



## NEPA Environmental Assessment

**Prepared for:**  
Trillion Communications Corp.

**Proposed Broadband  
Infrastructure Project**

April 2011

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Trillion Communications Corp.  
South Central Alabama Broadband Commission (SCABC)

## NEPA Environmental Assessment

Proposed Broadband Infrastructure Project

April 2011

BTOP Grant Recipient: #5723  
ERM Project Number: #0124648



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## ACRONYM LIST

Acronym	Description
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
AHC	Alabama Historical Commission
AL	Alabama
ALDIR	Alabama Department of Industrial Relations
ALDOT	Alabama Department of Transportation
APE	Area of Potential Effects
ARRA	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
AQI	Air Quality Index
BMP	Best Management Practices
BTOP	Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CTC	Community Technology Center
ADCNR	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
DOC	Department of Commerce
EA	Environmental Assessment
EMS	Emergency Management Systems
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERM	Environmental Resources Management
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FTTP	fiber to the premises
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NTIA	National Telecommunications and Information Administration
PL	Photo Location
ROW	Right-of-Way
RT	Remote Terminal
SAC	Special Award Conditions
SCABC	South Central Alabama Broadband Project
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
Trillion	Trillion Communications, Inc.
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers

USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WiMAX	Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access
WMA	Wildlife Management Area

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Environmental Resources Management, Inc. (ERM) has developed an Environmental Assessment (EA) on behalf of Trillion Communications, Inc. (Trillion), in support of Trillion's application for grant funding from the U. S. Department of Commerce (DOC) National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). BTOP funds projects that provide comprehensive community infrastructure, public computer centers, or sustainable broadband adoption in unserved or underserved areas of the United States. Grant funding has been made possible under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

The NTIA, the lead agency which administers the BTOP grant program, has provided funding for NGN's infrastructure project for the purpose of enabling a new technology-based economy in South Central Alabama by deploying a regional fiber optic network. The result will be the improvement of broadband service in underserved areas, stimulation of economic growth and job creation, and increased availability of broadband for local households, businesses, and community anchor institutions.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and the *Broadband Technology Opportunities Program NEPA and NHPA Guidance for Round Two Applicants* (DOC 2010a), BTOP is required to integrate environmental values into their decision making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their grant awards. This EA has been prepared in accordance with the *Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Environmental Assessment Guidance for BTOP Award Recipients, Version 1.4, dated August 2010* (DOC 2010b). This EA was prepared in support of the Trillion BTOP grant application (BTOP Grantee #5723) and to satisfy Special Award Conditions associated with the grant award.