

----- Forwarded by Debbie L. Condron/EMPL/WA/Verizon on 02/17/2006 03:40 PM -----

"Samantha Chang" <schang@fs.fed.us>

02/17/2006 09:12 AM

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Debbie L.
Condron/EMPL/WA/Verizon@VZNotes

"Eric Ozog" <eozog@fs.fed.us>, "Jamia R
HansenMurray" <jhansenmurray@fs.fed.us>,
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"Rodney Mace" <rmace@fs.fed.us>, "Barbara
Busse" <bbusse@fs.fed.us>

Re: Index-Galena Rd. Telephone Lines

In answer to your questions:

If Verizon hires someone to do the review and prepare the decision document, this would need the consent of the deciding officer (the Forest Supervisor). Review requirements are specific to the project, because the range of species and site-specific conditions varies by area.

The individuals' professional qualifications are not spelled out to the best of my knowledge, but again the deciding officer would have to be comfortable with their abilities. In general, consulting firms will hire staff with degrees in their field of expertise (fisheries biology, botany, etc.).

We do not maintain a list of qualified individuals. There are several companies in the area who specialize in environmental review, and we have worked with a few on other projects; I might be able to put you in contact with those project leaders if you are looking for feedback on one of them.

Depending on the specialists' opinions of probable impacts of the project, consultation could involve the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and State Historic Preservation Office (for archaeological/cultural resources). The Forest Service would perform the consultation, and Verizon would not have to apply to those agencies for the portions of the project that are on National Forest land.

The review process could take up to one year once started, due to

existing workload and staff availability. If the resulting decision is to authorize the project, it would result in issuance of a permit for construction and operation/maintenance. It is not necessary to apply for the permit again after review. Based on similar projects, I would estimate adding 3-6 weeks after the decision date for the permit to be signed by all parties and fully executed.

There is no separate fee for the permit application.

Keep in mind that our experience with other projects using a contractor is that review may be expedited, but the total cost benefit may be small to none. A Collection Agreement with the Forest Service would still be needed to fund initial review of the application to establish detailed requirements for the contractor's work, and then review of the document(s) they produce before the deciding officer approves it. If you need a better estimate of cost for review (if a contractor is used) for your due diligence, we may be able to provide a preliminary estimate.

Samantha K. Chang
Lands and Minerals
Mt. Baker Ranger District
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
(360) 856-5700 ext. 234

debbie.condron@ve
rizon.com

02/15/2006 03:25
PM

"Samantha Chang" <schang@fs.fed.us>

To

cc

"Eric Ozog" <eozog@fs.fed.us>

Subject

Re: Index-Galena Rd. Telephone
Lines

Samantha or Eric,

I am doing more research on the feasibility of placing a direct buried communications cable to serve the residents at approximately MP 5.6 on Index-Galena Rd and I have a few more questions.

If Verizon chose to hire someone to perform the review work and prepare the Decision Memo, do you have a document outlining the requirements?

What type of professional certification or license would that individual

need to possess?

Do you have a list of qualified individuals that we could hire to perform the review?

Which agencies would you consult with on the review process? Would you be securing approvals from those agencies or would we need to make application to them based on the review?

I want to verify that once the review process is started, it could take up to a year to complete and then we would apply for the Special Use Permit. Is that correct?

I understand the permits are processed on a first-come, first-serve basis, so once you start processing the permit, approximately how long would it take to complete?

Is there a separate application or review fee for the Special Use Permit?

Thank you,

Debbie Condron
Section Manager - OSP Engineering
Voice - 425/710-4110 or 425/488-1659
Fax - 425/710-4151
debbie.condron@verizon.com

"Samantha Chang"
<schang@fs.fed.us
>

01/13/2006 10:52
AM

To
Debbie L.
Condron/EMPL/WA/Verizon@VZNotes
cc
"Eric Ozog" <eozog@fs.fed.us>
Subject
Index-Galena Rd. Telephone Lines

Hi Debbie,

I checked with our surveyor about ownership and management of the Index-Galena Road. According to his research, Snohomish County has an easement for the road "for highway purposes only", where it crosses National Forest land. Since telephone lines would not be considered a highway purpose, any new lines placed within the road prism, including side ditches within the easement width, would need to be authorized by the Forest Service, after coordinating with Snohomish County to prevent

interference with road uses or maintenance.

The portions of private lands through which the lines would pass would not be included in the Forest Service permit. Fees for the permit are \$28.19 per acre per year, so based on a length of MP 2.5 to 5.6 and 10-foot right-of-way, the annual permit fee would be \$105.66 before subtracting the areas of private land. Our minimum annual fee is \$85.00.

If there are any other residents further along the road who may want service, it may be worthwhile to look at the costs of that now. As long as the total right-of-way area ends up being less than 5 contiguous acres, we can review this project with a Decision Memo document under the National Environmental Policy Act, with an estimated cost of at least \$10,000 if you choose to have Forest Service personnel do the review work and write the document. If it takes more than 5 acres, the law requires an Environmental Assessment, and costs are usually around \$50,000 (additional analysis, review, documentation, public notification and comment).

Attached is an application form you can use if Verizon decides to add the lines. As we discussed yesterday, required lead time could be from several months to a year before the review process can get started.

(See attached file: SF-299.rtf)

Give me a call if you have any questions.

Samantha K. Chang
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810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
(360) 856-5700 ext. 234 [attachment "SF-299.rtf" deleted by Debbie L.
Condrón/EMPL/WA/Verizon]