

## AKLESTAD TOWER

Site Coordinates: 61.562806°N, -149.133694°W

Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc. (MTA) contracted Travis/Peterson Environmental Consulting, Inc. (TPECI) to complete the Federal Communication Commission (FCC), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) checklist of the Aklestad cellular radiotelephone tower located in Wasilla, Alaska. TPECI focused the investigation on impact categories listed in the FCC NEPA checklist as stipulated in 47 CFR 1.1307.

Between April 11-14, 2016, TPECI personnel conducted database research on Aklestad tower. TPECI personnel also visited the tower site. See Appendix A for photos.

The FCC requires all towers “actions” to comply with their NEPA checklist. Completing the NEPA checklist determines if a site may have environmental effects. An Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement is required if the NEPA checklist determines the site to have a potential environmental impact.

The following text addresses each impact category listed under 47 CFR 1.1307. Supporting documentation for each category is provided in the corresponding appendices.

### NEPA CHECKLIST

#### **47 CFR 1.1307 a(1)** – *Is the site located in an officially designated wilderness area?*

The facility is not located in an officially designated wilderness area as determined using the US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Alaska Region website: <http://www.fws.gov/alaska/>. The closest listed designated wilderness area is approximately 100 miles to the south on the Kenai Peninsula.

#### **47 CFR 1.1307 a(2)** – *Is the site located in an officially designated wildlife preserve?*

The facility is not located in an officially designated wildlife preserve as determined using the US National Park Service website: <https://www.nps.gov/state/ak/index.htm>. The closest listed designated preserve is Denali National Park & Preserve located 80 miles to the north in the Alaska Range.

#### **47 CFR 1.1307 a(3)** – *Will the site affect federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their designated critical habitats?*

The facility and “action area” is not located in an area containing listed, or proposed threatened or endangered species or designated or proposed critical habitats. The USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are the two federal agencies responsible for maintain lists of species that qualify as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. USFWS or NMFS does not list any species or critical habitat as existing within the facility boundaries or action area as determined using the USFWS website: <http://www.fws.gov/alaska/fisheries/endangered/species.htm> and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game website: [http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=specialstatus.fed\\_endangered](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=specialstatus.fed_endangered).

TPECI personnel verified that no critical habitat existed within facility boundaries or action area during a site visit on April 12, 2016.

**47 CFR 1.1307 a(4)** – *Does the facility affected districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places?*

The State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) reviewed the facility and determined that it has no adverse effect on historic properties. See Appendix B for SHPO correspondence.

**47 CFR 1.1307 a(5)** – *Does the facility affect Indian religious sites?*

The SHPO reviewed the facility and determined that it has not affect Indian religious sites. See Appendix B for SHPO correspondence.

**47 CFR 1.1307 a(6)** – *Is the facility located in a floodplain?*

The facility is not located in a floodplain as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Map Service Center: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search>. TPECI site visit confirmed that this area is not a floodplain. See Appendix C for map output.

**47 CFR 1.1307 a(7)** – *Is the facility located in a wetland?*

The facility is not located in a wetland as determined by the USFWS Wetland Mapper: <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html> . See Appendix D for map output.

**47 CFR 1.1307 a(8)** – *Does the facility have high intensity white lights in a residentially zoned neighborhood?*

The facility has high-intensity white lights illuminating the transformers at the tower base. There are no high-intensity lights on the tower. See Appendix A for photos.

**47 CFR 1.1307 (b)** – *Does the facility exceed Commission-adopted human exposure levels for radiofrequency radiation?*

The equivalent radiated power for this facility exceeds 1,000-watts; however, the facility does not have any antennas mounted below 10-meters and is not accessible to the public. The facility is entirely enclosed by an eight-foot fence topped with barbed wire. TPECI personnel confirmed this during the site visit on April 12, 2016. Therefore, the radiofrequency radiation human exposure limits are not exceeded. See Appendix E for additional details.

## CONCLUSION

TPECI personnel completed the NEPA checklist for Aklestad tower as requested by MTA. According to the checklist, no further investigation is required at Aklestad tower.

## **APPENDIX A**

TPECI SITE VISIT PHOTOS



Photo taken by TPECI personnel on April 12, 2016. The MTA Aklestad Tower is located at 61.562806N, -149.133694W in Wasilla, Alaska. The tower is 172.2-feet tall. The facility is has high-intensity lights above the onsite generator and associated electrical housings at the base of the tower. There were no high-intensity white lights on the tower.



Photo taken by TPECI personnel facing west on April 12, 2016. Photo shows typical non-wetland vegetation around tower.



Photo taken by TPECI personnel facing south on April 12, 2016. Photo shows a shop, laydown yard, and various heavy equipment to the south of the tower.

## **APPENDIX B**

SHPO CORRESPONDENCE



Section 106 Filings

FCC > Wireless > Section 106 Filings

Logged In: 0010326338 (Log Out)

Help | Technical Support

My Filings | TCNS

Aklestad (Wasilla)

File Number: 0007062929  
Form 620: Original Filing

Notification Date:  
12/15/2015

Current Status: Closed  
Received On: 12/14/2015

Email Filing

- Overview
- Transaction Log
- Comments
- Documents
- History

- View Submission Packet
- Common Questions
- Return to My Filings

Showing 1 to 5 of 5

1 Show 10 per page (1 pages)

Date	Description	Source
02/08/2016	The filing was closed	TERRITORY HERITAGE RESOURCE CONSULTING
02/06/2016	The Filer failed to close a Completed filing	System
01/05/2016	A Reviewer concurred with the filing	Alaska DNR, Ofc History & Archeology
12/16/2015	Individual Informational Notice	System
12/14/2015	A new filing was submitted	TERRITORY HERITAGE RESOURCE CONSULTING

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Phone: 1-877-480-3201  
TTY: 1-717-338-2824  
Submit Help Request



Section 106 Filings

FCC > Wireless > Section 106 Filings

Logged In: 0010326338 (Log Out)

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View Submission Packet Common Questions Return to My Filings

There are 0 TCNS Tribe comments

Showing 1 to 1 of 1

1 Show 10 per page (1 pages)

Date Posted	Associated Action	Posted By
02/08/2016	The filing was closed	TERRITORY HERITAGE RESOURCE CONSULTING

Comment:  
Receipt by M.S. Cassell of email on 2/6/2016 from towernotifyinfo@fcc.gov with subject "Section 106 Notification of Filing Requiring Close - Email ID #1618690" and stating, "This is a notification that the following filing [Aklestad] should be closed".

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Phone: 1-877-480-3201  
TTY: 1-717-338-2824  
Submit Help Request

## Ryan Kingsbery

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**From:** Dennis Eby <deby@mta-telco.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 06, 2016 4:14 PM  
**To:** Eric Anderson  
**Subject:** FW: AKLESTAD Section 106 Notification of SHPO/THPO Concurrence- Email ID # 1572463

FYI

**From:** Mark Cassell [mailto:mark@territoryheritage.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 06, 2016 9:24 AM  
**To:** Dennis Eby <deby@mta-telco.com>  
**Subject:** AKLESTAD Section 106 Notification of SHPO/THPO Concurrence- Email ID #1572463

SHPO has concurred with "No historic properties". Pending tribal response is the final step (expected within 30 days from 12/14/2015 date of FCC form 620 submission, but I recommend waiting 60 days).

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**Mark S. Cassell, Ph.D., RPA**  
Proprietor & principal investigator  
[Territory Heritage Resource Consulting](#)  
200 W. 34th Ave., #8  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
907-277-6587 (main)  
907-360-2668 (mobile)  
[www.territoryheritage.com](http://www.territoryheritage.com)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** <[towernotifyinfo@fcc.gov](mailto:towernotifyinfo@fcc.gov)>  
**Date:** Tue, Jan 5, 2016 at 1:15 PM  
**Subject:** Section 106 Notification of SHPO/THPO Concurrence- Email ID #1572463  
**To:** [mark@territoryheritage.com](mailto:mark@territoryheritage.com)

This is to notify you that the Lead SHPO/THPO has concurred with the following filing:

Date of Action: 01/05/2016  
Direct Effect: No Historic Properties in Area of Potential Effects (APE)  
Visual Effect: No Historic Properties in Area of Potential Effects (APE)  
Comment Text: None

File Number: 0007062929  
TCNS Number:  
Purpose: New Tower Submission Packet  
Notification Date: 7AM EST 12/15/2015  
Applicant: MTA COMMUNICATIONS  
Consultant: TERRITORY HERITAGE RESOURCE CONSULTING  
Positive Train Control Filing Subject to Expedited Treatment Under Program Comment: No  
Site Name: AKLESTAD  
Site Address: 2401 James T. Circle

Detailed Description of Project: Update location information on existing Aklestad tower to provide more accurate geographic site coordinates based on the use of advanced survey instrumentation as opposed to the original information derived from topographic contour maps.

Site Coordinates: 61-33-46.5 N, 149-31-0.1 W

City: WASILLA

County: MATANUSKA-SUSITNA

State:AK

Lead SHPO/THPO: Alaska DNR, Ofc History & Archeology

#### NOTICE OF FRAUDULENT USE OF SYSTEM, ABUSE OF PASSWORD AND RELATED MISUSE

Use of the Section 106 system is intended to facilitate consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and may contain information that is confidential, privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under applicable laws. Any person having access to Section 106 information shall use it only for its intended purpose. Appropriate action will be taken with respect to any misuse of the system.

## **APPENDIX C**

FEMA FLOOD PLAIN MAPPER OUTPUT

**NOTES TO USERS**

is for use in administering the National Flood Insurance Program. It is necessary to identify all areas subject to flooding, particularly from local sources of small scale. The community map repository should be for possible updated or additional flood hazard information.

More detailed information in areas where Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) have been determined, users are encouraged to consult the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report and accompanying Flood Insurance Study Data and/or Summary of Damaged Elevations prepared within the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report and accompanying FIS. Users should be aware that BFEs shown on the FIRM represent water level elevations. These BFEs are intended for flood insurance purposes only and should not be used as the sole source of flood information. Accordingly, flood elevation data presented in the FIS should be utilized in conjunction with the FIRM for purposes of an and/or flood management.

Base Flood Elevations shown on this map apply only to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88). Users of this map should be aware that elevation data were derived from a set of Stillwater Elevations taken in the Flood Insurance Study report jurisdiction. Elevations shown in the Summary of Damaged Elevations will be used for construction and/or flood management purposes if they are higher than the elevations shown on this FIRM.

As of the floodways were computed at cross sections and interpolated cross sections. The floodways were based on hydraulic considerations and to requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. Floodway and other pertinent floodway data are provided in the Flood Insurance Study report for this jurisdiction.

Areas not in Special Flood Hazard Areas may be protected by Flood Structures. Refer to Section 2.4 "Flood Protection Measures" of the Insurance Study report for information on flood control structures jurisdiction.

When used in the preparation of this map, Alaska Data, Alaska Data (EPSR/DCS) Data. The horizontal datum used was NAD83. Spheroid Differences in datum, spheroid projection or State Plane used in the production of FIS data for adjacent jurisdictions may result in national differences in map features across jurisdiction boundaries. Differences do not affect the accuracy of the FIS.

Elevations on this map are referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988. These flood elevations must be compared to structure and elevations referenced to the same vertical datum. For information on conversion between the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 North American Vertical Datum of 1988, visit the National Geodetic Survey at <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/> or contact the National Geodetic Survey at the following address:

Information Services  
NGS512  
Rockville, Maryland  
20852  
1615 Wood Highway  
Fing. MD 20910-3282

Current elevation, description, and/or location information for bench marks on this map, please contact the Information Services Branch of the National Geodetic Survey at (201) 713-3242, or visit its website at <http://www.ngs.gov/>.

Information shown on the FIRM was derived from multiple sources. Data were provided in digital format by Mat-Su GIS, AK DNR, NGS and BLM. Information was compiled at various map scales during the time period 7. Orthorectified imagery from 2004 aerial photos provided by USFA-FSA.

Reflects more detailed and up-to-date stream channel configurations as shown on the previous FIRM for this jurisdiction. The floodway boundaries that were transferred from the previous FIRM may have been updated to conform to these new stream channel configurations. As a result, Flood Profiles and Floodway Data tables in the Flood Insurance Study report contain authoritative hydraulic data that may reflect stream channel changes that differ from what is shown on this map.

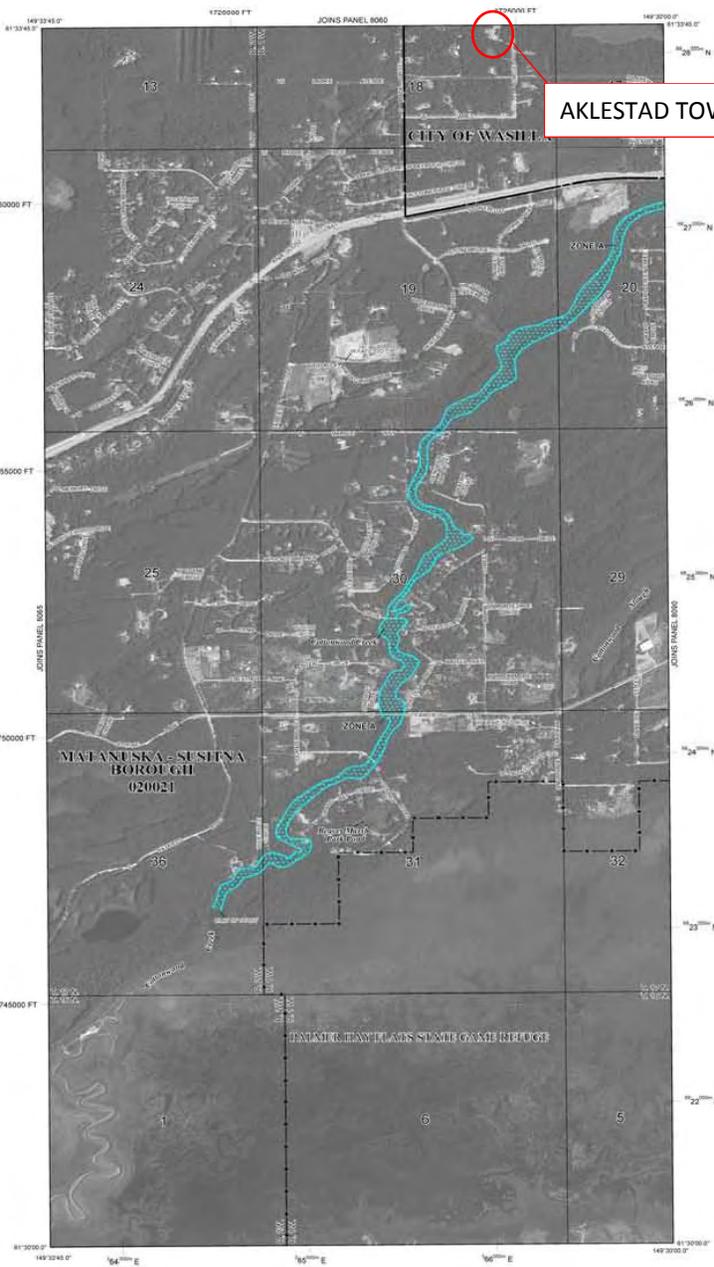
Limits shown on this map are based on the best data available and published. Because changes due to annexations or re-annexations are occurring after this map was published, map users should contact community officials to verify current corporate and locations.

Refer to the separately printed Map Index for an overview map of the layout of map panels, community map repository, address, and/or Commission table containing National Flood Insurance Program data for each community as well as a listing of the panels on which each is located.

The FEMA Map Service Center at 1-800-358-9819 for information on products associated with this FIRM. Available products may include a Flood Insurance Study Map Change, a Flood Insurance Study report, or a Flood Insurance Study Map. The FEMA Map Service Center may also be contacted by Fax at 1-800-358-9820 and its website at <http://www.msc.fema.gov/>.

For questions about this map or questions concerning the National Flood Insurance Program in general, please call 1-877-FEMA-MAP (1-877-356-2677) or the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/>.

All content as of 2015 was originally obtained from the Source Borough, and was used to create this product. The Source Borough assumes no responsibility for the completeness or accuracy of content within.



**LEGEND**

**SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS (SFHAs) SUBMITTED BY THE 1% ANNUAL CHANCE FLOOD (ACF) STUDY**  
 The 1% annual chance flood (100-year flood), also known as the base flood, is that has a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. The Flood Hazard Area is the area subject to flooding by the 1% annual chance flood. Special Flood Hazard Areas include Zone A, AE, AH, AO, AR, AV, and VE. Flood Elevation is the water surface elevation of the 1% annual chance flood.

**Zone A:** No Base Flood Elevations determined.  
**Zone AE:** Base Flood Elevations determined.  
**Zone AH:** Flood depths of 1 to 3 feet (usually areas of ponding). Base Elevations determined.  
**Zone AO:** Flood depths of 1 to 3 feet (usually where flow or stopping depths determined). Area of shallow flat flooding, also determined.  
**Zone AR:** Special Flood Hazard Area formerly protected from the 1% annual chance flood by a flood control system that was abandoned. Zone AR indicates that the former flood control system, if present, is obsolete. Protection from the 1% annual chance flood is not provided from 1% annual chance flood by a flood protection system under construction, no base flood is determined.  
**Zone AV:** Coastal flood zone with velocity hazard (wave action). No Base Elevations determined.  
**Zone VE:** Coastal flood zone with velocity hazard (wave action). Base Elevations determined.

**FLOODWAY AREAS IN ZONE AE**  
 The floodway is the channel of a stream plus any adjacent floodway area that help free of encroachment to the 1% annual chance flood can be carried substantial increase in flood height.

**OTHER FLOOD AREAS**  
**Zone X:** Areas of 0.2% annual chance flood areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depths of less than 1 foot or with drainage areas less than 1 square mile, and areas protected by levees from the 1% annual chance flood.  
**Zone D:** Areas determined to be within the 0.2% annual chance flood areas in which flood hazards are undetermined, but possible.  
**Zone B:** COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM (CBRS) AREA  
**Zone O:** OTHERWISE PROTECTED AREAS (OPAs)

**OTHER AREAS**  
**Zone S:** Areas determined to be within the 0.2% annual chance flood areas in which flood hazards are undetermined, but possible.  
**Zone C:** COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM (CBRS) AREA  
**Zone P:** OTHERWISE PROTECTED AREAS (OPAs)

**OTHER AREAS**  
**Zone S:** Areas determined to be within the 0.2% annual chance flood areas in which flood hazards are undetermined, but possible.  
**Zone C:** COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM (CBRS) AREA  
**Zone P:** OTHERWISE PROTECTED AREAS (OPAs)

**BOUNDARIES**  
 - Boundary, Special Flood Hazard Areas of their Flood Elevations, flood depths or flood velocity.  
 - Flood Insurance Study boundary.  
 - Zone A boundary.  
 - Zone AE boundary.  
 - Boundary, including Special Flood Hazard Areas of their Flood Elevations, flood depths or flood velocity.  
 - Flood Insurance Study boundary and water elevation in feet.  
 - Base Flood Elevation datum where uniform with elevation in feet.  
 - Referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88).  
 - Cross section line.  
 - Transit line.  
 - Geographic coordinates referenced to the North Pole of 1982 (NAD 83).  
 - 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid lines.  
 - 3000-foot grid lines: Alaska State Plane Transverse Mercator system, + zone (EPSR/DCS BOLD).

**OTHER AREAS**  
**DX5510:** Bench mark (see explanation in Notes to Users in this map panel).  
**M.T.S:** MAP REPOSITORIES  
 Refer to Map Repositories list on Map Index.

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF COUNTYWIDE FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY**  
 March 17, 2015

**EFFECTIVE DATES OF REVISIONS TO THIS PANEL**

For Customers who require further information regarding this map, please contact the National Flood Insurance Program at 1-800-853-8620.

**MAP SCALE 1" = 1000'**

0 100 200 FEET

0 100 200 METERS

**NFIP PANEL 8070E**

**FIRM FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH, ALASKA AND INCORPORATED AREA**

**PANEL 8070 OF 9855**  
 (SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LOCATION)

**CONTAINS COMMERCIAL MANUFACTURING BOROUGHS**

**NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM**

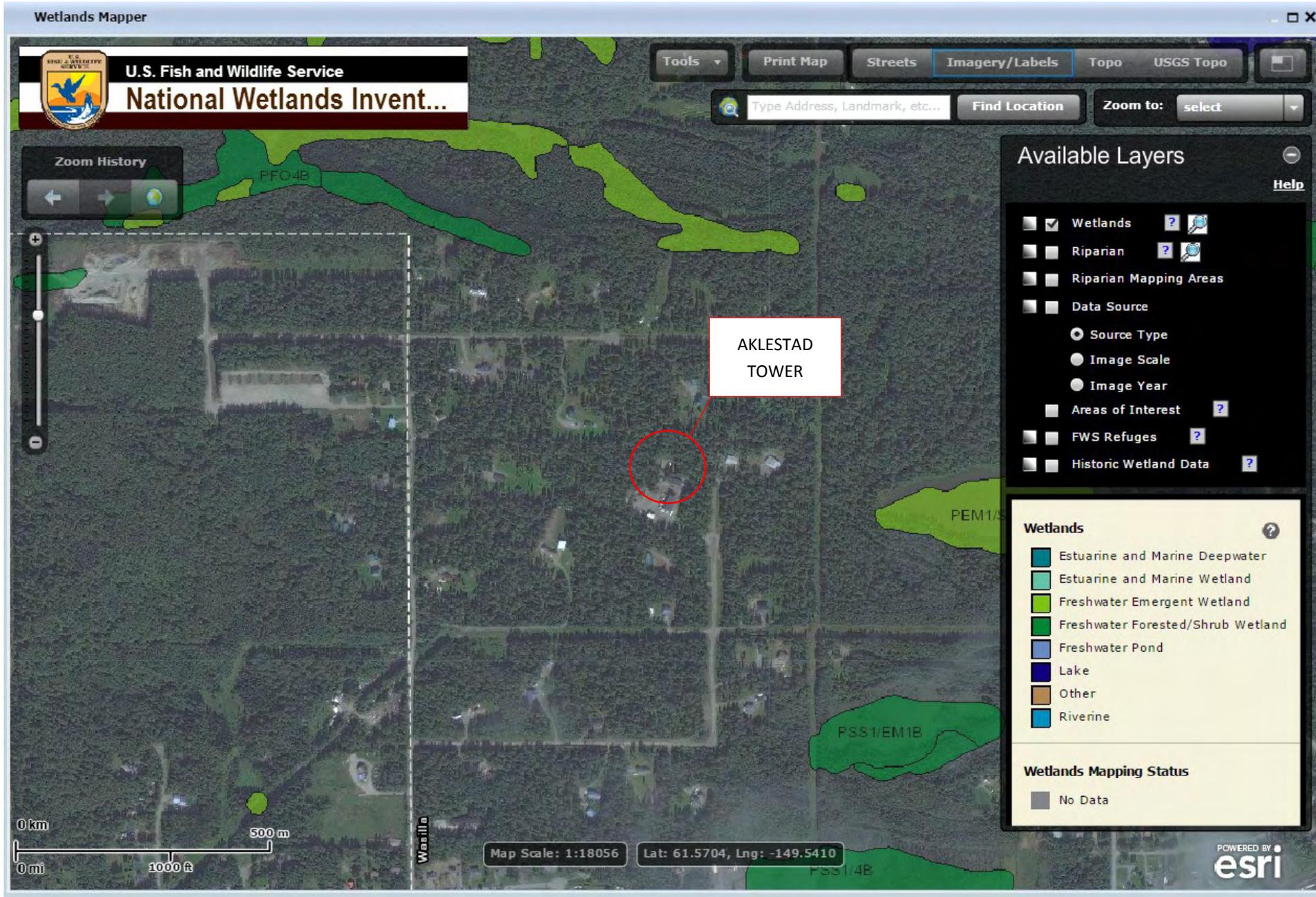
**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**MAP NO. 02170E**  
**EFFECTIVE DATE: MARCH 17, 2015**



## **APPENDIX D**

USFWS WETLAND MAPPER OUTPUT



<http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>

Site accessed 4/13/2016

## **APPENDIX E**

### **RADIOFREQUENCY RADIATION**

47 CFR 1.1307 RF Analysis.1

R. Lerman

4/6/16

Environmental Assessment is required if the 850MHz site:

1. Is located in a wilderness area, wildlife preserve or in a flood plain.
2. May affect threatened or endangered species, Historic Places or Indian religious sites.
3. Will involve significant change in wetland fill, deforestation or water diversion.
4. Has a sector transmitting over 1000w ERP (applies to 850MHz and to the MTA operated VZW 700MHz band) that has an antenna mounted
  - a. Below 10m on a tower;
  - b. On a building.
5. Is located in an accessible area and the total sector Tx power density from all tenants is 105% of the limit.

**Table 1 47CFR, 1.1307 Sites Compliance**

Site Name	Tower Accessibility (1.1307 (b) 3).	Bottom of antenna below 10m?
Aklestad	fence 8' (includes barbed wire)	NO