



Texas General Land Office

PUBLIC NOTICE

Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.

**Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain and Wetlands
Texas General Land Office Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT)
DETCOG LMI Broadband Telecommunications Infrastructure Project**

Date: August 22, 2025

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Texas General Land Office (GLO), on behalf of the Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG) has determined that the following proposed action under the Regional Mitigation Program and Hurricane Harvey State Mitigation Competition (B-18-DP-48-0002) is located in the FFRMS floodplain and wetland. The GLO will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and wetlands and the potential impacts on the floodplain and wetlands from the proposed action, as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

The project will involve the installation of approximately 211,360 linear feet (LF) of a new fiberoptic cable line within public road rights-of-way (ROW) and the installation of point-to-point microwave links and tower attachments at 6 towers in Sabine and San Augustine Counties, Texas. All activities will be limited to existing ROW and land owned by the tower company. The cable line will be placed 5 feet from the outer edge of the road ROW easements, which will serve as a control point due to ROW width changes. There will be a construction buffer from the edge of the ROW that averages 30 feet in width. The cable will be installed using a small backhoe in a 6-inch (15-centimeter [cm]) wide by 36-inch (91-cm) deep continuous trench, except at tower connections or at roadway/stream crossings where horizontal boring will be conducted to cross underneath it. The bore dimensions will be the same width and depths as those used for the trench, except at their originating and exiting handhole/bore pits, which will typically involve 4-foot square (1.5 meters [m]²) by 6-foot (2-m) deep holes for equipment. Activity at the towers themselves will be limited to mounting attachments that consist of “arms” that hold the antenna, base stations, and microwave dishes on the tower. The microwave dishes and base stations will be installed on towers, and cables that are less than 1 inch wide will run to the cabinets below. Any equipment staging areas will be confined to the cleared ROW with no ground disturbance required, and the ground surface at all trenches and bores will be returned to their original levels upon completion. Staging areas will not occur in or around wetlands. The project will benefit 8,035 people, 59.91 percent (4,814 people) of whom are low to moderate income. The project is not considered a critical action. The purpose of the project is to ensure that these critical rural areas are made more resilient and can (1) reliably function during and after future disasters; (2) reduce the risk of loss of life, injury, and property damage; and (3) accelerate recovery following a disaster.



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The project will occur within existing rights-of-way and land owned by the tower company, and there will not be a significant increase in impervious surfaces throughout the project. The floodplain provides drainage for surrounding areas as well as the opportunity for natural wetlands and habitats to thrive. Maintaining the floodplain is an invaluable service to the community. Natural benefits of the floodplain and wetland will not be significantly impacted. The 0.2 percent flood approach was used in conjunction with the following FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps: Community Panels 48241C0025D, 48241C0050D, 48241C0150D, and 48241C0175D effective on 12/17/2010, 48351C0025D and 48351C0125D effective on 11/16/2018, 48005C0350E effective on 9/29/2010, 48347C0600C effective on 5/20/2010, 48405C0120C, 48405C0350C, 48405C0225C, 48405C0250C, 48405C0325C, 48405C0425C, 48405C0295C, 48405C0300C, 48405C0475C, and 48405C0140C effective on 8/8/2024, 48419C0475C, 48403C0100B, 48403C0200B, 48403C0225B, 48403C0215B, 48403C0325B, 48403C0330B, 48403C0350B, and 48419C0500C effective on 8/27/2024, show a total of approximately 9.84 acres of the project footprint is located within the Zone A 100-year floodplain and 1.52 acres of the project footprint is located within 500-year floodplain. The project crosses 2.77 acres of National Wetland Inventory (NWI) wetlands (including approximately 0.02 acres of Freshwater Emergent wetlands (PEM), 1.80 acres of Freshwater Forested/Shrub wetlands (PFO), 0.13 acres of Lake, and 0.82 acres of Riverine wetlands). The project is not a critical action. The proposed project is located throughout Sabine and San Augustine Counties along various county roads: 90,925 ft along U.S. Hwy 96 from the Jasper County boundary northward to the San Augustine County boundary and 120,435 ft along U.S. Hwy 96 from the Sabine County boundary to TX Hwy 103, thence westward to TX Hwy 147, thence northward to San Augustine city northern boundary; and along U.S. Hwy 21 from intersection of U.S. Hwy 96 and TX Hwy 21 eastward to TX Hwy 147.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplains and wetlands, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains and wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.



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Written comments must be received by the GLO at the following address on or before September 8, 2025:

Texas General Land Office,

P.O. Box 12873,

Austin, Texas 78711-2873

Attention: Mr. David Camarena, Director of Environmental Oversight

A full description of the project may also be viewed from 8am-5pm at the GLO: 1700 Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78701. Comments may also be submitted via email at env.reviews@recovery.texas.gov.