Criteria for Evaluating the Effect of Proposed Telecommunications Facilities, Transmission Lines, and Wind Power Facilities on Historic Resources

The installation of telecommunications facilities, transmission lines, wind power facilities and other similar projects may affect historic resources directly and indirectly. Evaluations of project impacts are made on an individual case-by-case basis and focus on direct and indirect impacts of a substantial nature. Use of these criteria further implements any applicable state and federal review standards. Projects may have an adverse or an undue adverse effect under the following circumstances:

Direct Impact: The installation of a telecommunications facility, transmission line, wind power facility or other similar project would cause physical damage, alteration or destruction of an historic resource.

For example:

1. If installation of project components would require the whole or partial demolition or abandonment of an historic building;
2. If installation of a tower, pole or other related structure would cause ground disturbance at the installation site that would impact known archeological sites or archeologically sensitive areas;
3. If construction or expansion of access roads, staging or storage areas, borrow areas, disposal or waste areas and/or transmission lines would cause ground disturbance that would impact archeological resources along a corridor connected to the installation site;
4. If attachment of any devices to an historic building would cause immediate or potential structural or physical damage of the building, cause a significant visual intrusion to the architectural character of the building, or pose a proven threat to the continued use of the building;
5. If installation of a tower, pole or other related structure would cause physical damage or destruction of historic features of the landscape surrounding and/or part of an historic resource, such as stone walls, historic roadways and drives, important tree lines, orchards, etc.

Indirect Impact: The installation of a telecommunications facility, transmission line, wind power facility or other similar project would cause significant alteration and deterioration of the setting or character of an historic resource.

For example:

1. If installation of a telecommunications facility, transmission line, wind power facility or other similar project would create a significant intrusion into important public views of an historic building, group of historic buildings, or historic landscapes, especially when those views are identified in municipal or regional plans;
2. If installation of a telecommunications facility, transmission line, wind power facility or other similar project would create a significant intrusion into a hillside backdrop of an important historic building or group of buildings;
3. If the siting of a telecommunications facility, transmission line, wind power facility or other similar project would create a focal point that would overwhelmingly disrupt and distract from the elements of an historic landscape and the public's ability to appreciate it;
4. If installation of a telecommunications facility, transmission line, wind power facility or other similar project would create an intrusion in the setting of a National Historic Landmark(which requires additional federal review by the national Advisory Council on Historic Preservation);
5. If installation of a telecommunications facility, transmission line, wind power facility or other similar project would create a significant intrusion in a rural historic district or historic landscape with a high degree of integrity, i.e. with little incompatible modern development;
6. If installation of a telecommunications facility, transmission line, wind power facility or other similar project would significantly impair a vista or viewshed from an historic resource if that vista or viewshed is a significant component of the character of the historic resource and its history of use (e.g. the home of an important artist whose work portrayed the vista or viewshed landscape);
7. If installation of a telecommunications facility, transmission line, wind power facility or other similar project would significantly interfere with the public's ability to interpret and appreciate the qualities of a historic cultural facility, including impairment of the vista or viewshed if experiencing the view from the site is an important part of experiencing the site;
8. If installation of a telecommunications facility, transmission line, wind power facility or other similar project would introduce a structure that would be dramatically out of scale with and would visually overwhelm an historic resource or its setting;

9. If installation of a telecommunications facility, transmission line, wind power facility or other similar project would isolate a historic resource from its historic setting, or introduce incongruous or incompatible new uses, or new visual, audible or atmospheric elements to ahistoric setting.

Scott Dillon, HP Senior Review Coordinator & Survey Archaeologist
802-272-7358

Yvonne Benney Basque, Historic Resource Specialist - Archaeologist
802-505-1020

Greg Socinski, Historic Resources Specialist – Architecture
802-636-7413

Will Gansle, Historic Resources Specialist – Architecture
802-585-8246