

**The Pine Telephone Company Inc.
Final
Environmental Assessment (EA)
November 14, 2010**

**Project 2614
NT10BIX5570060
Recovery Act
Broadband Grant for Isolated
Southeastern Oklahoma/Choctaw
Nation
Rural/Non-Remote Areas**

**Broadband Technology Opportunities
Program (BTOP)**

&

**National Telecommunications &
Information Administration
(NTIA)**

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Executive Summary

Pine Telephone Company Inc. (PTC), Broken Bow, OK has been awarded grant funding from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) for the deployment of last mile broadband internet access. The project service area covers 2663 square miles of rural South Eastern Oklahoma. The project service area includes a total population of 20,671 and 20 community anchor institutions. Nearly 95% of the households located within the service area have no access to broadband internet.

The project consists of the placement of 29 new cell towers and associated equipment and the use of 3, of PTC's, existing cell towers. The site map is located in the Attachment section under "Site Map". The towers will be 199' self-support towers which greatly reduce the environmental impact compared to towers requiring lights or guy wires. Guidelines for site selection were put in place to limit possible environmental impacts and sites failing the set guidelines were eliminated. No more than a one acre parcel of property will be purchased for each tower site. Several alternatives were considered buried fiber, aerial fiber, and taller towers, but considering the terrain and sparse population the proposed action proved to have the least environmental impact. The spectrum used by the broadband sites is licensed by the FCC which will limit the possibility of interference experienced by unlicensed systems. The use of FCC licensed spectrum requires PTC to complete the FCC E106 process and the TCNS process. Since each site has its own environmental assessment and are quite large each file is a separate attachment.

PTC has contacted interested environmental and governmental agencies, as well as followed NTIA's Environmental Assessment guidance. Although the Choctaw Nation was contacted through the FCC TCNS process PTC worked closely with the Choctaw Nation because all of the sites are located within the Choctaw Nation. Each agency was provided with a description and maps of the proposed project showing the area that could be affected by the proposed broadband tower sites. Each agency was given the opportunity to comment on the proposed project and its potential effect on the environment. These agencies are as follows:

- Oklahoma State Historical Preservation Office
- Oklahoma Archeological Survey
- FAA
- FCC TCNS system
- FCC E106 system
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Oklahoma department of Wildlife Conservation
- Oklahoma Biological Survey
- NRCS