



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture  
Forest  
Service

April 2003



# VERIZON TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIBER OPTIC PROJECT

## Decision Memo

**Ammonoosuc/Pemigewasset Ranger District,  
White Mountain National Forest  
Towns of Livermore and Thornton  
Grafton County, New Hampshire**

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# DECISION MEMO

## VERIZON TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIBER OPTIC PROJECT

**USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region, White Mountain National Forest**  
**Ammonosuc-Pemigwasset Ranger District**  
**Towns of Easton and Woodstock**  
**Grafton County, New Hampshire**

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<p><b>1.0 DECISION..... 2</b></p> <p>    <b>1.1 BACKGROUND ..... 2</b></p> <p>    <b>1.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE DECISION ..... 2</b></p> <p>    <b>1.4 RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL ..... 3</b></p> <p><b>2.0 REASONS FOR CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDING THE DECISION ..... 3</b></p> <p>    <b>2.1 CATEGORY OF EXCLUSION ..... 3</b></p> <p>    <b>2.2 RELATIONSHIP TO EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES..... 4</b></p> <p>        2.2.1 Threatened and Endangered Species or Their Critical Habitat ..... 4</p> <p>        2.2.2 Floodplains, Wetlands, or Municipal Watersheds ..... 4</p> <p>        2.2.3 Congressionally Designated Areas ... 5</p> <p>        2.2.4 Inventoried Roadless Areas ..... 6</p> <p>        2.2.5 Research Natural Areas ..... 6</p> <p>        2.2.6 Native American Religious or Cultural Sites, Archaeological Sites, or Historic Properties or Areas ..... 6</p> <p><b>3.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ..... 6</b></p> <p><b>4.0 FINDINGS REQUIRED BY AND/OR RELATED TO OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS ..... 7</b></p> <p>    <b>4.1 FOREST PLAN CONSISTENCY (NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT ACT) ..... 7</b></p> <p>    <b>4.2 VEGETATION MANIPULATION (NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT ACT) ..... 7</b></p>	<p><b>4.3 ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT..... 7</b></p> <p><b>4.4 SENSITIVE SPECIES (FOREST SERVICE MANUAL 2670) ..... 7</b></p> <p><b>4.5 CLEAN WATER ACT ..... 7</b></p> <p><b>4.6 WETLANDS (EXECUTIVE ORDER 11990), FLOODPLAINS (EXECUTIVE ORDER 11988) ..... 7</b></p> <p><b>4.7 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT, ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT, NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT ..... 7</b></p> <p><b>4.8 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EXECUTIVE ORDER 12898) ..... 7</b></p> <p><b>4.9 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT 8</b></p> <p><b>5.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OR APPEAL ..... 8</b></p> <p><b>6.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE..... 8</b></p> <p><b>7.0 CONTACT PERSON ..... 8</b></p> <p><b>8.0 SIGNATURE AND DATE ..... 8</b></p> <p><b>VERIZON PROJECT MAP ..... 9</b></p> <p><b>APPENDIX A – RESPONSE TO SCOPING ..... 10</b></p> <p>    <b>LIST OF PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS RESPONDING TO SCOPING ..... 10</b></p> <p>    <b>COMMENTS/RESPONSES ..... 10</b></p> <p><b>APPENDIX B – MITIGATION MEASURES ..... 11</b></p>
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## 1.0 Decision

### 1.1 Background

Verizon has a Special Use Permit that covers the buried copper telephone cable beginning at Lost River and extending along NH Route 112 southeast for approximately 2 miles. See map p. 8. This copper cable was installed in the 1960s and is deteriorating.

Beginning at Wildwood Campground, there is an aerial utility line following NH Route 112 to NH Route 116 and extending along Rt.116 northeast through Easton and on into Franconia. Portions of this aerial line that cross National Forest Lands are not currently covered by a Special Use Permit. The map on page 9 shows the details of these lines.

Currently there are limited north south telecommunication lines through the White Mountains. Almost all telecommunication traffic is routed along the Connecticut River. The approximate 49,000 telephone subscribers in the northern portion of New Hampshire are vulnerable to loss of inter-exchange communication due to lack of network survivability. This lack of survivability includes E-911 emergency calls since routing is through Concord, New Hampshire. Some towns, such as Lincoln, Franconia, and Woodstock, are particularly vulnerable since they are on dead-end communication lines. Lose of telephone service could result in the inability to summon police, fire, or ambulance service.

### 1.2 Purpose and Need

Verizon is proposing to install a fiber optic cable between switching centers in North Woodstock and Franconia New Hampshire. The cable would be buried along the road shoulder south of Wildwood Campground. North of Wildwood, the cable would be mounted on the existing poles.

In order for this project to proceed, a Special Use Permit will be required for the portions of the line crossing National Forest land.

### 1.3 Description of the Decision

I have decided to issue a Special Use Permit to

Verizon that allows the installation of a fiber optic cable across National Forest land in the Towns of Woodstock and Easton, New Hampshire. This authorization allows for underground and aerial installation of the cable along the shoulder of New Hampshire Routes 112 and 116.

The project area begins west of the village of North Woodstock at the point where NH Rt. 112 crosses National Forest Land. From there it proceeds northwesterly along Rt 112 to the junction with NH Rt. 116. It then follows Rt 116 northeasterly to the point where National Forest land ends in the center of the Town of Easton.

The following activities will take place on National Forest Land:

- **Buried fiber optic cable from the southern boundary of the project area to the Lost River site in Kinsman Notch** (a distance of approximately two and one half miles) - Replace the existing insulated buried copper cable with three, 1¼ inch, flexible plastic ducts lines and one insulated copper wire conduit. These lines will be buried.
- **Buried fiber optic cable from north of Lost River to the private land past Wildwood Recreation Area** (a distance of approximately three and one half miles) - only the three, 1¼ inch, flexible plastic ducts lines will be buried.
- **Aerial fiber optic cable on existing utility poles from Wildwood Campground northwest along Rt. 112 and northwest along Rt. 116** (a distance of approximately 3 miles)

A vibratory plow will be used to bury the lines for most of the project length. The vibratory plow creates a slit approximately 6 inches wide and three feet deep. Plowing will allow simultaneous insertion of the structures with a minimum impact and offers nearly

automatic and immediate restoration of disturbed surfaces.

Construction will follow the tree line as closely as possible in disturbed area along the north/east side of State Route 112. Construction will vary from five (5) feet to seventy-five (75) feet from the edge of the pavement. Minimum tree trimming will be necessary along the length of the project, and incidental tree removal may be necessary.

Where topographical or highway features do not permit plowing, either directional boring or excavation methods will be used. Directional drilling has no impact on surface soils except at the origin and termination of the construction. Use of open excavation will be allowed only at those locations where plowing has failed to produce a suitable insertion facility (because of soil conditions or topography) or where public or worker safety would be at risk if plowing machinery were present.

A three hundred twenty-five (325) foot section of the project in the vicinity of Stoney Brook will require temporary aerial cable construction to circumvent NHDOT bridge reconstruction planned for 2003. The aerial cable will be relocated and buried at the completion of the state highway project.

Work to insert and construct duct structures will take approximately 2-3 months. Placing an splicing fiber cable and access points will take approximately three (3) months following duct placement.

After the cables are buried, the only visible signs of the project on the Forest will be approximately 17 junction boxes and handhole access points. The junction boxes are above ground access points, or pedestals, measuring approximately 1 foot wide, 2½ feet long, and 2 feet high. In addition, three (3) handhole access points, flush mounted to grade, are needed.

Generally, the points of access will be located near bridges, as requested by the New

Hampshire Department of Transportation. Junction boxes will be located out of sight of the Appalachian Trail, where it crosses the highway. Signs associated with the buried cable will be held to a minimum in the vicinity of the Appalachian Trail. During construction the permittee will provide for safe uninterrupted passage of hikers.

Verizon has provided the Forest Service with a copy of the agreement it has with the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation. A copy is located in the project file.

See Appendix B for a list of mitigation measures to be implemented for this project.

#### **1.4 Responsible Official**

As the Forest Supervisor, I have the delegated authority to make this decision.

## **2.0 REASONS FOR CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDING THE DECISION**

Decisions may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment when they are within one of the categories identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 7 CFR part 1b.3 or one of the categories identified by the Chief of the Forest Service in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.15 sections 31.1b or 31.2, and there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the decision that may result in a significant individual or cumulative environmental effect.

#### **2.1 Category of Exclusion**

The project is within the category of exclusion 31.2, 3, that includes approval, modification, or construction of minor special uses of National Forest System lands, that require less than five contiguous acres of land.

The construction corridor is expected to be approximately ten (10) feet wide, except where excavation may be necessary. The trench created by the vibratory plow is

approximately six (6) inches wide.

## 2.2 Relationship to Extraordinary Circumstances

### 2.2.1 Threatened and Endangered Species or Their Critical Habitat

**Effects Determinations to Federal and State-listed TEPS:** The Proposed Action would cause **NO EFFECT** to (de-listed) Federally threatened bald eagle or threatened Canada lynx (extirpated), and would meet the Standards and Guidelines outlined in the Canada Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy for protecting suitable lynx habitat on the White Mountain National Forest. The portion of the Mountain National Forest within the project limits is non-suitable roost or foraging habitat for woodland bats due to the year-round high-speed traffic, unsuitable tree types, tree diameter less than 9 inches (breast height), and closed canopy conditions. Therefore, the habitat is considered unoccupied by woodland bats and the Proposed Action involving no tree removal and would cause **no effect** to the federally-listed endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*). Due to non-suitable habitat, the USFWS Terms and Conditions outlined in the Biological Opinion (USDI 2000) for the White Mountain National Forest do not apply.

Because no suitable habitat would be affected, the Proposed Action would cause no impact and would not likely contribute to a trend towards federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species of federally-listed R9 sensitive wildlife species or the State-listed threatened and endangered and species of special concern. The Proposed Action would cause no impact to any of the Eastern Region 9 sensitive or state-listed plant species (see Project File, Biological Evaluation/Assessment for this project signed by Biologist Clara Weloth dated November 7, 2002.)

### 2.2.2 Floodplains, Wetlands, or Municipal Watersheds

**Floodplains:** Executive Order 11988 is to avoid adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains. Floodplains are defined by this order as, “. . . the lowland and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters including flood prone areas of offshore islands, including at a minimum, that area subject to a one percent [100-year recurrence] or greater chance of flooding in any one year.”

Installation of the buried line will be in the disturbed area adjacent to the highway. Small areas of floodplains exist adjacent to streams that will be crossed. Floodplains would not be altered by burying the cables and conduits in a six (6) inch-wide, three (3) foot-deep trench using the vibratory plow. Use of “Best Management Practices for Erosion Control on Timber Harvesting Operations in New Hampshire” will insure that impacts on flood plains and possible siltation of adjacent streams would be temporary.

**Wetlands:** Executive Order 11990 is to avoid adverse impacts associated with destruction or modification of wetlands. Wetlands are defined by this order as, “. . . areas inundated by surface or ground water with a frequency sufficient to support and under normal circumstances does or would support a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas such as sloughs, potholes, wet meadows, river overflows, mud flats, and natural ponds.”

There is a wetland area located in the Town of Easton, north of the Wildwood Campground. Verizon has obtained a wetlands permit from the State of New Hampshire (see project file). The permit allows the temporary

. . . impact of 216 square feet of drainage culverts in the Town of Easton to install approximately 0.64 miles of tele-communications cable within, across, and adjacent to the right-of-way for New Hampshire Route 112. Appropriate siltation/erosion/turbidity controls shall be in place prior to construction, and shall be maintained during construction, and shall remain until the area is stabilized. . . . Construction within the Department's jurisdiction shall be limited to the 9-foot construction right-of-way as depicted on the approval plans . . . Any clearing . . . shall be in accordance with the 'Best Management Practices for Erosion Control on Timber Harvesting Operations in New Hampshire.' Timber, slash, and/or chips shall be removed from wetland areas and shall not be buried in wetlands. . . . all exposed soil area shall be stabilized by seeding and mulching during the growing season.

Municipal Watersheds: Municipal watersheds are managed under multiple use prescriptions in the White Mountain National Forest LRMP.

This decision includes activities within the Town of Woodstock municipal watershed. The town of Woodsville has an intake in the Wild Ammonoosuc River below the project area (approximately 4.2 miles downstream from the northern terminus of the project). Currently the water supply is used for short term back up to their main water supply, which is the confluence of the Wild Ammonoosuc River and the Connecticut River. Use of "Best Management Practices for Erosion Control on Timber Harvesting Operations in New Hampshire" will ensure that possible municipal watershed-related impacts are minimized.

### **2.2.3 Congressionally Designated Areas**

Wilderness: This decision does not affect Wilderness. Wilderness is identified on the Forest as Management Area 5.1 (LRMP, pp. III-42 through III-46). The project is located in Management Area 2.1 (LRMP, pp. III-30 through III-35),

Managements Area 8.1 (LRMP, pp. III-60 through III-89), and Management Area 6.2 (LRMP, pp. III-51 through III-56).

The closest Wilderness, the Pemigewasset Wilderness Area, is 8 miles northeast of the project area. This decision, with impacts limited to the immediate area of activity, will not affect the Wilderness Area.

Wilderness Study Areas: The project is not in or near Wilderness Study Areas. Wilderness Study Areas are identified on the Forest as Management Area 9.1 (LRMP, pp. III-90 through III-92). The project is located in Management Area 2.1 (LRMP, pp III-30 through III-35).

The closest Wilderness Study Area, Caribou/Speckled Wilderness Study Areas (northeast, 40 miles). This decision, with impacts limited to the immediate area of activity, will not affect the Wilderness Area.

National Recreation Areas: There are no National Recreation Areas on the White Mountain National Forest. This decision will not affect National Recreation Areas.

Scenic Areas: Scenic Areas are identified on the Forest as Management Area 8.1 (LRMP, pp. III-64 through III-83). The project is located in Management Area 2.1 (LRMP, pp III-30 through III-35).

The closest Scenic Areas are Lafayette Brook Scenic Area (northeast, 9 miles) and Greely Pond Scenic Area (southeast 12 miles). This decision, with impacts limited to the immediate area of activity, will not affect Scenic Areas.

National Scenic Byway: The project area is outside the Kancamagus National Scenic Byway. This decision, with impacts limited to the immediate area of activity, will not affect the National Scenic Byway.

#### **2.2.4 Inventoried Roadless Areas**

There are no inventoried roadless areas (RARE II or LRMP) in the decision area. This decision, with impacts limited to the immediate area of activity, will not affect roadless areas.

#### **2.2.5 Research Natural Areas**

There are three designated Research Natural Areas on the Forest. This project is outside research natural areas. This decision, with impacts limited to the immediate area of activity, will not affect Research Natural Areas.

#### **2.2.6 Native American Religious or Cultural Sites, Archaeological Sites, or Historic Properties or Areas**

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to take into account the effect of a project on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in, or eligible for inclusion in the National Register. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act also requires federal agencies to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment. The Archaeological Resources Protection Act covers the discovery and protection of historic properties (prehistoric and historic) that are excavated or discovered in federal lands. It affords lawful protection of archaeological resources and sites that are on public and Indian lands. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act covers the discovery and protection of Native American human remains and objects that are excavated or discovered in federal lands. It encourages avoidance of archaeological sites that contain burials or portions of sites that contain graves through "in situ" preservation, but may encompass other actions to preserve these remains and items. This decision complies with the cited Acts. Surveys were conducted for Native American religious or cultural sites, archaeological sites, and historic

properties or areas that may be affected by this decision (See cultural resource report dated Feb. 12, 2002). A 'no properties affected' determination was made. Consultation on this finding occurred with the State Historic Preservation Office (See cultural resource report dated Feb. 12, 2002).

Additionally, the Federal government has trust responsibilities to Tribes under a government-to-government relationship to insure that the Tribes reserved rights are protected. Consultation with tribes helps insure that these trust responsibilities are met.

There are no recognized Native American Nations in New Hampshire.

No tribal concerns were identified for this project through Scoping.

No other extraordinary circumstances related to the project were identified (See cultural resource report dated Feb. 12, 2002).

### **3.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Public involvement for the project included a Public Notice in the Manchester Union Leader on July 12, 2001 and a direct mailing July 16, 2001 to approximately 250 interested parties (see mailing list in planning record).

Ten responses (comment letters, E-mails, and a phone comment) were received on this project on or before the close of the comment period August 15, 2001.

Comments were used to refine the project, consider alternatives to the project, and to consider environmental effects of the project. See **Appendix A – Response to Scoping** for the Forest Service response to the comments received during Scoping.

The majority of the comments were in favor of the project. The Appalachian Trail Conference wanted to ensure hiker safety during construction and minimize impacts from signs and junction boxes in the vicinity of the trail (Appendix A, Comment 2; Appendix B,

Mitigation Measures)

## **4.0 FINDINGS REQUIRED BY AND/OR RELATED TO OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

My decision will comply with applicable laws and regulations. I have summarized some pertinent ones below.

### **4.1 Forest Plan Consistency (National Forest Management Act)**

This Act requires the development of long-range land and resource management plans (Forest Plans). The White Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), as amended (Forest Plan), was approved in 1986, as required by this Act. It has since been amended eight times. The Forest Plan provides guidance for all natural resource management activities on the Forest. The Act requires all projects and activities be consistent with the Forest Plan. The Forest Plan has been reviewed in consideration of this project. This decision is responsive to guiding direction contained in the Plan, as summarized in Section 1.0 **DECISION** of this document. This decision is consistent with the standards and guidelines contained in the Forest Plan (LRMP, pp III-27).

### **4.2 Vegetation Manipulation (National Forest Management Act)**

This Act and its implementing regulations require that vegetation manipulation of tree cover for any purpose must comply with 36 CFR 219.27(b).

Construction will occur in the disturbed area between the edge of the highway pavement and the tree line, as close to the tree line as possible. Although no areas of forested cover will be removed, individual incidental trees may need to be removed. Occasional tree mortality along the tree line may result from severing tree roots when the cable is installed.

### **4.3 Endangered Species Act**

See above, Section 2.2.2 **Threatened and Endangered Species or Their Critical Habitat.**

### **4.4 Sensitive Species (Forest Service Manual 2670)**

This Manual direction requires analysis of potential impacts to sensitive species, those species for which the Regional Forester has identified population viability is a concern. Potential effects of this decision on sensitive species have been analyzed and documented in a Biological Evaluation (see project file, Biological Evaluation/Assessment for the for this projects signed by Biologist Clara Weloth dated November 7, 2002.) This decision will have “no impact” on sensitive species.

### **4.5 Clean Water Act**

This Act is to restore and maintain the integrity of waters. The Forest Service complies with this Act through the use of Best Management Practices. This decision incorporates mitigation measures (see §1.3 **Description of Decision**) and Best Management Practices to ensure protection of soil and water resources.

### **4.6 Wetlands (Executive Order 11990), Floodplains (Executive Order 11988)**

See above, §2.2.3 **Floodplains, Wetlands, or Municipal Watersheds.**

### **4.7 National Historic Preservation Act, Archaeological Resources Protection Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act**

See above, §2.2.6 **Native American Religious or Cultural Sites, Archaeological Sites, or Historic Properties or Areas.**

### **4.8 Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898)**

This Order requires consideration of whether projects would disproportionately impact minority or low-income populations. This decision complies with this Act. Public involvement occurred for this project, the results of which I have considered in this decision-making. Public involvement did not identify any adversely impacted local minority or low-income populations. This decision is not expected to adversely impact minority or low-income populations.

#### **4.9 National Environmental Policy Act**

This Act requires public involvement and consideration of potential environmental effects. The entirety of documentation for this decision supports compliance with this Act.

#### **5.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OR APPEAL**

This decision is not subject to a higher level of administrative review or appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.8

#### **6.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

This decision may be implemented immediately.

#### **7.0 CONTACT PERSON**

Further information about this decision can be obtained from Arthur V. Gigliello at the Ammonoosuc Office of the Ammonoosuc-Pemigwasset Ranger District (Address: 660

Trudeau Road, Bethlehem, NH 03574; Voice: 603-869-2626; TTY/TDD: 603-869-3104; Fax: 603-8695844, e-mail: agigliello@fs.fed.us

#### **8.0 SIGNATURE AND DATE**

I have concluded that this decision may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment as it is within one of the categories identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 7 CFR part 1b.3 or one of the categories identified by the Chief of the Forest Service in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.15 sections 31.1b or 31.2, and there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the decision that may result in a significant individual or cumulative environmental effect. My conclusion is based on information presented in this document and the entirety of the Planning Record.

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THOMAS G. WAGNER  
Forest Supervisor

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Date

# Verizon Project Map

## Appendix A – Response to Scoping

### TO THE DECISION MEMO FOR VERIZON TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIBER OPTIC PROJECT

Public involvement for the project included a Public Notices in the Manchester Union Leader on July 12, 2001 and a direct mailing July 16, 2001 to approximately 250 interested parties (see mailing list in planning record).

Ten responses (comment letters, E-mails, and a phone comment) were received on this project on or before the close of the comment period August 15, 2001.

Comments received from the Scoping effort were used to refine the project and in the analysis (project file). Comments were also used to explore the existence of extraordinary circumstances within the project area and potential effects to resources.

Comments received have been tracked in detail in a separate document in the project file (See appendix A). Tracking included identifying those comments that were: beyond the scope of this decision; addressed by Forest Plan direction; addressed through project refinement; addressed through consideration of environmental effects of the project, refinement of the project, and/or alternatives to the project.

Comments identified as beyond the scope of this decision were dismissed from further consideration. Comments identified as being addressed by Forest Plan direction have been noted as part of the decision. Comments identified as being addressed through project refinement have been noted as part of the decision. Comments identified as being addressed through consideration of environmental effects of the project, refinement of the project, and/or alternatives to the project have been noted in making the determination that there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the decision that may result in a significant environmental effect.

#### List Of People And Organizations Responding To Scoping

1. Stanley Judge, Albert Gomez – Board of Selectpersons, Shelburne, NH
2. Bob Richardson, Walpole, NH
3. J.T. Horn – New England Representative, Appalachian Trail Conference, Lyme, NH
4. Don Owen – Environmental Protection, Specialist, Appalachian Trail, National Park Service, Harpers Ferry, WV
5. Gibb Dodge, Columbia, NH
6. Robert Miller, Southwick, NH
7. George Gilman, Holliston MA
8. Vincent MacIlvain, Westport, CN
9. Iris Baird, Lancaster, NH
10. Terrence Frost, Concord, NH

#### Comments/Responses

All ten letters supported the proposal. A few respondents expressed questions and concerns. The following lists these comment with a Forest Service response:

1. *With the movement to communication towers and satellite communication will this section of cable and all ground wire become obsolete and unnecessary in the not so distance future?*

Wireless is incapable of handling the capacity between switching stations. At this time, and in the foreseeable future, this fiber optic line will connect switching stations in Lincoln and Franconia and is not expected to become obsolete (see Verizon request letter dated March 20, 2001 in the project file).

2. *We request that the WMNF include permit conditions that will minimize the impacts on the Appalachian Trail. First, we request that no junction boxes be located within sight of the Appalachian Trail footpath. We also request that utility signs in the vicinity of the Appalachian Trail indicating the existence of*

*the cable be held to a minimum necessary to meet public safety standards. Last, it is essential that during construction the Appalachian Trail footpath be uninterrupted.*

The Forest Service will make these a requirement of the project. See §1.3 **Description of Decision**, pp. 1-2 of the **Decision Memo** and **Appendix B – Mitigation Measures**.

3. *Route 112 has undergone a lot of change in recent years and in some ways has destroyed the beauty that was once there. I do hope this will be monitored and the land kept as natural as possible.*

Currently the State of New Hampshire, Department of Transportation, is

rehabilitating parts of the Route 112. The Road rehabilitation is outside the scope of the fiber optic project. Concerns about maintaining the natural appearance of the road corridor are best directed to Department of Transportation.

The activities for this fiber optic cable project will occur in the already disturbed road right-of-way. This project will have negligible effect on the area, and the construction effects will be temporary. See **Appendix B – Mitigation Measures**. After installation, of the cable, the only visible evidence of the cable will be the junction boxes (see §1.3 **Description of Decision**, pp. 1-2 of the **Decision Memo**).

## Appendix B – Mitigation Measures

### TO THE DECISION MEMO FOR VERIZON TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIBER OPTIC PROJECT

The generally applicable Forest and Management area-wide Standards and Guidelines listed in the Forest Plan in sections III and appendix VIIB:18-22 and state Best management Practices (BMPs) are applicable to all action alternatives.

The following table contains mitigation actions for the project

The following key is used to describe the type of mitigation action being used and is shown in boldface following the actions:

**Avoidance** - Avoid the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.

**Minimize** - Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.

**Rectify** - Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment.

**Maintenance** - Reduce or eliminate the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.

**Monitor** - Evaluate effects of an action

### Mitigation Measures for Verizon Telecommunications Fiber Optic Project

Resource	Location	Mitigation Action & Type	Responsible Position	When To Accomplish	Date Accomplished/ By Whom
Soil & Water	Along the length of the project	Use "Best Management Practices for Erosion Control on Timber Harvesting Operations in New Hampshire" to prevent possible erosion and siltation problems, especially where use of a backhoe is necessary. - <b>Minimize</b>	Permitee and Contractor	During implementation	
Soil & Water	At all water crossings	All stream and wetland crossings will conform to State Wetlands Permit. Equipment use in streams will be kept to a minimum. Temporary mulch or stabilization will be applied to all disturbed areas next to water until final seeding occurs. Filter fence or hay bales will be installed adjacent to streams to keep any sediment from reaching water.	Permitee and Contractor	During implementation	
Recreation	Junction of the buried cable with the Appalachian Trail	Insure that no construction equipment blocks the Appalachian Trail, except during actual construction; use warning signs on the trail when construction is actually crossing the trail - <b>Minimize</b>	Permitee and Contractor	During implementation	
Recreation	Junction of the buried cable with the Appalachian Trail	Locate junction boxes out of sight of the Appalachian Trail, where it crosses the highway. - <b>Minimize</b>	Permitee and Contractor	During implementation	
Recreation	Junction of the buried cable with the Appalachian Trail	Keep signs associated with the buried cable to a minimum in the vicinity of the Appalachian Trail - <b>Minimize</b>	Permitee and Contractor	Following implementation	

Resource	Location	Mitigation Action & Type	Responsible Position	When To Accomplish	Date Accomplished/ By Whom
<b>Engineering</b>	Location of junction boxes	Where feasible locate junction boxes near bridges per request of the NH DOT - <b>Minimize</b>	Permitee and Contractor	During implementation	