



**Division of Ecological and Water Resources**  
**500 Lafayette Road**  
**St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4025**

**Date:** March 1, 2022

**To:** Project Proposers and Consultants

**From:** Samantha Bump  
Natural Heritage Review Specialist

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Samantha Bump'.

**RE:** Natural Heritage Review not needed for communication towers on existing structures

The DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources has determined that it is not necessary to review the placement of new antennas on existing structures (co-location) for impacts to state-listed species or rare natural communities. In addition, a Natural Heritage Review is not needed for communication towers without guy wires provided the area of disturbance is limited to man-made substrate (e.g., gravel, asphalt, concrete). Given the nature and location of these projects, impacts to rare features are not anticipated and no further steps are needed to comply with Minnesota's Endangered Species Statute (*Minnesota Statutes*, section 84.0895) and associated Rules (*Minnesota Rules*, part 6212.1800 to 6212.2300 and 6134). We further believe that these projects would not have a significant impact on federally endangered or threatened species or critical habitats, and would not trigger the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Please be advised that this decision applies only to unguayed communication towers or antennas that fit the above description. Construction of communication towers equal to or in excess of 500 feet in height, 300 feet in height within 1,000 feet of any protected water or protected wetland, or within two miles of the Mississippi, Minnesota, Red, or St. Croix rivers or Lake Superior requires formal state environmental review (*Minnesota Rules*, part 4410.4300, subpart 33). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has developed [voluntary guidelines](#) for the siting, construction, operation, and decommissioning of communications towers.

This letter is designed to be used for multiple projects. Please contact [Review.NHIS@state.mn.us](mailto:Review.NHIS@state.mn.us) if you have any questions or concerns about this decision. Feel free to share this information with others in your office. Thank you for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.