



## U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Anchorage Field Office  
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### Categorical Exclusion Preliminary Site Investigation

**Applicant: AT & T Mobility**  
**Case File Number: AA - 092005**  
**DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0006-CX**



#### **Location:**

Seward Meridian, T. 12 N., R. 3 W., Section 3

#### **Prepared By:**

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Realty Specialist  
October 23, 2009

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**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: Anchorage Field Office      Lease/Serial/Case File No: AA - 092005

Environmental Document No: DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0006-CX

Proposed Action Title/Types: Preliminary Site Investigation

Location of Proposed Action: Campbell Tract Administrative Site.  
Seward Meridian, T. 12 N., R. 3 W., Section 3

Description of Proposed Action:

The Applicant, AT & T Mobility, also known as New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (Cingular), proposes to perform a site investigation for a potential cellular tower facility on Campbell Tract's Central Administrative Site through use of contractors. The site investigation will include a preliminary hazardous materials assessment and site characterization of the soils by drilling a three inch hole into the soils, approximately ten feet deep for core sampling. The sample will be taken to determine the depth of the foundation necessary for a potential cellular facility based on monopole construction.

The site characterization is only a preliminary investigation of the proposed site. The proposed communications use lease site is being processed under case file number AA – 090827. Work to be performed under this proposed action, preliminary site investigation, is to be performed prior to April 1, 2010.

Applicant (if any): AT & T Mobility

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance 43 CFR 1610.5-3(a)**

Land Use Plan Name: *BLM – Alaska's Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan*

Date Approved: March 21, 2008

Other document(s):

1. *A Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the Bureau of Land Management Campbell Tract Facility*

Date Approved: June, 1988

The proposed action is in conformance with plan because it is specifically provided for in the following planning decisions:

The proposed action is in conformance with the plan even though it is not specifically provided for because it is clearly consistent with the following planning decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

The Tract is within the planning boundary of BLM-Alaska's Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan. The Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan was approved by BLM-Alaska's State Director on March 21, 2008. The Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan incorporates the provisions of *A Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the Bureau of Land Management Campbell Tract Facility* (BLM June, 1988) as management guidance for the authorization of public use of the Tract.

The June 1988 Tract management plan acknowledges that communication sites are present within the Central Administrative Zone. The context of the plan does not allow commercial use of the Tract<sup>1</sup>. However, the intent of the plan was to prevent the irreversible, irretrievable or long-term commitment of resources such as gravel extraction or the harvest of forest products. Rather, commercial use in this context is incidental and secondary to the site characterization activities as these activities were to be performed by BLM for its plans to upgrade the existing communications facilities and combine the two existing towers into a single communications tower. The site characterization is low impact activity on Campbell Tract's Central Administrative Site, and does not commit resources of Campbell Tract to a long term use or consumptive use.



Cingular's commercial use of the Tract is in conformance with the *A Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the Bureau of Land Management Campbell Tract Facility* (BLM June, 1988).

Remarks: This action is the preliminary work necessary for Cingular to complete prior to further contemplation of a communications site on Campbell Tract's Central Administrative Site, BLM case file AA - 090827. The installation of a new communications facility by Cingular, or another qualified commercial entity, would be authorized pending an amendatory Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement of the existing Campbell Tract Plan of June, 1988 and a subsequent Finding of No Significant Impact or a Decision Record.

**C. NEPA Compliance**

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with United States Department of the Interior 43 CFR §46.210 or United States Department of Interior Manual, Part 516, Chapter 11 which provides:

*Conducting preliminary hazardous materials assessments and site investigations, site characterization studies and environmental monitoring. Included are siting, construction installation and/or operation of small monitoring devices such as wells, particulate dust counters and automatic air or water samples.*

[BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1] Appendix 4, J(3)

**D. Extraordinary Circumstances**

The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances apply to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents must be prepared for actions which may:

	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.	_____	<u> X </u>
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	_____	<u> X </u>

3.	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	_____	_____ <u>X</u>
4.	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	_____	_____ <u>X</u>
5.	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	_____	_____ <u>X</u>
6.	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	_____	_____ <u>X</u>
7.	Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	_____	_____ <u>X</u>
8.	Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	_____	_____ <u>X</u>
9.	Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	_____	_____ <u>X</u>
10.	Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	_____	_____ <u>X</u>
11.	Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	_____	_____ <u>X</u>
12.	Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	_____	_____ <u>X</u>

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The

proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances in 43 CFR §46.215 are pertinent.

#### **E. Signature**

The proposed action is in conformance with a management framework plan or a resource management plan, 43 C.F.R. § 1610.8(a)(3) (2006). The Department of the Interior has determined and found that the proposed action is within a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and that neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required, 40 C.F.R. §1508.4 (2006).

It is therefore my decision to implement the action, as described, with appropriate mitigation measures or stipulations.

#### Mitigation Measures:

1. Regulatory language of practicability notwithstanding (43 CFR 2920.7), comply with all existing and subsequently enacted, issued, or amended Federal laws and regulations and state laws and regulations applicable to the authorized use.
2. The Permittee, or its contractors must provide proof of public liability insurance, prior to initiating operations, in the amount of \$1,00,000.00 per occurrence, and cover property damage, bodily injury or death arising out of the Permittee's authority to operate under this permit. Insurance shall name the United States as additional insured and continue through to the completion of the operations granted in the permit. Insurance shall not be cancelled, altered or deleted before a 30-day written notice is issued by the insurance company to the Anchorage Field Offices of BLM if operations under the permit have not been completed.
3. All wastes shall be managed in accordance with State of Alaska and Federal laws and regulations. AT & T Mobility shall comply with Pollution Prevention and Reporting Stipulations for management of Wastewater, Solid Waste, and Spill Prevention and Response procedures. Leaks or spills will be abated immediately with spill prevention and control kits;
4. Hours of operation during the installation of the site characterization are restricted to 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM or to local standards;
5. Operations are not to begin until the Authorized Officer approves of the dates of operation.
6. Equipment, construction materials and personal clothing will be inspected and cleaned of invasive, nonnative plant or seed substance before entering the project area. All vehicles, transport equipment used in access, construction, maintenance and operations of project should be thoroughly cleaned prior to moving equipment across or onto BLM managed lands. High pressure washing is recommended to treat the insides of bumpers, wheel wells, undercarriages, inside belly plates, excavating blades, buckets, tracks, rollers,

drills, buckets, shovels, any digging tools, etc., to remove potential weeds, seeds, and soil carrying weed propagules, and non-native vegetative material;

7. Full copies of all reports and findings will be provided to the Anchorage Field Office of BLM for its use and records.

Authorized Official: /s/ James M. Fincher Date: 11/9/2009