



ENVIRONMENTAL CORPORATION OF AMERICA

ENVIRONMENTAL | GEOTECHNICAL | WETLANDS | ECOLOGY | CULTURAL RESOURCES

FCC NEPA Environmental Checklist Report

Mena Replacement Tower

Grandview Heights
Mena, Polk County,
Arkansas

ECA Project No. S2059



SUBMITTED TO:

Daniel Communications, LLC
d/b/a DanCom
208 Dogwood Drive
Mena, AR 71953

PREPARED BY:

Environmental Corporation of America
1375 Union Hill Industrial Court, Suite A
Alpharetta, GA 30004



ENVIRONMENTAL CORPORATION OF AMERICA

ENVIRONMENTAL | GEOTECHNICAL | WETLANDS | ECOLOGY | CULTURAL RESOURCES

October 19, 2016

Daniel Communications, LLC
d/b/a DanCom
208 Dogwood Drive
Mena, AR 71953

Attention: Mr. Chris Daniel

**Subject: FCC NEPA Environmental Checklist
Replacement of a 60-Foot Self-Supporting Lattice Tower with an
80-Foot Self-Supporting Lattice Tower
Mena Replacement Tower
Grandview Heights
Mena, Polk County, Arkansas
ECA Project No: S2059**

Dear Mr. Daniel:

Environmental Corporation of America (ECA) is pleased to provide this FCC NEPA Environmental Checklist report for the federal undertaking that would include replacing an existing telecommunications structure. ECA understands that an existing 60-foot tall self-supporting lattice tower that was reportedly constructed prior to March 16, 2001 would be dismantled and replaced with an 80-foot tall self-supporting lattice tower. The new tower would be located within 30 feet of the existing tower. The subject site location is shown on Figure 1 of Appendix A.

ECA has used the *FCC NEPA Environmental Compliance Checklist* in our evaluation of the undertaking for FCC Environmental Compliance (Appendix B). Where applicable, we have consulted the Agency sources indicated in Appendices A through E.

The USGS Topographic Quadrangle Map, 7.5 Minute Mena, AR (1958, photorevised 1975) and The National Map Viewer indicate the project area is not located within an officially designated wilderness area or wildlife preserve.

ECA has found no evidence that any federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened species identified by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as occurring within Polk County, Arkansas are present in the project area, or that any critical habitat is present within the project vicinity. Additionally, no tree clearing will be necessary for the construction of the proposed replacement tower. See supporting documentation in Appendix C.

The *Nationwide Programmatic Agreement for Review Under the National Historic Preservation Act; Final Rule* (NPA) signed into effect on March 7, 2005 stipulates that certain federal undertakings are not subject to Section 106 Review by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) / Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) environmental rules because certain types of undertakings are deemed unlikely to adversely impact Historic Properties. The proposed replacement tower meets all of the requirements found within Section III.B. of the NPA. Therefore, the replacement tower is exempt from individual Section 106 Review and tribal consultation requirements that would typically be applicable to new telecommunications facilities. ECA has used a *Replacement Tower Exclusion Checklist* in our evaluation of the proposed undertaking (Appendix D).

Based on the appropriate FEMA FIRM Panel Map, the proposed replacement tower would not be located within a Special Flood Hazard Area of the 100-year floodplain (Appendix E).

Based on the research performed and the presence of an existing telecommunications facility in the project area, it does not appear that jurisdictional waters or wetlands would be impacted by the proposed replacement tower (Appendix F).

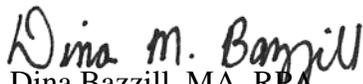
We understood that high intensity white lights would not be deployed in conjunction with the proposed undertakings. Further, this NEPA Review includes evaluation of impacts or effects relative to RF Exposure. For RF Exposure assessment, ECA relies solely on the project RF Engineers.

The applicant has previously filed and completed an application for the FCC's Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) system (Appendix H). If changes to the proposed tower specifications are proposed, environmental notification requirements, pursuant to 47 CFR 17.4, should be followed.

In summary, ECA has found no evidence that adverse environmental impacts or effects, as defined in the FCC Rules contained in 47 CFR Sections 1.1301 through 1.1319, may result from the proposed tower construction.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide you with these professional services. If you have any questions regarding this report or the project in general, please call you your convenience.

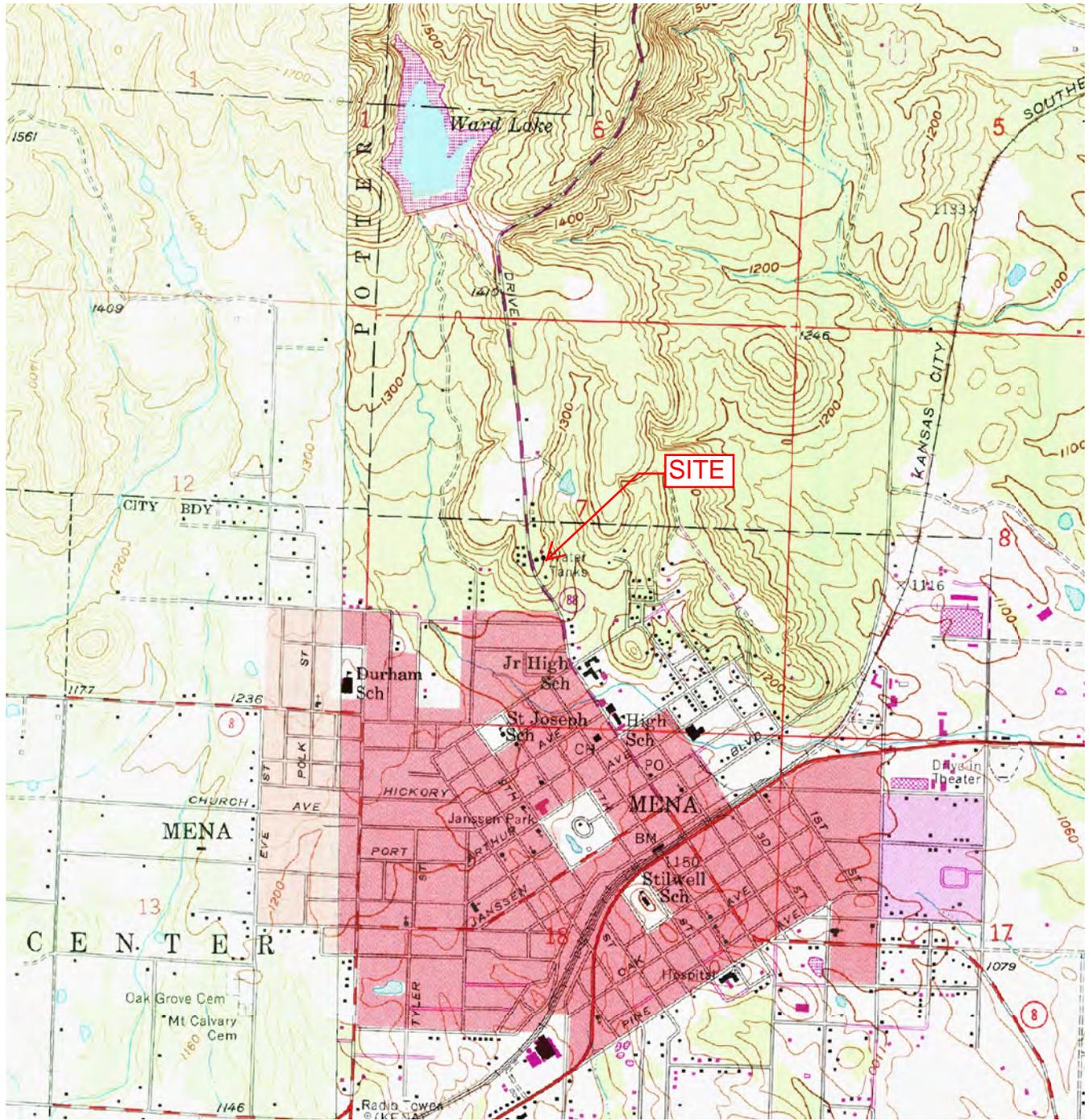
Sincerely yours,
Environmental Corporation of America


Dina Bazzill, MA, RPA
Principal Investigator


Eric Johnson
Principal Scientist

Appendix A

USGS Topographic Quadrangle Map



Source: USGS Topographic Maps, 7.5 Minute Series, Potter, AR (1968, photorevised 1979) and Mena, AR (1958, photorevised 1975)



Mena Replacement Tower
 Grandview Heights
 Mena, Polk County, Arkansas
 USGS Topographic Map



ECA Proj. # S2059

Appendix B

FCC NEPA Environmental Compliance Checklist

FCC NEPA Environmental Compliance Checklist

Site Name: Mena Replacement Tower
ECA Project No.: S2059
Date: October 19, 2016

- | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> | |
|---------------|---------------|--|
| <u> </u> | <u> X </u> | 1. Will the facility be located in an officially designated wilderness area? |
| <u> </u> | <u> X </u> | 2. Will the facility be located in an officially designated wildlife preserve? |
| <u> </u> | <u> X </u> | 3. Will the facility affect federally listed, threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitats? |
| <u> </u> | <u> X </u> | 4. Is the facility likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any federally proposed endangered or threatened species or likely to result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitats? |
| <u> </u> | <u> X* </u> | 5. Will the facility affect districts, sites, buildings, structures, objects, or other cultural resources listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places?
<i>*The proposed replacement tower meets all of the requirements found within Part 1, Appendix C, Section III.B. of the NPA. Therefore the replacement tower is exempt from individual Section 106 Review requirements that would typically apply to new telecommunications facilities.</i> |
| <u> </u> | <u> X* </u> | 6. Will the facility affect Indian religious sites?
<i>*The proposed replacement tower meets all of the requirements found within Part 1, Appendix C, Section III.B. of the NPA. Therefore the replacement tower is exempt from individual tribal consultation requirements that would typically apply to new telecommunications facilities.</i> |
| <u> </u> | <u> X </u> | 7. Will the facility be located in a 100-year floodplain? |
| <u> </u> | <u> X </u> | 8. Will the construction of the facility involve a significant change in surface features (e.g., wetland fill, deforestation, or water diversion)? |
| <u> </u> | <u> X </u> | 9. Will the antenna or tower and/or supporting structure be equipped with high intensity white lights and be located in or near a residential neighborhood, as defined by the applicable zoning law? |
| <u> </u> | <u> X </u> | 10. Will the proposed facility fall within the categories listed in Table 1 of Section 1.1307(b) and cause exposure of workers or general public to levels of radio-frequency radiation in excess of the limits in Section 1.1310? |
| <u> </u> | <u> X </u> | 11. In accordance with the Environmental Notification Procedures for Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) contained within 47 CFR 17.4, is ASR required or was an ASR application voluntarily submitted? [OR] If required or voluntarily submitted, has the FCC determined that additional environmental review is required prior to granting Antenna Structure Registration for the proposed facility? |

IF ALL THE QUESTIONS ABOVE WERE ANSWERED "NO", NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUIRED FOR FCC ENVIRONMENTAL PURPOSES.

Dina M. Benzill
PROJECT MANAGER

Eric Johnson
REVIEWED BY

Appendix C

Protected Species Information



Species By County Report

The following report contains Species that are known to or are believed to occur in this county. Species with range unrefined past the state level are now excluded from this report. If you are looking for the Section 7 range (for Section 7 Consultations), please visit the [IPaC](#) application.

County: Polk, Arkansas

[Download CSV](#)

Need to contact a FWS field office about a species? Follow [this link](#) to find your local FWS Office.

Group	Name	Population	Status	Lead Office	Recovery Plan	Recovery Plan Action Status	Recovery Plan Stage
Birds	Red-cockaded woodpecker (<i>Picooides borealis</i>)	Wherever found	Endangered	Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office	Red-cockaded Woodpecker Recovery Plan, Second Revision	Implementation Progress	Final Revision 2
Clams	Arkansas fatmucket (<i>Lampsilis powellii</i>)	Wherever found	Threatened	Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office	Arkansas Fatmucket Mussel	Implementation Progress	Final
Clams	Rabbitsfoot (<i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i>)	Wherever found	Threatened	Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office			
Fishes	Leopard darter (<i>Percina pantherina</i>)	Wherever found	Threatened	Oklahoma Ecological Services Field Office	Draft Revision, Leopard Darter Recovery Plan	Implementation Progress	Draft Revision 1
Flowering Plants	Harperella (<i>Ptilimnium nodosum</i>)	Wherever found	Endangered	West Virginia Ecological Services Field Office	Harperella	Implementation Progress	Final
Mammals	Northern Long-Eared Bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>)	Wherever found	Threatened	Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office			



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office
110 SOUTH AMITY SUITE 300
CONWAY, AR 72032
PHONE: (501)513-4470 FAX: (501)513-4480
URL: www.fws.gov/arkansas-es

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2017-SLI-0028

October 18, 2016

Event Code: 04ER1000-2017-E-00023

Project Name: Mena Replacement Tower

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). **This letter only provides an official species list and technical assistance; if you determine that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected in any way by the proposed project, even if the effect is wholly beneficial, consultation with the Service will be necessary.**

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found on our website.

Please visit our website at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/home.html> for species-specific guidance to avoid and minimize adverse effects to federally endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species. Our web site also contains additional information on species life history and habitat requirements that may be useful in project planning.

If your project involves in-stream construction activities, oil and natural gas

infrastructure, road construction, transmission lines, or communication towers, please review our project specific guidance at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/ProjSpec.html>.

The karst region of Arkansas is a unique region that covers the **northern third of Arkansas** and we have specific guidance to conserve sensitive cave-obligate and bat species. **Please visit <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/Karst.html> to determine if your project occurs in the karst region and to view karst specific-guidance.** Proper implementation and maintenance of best management practices specified in these guidance documents is necessary to avoid adverse effects to federally protected species and often avoids the more lengthy formal consultation process.

If your species list includes any mussels, Northern Long-eared Bat, Indiana Bat, Yellowcheek Darter, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, or American Burying Beetle, your project may require a presence/absence and/or habitat survey prior to commencing project activities. Please check the appropriate species-specific guidance on our website to determine if your project requires a survey. We strongly recommend that you contact the appropriate staff species lead biologist (see office directory or species page) prior to conducting presence/absence surveys to ensure the appropriate level of effort and methodology.

Under the ESA, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or its designated representative to determine if a proposed action "may affect" endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, and if so, to consult with the Service further. Similarly, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or project proponent, not the Service, to make "no effect" determinations. If you determine that your proposed action will have "no effect" on threatened or endangered species or their respective critical habitat, you do not need to seek concurrence with the Service. Nevertheless, it is a violation of Federal law to harm or harass any federally-listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species without the appropriate permit.

Through the consultation process, we will analyze information contained in a biological assessment that you provide. If your proposed action is associated with Federal funding or permitting, consultation will occur with the Federal agency under section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. Otherwise, an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA (also known as a habitat conservation plan) is necessary to harm or harass federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species. In either case, there is no mechanism for authorizing incidental take "after-the-fact." For more information regarding formal consultation and HCPs, please see the Service's Consultation Handbook and Habitat Conservation Plans at www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/index.html#consultations.

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, **the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days.** This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning

and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. **Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.**

Attachment



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Mena Replacement Tower

Official Species List

Provided by:

Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office

110 SOUTH AMITY SUITE 300

CONWAY, AR 72032

(501) 513-4470

<http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es>

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2017-SLI-0028

Event Code: 04ER1000-2017-E-00023

Project Type: COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

Project Name: Mena Replacement Tower

Project Description: Replacement tower, swapping 80' for 60'

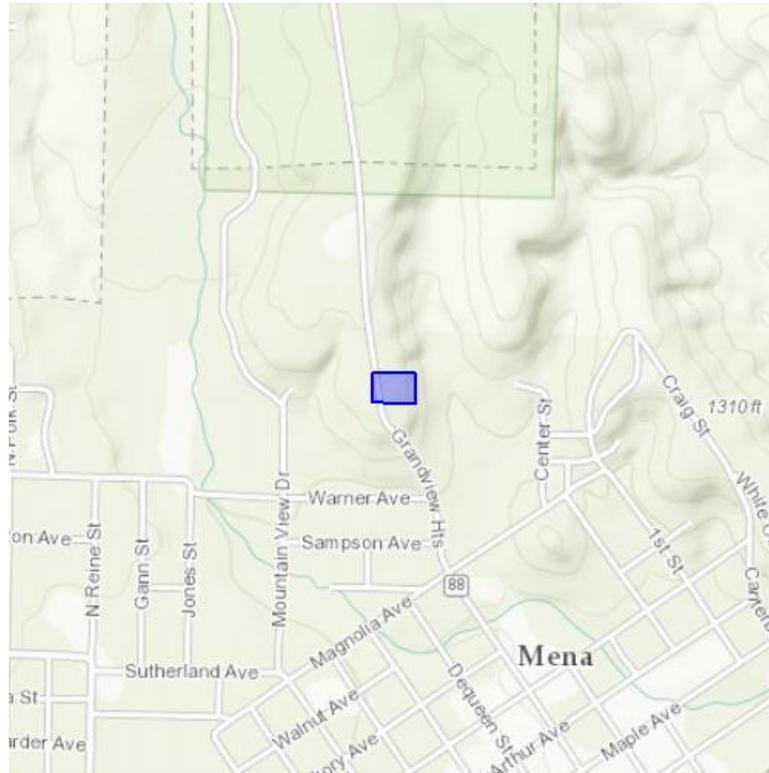
Please Note: The FWS office may have modified the Project Name and/or Project Description, so it may be different from what was submitted in your previous request. If the Consultation Code matches, the FWS considers this to be the same project. Contact the office in the 'Provided by' section of your previous Official Species list if you have any questions or concerns.



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Mena Replacement Tower

Project Location Map:



Project Coordinates: MULTIPOLYGON (((-94.2422005534172 34.59325487717205, -94.24218446016312 34.59263663401022, -94.24111425876617 34.59262117787223, -94.24111157655716 34.59326591718668, -94.2422005534172 34.59325487717205)))

Project Counties: Polk, AR



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Mena Replacement Tower

Endangered Species Act Species List

There are a total of 3 threatened or endangered species on your species list. Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Critical habitats listed under the **Has Critical Habitat** column may or may not lie within your project area. See the **Critical habitats within your project area** section further below for critical habitat that lies within your project. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

Clams	Status	Has Critical Habitat	Condition(s)
Arkansas fatmucket (<i>Lampsilis powellii</i>) Population: Wherever found	Threatened		
Flowering Plants			
harperella (<i>Ptilimnium nodosum</i>) Population: Wherever found	Endangered		
Mammals			
Northern long-eared Bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>) Population: Wherever found	Threatened		



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Mena Replacement Tower

Critical habitats that lie within your project area

There are no critical habitats within your project area.

Appendix D

Replacement Tower Exclusion Checklist



ENVIRONMENTAL CORPORATION OF AMERICA

Replacement Tower Exclusion Checklist

Site Name: Mena Replacement Tower
Tower Height: 60'
Site Address: Grandview Heights, Mena, Polk County, Arkansas
Tower Owner: Daniel Communications, LLC, d/b/a DanCom
Construction Date: Prior to March 16, 2001

Please fill out the following form by checking the appropriate boxes.

YES NO 1. Will the replacement tower result in a substantial increase in size from the existing tower¹?

YES NO 2. Will the replacement tower result in excavation outside the current boundaries of the site or leased or owned property surrounding the tower site (plus 30 feet in any direction)?

YES NO 3. Was the tower constructed after March 16, 2001? Proceed to Question 4 if answered "Yes".

NA YES NO 4. Has the tower completed the Section 106 Review process? Section 106 Review is required if answered "No".

If any questions 1 through 3 are answered "YES," consultation with the SHPO is required prior to constructing a replacement tower.

I, the undersigned, have reviewed and completed this checklist and certify that the answers contained herein are truthful and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Environmental Corporation of America (Consultant)

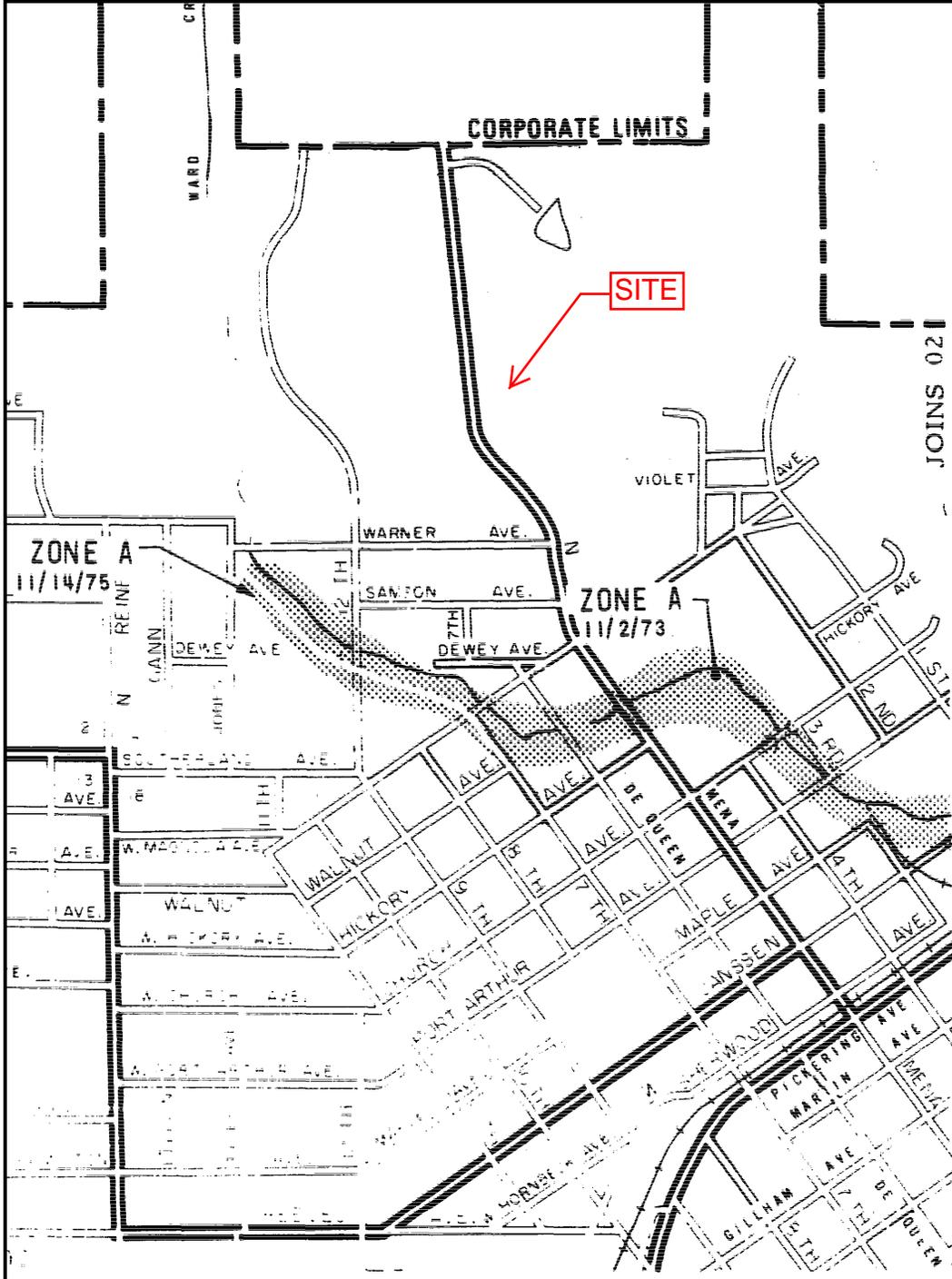
(Date)

10/19/2016

¹ "Substantial increase in size of the tower" means: 1) an increase in the tower height of more than 10% or by the height of one antenna array with a separation distance from the nearest existing array not to exceed 20 feet, whichever is greater; 2) the installation of more than 4 new equipment cabinets or more than 1 new equipment building; 3) the addition of an appurtenance that would protrude from the edge of the tower more than 20 feet or more than the width of the tower at the level of the appurtenance, whichever is greater.

Appendix E

Floodplain Information



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
 Federal Insurance Administration
CITY OF MENA, AR
 (POLK CO.)

FIA FLOOD HAZARD BOUNDARY MAP
 No. H 81

APPROXIMATE SCALE
 500 0 1000 2000

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
 Federal Insurance Administration
CITY OF MENA, AR
 (POLK CO.)

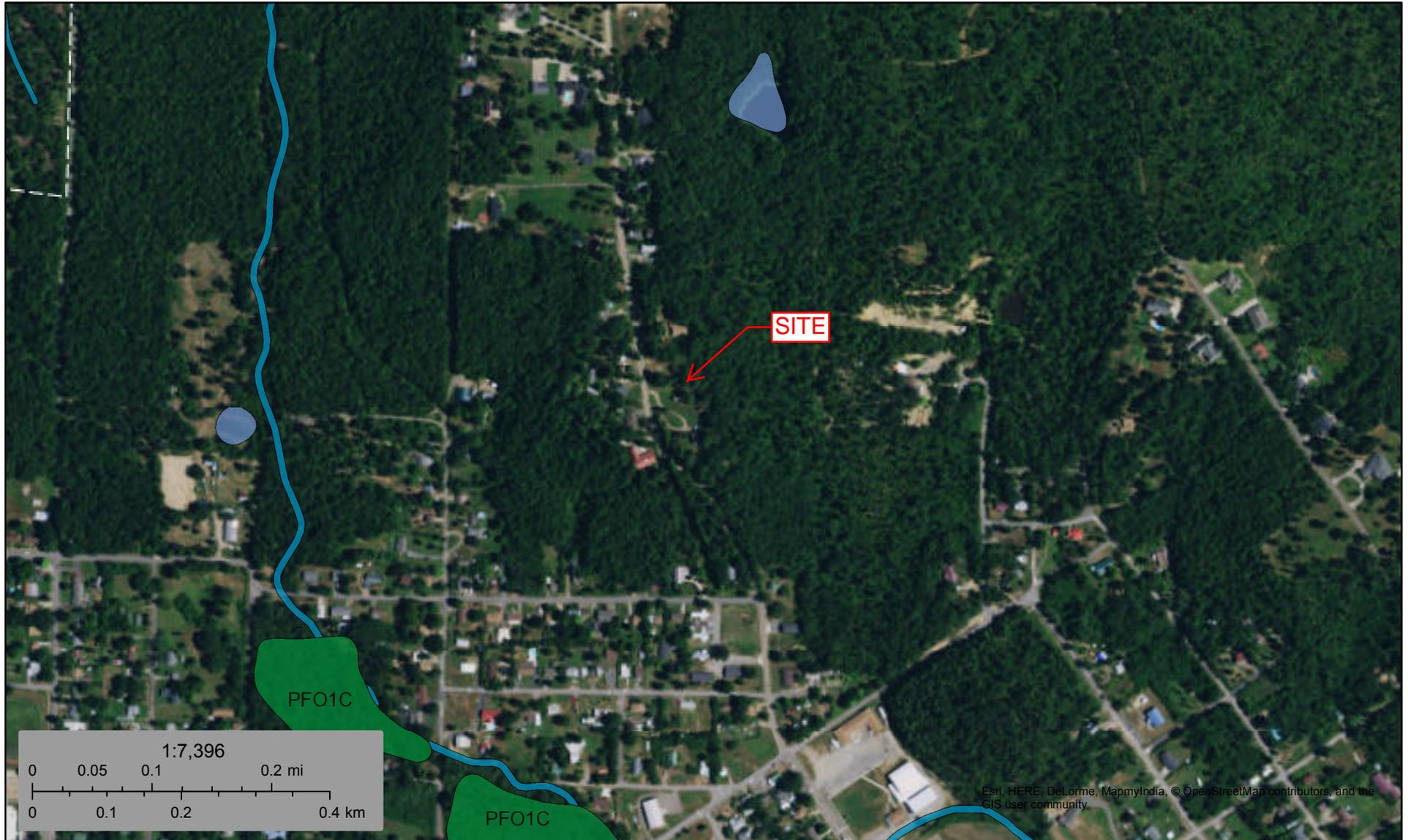
APPROXIMATE SCALE
 500 0 1000 2000 3000 FEET

MAP REVISED
11/14/75

This is an official copy of a portion of the above referenced flood map. It was extracted using F-MIT On-Line. This map does not reflect changes or amendments which may have been made subsequent to the date on the title block. For the latest product information about National Flood Insurance Program flood maps check the FEMA Flood Map Store at www.msc.fema.gov

Appendix F

Wetlands Information



October 18, 2016

- | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|----------|
|  | Estuarine and Marine Deepwater |  | Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland |  | Other |
|  | Estuarine and Marine Wetland |  | Freshwater Pond |  | Riverine |
|  | Freshwater Emergent Wetland |  | Lake | | |

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.