

**PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE,
AND
THE OKLAHOMA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
REGARDING
THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT
BROADBAND INITIATIVES PROGRAM PROJECT #1257
IN
ATOKA, LATIMER, LE FLORE, MCCURTAIN, PITTSBURG, AND PUSHMATAHA
COUNTIES IN OKLAHOMA**

WHEREAS, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is authorized to provide financial assistance in the development of infrastructure in Rural America under its Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) passed by Congress on February 13, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Pine Telephone Company (PTC) applied to BIP seeking financial assistance with the construction of twenty-eight (28) self-supporting towers 195 feet in height with prefabricated buildings, situated on eight feet by twelve feet pads, and fencing, and the installation of equipment on seven (7) existing telecommunication towers; and

WHEREAS, RUS has determined that BIP project #1257 is an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 16 U.S.C. § 470f, and its implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800); and

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2009 RUS announced the combination loan/grant award for BIP project #1257; and

WHEREAS, under the terms of the *Nationwide Programmatic Agreement Among the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program and the Broadband Initiatives Program* executed on November 25, 2009, RUS conducts review under 36 CFR §§ 800.3 through 800.7 for BIP projects post-award; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with ARRA deadlines, construction of BIP Project #1257 must begin within 180 days following execution of loan/grant obligation documents; and

WHEREAS, the spectrum to be used on the 28 new telecommunications towers are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); and

WHEREAS, Section 106 review for the 28 towers, as FCC-regulated towers, is subject to the program comment titled, *Program Comment for Streamlining Section 106 Review for wireless Communication Facilities Construction and Modification Subject to Review Under the FCC Nationwide Programmatic Agreement and/or the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement for the Collocation of Wireless Antennas*, issued on November 10, 2009; and

WHEREAS, RUS remains responsible for review of the remainder of the undertaking, the installation of equipment on seven (7) existing telecommunication towers, which is not subject to the program comment; and

WHEREAS, RUS is using a Programmatic Agreement (PA) to enable the phasing of Section 106 review in order to meet the 180-day deadline for the initiation of BIP project #1257 construction; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.14(b)(1)(ii), execution of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) is appropriate because effects on historic properties cannot be fully determined prior to start of construction for BIP project #1257; and

WHEREAS, RUS, in consultation with the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), has determined that construction of BIP Project #1257 may have an adverse effect on properties which are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); and

WHEREAS, on November 27, 2009 RUS notified the following Indian tribes about BIP project #1257 - Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, Native Village of Gakona, Native Village of Kwinhagak, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Osage Nation, Caddo Nation, and Mescalero Apache Tribe; and

WHEREAS, RUS has provided the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Caddo Nation, the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma and the Osage Nation additional information and invited them to concur in this PA; and

WHEREAS, PTC has participated in consultation and has been invited by RUS to sign this PA as an invited signatory; and

WHEREAS, in accordance 36 CFR § 800.6(a)(1) on May 18, 2010 RUS invited the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) to participate in consultation; and

WHEREAS, the ACHP will not participate in consultation; and

WHEREAS, the terms used in this PA are defined in 36 CFR § 800.16;

NOW, THEREFORE, RUS and the Oklahoma SHPO agree that this undertaking shall be implemented in accordance with the following stipulations in order to take into account the effect of the undertaking on historic properties.

STIPULATIONS

RUS shall ensure that the following stipulations are carried out.

I. CONDITIONS

A. Installation of Equipment

1. Any equipment installation on existing towers that is regulated by FCC is subject to review under the terms of the November 10, 2009 Program Comment.
2. For any equipment installation that is not subject to FCC regulation, RUS and the OK SHPO agree that the addition of equipment to existing telecommunications towers will not adversely affect historic properties, because the addition of this equipment will not substantially increase the height of the tower, and these towers already contain such equipment.
3. Subject to the approval of RUS, following execution of this PA, PTC may initiate the installation of equipment on existing telecommunications towers.

B. PTC will not initiate construction of any of the proposed twenty-eight (28) new towers until Section 106 review for that tower has been concluded in accordance with the terms of this PA, and approved by RUS.

C. If PTC initiates any construction prior to fulfilling the terms of this PA for that component of BIP project #1257, RUS will review that action in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.9(c) to determine if Section 110(k) of NHPA is applicable.

II. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. PTC shall provide written documentation to RUS describing the successful conclusion of Section 106 review for each new tower conducted under the terms of the November 10, 2009 Program Comment.

B. RUS will review this documentation, and if it demonstrates that Section 106 has been successfully completed, RUS may authorize construction of that tower.

C. PTC shall report to RUS every four (4) months from the date of execution of this PA until all construction for BIP project #1257 is complete describing the status of Section 106 review for each tower, the status of project construction, including a list of project components where construction has been completed, and any changes to the undertaking that are proposed. PTC will report electronically to Laura.Dean@wdc.usda.gov using the format described in Appendix A.

III. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- A. Should any signatory or concurring party to this PA object in writing at any time to any actions proposed or the manner in which the terms of this PA are implemented, RUS, within the limits of its authority, shall consult with such party to resolve the objection. If RUS determines that the objection cannot be resolved, that agency will:
1. Forward all documentation relevant to the dispute, including the resolution proposed by the agency to the ACHP. The ACHP shall provide the agency with its advice, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(b)(2), on the resolution of the objection within thirty (30) days of receiving adequate documentation. Prior to reaching a final decision on the dispute, RUS shall prepare a written response that takes into account any timely advice or comments regarding the dispute from the ACHP, signatories and concurring parties, and provide them with a copy of this written response. The agency will then proceed according to its final decision.
 2. The ACHP will notify RUS that it will comment pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.7(c), and proceed to comment. Any ACHP comment provided in response to such a request will be taken into account by the agency in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.7(c)(4).
 3. If the ACHP does not provide its advice regarding the dispute within thirty (30) days, RUS may make a final decision on the dispute and proceed accordingly. Prior to reaching such a final decision, RUS shall prepare a written response that takes into account any timely comments regarding the dispute from the signatories and concurring parties to the PA, and provide them and the ACHP with a copy of such written response.
- B. The responsibility of RUS to carry out all other actions subject to the terms of this PA that are not the subject of the dispute remain unchanged.

IV. TERM OF AGREEMENT

- A. The term of this PA shall be four (4) years from the date of execution by the signatories unless the signatories agree to extend its term. If its stipulations have not been carried out, and prior to work continuing on BIP project #1257, RUS shall either (a) execute another agreement pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.6, or request, take into account and respond to the comments of the ACHP pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.7.
- B. Six (6) months prior to expiration, RUS shall notify the other signatories of the impending expiration. RUS will consult with the other signatories to reconsider the terms of the PA and amend it in accordance with Stipulation V. RUS shall notify the signatories as to the course to be pursued.

V. AMENDMENT

This PA may be amended when such an amendment is agreed to in writing by all signatories. The amendment will be effective on the date it is executed by all of the signatories and filed with ACHP.

VI. TERMINATION

- A. If any signatory to this PA determines that its terms will not, or cannot be carried out, that party shall immediately consult with the other parties to attempt to develop an amendment per Stipulation V. If within thirty (30) days an amendment cannot be reached, any signatory may terminate the PA upon written notification to the other signatories.
- B. Once the PA is terminated, and prior to work continuing on BIP project #1257, RUS must either (a) execute an agreement pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.6, or (b) request, take into account, and respond to the comments of ACHP under 36 CFR § 800.7. RUS shall notify the other signatories as to the course of action it will pursue.

EXECUTION of this PA by RUS and the Oklahoma SHPO, and implementation of its terms evidence that RUS has taken into account the effects of this undertaking on historic properties and afforded ACHP a reasonable opportunity to comment.

Signatories:

Rural Utilities Service

By: Mark S. Plank Date: 6/14/10
Mark S. Plank, Director
Engineering and Environmental Staff
Water and Environmental Programs

Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office

By: Bob Blackburn Date: 6-15-10
Dr. Bob L. Blackburn
State Historic Preservation Officer

Invited Signatory

Pine Telephone Company

By: _____ Date: _____
Lee Brown

Concurring parties:

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

By: _____ Date: _____
Gregory E. Pyle
Chief