

October 24, 2023

Draft Finding of No Significant Impact

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), codified at 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq., an Environmental Assessment has been prepared for proposed updates to the wireless communications system in the Virginia counties of Northampton and Accomack. This project is subject to NEPA review because it is being funded with Federal funding available from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

Proposed Action

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Radio System (ESVARRS) plans to update nine existing wireless communications sites to implement a new state-of-the-art radio communication system for the Eastern Shore of Virginia (ESVA) region. Local governmental entities in Northampton County and Accomack County will use the new radio system, including twelve law enforcement agencies, twenty-two Fire/EMS agencies, four 9-1-1/dispatch centers, and one public school system. The ESVARRS Project also includes interoperability solutions for needed radio communications with other local, state, and federal public safety entities in and around the ESVA region.

Project Locations

1. Accomac STARS Tower - 23201 Front Street, Accomac, VA 23301
2. Chincoteague Public Works Tower - 6097 Community Drive, Chincoteague, VA 23336
3. Craddockville Tower - 32198 A S West Road, Painter, VA 23420
4. Eastville STARS Tower - 20371 Seaside Road, Cape Charles, VA 23310
5. Mappsville Tower - 14306 Lankford Highway, Mappsville, VA 23407
6. ACSO Tower - 23323 Wise Court, Accomac, VA 23301
7. Chincoteague Police Department Tower - 6150 Community Drive, Chincoteague, VA 23336
8. ESVA 9-1-1 Dispatch Tower - 23201 Front Street, Accomac, VA 23301
9. NCSO Water Tank - 5211 The Hornes, Eastville, VA 23347

Public Comments

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the Environmental Assessment from or may submit written comments relating to this Draft Finding of No Significant Impact to the following address: Requests for a copy of the Environmental Assessment or written comments relating to this Draft Finding of No Significant Impact should be directed to the ESVA 9-1-1 Center at 23201 Front Street, Accomac, VA, 23301, mailed to P.O. Box 337, Accomac, VA 23301, e-mailed to 911esva@co.northampton.va.us, or faxed to 757-787-1044; all to the attention of ESVA 9-1-1 Center Director, Jeffrey Flournoy.

No administrative action will be taken on the project before November 26th, 2023, which is 30 calendar days after the public notice of this Draft Finding of No Significant Impact.

Environmental Consequences

The Environmental Assessment evaluates the environmental consequences of a range of issues as they relate to the proposed project. No, or less than significant effects were identified as a result of the implementation of the proposed project for the following environmental issues: (1) air quality; (2) water quality; (3) solid waste management; (4) land use; (5) transportation; (6) natural environment; (7) human population; (8) construction; (9) energy impacts; (10) coastal zone management act; (11) historic preservation; (12) wild and scenic rivers; (13) endangered species; (14) floodplain management; (15)

farmland protection; (16) coastal barrier resources; (17) environmental justice; and (18) ecosystem services. As a result, no mitigation measures were identified in the Environmental Assessment.

Determination

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services has determined that the proposed addition of this communications infrastructure would not significantly affect the quality of the human or physical environment and that less than significant impacts would occur to the human environment. Although, it is not expected that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for this proposal, concurrence from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ) on a consistency determination with the Coastal Zone Management Act (VADEQ) is pending. The project will not be implemented prior to the VADEQ review being completed.