

The Alabama Historical Commission submits the following comments regarding the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement for Review of Effects on Historic Properties for Certain Undertakings Approved by the Federal Communications Commission.

„h On Page A-8, Section III, A, 1. ;§associated excavation;” should be allowed only in areas significantly disturbed by previous tower construction or in areas cleared by the archaeological survey for the original construction.

„h On Page A-8, Section III, A, 2. Again, ;§associated excavation;” should be allowed only in areas significantly disturbed by previous tower construction or in areas cleared by the archaeological survey for the original construction. Furthermore, excavation of ground within 30 feet in any direction should apply ONLY if the 30 feet was included in the archaeological survey for the original construction.

„h On Page A-8, Section III, A, 4. By our guidelines a 400' cell tower requires a 2 mile APE, regardless of the use of the property where the tower is located.

„h Page A-9, Section III, A, 5. A tower will still affect historic properties, even if the tower is located next to a highway or a railroad corridor.

„h Page A-18, Section VI, B, 2a. By our guidelines a tower under 100' requires a 1/2 mile APE, 101-150' requires 3/4 miles, 151-250' requires 1 mile, 251-350' requires 1.5 miles, 301-400' requires 2 miles and anything over 400' has to consult with the AHC.

„h Page A-19, Section VI, C, 4. In Alabama it may NOT be assumed that no archaeological resources exist within an APE ... on ground that has been previously disturbed up to (1) two feet or (2) six inches deeper than the general depth of the anticipated disturbance (excluding footings and similar limited areas of deep excavation) ... This entire paragraph is unacceptable. In certain geological settings Alabama has archaeological sites that are meters deep and may we remind you that historic burials are usually six feet deep. The only ground disturbance that precludes archaeological survey is that which can be demonstrated to extend into the subsoil.

„h Page A-19, Section VI, E, 2. We don't understand how the "known presence of Historic Properties" should be considered when determining if a historic property is adversely affected.

„h Page A-20, Section VI, E, 4. Although we read section X. B., we do not agree with approving collocations on towers that have failed to acquire the proper environmental clearances. If tower companies are permitted to collect fees for collocation, there is no incentive to obtain environmental clearances in the first place.

„h Page A-20, Section VII, A, 3. For SHPO offices that are short staffed, 5 days is insufficient to respond to any request. We have 30 days from the time of receipt of any document to respond.

Submission Forms

„h On Field Survey results, part i. Include the construction date of the resource.