

ENF Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
 EOE No.: 13189
 MEPA Analyst: Arthur Pagsley
 Phone: 617-626-1029

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Proposed Communication Facility- Hinsdale, MA		
Street: 450 Michaels Road		
Municipality: Hinsdale	Watershed: Housatonic River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: NAD83: 655023.665 m Easting 4698341.719 m Northing Zone 18	Latitude: 42° 25' 18.6" Longitude: 73° 06' 57.4"	
Estimated commencement date: 3/15/04	Estimated completion date: 5/1/04	
Approximate cost: \$150,000-\$175,000	Status of project design: 90 %complete	
Proponent: Tower Ventures II, LLC		
Street: 374 South Street, Suite 202		
Municipality: Pittsfield	State: MA	Zip Code: 01201
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Raymond Levesque		
Firm/Agency: R. Levesque Associates, LLC	Street: 64 Blueberry Ridge	
Municipality: Westfield	State: MA	Zip Code: 01085
Phone: (413) 568-0985	Fax: (413) 568-0986	E-mail: ray@rlevesqueassociates.com

- Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
 Yes No
- Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:
- a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8)) Yes No
 - a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09) Yes No
 - a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No
 - a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): none

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify _____) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:

Hinsdale special permit/ site plan approval (for tower), building permit, electrical permit, Federal Aviation Administration Determination of No Hazard, Hinsdale Conservation Commission signoff (no filing required) and Federal Communications Commission licenses (for all personal wireless service providers).

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
LAND				<input type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i>
Total site acreage	0.344 (1500 sq ft)			
New acres of land altered		0.344 (1500 sq ft)		
Acres of impervious area	0	~0.055 (~2400 sq ft)	~0.055 (~2400 sq ft)	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		None		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		None		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		None		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	0	~2,400 sq. ft	~2,400 sq. ft	
Number of housing units	NA	NA	NA	
Maximum height (in feet)	none	170'	170'	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	0	6 / month	6 / month	
Parking spaces	0	2	2	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	NA	NA	NA	
GPD water withdrawal	NA	NA	NA	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	NA	NA	NA	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	NA	NA	NA	

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

- Yes (Specify _____) No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify _____) No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify _____) No

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify _____) No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify _____) No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Hinsdale Flats ACEC) No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (*You may attach one additional page, if necessary.*)

(A) Project Site – The project site consists of approximately 15,000 square feet of undeveloped, hardwood forestland located at 450 Michaels Road, Hinsdale, on the property of Gordon and Judith Richardson. The grade of the land ranges from flat to sections approaching approximately 20% to 30%. The proposed project involves the construction of a 170' monopole communications tower with a concrete foundation, 6 small equipment areas or shelters and a 12-foot wide pervious gravel and crushed stone access drive approximately 325 feet long. A very minimal area of approximately 2,400 square feet within the altered area will be impervious. This includes the concrete foundation for the tower and the six equipment areas or shelters.

The concrete foundation for the tower will have a pad approximately 30'x30' with a 7' diameter pier. This foundation will be placed below grade with approximately one linear foot of the pier rising above grade and will be located in the center of a 80'x80' gravel and crushed stone fenced in yard. The equipment shelters vary in size, and will range from approximately 10'x15' to approximately 12'x30'. Minimal maintenance traffic will use the access road (approximately 6 vehicles per month if all six locations on the tower are in operation) and two gravel/ crushed stone parking spaces will be available outside the fenced yard. Development of the enclosed communications facility yard and access road will alter approximately 15,000 square feet of land.

(B) On and Off-Site Alternatives – To determine the best location for the tower, Radio Frequency (RF) coverage maps of the Hinsdale area were generated by computer modeling and an area of poor coverage within Hinsdale was identified. Tower Ventures II, LLC looked for existing structures upon which to place antennas and provide service, but no such structures occupied the area. Seven additional raw land candidates were considered in addition to the subject property and eight existing tower structures as potential sites for the project. Wetland and other environmental issues were evaluated at each site, and if they were acceptable, the landowner was consulted to determine interest in leasing the land. The site off Michael's Road was chosen because it met the local, state and federal environmental parameters, it met zoning criteria, it had a landowner interested in leasing land, and it was in the correct RF area.

The compound location within the chosen site was selected because it is the most level location on the site, which will help to minimize required grading and vegetation removal. Similarly, the path of the access road was identified as the track with the least required grading and vegetation removal, as it follows an old woods road for much of its length. The project area has no Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, and the access road has been designed to avoid the one Isolated Wetland in the vicinity.

(C) Mitigation Measures –

Wetlands: The proposed construction is not in an area with Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. A small isolated wetland has been delineated in the vicinity of the gravel access road. As stated above, the path of the access road has been designed to avoid disturbing this area, both during the construction process, and once the facility is built. A silt fence/hay bale barrier will be installed around the northern perimeter of this wetland to prevent any potential disturbance or contamination of the isolated wetland.

Erosion: To decrease soil erosion, pervious materials were chosen for the communication facility yard, the parking spots and the access drive. The pervious gravel access road will be designed to facilitate movement of overland flow across its surface through the use of water bars. The water bars will be built diagonally across the road to promote drainage onto undisturbed litter or vegetation. Where required, riprap will be used to prevent soil erosion.