

## Natural Resource Review

May 23, 2017

**RE:** Proposed Communications Facility  
Site Identifier: Naperville Springbrook / IL-00-5717  
Site Address: 2220 W 83RD STREET, Naperville, DuPage County, IL 60564  
Latitude / Longitude: 41° 43' 55.88" / 88° 11' 15.6"  
EBI Project No. 6116004848

EBI Consulting (EBI) has prepared the following Natural Resource Review (the *Review*) for the above-referenced property (herein, the Subject Property). This *Review* was completed as a part of EBI's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of a proposed communications facility, and focuses specifically on identifying potential significant impacts to federally-protected lands; federal- and state-listed protected species; Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated 100-year flood zones; and wetlands, which may require further environmental review per Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rules Implementing NEPA [47 CFR 1.1307(a).]

Please note that EBI prepared this *Review* using readily-available online resources and visual observations made during EBI's site walk at the Subject Property on February 15, 2017. This *Review* is designed to provide a baseline evaluation of the potential for the proposed installation to affect on-site natural resources (including protected species) and to determine if additional review, on-site surveys, or consultation is required.

### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

As of the date of this *Review*, Central States Tower III, LLC proposes to construct a tower facility on the northeastern portion of the Subject Property. The proposed facility will consist of a 130-foot monopole tower (135 feet, including the top-mounted lightning rod) within a 60-foot by 60-foot lease area. Utilities will follow a proposed access/utility easement commencing from 83rd Street. Please see the attached site drawings for complete details.

### **PROPERTY AND VICINITY DESCRIPTION**

The Subject Property is an approximately 150-acre parcel primarily consisting of the Spring Brook Golf Course and associated maintenance facilities. The area of the proposed installation (herein, the Project Site), currently consists of previously disturbed lands (i.e. mowed) used for storage of golf course maintenance material (e.g. mulch and dirt piles) with no undisturbed natural communities present.

Land immediately to the north and west of the Project Site consists of the golf course; lands north and east consists of highways and Springbrook Prairie.

## **FEDERAL LANDS REVIEW**

EBI reviewed data maintained by the United States Geological Survey (USGS; <http://nationalmap.gov>) as depicted on EBI's 'Land Resources Map' (see attached), and other available online resources as necessary, to determine if the proposed communications facility is located within one mile of certain federally-protected lands. The following table outlines EBI's review.

<b>FEDERALLY-PROTECTED LAND</b> Jurisdictional Agency / Resource	<i>Within Boundary / Within One Mile</i>	
	YES	NO
Wilderness Area [47 CFR §1.1307(a)(1)] National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) National Park Service (NPS); U.S. Forest Service (USFS); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); Bureau of Land Management (BLM) <a href="http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=NWPS">http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=NWPS</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife Preserve [47 CFR §1.1307(a)(2)] National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) NPS; USFS; USFWS; BLM <a href="http://www.fws.gov/refuges">http://www.fws.gov/refuges</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wild & Scenic Rivers NPS; USFS; USFWS; BLM <a href="http://www.rivers.gov">http://www.rivers.gov</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
National Scenic Trail NPS and Managing Systems and Trails Organization (MSTO) <a href="http://www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/nts/nts_trails.html">http://www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/nts/nts_trails.html</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Comments:</b> None		

Additionally, based on a review of federal lands mapping and information from the above-referenced sources, the proposed communications facility is not located on land currently under the jurisdiction of another federal agency.

## **PROTECTED SPECIES REVIEW**

EBI reviewed online resources maintained by the USFWS (<http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac>) to identify any species that are federally-listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as either endangered or threatened, and that are known to occur within the project vicinity. Based on EBI's research of online files maintained by the USFWS, seven such federally-listed (i.e. endangered or threatened) species are known to occur within the project vicinity.

Additionally, based on a review of the USFWS online Critical Habitat Portal (<http://criticalhabitat.fws.gov>), the proposed communications facility is not located within a designated critical habitat

EBI also reviewed online resources maintained by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and submitted information to the IDNR through their Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool (EcoCAT) (<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/esp/b/pages/endangeredspeciesconsultation.aspx>) to determine if any state-protected species occurred within the vicinity of the Site. IDNR determined that state-listed species, Natural Area Inventory Sites, Land and Water Reserve, and a Nature Preserve occur within the vicinity of the proposed Site. Specifically, the EcoCat identified the following: Springbrook Prairie INAI Site, Springbrook Marsh Land And Water Reserve, Springbrook Prairie Nature Preserve, Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*), Black-Crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Iowa Darter (*Etheostoma exile*), Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Short-Eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), Short-Eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), and Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*). Note that most of the above species are either aquatic or wetland based and would not be directly affected by the proposed tower as no wetlands are present. Of the four non-aquatic bird species, none would be affected given the regularly disturbed nature (i.e. mowing, material storage) of the Site.

In addition, the proposed Site - formerly used for hay production (monocrop) - is currently used for golf course maintenance material storage and is regularly mowed/disked to keep vegetation down.

Of the three preserves/reserves, the Springbrook Prairie Nature Preserve is the closest and is located roughly 290 feet east/northeast of the proposed tower location. This Preserve is separated from the golf course property and tower location by Book Rd. and 83<sup>rd</sup> Street. Given the proposed tower location occurs on golf course maintenance property that is regularly disturbed via mowing/disking and vehicular traffic associated with the golf course maintenance activities and use (e.g. material storage, mowing), we do not anticipate the tower would have a negative effect on this Preserve.

Lastly, please note that although federal and state-listed threatened and endangered species were identified as being potentially present within the vicinity of the proposed communications facility, the location of the proposed facility currently consists of previously disturbed lands (i.e. mowed/disked) used for storage of golf course maintenance material (e.g. mulch and dirt piles) with no undisturbed natural communities present. As such, suitable habitats capable of supporting the listed threatened and endangered species were not noted at the proposed communications facility location, and the proposed installation is anticipated to have 'No Effect' on listed species. Per the guidelines set forth in Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/faq.html>), no further consultation with the USFWS is required.

#### Migratory Birds

Consideration should also be given to the potential impacts of the construction and ongoing operation of the proposed installation on species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and ESA. In August 2016, the USFWS issued "Recommended Best Practices for Communications Tower Design, Siting, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Decommissioning" (<https://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/usfwscmttowerguidance.pdf>) to provide following avoidance and minimization measures to reduce the risk of avian mortality as a result of communications towers.

The proposed tower will be a 135-foot Monopole. Currently as designed, the tower will not be lit. As such, it meets most of the USFWS's tower siting and design recommendations and is therefore not anticipated to adversely affect migratory birds. However, as requested by a local private airport (Aero Estates), the tower is being updated to include proposed lighting. The proposed lighting to be installed will follow general requirements under Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations with consideration to the USFW recommended best practices for Communication Tower Design.

#### **FLOOD ZONE REVIEW**

Based on EBI's review of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map ([www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov); Map# 17043C0708H), the proposed Project Site is located within an area identified as Zone X, and therefore is not located within a 100-year floodplain.

#### **WETLANDS REVIEW**

EBI did not observe any readily-identifiable wetlands or wetland characteristics (e.g. standing water, hydrophytic vegetation, soil saturation and inundation, drainage patterns and sediment deposition, watermarks and drift lines on trees and vegetation, or water stained leaves). A review of the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map (see attached) did not identify any wetlands in the immediate vicinity of the Project Site. Note the nearest wetland is located approximately 250 southeast of the Site.

EBI also reviewed the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey (WSS) for the Project Site and immediate vicinity. According to EBI's review, soils at the Project Site consist of Varna silt loam, 4 to 6 percent slopes, and eroded. This moderately well drained soil

supports a water table between 24 to 42 inches and restrictive layer between 24 to 60 inches below the soil surface. This soil is not listed as hydric by the NRCS (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/use/hydric/>) within DuPage County, IL.

Based on EBI's review as summarized above, the proposed communications facility installation is not anticipated to impact identified wetlands.

## **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

Based on the results of EBI's review as summarized herein, the proposed communications facility is:

- Anticipated to have 'no effect' on listed protected species associated or critical habitats
- Not within the boundaries of, or within one mile of federally-protected land (i.e. wildlife preserves, wilderness areas, etc.); and
- Not within the boundaries of a FEMA-designated 100-year flood zone; and
- Not anticipated to result in a significant change to surface features

As such, EBI recommends no further review with regard to the potential for impacts on the natural resources evaluated in this report.

EBI is an independent contractor, not an employee of either the property owner or the project proponent, and its compensation was not based on the findings or recommendations made in this Review or on the closing of any business transaction.

Sincerely,



Mr. Tony Maguire, PWS  
Sr. Biologist



Mr. Jason Stayer  
Biologist II

Attachments:    Figures & Drawings  
                         Photographs  
                         Species Review Documentation  
                         Supporting Documentation  
                         Qualifications

# springbrook prairie

## NAPERVILLE

The main parking lot and trailhead are on the north side of 83rd Street 0.7 mile east of Route 59 and 0.5 mile west of Book Road. Parking is also available on the west side of Plainfield/Naperville Road between 75th and 87th streets.

## PRESERVE FEATURES

- 1,650-acre Springbrook Prairie Nature Preserve and 53-acre Springbrook Marsh Land and Water Reserve, both state-designated areas
- Springbrook Prairie Trail — a U.S.-designated National Recreation Trail
- Trails through wet and dry prairie
- Significant grassland-bird community — one of three in the state — with meadowlarks, dickcissels, grasshopper sparrows, bobolinks, northern harriers, short-eared owls



## PLEASE BE AWARE

- Some trail segments closed seasonally to protect critical bird-nesting areas
- Bicycles not allowed on 2-mile trail in southeast corner
- District permits required to use off-leash dog area and model-airplane field

### Trail Distances

Springbrook Prairie ——— 5.5 miles

----- 1.2 miles

..... 0.4 mile

..... Link

  

----- 2.0 miles

