the further degradation of water quality in downstream waterbodies designated as “impaired” by the State of Alaska.

To manage the quality and quantity of stormwater discharged from construction sites in Alaska, construction activities disturbing 1 or more acres are required to obtain coverage under the 2016 Construction General Permit (CGP) for Storm Water Discharges for Large and Small Construction Activities (Permit No. AKR100000). Coverage under the permit requires implementation of applicable erosion and sediment control measures to minimize erosion of exposed soils and concentrations of sediments and pollutants in stormwater discharged from the site. Because the proposed action will not disturb one or more acres of land, it is not required to be covered under a permit. The site is flat and has little to no runoff.

Stormwater volumes that would be generated on and discharged from the project site would not be particularly large or unmanageable relative to other construction and demolition projects of



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similar scale and scope. Therefore, short-term adverse effects on stormwater would be less than significant.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has not mapped the area to determine if it is in a floodplain. In the unlikely event of a flood, the functions at the project site would not be impaired, as they are all at least ten (10) feet off the ground. The U.S. Corps of Engineers determined that the site is not in wetlands subject to its jurisdiction and no wetlands permit is required. The project site is not in a wetland according to the USFWS map of wetlands.

Thus, there are no significant impacts to existing water resources from the proposed action.

No Action Alternative: The no-action alternative would have no impact on water resources.

### *Biological Resources*

Wildlife resources within Upper Tanana region include large game, such as moose, caribou and Dall sheep, and furbearers, such as snowshoe hare, muskrat and red squirrels. But suitable mammal habitat is limited by the extent to which the area has been cleared for farmland, such that mammals likely to occur at the project site would be squirrels, mice, and/or other small rodents. The tower project site, once complete, would not impact squirrels, mice, and/or other small rodents. Fencing would keep out any larger animals. Aquatic resources in the nearby waters include occasional whitefish, arctic grayling, and Dolly Varden, but the project will not affect these. The wood frog, which requires wetland habitat, is not present at the site. Avian resources include geese, ptarmigan, ducks and grouse. No bald eagles, golden eagles, or birds that might be tempted to nest on the tower frequent this area.

While some towers with bright, non-blinking lights can attract and harm birds, the tower design in the proposed action was selected specifically to avoid harm to birds. Flashing lights pose little danger to birds because they are less likely to attract or confuse birds, and their use can reduce nighttime bird fatalities by as much as 70 percent. (American Bird Conservancy). It is expected that any harm to birds would be minimal.

The native plants were cleared from the project site and immediately surrounding areas in the early 1980s. Agriculture in the area consists mostly of small grains and grass hay. Other crops grown are potatoes, field peas, and sometimes canola. The habitat type surrounding for the project area (beyond the farmland) is typically birch and white spruce forest. (AP&T 2010). The project will not impact the surrounding crops or other vegetation.

USFWS consultation builder/IPAC was used to assess whether there could be endangered or threatened species on or near the project site. (See Appendix H). Neither of the two federal agencies, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the USFWS, list any species that meet the definition of threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the area. A search through several additional websites, including that for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, confirmed the absence of listed species in or near the project area. Thus, the project will not affect listed species.

In summary, there are no significant impacts to existing vegetation, fish, birds, other wildlife, or listed species from the proposed action.



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The no-action alternative would have no impact on biological resources.

### *Historical and Cultural Resources*

The NTIA Environmental Program Officer (EPO) coordinated the project with the Alaska State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and made a Section 106 finding of No Historic Properties Affected. The Alaska SHPO provided their concurrence with a No Historic Properties Affected Section 106 finding on 7/25/2023.

The Healy Lake Tribe Cultural Resources Manager reviewed the proposed tower site and found no significant impact for cultural and historical concerns. There are no concerns regarding the buildings and houses at the village site where CPEs will be installed, as all were built in the late 1970s or more recently.

The NTIA EPO inputted the proposed project into the Tower Construction Notification System (TCNS) and subsequent notifications were sent to the Tribes on May 10, 2023. The TCNS notifies tribes claiming ties to ancestral lands for which the tower is located. Tribal entities receiving notification included:

Chalkyitsik Village	Village of Dot Lake	Northway Village
Tanacross Village Council	Native Village of Tazlina	Native Village of Tetlin

Northway Village responded with they had no concerns and Dot Lake President contacted NTIA to talk about the siting of the tower. Follow on emails were sent to the Native Villages for input, yet no responses were received.

In summary, because of the lack of historical or cultural resources at the tower project site or associated with the residents' houses in the village, there are no significant impacts to cultural and historical resources from the proposed action.

No Action Alternative: The no-action alternative would have no impact on cultural and historical resources.

### *Aesthetic Visual Resources*

The project site is located amid farmland with a few houses in the area and uncleared forest. The proposed tower site is not within sight of any public use areas. Any impairment to aesthetic and visual resources will be minimal and no greater than that of a cell phone tower. Likewise, the CPE equipment in the village will be small in size; and impairment will be minimal and no greater than that of existing satellites on some of the homes. Thus, there are no significant impacts to aesthetic and visual resources.

The no-action alternative would have no impact on aesthetic and visual resources.

### *Socioeconomic Resources*

The project site will have little to no impact on the socioeconomic conditions and environmental justice for the area immediately around the tower, since it is not expected to change economic activity or housing values (there are no houses adjacent to the



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site). Thus, this area is not considered further for socioeconomics and environmental justice.

The Healy Lake Village site is an environmental justice community composed of a minority (Alaska Natives) with most households below the poverty line. As noted in the Healy Lake TBCP proposal: “Population Served: Of the total fifteen families in the community, one family is at the middle-class indicator, two families are at the lower middle-class indicator, and twelve families are below the poverty line based on the Department of Health and Human Services Alaskan poverty guidelines. This translates to 86% of all project households living below the poverty level.” Households and buildings currently have extremely limited access to Internet and cellular phone service, reducing opportunities for education and jobs and limited remote healthcare access.

While initially Internet service will only be provided to Healy Lake Village residents, in the future there will likely be opportunities to expand the network to provide services to nearby houses, farms, and camps along Healy Lake.

Thus, it is anticipated that the proposed action will positively impact socioeconomics and environmental justice by improving access to jobs, education, and healthcare for Healy Lake village residents.

The no-action alternative would preserve the status quo, which does not benefit Healy Lake Village. Effectively, the no action alternative would have a negative impact on the community, as it would not remedy the lack of Internet access, access to healthcare, education, and business opportunities.

### *Health and Human Safety*

In Alaska, state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to worker health and safety are administered and enforced by the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Section of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development Labor Standards and Safety Division. During construction, OSHA safety standards will be enforced for contractors and their employees. All contractors must comply with the labor standards and protections as required by Healy Lake Village Council’s policies. All compensation will be in accordance with Davis-Bacon prevailing wage levels. Healy Lake Village Council will require contractors, subcontractors, and staff to adhere to applicable Federal, State, and Local Regulations, Codes, and Standards for all work. All contractors and subcontractors will be required to maintain insurance coverage.

Following construction, there would be no threats to human health and safety from either the tower or the Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) equipment. The tower site will be fenced and posted to prevent unauthorized access to the tower. “NO TRESPASSING” signs will be posted. Climbing pegs will be removed from the tower below 10’.

The installation of broadband will likely have a positive impact on the health of residents in the village, since they will be able to access telehealth services. Thus, there are no significant negative impacts to human health and safety from the proposed action.



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The no-action alternative would have no impact on health and safety, but is less desirable than the proposed action, since it would deprive village residents of access to telehealth care.

### *Cumulative Impacts*

As described throughout this FONSI, the project will not have significant adverse impacts on any of the environmental resource areas evaluated in the EA. As such, no cumulative impacts on the environment are anticipated.

### *Public Comment*

NTIA conducted a public comment period for the EA. Public notice was placed in the Delta Wind newspaper, a local newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Delta Junction, Deltana, Big Delta, and Fort Greely, Alaska. The notice of the proposal and EA was also posted on NTIA's website for national exposure. The notice described the proposed project and comment process and provided guidance on where to view the document and federal points of contact. The comment period started on August 10, 2023 and ended on September 9, 2023. No comments were received by NTIA.

### *Impact Mitigation*

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The project will adhere/has adhered to the following measures to avoid or mitigate environmental impacts:

- **Land use:** Ensure that there is permission from landowner for activity at project site (lease in place), ensure village residential and tribal owner consent before installing CPE in village.
- **Cultural Resources:** Ensure with Healy Lake Tribe, other tribes, and SHPO that there are no cultural resources; if ever such resources are found, resolve adverse effects in accordance with 36 CFR 800.6(c). Healy Lake Tribe has specifically stated that no cultural monitor needs to be present during construction.
- **Biological Resources:** Tower design selected to avoid attracting birds, fenced area to avoid wildlife coming into project area; Contact Fish and Wildlife Service to determine the most appropriate course of action if ever an active Migratory Bird Treaty-protected bird nest is observed at the project site.
- **Floodplains/Wetlands:** Project site moved to avoid being in or affecting wetland/drainage system.
- **Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice:** Ensure open communication with residents regarding the process for getting broadband.
- **Air Quality and Noise:** ensure that solar panels are properly maintained to minimize use of generator.



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- **Geology and Soils:** Avoid unnecessary displacement of soils and ensure that soils excavated do not leave the project site and are put back in place, cover with gravel to prevent erosion.
- **Human Health and Safety:** Adhere to OSHA regulations during implementation, maintain NO TRESPASSING sign and fence to prevent unauthorized entry to tower site.

## Decision

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NTIA concludes that constructing and operating the project as defined by the preferred alternative, identified BMPs, and protective measures, will not require additional mitigation. A separate mitigation plan is not required for the project. The analyses indicate that the Proposed Action is not a major federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. NTIA has determined that preparation of an EIS is not required.

Issued on September 11, 2023 by:

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