



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PO Box 168

Yellowstone National Park

Wyoming 82190

IN REPLY REFER TO:

ELECTRONIC FILE-HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

A46(YELL)

October 16, 2007

Bryan Romeijn
Alltel Corporation
18300 East 71st Avenue, Suite 120
Denver, Colorado 80249

Dear Mr. Romeijn:

This letter is prompted by the recent public scoping announcement regarding the proposed Gardiner Cell Tower. You stated in your notice that you were seeking comments on how the proposed tower might affect views from areas or buildings listed or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

As we understand it, the proposed project would construct a 100-foot tall monopole tower on a portion of the privately-owned Rocky Mountain Campground property adjacent to White Lane in Gardiner, Montana. The monopole would have a triangular antenna platform with railing at the top of the tower and a total of six panel antenna. A lightning rod would be mounted on the top of the tower, which would extend an additional 15 feet. The tower would have either a red or white light at the top of the tower due to the proximity to the Gardiner Airport, and FAA regulations. An associated equipment building of approximately 12' x 20' would also be built adjacent to the tower.

Gardiner, Montana, is the original gateway and entrance to Yellowstone National Park and retains many of the historic views that early visitors enjoyed upon arrival to the nation's first National Park. The Roosevelt Arch and the North Entrance Road are part of a historic district that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed cell tower would be visible from many locations surrounding the arch, and for about one and a half to two miles along the North Entrance Road within the park. Numerous other historic and prehistoric sites listed on the National Register are located within the vicinity. The primary concern is how the proposed cell tower might impact views from within and adjacent to the historic district. The proposed cell tower site is within about 100 yards of the trailhead for the Yellowstone River Trail, within Yellowstone National Park, which receives a high degree of

visitor and local use due to its proximity to the town of Gardiner. The park would like to discuss with you and your staff potential options or alternatives that might avoid or lessen the impacts to known cultural significant resources from this proposed project.

As you are likely aware, Yellowstone National Park staff are currently preparing a Wireless Communications Plan, and associated Environmental Assessment (EA) for the park. This plan will help guide park actions related to future wireless services and related infrastructure to be located within our boundaries. A portion of the EA is devoted to assessing impacts to park resources of various potential wireless facilities.

We would like to request a meeting between the park and Alltel staffs to discuss the proposed Gardiner cell tower and its relationship to the Wireless Communications Plan, and some of the issues mentioned above. Please contact Telecommunications Specialist Mike Reynolds (307) 344-2070, in Yellowstone to set up a mutual date and time for a meeting. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our request for a meeting.

Sincerely,

/S/

Signature Authenticated by Janice R. Laye

Suzanne Lewis
Superintendent