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CERTIFIED

MAY 24 2012

Ms. Mary Hopkins  
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer  
2301 Central Avenue, Barrett Building, 3rd Floor  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Re: Proposed Lake Area Telecommunications Tower

Dear Ms. Hopkins:

Yellowstone National Park proposes to permit construction of a telecommunications tower near the Lake developed area in the central portion of the park. The tower would bring cellular communications to an area that does not currently have service and would considerably improve communications and emergency response times for staff and visitors. The impacts of cellular service and a tower were assessed in the Wireless Telecommunications Plan/Environmental Assessment which the park completed in 2009. The tower will be 100 feet tall and constructed of metal lattice with four tenant antennas located within the top 30 feet of the tower. Approximately 30 feet of the tower will be above the tree canopy.

The park flew weather balloons and elevated a crane to 100 feet at the proposed site to measure the visual impacts from the tower and to create photo-simulations for the proposal. The tower will not be visible from the Lake Fish Hatchery Historic District, the Lake Historic District, or the Fishing Bridge Historic District. Maps showing the relationship of the tower location to the developed areas and the historic districts are provided for your perusal. The tower will be partially visible from the Grand Loop Road, but only at one specific location. At that location, the tower will be located slightly more than one-half of a mile from the road and visible only through a break in the trees. The tower will not break the horizon line at this location. "Before" and "after" photo-simulations for that location are provided as well. The tower will be sited near an existing freshwater collection facility in a heavily disturbed location, and, as such, will not disturb any archeological resources.

Given the location of the tower and the results of the visual assessment, the park has determined that the construction of the tower will not adversely affect any historic properties. The park seeks your concurrence with its determination. If you have any questions regarding this project,

please contact Tobin Roop, Chief of Cultural Resources, at (307) 344-2224, or Bret DeYoung, Chief of Telecommunications, at (307) 344-2070. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel N. Wenk  
Superintendent

Enclosures:

Map – Proposed Lake Area Cell Tower

Map – Proposed lake Area Cell Tower Perspective

Photo-simulation – Tower “Before” and “After” From Grand Loop Road

bcc: (w/o enclosures)

Central Files (2)

Superintendent’s Office Files

Lindsay Robb

Dave Hallac

Bret DeYoung

Doug Madsen

Dan Reinhart

Brad Ross

Cultural Resource Files

YCR Files

No Reading Files

FNP:TRoop:kmf:5/24/12:2514