

**APPENDIX A  
CORRESPONDENCE**





**From:** PATTERSON, PATIENCE E [patience.patterson@dhs.gov] on behalf of AJOSEACOMMENTS [Ajoseacomment@dhs.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 28, 2011 12:53 PM  
**To:** Ginger Ritter  
**Cc:** Howard Nass  
**Subject:** RE: SBInet Program

Dear Ms. Ritter:

Thanks for your email. The completion of the AJO-1 tower project is still on-going and has not been cancelled in the sense of stopping. This project will go to completion. After extensive review, Secretary Napolitano has directed CBP to end SBInet as originally conceived and instead implement a new border security technology plan, which will utilize existing, proven technology tailored to the distinct terrain and population density of each border region. Our nation's border security is still very much a high priority and projects to enhance border security will continue.

Please do provide comments on the Supplemental Draft EA that you have mentioned. As our other projects move forward, we will be in touch to share future information regarding our environmental compliance requirements.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
Patience

Patience E. Patterson, RPA  
Manager, Environmental Resources  
Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition US Customs and Border Protection  
1901 S. Bell Street - 7th Floor - #734  
Arlington, VA 20598  
Desk: (571) 468-7290  
Cell: (202) 870-7422  
Fax: (571) 468-7391  
[patience.patterson@dhs.gov](mailto:patience.patterson@dhs.gov)

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**From:** Ginger Ritter [<mailto:GRitter@azgfd.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 26, 2011 4:24 PM  
**To:** AJOSEACOMMENTS  
**Subject:** SBInet Program



Hello,

I'm contacting you to find out if you are still moving forward with this project (SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, US Border Patrol Tucson Sector, AZ). If so, I will proceed with review of the SEA and submit comments.

*Ginger Ritter*

*Project Evaluation Program Specialist*

Phone: 623-236-7606

Fax: 623-236-7366

Arizona Game and Fish Department-WMHB  
5000 West Carefree Highway  
Phoenix, Arizona 85086



If you want to learn ways to get connected to the outdoors, visit <http://www.azgfd.gov/getoutside>.

***Sign up for enews:***

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<http://www.azgfd.gov/eservices/subscribe.shtml>

**From:** PATTERSON, PATIENCE E [patience.patterson@dhs.gov] on behalf of AJOSEACOMMENTS [Ajoseacomments@dhs.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 28, 2011 12:53 PM  
**To:** Howard Nass  
**Subject:** FW: SBInet Program

Howard,

I just responded to this email.

Paddie

---

**From:** Ginger Ritter [<mailto:GRitter@azgfd.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 26, 2011 4:24 PM  
**To:** AJOSEACOMMENTS  
**Subject:** SBInet Program



Hello,

I'm contacting you to find out if you are still moving forward with this project (SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, US Border Patrol Tucson Sector, AZ). If so, I will proceed with review of the SEA and submit comments.

*Ginger Ritter*  
*Project Evaluation Program Specialist*

Phone: 623-236-7606  
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Phoenix, Arizona 85086



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<http://www.azgfd.gov/eservices/subscribe.shtml>

**From:** PATTERSON, PATIENCE E [patience.patterson@dhs.gov] on behalf of  
AJOSEACOMMENTS [Ajoseacomments@dhs.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 03, 2011 9:38 AM  
**To:** Howard Nass  
**Subject:** FW: Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment for SBInet Ajo 1 Tower  
Project  
  
**Importance:** High

Howard,  
See below.  
Paddie

---

**From:** Wendy S. LeStarge [<mailto:LeStarge.Wendy@azdeq.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 4:03 PM  
**To:** AJOSEACOMMENTS  
**Cc:** Linda C. Taunt  
**Subject:** Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment for SBInet Ajo 1 Tower Project

On behalf of Linda Taunt, Deputy Division Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division (ADEQ):

We received the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona. We agree with the mitigation measures, if required, of a Clean Water Act section 404 permit, and a Construction General Permit under the Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program. ADEQ does not see any other impacts related to water quality. We appreciate the opportunity to review and provide comments.

*Wendy LeStarge  
Environmental Rules Specialist  
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
Water Quality Division  
(602) 771-4836*

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## National Optical Astronomy Observatory

Kitt Peak National Observatory • Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory • NOAO Gemini Science Center

7 February 2011

Ms. Patience E. Patterson, RPA  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
SBInet Program Management Office  
1901 S. Bell Street, Room 7-090  
Arlington, VA 20598

Dear Ms. Patterson,

In response to the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project draft SEA and proposed FONSI, the following comments are submitted on behalf of numerous astronomical observatories in the area. For reference, we attach our previous comments on the draft EAs for the Ajo-1 and Tucson West projects since both projects raised similar concerns. Also appended below is an email sent to [ajoseacomment@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:ajoseacomment@cbp.dhs.gov) on 7 Feb. 2011 regarding the SEA for the Ajo-1 project, from Harvey Liszt who serves as Spectrum Manager for the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO).

Kitt Peak National Observatory (KPNO) hosts the facilities of consortia that operate two radio telescopes (for the NRAO and the Arizona Radio Observatory) and numerous optical telescopes on Kitt Peak. Given that our radio observatories operate in the frequency range identified and given our prior comments (attached), we do not feel that a FONSI is appropriate. This applies even for the alternative cases in the Ajo-1 draft SEA which note that the RF environment would not result in significant adverse impacts to observatories (Section 3.14.2.3 on p. 3-51) and that transmitters and sensors would operate below 30 GHz and would not result in significant adverse impacts to observatories (Table 2-3 on p. 2-27). Our observatories operate at frequencies in this range and thorough analysis needs to be performed before such claims can be made (ref. Appendix 4 of this email's attachment: filename 080705.SBInetTucsonWestEAComments.final.pdf). We urge the DHS and SBInet planning and engineering teams to coordinate all proposed RF devices with the NSF, NRAO, and KPNO.

Kitt Peak National Observatory (KPNO) is part of the National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO). NOAO is the national center for ground-based nighttime astronomy in the USA and is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) under cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation (NSF).



## National Optical Astronomy Observatory

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We are pleased to see the statements in Section 3.15.1.2 on p. 3-52 that none of the towers currently planned would be constructed at heights greater than 180 feet and the implication that they might not be lit other than if unavoidable during nighttime construction. We suggest clarifying that statement to say that the towers would not be lit when not required by FAA regulations and that when lighting is required, steady red would be used (ref. this email's attachment: 091010.SBInetAjo1EACComments.final.pdf).

We suggest that the last paragraph (Section 3.15.1.2 on p. 3-52) referring to nighttime construction be corrected from "bulbs designed to ensure minimal increase in lighting would be minimized" to a more appropriate statement. We believe the intent was to minimize impact and this is done through a combination of techniques including reducing lighting levels to the minimum required, having no light emitted above the horizontal, using low-pressure sodium lamps when possible, and ensuring that lights are turned off when work is complete each evening that nighttime work is unavoidable.

Our observatories have extensive experience working with our communities to address lighting and radio frequency interference issues. We offer our assistance in assessing the issues and appropriate mitigation measures. The KPNO director's office has offered to serve as a single point of contact for questions or comments based on this submission. Please contact Elizabeth Alvarez at [ealvarez@noao.edu](mailto:ealvarez@noao.edu) or 520-318-8414.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Alvarez del Castillo

Assistant to the Director  
Kitt Peak National Observatory / NOAO



National Optical Astronomy Observatory

Kitt Peak National Observatory • Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory • NOAO Gemini Science Center

**Appended for Reference: Comments submitted from Harvey Liszt, NRAO**

Subject: NRAO Comments on SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project draft SEA and proposed FONSI

Date: Mon, 07 Feb 2011 16:58:18 -0500

From: Harvey Liszt <hliszt@nrao.edu>

Reply-To: hliszt@nrao.edu

Organization: National Radio Astronomy Observatory, CV

To: ajoseacomments@cbp.dhs.gov

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO, see <http://www.nrao.edu>) that operates the 25-m VLBA telescope on Kitt Peak using various frequency bands between 608 MHz and 89 GHz.

With regard to statements in your documentation such as

"Transmitters and sensors associated with the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project would operate below 30 GHz. Therefore, the RF environment ... would not result in significant adverse impacts to observatories ... "

and

"The Modified Foundation Alternative would have a similar design and equipment as TCA-AJO-189; therefore, impacts from the Modified Foundation Alternative would be similar to those described for Proposed Action in the 2009 Ajo-1 EA (CBP 2009). Transmitters and sensors associated with the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project would operate below 30 GHz. Therefore, the RF environment created by the installation, operation and maintenance of the communication system on the proposed tower would not result in significant adverse impacts to observatories, human safety or the natural environment."

The assertion that, because they operate only below 30 GHz, your towers will have no effect on the environment, appears not to account for the operation of a radio telescope in the same frequency range on Kitt Peak. Detailed studies of the potential for interference to radio astronomy, recognizing international standards, must be conducted before such a conclusion may safely be made.

regards, Harvey Liszt





# Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory

Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory

October 9, 2009

Ms. Patience E. Patterson, RPA  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
SBInet Program Management Office  
1901 S. Bell Street, Room 7-090  
Arlington, VA 20598

Dear Ms. Patterson,

In response to the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and Proposed FONSI, the following comments are submitted on behalf of numerous astronomical observatories in the area affected by the proposed SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project. Since the Ajo-1 EA seems to echo the Tucson West Draft EA, we have attached our previous letter of comment for the Tucson West EA for your reference.

We are glad to see the Ajo-1 EA does contain language addressing certain outdoor lighting concerns. We have included comments recommending more precise language and lighting practices that would reduce harm to optical astronomy. White strobe lights on towers are particularly troublesome. In addition, the SBInet towers are to work in conjunction with highway checkpoints, yet extremely overly-bright checkpoint lighting is not addressed. In spite of several years of our attempts to communicate this to the CBP, checkpoint lighting has not improved.

To our knowledge, neither the CBP nor its representatives contacted any of the area observatories during the preparation of this EA. No one in the EA list of preparers shows any expertise in radio frequency interference or light pollution.

While the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project Environmental Assessment FONSI concludes no significant impact will result, what is the path for redress if these towers do indeed cause significant harm to our research?

Our observatories have extensive experience working with our neighbors to address lighting and radio frequency interference issues. We offer our assistance is assessing the issues and are concerned they were not better identified and addressed in the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project EA and Proposed FONSI. The director's office at Kitt Peak National Observatory has offered to serve as a single point of contact for questions or comments based on this submission. You may reach Ms. Elizabeth Alvarez in the director's office at [elvarez@noao.edu](mailto:elvarez@noao.edu) or 520-318-8414.

Respectfully,

Dr. Emilio Falco, Project Director, Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory

Encl: Tucson West Draft EA comments

P O Box 6369  
670 Mount Hopkins Road  
Amado AZ 85645-6369 U S A  
520.670.5701 Telephone  
520.670.5714 Fax





# Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory

Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory

## Proposed SBI<sup>net</sup> Ajo-1 Tower Project EA comments

October 9, 2009

### Light Pollution

References to outdoor lighting appear on pages 9-11, 37, 178, 191, 229, 235, 271, 273, and 452.

1. Tower lights are referred to in several locations with the language essentially being --

Unless otherwise required by the FAA, CBP will use only white (preferable) or red strobe lights at night, and these will be the minimum number, minimum intensity, and minimum number of flashes per minute (longest duration between flashes) allowable by the FAA. CBP will not use solid red or pulsating red warning lights at night.

White strobe lights cause the greatest harm to astronomy because of the color and flashes. Red strobes cause less color harm but still disrupt measurements because of the flashes. Steady red light causes the least harm.

As an example, the TV (KMSB) transmission tower in the Santa Rita Mountains near the Observatories on Mt. Hopkins has used steady red only for many years without incident. The towers of the electronic site at Melendrez Pass in the Santa Rita's have no lights.

How many towers does the CBP deem in need of strobes and where are they located?

2. We suggest replacing the incorrect term "low sodium lights" with "low-pressure sodium lights." (This term differentiates them from high-pressure sodium lights.)

The words "downshielded" or "shielded from top" are unclear and must be replaced with the standard terminology: "full cut-off (FCO) light fixtures." This is the term accepted and used by the lighting industry and lighting designers



Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory

Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory

Proposed SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project EA comments  
October 9, 2009

Radio Interference

The EA says:

All frequencies used by CBP would be coordinated through the FCC and NTIA as required by NTIA regulations. Additionally, transmitters and sensors associated with the SBInet OPCNM project would operate below 30 GHz. Therefore, the RF environment created by the installation, operation and maintenance of the communication and radar systems on the proposed towers would have a longterm, negligible adverse impact on observatories, human safety or the natural and biological environment.

How did the preparers come to this conclusion without consulting radio observatories? Were detailed radio frequency propagation analyses (including harmonics) performed? No such information appears in the EA, thus rendering this conclusion invalid.

P O Box 6369  
670 Mount Hopkins Road  
Amado AZ 85645-6369 U S A  
520.670.5701 Telephone  
520.670.5714 Fax

BW1 FOIA ~~EXEMPT~~ 000129



Buell T. Jannuzi, Director  
Kitt Peak National Observatory  
950 N. Cherry Ave., P.O. Box 26732  
Tucson, AZ 85726-6732  
Ph: 520-318-8353  
Fax: 520-318-8487  
[jannuzi@noao.edu](mailto:jannuzi@noao.edu)

National Optical Astronomy Observatory

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June 30, 2008

Ms. Patience E. Patterson, RPA  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
SBInet Program Management Office  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Headquarters  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 7.5B  
Washington, D.C. 20229

Dear Ms. Patterson,

In response to the Tucson West Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Proposed FONSI, the following comments are submitted on behalf of numerous astronomical observatories in the area affected by the proposed Tucson West Project. (See Appendix 1 for a list of institutions.) The premier astronomy observatories in the continental USA are in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas. They represent a substantial investment by our federal and state governments as well as private enterprises and are a key component of our nation's research infrastructure. The Arizona Arts, Sciences, and Technology Academy recently published an economic impact report citing that by the end of 2006, investment in capital facilities and land in Arizona for astronomy, planetary and space sciences (APSS) had reached well over \$1 billion and that in 2006, APSS research returned a total economic impact of well over \$250 million in Arizona alone (Ref. <http://www.simginc.com/AASTA/>).

We are concerned about the potential for harm to our optical and radio astronomy observations and loss of value from that considerable investment because of SBInet-produced artificial light at night, degraded air quality, and radio emissions. The SBInet radio emissions could cause direct interference with the instruments of both radio and optical telescopes due to the proximity of SBInet towers to our facilities. We feel that the EA is incomplete without addressing these previously communicated concerns.

Our submission identifies issues that we feel still need to be addressed.

We have communicated with representatives from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), and SBInet several times over

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950 North Cherry Avenue • P.O. Box 26732, Tucson, Arizona 85726  
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the course of the last year to raise awareness of the potential impact of their proposed facilities on the research enabled by our observatories. We have appreciated the willingness of CBP and DHS staff to meet with us in the past and look forward to further meetings. See Appendix 2 for references to past meetings.

During previous meetings with CBP and DHS personnel, we have discussed useful strategies to minimize the adverse impact of artificial light at night on astronomy. We are pleased to see that the draft EA (under section 2.3, Proposed Action, p. 27, lines 3-5) cites lighting guidelines that indirectly address these issues. We feel the lighting associated with proposed towers during their construction, operation, and maintenance should be assessed for its impact on astronomy activities. An analysis should be based on the proximity and line of sight of individual towers to specific telescopes and arrays used for astronomy.

The placement of towers and associated activity by CBP could channel illegal border traffic closer to our observatory sites. A resultant impact that is not assessed in the draft EA is the potential for CBP search vehicles and aircraft to illuminate areas and inadvertently damage or destroy sensitive observatory detectors or observations. (See Appendix 3 for a recent example.) This issue was discussed during the October 22, 2007 visit to our observatories by Frank Woelfle and colleagues from DHS but does not appear in the draft EA.

When towers are located near observatories (within a few miles), radio transmissions can impact optical as well as radio telescopes since they can affect electronic circuits that read signals from sensitive detectors used for astronomy. The EA should identify this issue as it relates to additionally planned towers (e.g. those on the Tohono O'odham Nation) if their proposed locations are near observatories. One tower is within the Mt. Hopkins observatory site. Frequencies, transmitter power, antenna geometry, and beam patterns should be assessed to calculate the effect on observatory equipment.

The draft EA does not identify and assess the possibility of inadvertent radio frequency interference (RFI) to radio astronomy equipment at the National Science Foundation/National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NSF/NRAO) Very Long Baseline Array site at Kitt Peak (VLBA-KP), or at the Arizona Radio Observatory sites (ARO) on Mount Graham and Kitt Peak. Due to their concern, the NSF/NRAO initiated extensive discussions with Frank Woelfle of DHS and Phil Smith, the *SBI*net Chief Engineer in August of 2007 (Ref. Appendix 2). A detailed propagation analysis of the radar, motion-sensing equipment, and data transmission links to be used on-site during normal operations would determine possible interference. (See Appendix 4 for an example.) We feel that the NSF should be included in this process.

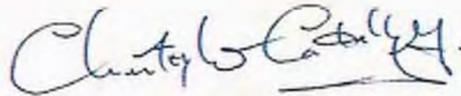
Our observatories have extensive experience working with our neighbors to address lighting and radio frequency interference issues. We offer our assistance

in assessing the issues, but are extremely concerned that they are not identified and assessed as necessary in the current Tucson West Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Proposed FONSI. Buell Jannuzi (contact information at the top of this letter) will serve as the single point of contact for questions or comments based on this submission.

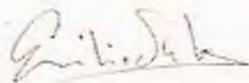
Sincerely,



Buell T. Jannuzi, Director  
Kitt Peak National Observatory



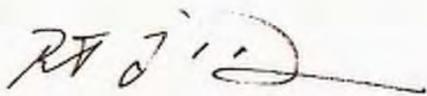
Christopher J. Corbally, S.J.  
Vice Director, Vatican Observatory



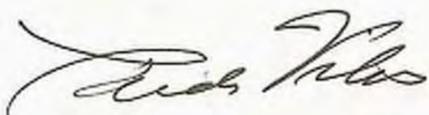
Emilio E. Falco, Project Head  
Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory



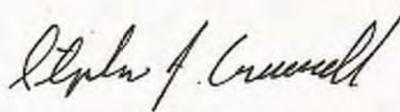
Jeffrey S. Kingsley  
Associate Director  
Steward Observatory  
The University of Arizona



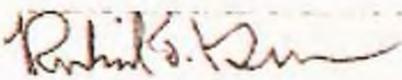
Robert L. Dickman  
Assistant Director for New Mexico Operations  
National Radio Astronomy Observatory  
(VLA/VLBA)



Faith Vilas, Director  
MMT Observatory



Stephen J. Criswell, Project Manager  
VERITAS



Richard F. Green, Director  
Large Binocular Telescope Observatory

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## **Appendix 1**

### **Observatories on Kitt Peak**

#### **National Optical Astronomy Observatory / Kitt Peak National Observatory and National Solar Observatory**

Both are operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc. under cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation.

**NOAO** telescopes include: 4-meter Mayall, 2.1-meter, 0.9-meter Coude Feed

**NSO** telescopes include: 1.6-meter McMath-Pierce Solar telescope, 2x 0.9-meter east and west auxiliaries, and the SOLIS (Synoptic Optical Long-term Investigations of the Sun) facility

**Public outreach** telescopes include: 2x 0.4-meters, 0.5-meter, 0.1-meter Solar telescope

#### **National Radio Astronomy Observatory (25-m Very Long Baseline Array)**

A facility of the National Science Foundation operated under cooperative agreement by Associated Universities, Inc.

#### **Burrell-Schmidt Telescope, CWRU (0.6-meter)**

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH

#### **Calypso Observatory, Edgar O. Smith (1.2-meter)**

Private observatory founded in 1992

#### **Michigan/Dartmouth/MIT Observatory (1.3-meter and 2.4-meter)**

The consortium includes the University of Michigan, Dartmouth College, the Ohio State University, Columbia University, and Ohio University.

#### **RCT (1.3-meter Robotically Controlled Telescope)**

Consortium universities and research institutions are The Planetary Science Institute, Western Kentucky University, South Carolina State University, Villanova University, and Fayetteville State University.

#### **Southeastern Association for Research in Astronomy (0.9-meter)**

The consortium includes Florida Institute of Technology, East Tennessee State University, Florida International University, University of Georgia, Valdosta State University, Clemson University, Ball State University, Agnes Scott College, University of Alabama, and Valparaiso University.

#### **ARO (Arizona Radio Observatory) 12-meter Telescope**

#### **Spacewatch (1.8-meter and 0.9-meter) Telescopes**

#### **Bok (2.3-meter) Telescope**

University of Arizona, Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University (ARO includes the Academia Sinica Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics.)

### **WIYN Observatory (3.5-meter)**

The consortium includes the University of Wisconsin, Indiana University, Yale University, and the National Optical Astronomy Observatory.

### **WIYN Observatory (0.9-meter)**

The consortium includes the University of Wisconsin (Madison, Oshkosh, Stevens Point, Whitewater), Indiana University, Bowling Green State University, Wesleyan University, University of Florida, San Francisco State University, and the Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium.

## **Observatories on Mt. Hopkins**

**Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory**, operated by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, has the following facilities.

### **MMT 6.5-meter**

A joint facility of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, and Northern Arizona University.

### **1.5-meter Tillinghast telescope**

### **1.2-meter telescope**

### **PAIRITEL (Peters Automated IR Imaging Telescope) 1.3-meter**

### **VERITAS (Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System)**

Member institutions include the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Purdue University, Iowa State University, Washington University in St. Louis, University of Chicago, University of Utah, University of California, Los Angeles, McGill University, University College Dublin, University of Leeds, Adler Planetarium, Argonne National Lab, Barnard College, DePauw University, Grinnell College, University of California, Santa Cruz, University of Iowa, University of Massachusetts, Cork Institute of Technology, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, National University of Ireland, Galway, and the University of Delaware/Bartol Research Institute.

### **HAT (Hungarian Automated Telescope) network of telescopes**

Operated by the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

## **Observatories on Mt. Graham**

**The Mount Graham International Observatory**, operated by the University of Arizona, has the following facilities.

### **The Vatican Observatory (1.8-meter Alice P. Lennon Telescope)**

### **Large Binocular Telescope Observatory (2x 8.4-meter telescope)**

The consortium includes the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica, Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri (Florence), Osservatorio Astronomico di Bologna, Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma, Osservatorio Astronomico di Padova, Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera (Milan), Max-Planck-Institut für Astronomie (Heidelberg, Landessternwarte), Astrophysikalisches Institut Potsdam, Max-Planck-Institut für Extraterrestrische Physik (Munich), Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie (Bonn), the Ohio State University, and Research Corporation (on behalf of the Ohio State University, University of Notre Dame, University of Minnesota, and University of Virginia).

### **Arizona Radio Observatory (ARO) – 10-meter Heinrich Hertz Submillimeter Telescope**

University of Arizona, Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University  
(ARO includes the Academia Sinica Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics.)

## **Observatories in the Catalinas**

**1.6-meter Kuiper Telescope**

**1.5-meter NASA Telescope**

**1.5-meter Mount Lemmon Observing Facility Telescope**

**0.4-meter Schmidt Camera**

University of Arizona, Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University

**The Korean Astronomy and Space Science Institute 1-meter Telescope**

**University of Minnesota 1.5-meter Telescope**

**Public outreach** telescopes include: 1.0-meter telescope

## Appendix 2

### Partial List of related meetings / communications

1. A series of email communications were initiated by Dan Brocious on behalf of numerous southern Arizona observatories to make SBI personnel aware of our concerns about potential adverse effects on astronomy research activities.
  - a. From: Dan Brocious [<mailto:brocious@carpincho.sao.arizona.edu>]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 4:07 PM  
To: Giddens, Gregory  
Subject: SBI effects on research sites  
[This email outlined the issues. Mr. Giddens referred us to Mr. Smith.]
  - b. From: "Dan Brocious" <[brocious@carpincho.sao.arizona.edu](mailto:brocious@carpincho.sao.arizona.edu)>  
To: [Charles.P.Smith2@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:Charles.P.Smith2@cbp.dhs.gov)  
Received: 4/24/2007 2:50:58 PM  
Subject: SBI effects on research sites
  - c. From: Dan Mertely [dmertely@oc.nrao.edu](mailto:dmertely@oc.nrao.edu),  
To: [dfinley@nrao.edu](mailto:dfinley@nrao.edu), [CHARLES.P.Smith@dhs.gov](mailto:CHARLES.P.Smith@dhs.gov)  
Date: Fri, 11 May 2007 10:23:53 -0600  
Subject: RE: Secure Border Initiative effects on research sites,
  
2. 19 June 2007, at Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory offices  
Meeting with observatory personnel associated with Mt. Hopkins and Tucson Sector Customs and Border Patrol agents (Lisa Reed - Community Relations Officer, John Fitzpatrick - Assistant Chief Patrol Agent, Tucson Sector, and Chris Petrazack - Nogales Station agent)
  
3. 23 July 2007, at National Optical Astronomy Observatory headquarters  
Meeting with observatory personnel associated with Kitt Peak and Tucson Sector Customs and Border Patrol agents (Lisa Reed- Community Relations Officer and six additional specialists in attendance to answer specific questions)
  
4. 17 July 2007, Holiday Inn Palo Verde, Tucson, AZ  
Public Scoping Meeting for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system along a portion of the international border in eastern Arizona.  
Attended by observatory personnel representing the Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory (Mt. Hopkins), the National Optical Astronomy Observatory/Kitt Peak National Observatory, the Mount Graham International Observatory, and the University of Arizona observatories.
  
5. 22 October 2007, Visit to Mt. Hopkins facilities  
Frank J. Woelfle (CBP/DHS) and colleagues meeting with observatory personnel representing Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory (Mt. Hopkins), the Mount Graham International Observatory, and the National Optical Astronomy Observatory/Kitt Peak National Observatory

## Appendix 3

VERITAS is a major, new gamma-ray observatory with an array of four 12-m diameter, optical reflectors located adjacent to the Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory's offices at the base of Mt. Hopkins. During its first year of operation, VERITAS is already seeing an increase in CBP agent enforcement activity. If all four VERITAS cameras were overloaded by a helicopter or truck-mounted searchlight, the replacement of the array's cameras would be \$800,000. Each night of observing lost to such damage would cost the collaboration about \$10,000. Helicopter flights over the VERITAS array prompted a meeting by observatory personnel with local CBP agents on June 19, 2007. The same flight illuminated the summit and interrupted observing at the telescopes there as well.

## Appendix 4 Propagation analysis example

Subject: Re: SBInet EA review: NRAO, ref VLBA-KP RA site  
Date: Tue, 17 Jun 2008 14:52:48 -0600  
From: Dan Mertely <[dmertely@aoe.nrao.edu](mailto:dmertely@aoe.nrao.edu)>  
Organization: NRAO  
To: Elizabeth Alvarez del Castillo [ealvarez@noao.edu](mailto:ealvarez@noao.edu)

...

I have reviewed the information ... and have the following comments and concerns relating to RF protection of the NSF/NRAO VLBA site at Kitt Peak (VLBA-KP).

... no detailed information is provided in the EA on spectrum usage, so detailed propagation analyses cannot be performed...

As hypothetical examples, Longley-Rice propagation analyses were performed using approximate Latitude and Longitude values for 2 towers (TCA-TUS-103, TCA-TUS-035), at a harmonic of a common federal 2-way communications band (406 - 420 MHz). The latitude and longitude of the two towers were estimated graphically from the maps included in the EA. The results showed the existence of line-of-sight (LOS) propagation from either of the two proposed sites and the VLBA-KP station. Making engineering assumptions as to the power levels and height of any antenna used with a UHF repeater base station on the tower, one finds likely interference to 1665 MHz OH- observing (x4 harmonic of the federal 2-way band) at levels from 11 to 31 dB over the ITU-R-RA.769 recommended levels for VLBI observing at 1665 MHz. Even assuming only mobile radio units in the same band (ground level, 4 W power output), harmonic RFI over the ITU-R-RA.769 recommended levels is still likely.

The above is just one example of the potential for RFI to the VLBA-KP station during construction, and perhaps maintenance. Many other possible RFI situations at primary or harmonic frequencies of SBInet tower equipment exist. Lack of information in the EA prevents the analysis of possible interference due to radar, motion-sensing, and data transmission links that would be expected to be used on-site during normal operations.

As a result, I would strongly urge the DHS and SBInet planning and engineering project teams to coordinate any and all proposed RF devices planned for each tower with the NSF and NRAO. We are available for detailed RFI analyses once information on site spectrum usage is forwarded, or included in an addendum to the draft EA.

Sincerely;

-Mert

~~~~~

Daniel J. (Mert) Mertely  
National Radio Astronomy Observatory  
Interference Protection Office Engineer  
P.O. Box o  
Socorro, NM 87801  
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[dmertely@nrao.edu](mailto:dmertely@nrao.edu)  
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# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
P.O. Box 1306  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103



In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/R2/NWRS-SUPV/047395

FEB 09 2011

Patience E. Patterson, RPA  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
SBInet Program Management Office  
1901 S. Bell Street, Room 7-090  
Arlington, Virginia 20598

Dear Ms. Patterson:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the *Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment* (SEA) for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) strongly supports the selection of the Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative eliminates the need for tower TCA-AJO-189, located within designated wilderness on Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The selection of this alternative would reduce impacts to Wilderness from construction, and long term maintenance of the infrastructures associated with alternatives B and C. Additionally, reduced tower maintenance, refueling, and generator use at tower TCA-AJO-302 (located at the boundary of the Refuge and Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument) would also reduce potential adverse effects on Sonoran pronghorn (*Antilocapra Americana sonoriensis*).

Given that the impacts associated with the initial excavation for the foundation for tower TCA-AJO-189 is in designated wilderness and that the excavation was beyond that approved for the project, it is imperative that the site be restored to pre-existing or near pre-existing conditions. This should be addressed in the document as part of the Preferred Alternative and incorporated into any decision document for the draft SEA. The following should also be incorporated in the draft SEA and associated decision document:

- A qualified botanist should be obtained by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to conduct an inventory to determine plant composition, density and percent ground cover of perennial shrubs and cacti - by species - at three randomly selected 12 by 12 foot plots outside of, but within one hundred feet of, the existing disturbed site at Tower 189. The three plots should be averaged and used as a baseline to determine the target objectives for restoration of the tower site.
- The restoration objectives will be determined by the Service after consultation with the DHS and a qualified expert in restoration of desert environments. The Service stands ready to assist DHS with implementing the restoration objectives for the tower site.

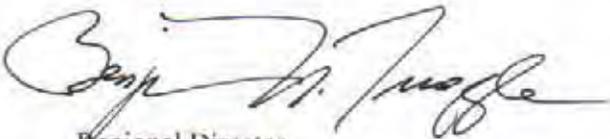
Ms. Patience Patterson

2

- The restoration expert should develop a plan for the restoration of the site. This plan will lay out a strategy and procedures for implementing the actions necessary to meet the restoration objectives.
- Upon approval of the restoration plan, the Service will conduct a "minimum tool analysis" which will lay out how the plan will be implemented.
- The Service must inspect and sign off on the completed restoration project before the DHS is relieved of its responsibility.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the *Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment*. We look forward to your continued cooperation on this matter. Please contact Sid Slone, Refuge Manager at 520-387-4993 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Sid Slone

Regional Director



THE STATE OF ARIZONA  
**GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT**

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PHOENIX, AZ 85086-5000  
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LARRY D. VOYLES

**DEPUTY DIRECTORS**

GARY R. HOVATTER

BOB BROSCHEID



February 3, 2011

Ms. Patience E. Patterson, RPA  
US Department of Homeland Security  
SBInet Program Management Office  
1901 S. Bell St., Room 7-090  
Arlington, VA 20598

**Re: Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, US Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona.**

Dear Ms. Patterson:

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) appreciates the opportunity to review the Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project. The Department understands the proposed action would involve constructing access to the commercial power grid from TCA-AJO-302 and TCA-AJO-004, as well as installation of fiber optic cable between the towers. It would also include installation of fiber optic cable to TCA-AJO-216 to establish a stable communication link. This would eliminate the need for TCA-AJO-189 and allow remediation of the tower site.

The Department supports the changes to the SEA and supports the efforts of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to reduce illegal traffic along the border. The Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project and close coordination on large scale projects such as this is vital to ensuring impacts to the state's wildlife resources are minimized. For further coordination or if you have questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (623) 236-7606.

Sincerely,

Ginger Ritter  
Project Evaluation Program Specialist, Habitat Branch

cc: Laura Canaca, Project Evaluation Program Supervisor  
John Windes, Habitat Program Manager, Region V

AGFD # M11-01105656





# GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

POST OFFICE BOX 2140, SACATON, AZ 85147

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

(520) 562-7162  
Fax: (520) 562-5083

April 12, 2011

Patience E. Patterson  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
SBInet Program Management Office  
1901 S. Bell Street, Room 7-090  
Arlington, Virginia 20598

RE: Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Tucson Sector, Arizona

Dear Ms. Patterson,

The Gila River Indian Community Tribal Historic Preservation Office (GRIC-THPO) received your draft supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) on January 31, 2011. The draft EA describes an undertaking by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to improve communication links between towers and reduce impact to sensitive resources. Cultural Resources recorded in the area including the Growler Mine/Growler Pass (AZ Z:13:48[ASM]), Bates Well (AZ Z:13:39[ASM]), AZ Y:16:32(ASM) and Armenta Ranch AZ Z:13:127[ASM] will be temporarily flagged and marked to avoid impacts to the site. AZ Z:13:27(ASM) will be tested and fenced.

On pages FONSI 16, lines 6 through 12, and 5-7, lines 20 through 26, the text indicates that "if human remains are encountered, the first course of action will be to determine if they are Native American remains." The GRIC-THPO would like to indicate that the first course of action will be to immediately halt all construction in the area and to immediately contact SBI lead agency supervisors. If human remain remains are encountered you halt work immediately regardless if the remains are Native American or not. Please change the text in these sections. The project occurs within the ancestral lands of the Four Southern Tribes (Gila River Indian Community; Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community; Ak-Chin Indian Community and the Tohono O'Odham Nation). We defer to the Tohono O'Odham Nation as leads in the consultation process.

Thank you for consulting with the GRIC-THPO on this project. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or Archaeological Compliance Specialist Larry Benallie, Jr. at 520-562-7162.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barnaby V. Lewis".

Barnaby V. Lewis  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Gila River Indian Community





DEC-11/0001

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION  
12795 West Alameda Parkway  
PO Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287



February 7, 2011

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL  
NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

Patience E. Patterson  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
SBInet Program Management Office  
1901 S. Bell Street, Room 7-090  
Arlington, VA 20598

Subject: National Park Service comments on the Draft Supplemental EA and Proposed FONSI for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, January 2011

Dear Ms. Patterson:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Supplemental EA (SEA) and Proposed FONSI for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, dated January 2011. As a cooperating agency on this project, the National Park Service (NPS) appreciates that we had an opportunity to review the Preliminary Draft Supplemental EA and submit two sets of comments dated July 10, 2009 and September 28, 2010. We are pleased that some of our previous comments on the Preliminary Draft were addressed in this version; however, we noticed that some of our comments were only partially or, in some cases, not fully addressed. To illustrate where we still have concerns from the previous review, we have attached copies of these comments to this letter and identified those comments that we feel are still outstanding with yellow highlighter (please see attachments A and B). In addition to these previous comments, we respectfully submit new comments and issues, which are identified in the following text. All of our comments relate to how this project affects Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (ORPI), and we thank you in advance for considering our comments.

### General Comments

Overall, NPS feels that the document (Draft Supplemental EA and Proposed FONSI) could better and more clearly define the proposed actions. We are concerned that it does not adequately address the effects of improvements that are already proposed by DHS in the project area, cumulative effects, and impacts to wilderness resources. We recommend that these issues be better addressed throughout the document. Our specific comments should give you a better indication of our recommendations.

- Throughout the document, actions are referenced that may, potentially, could, or might be implemented. We recommend that document clearly state all of the actions being implemented.

- The document frequently states that there are “no known developments planned in the project area in the foreseeable future”. However, the document also describes expanding operations at Tower 302 from one acre to two, widening el Camino del Diablo to 18’, and expansion of the Ajo Station; and we recommend that the effects of these actions be addressed throughout the document.
- **Cumulative Impacts:** We recommend that the cumulative impacts section better assess the cumulative influence of existing, planned, and future actions within the project area. The proposed action is a component of a much broader series of inter-related projects and actions that collectively comprise CBP’s strategy to establish operation control of the border within the project area. The NPS supports CBP in this effort. The impacts from CBP’s cumulative border strategy should not be so readily summarized and dismissed as they currently are in this document. The cumulative influence of the vehicle barrier, pedestrian fence, SBInet towers, the tactical infrastructure maintenance and repair (TIMR) program, the construction of the new CBP station facility in support of exponential increases in the number of CBP agents working in the project area, the widespread use of diverse types of equipment, existing agreements, the proposed expansion of a forward operating base, the proposed widening of the Camino del Diablo in addition to this, and other, proposed actions should be comprehensively assessed in this analysis. There are also temporal (short or long-term) and directional (beneficial or adverse) components to this assessment that should be considered. The conclusions of such an assessment should be based upon empirical data and not conjecture or supposition. Data reveal that over time cumulative impacts have been expanding within the project area and that this trend is continuing. This expansion of cumulative impacts is having measurable effects on diverse trust resources such as wilderness and threatened and endangered species. NPS is willing to collaborate and help develop such an assessment.
- **Wilderness:** From a wilderness perspective, there are advantages and disadvantages associated with each action alternative and regardless of the one that may ultimately be chosen, there will inevitably be direct and indirect effects on wilderness. The nature, magnitude and longevity of such effects should be more thoroughly understood and carefully considered prior to final alternative selection. Table 2-3 compares the alternatives and presents anticipated affects on wilderness. Tower alternatives A, B and C describe anticipated impacts as being similar to those that are anticipated for the proposed action. However the proposed action’s description is silent on important components regarding anticipated impacts to wilderness. In particular the NPS needs to understand the anticipated influence of each alternative on law enforcement activities.

## Specific Comments

### FONSI

FONSI-1 L25-28: Deterrence is not listed as an aspect of border control. We recommend that you include specific content on the on the role of deterrence in securing the border. In previous DHS and CBP documents, deterrence has been listed as an important element of border enforcement. Deterrence (i.e. a strong and visible CBP presence of personnel and infrastructure *at the border*) is likely to be among the most cost-effective border enforcement elements, and the least damaging to public and private properties.

FONSI-2 L26: We recommend that any actions that are conditional in the FONSI be eliminated. The FONSI should specify the actions that will be implemented, and not include statements such as: 216 *may* be hooked up to power. We suggest that “will” instead of “may” or “would” should be used.

FONSI-2 L32: Sonoran pronghorn are: “a species that is federally listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act”.

FONSI-2 L45-46: The stated “affected area” of 517 square miles seems to correspond to the total area of Organ Pipe Cactus NM. A more accurate description of the affected area should include BLM and USFWS lands adjacent to ORPI as described in the SBInet Biological Opinion and EA.

FONSI-3 L33 – There should be continuity between the FONSI, Executive Summary, and EA. This line says access to power would “potentially” be provided. Are Tower 302 and the FOB being connected to power? If so, then it needs to be stated clearly and corrected throughout the FONSI, ES and EA. Examples: ES P-ES-2 L 28 – access may be provided to 302 and FOB EA P1-3 L 18-20: The proposed action includes...installation of a fiber optic cable between 302 and 004. If the power is not connected, then the benefits claimed for pronghorn need to be deleted.

FONSI 4-L35-36: The document states that pull boxes would temporarily impact a 20x50 foot area and this amount of disturbed area is excessive. Previous discussions indicated that the entire 20x50 foot area would not be impacted. Rather, it would be an angled corridor from the road into the 4x6’ pullbox and an angled corridor back to the road Figure 2-3.

FONSI-5 L15: Road maintenance was not analyzed in 2009. Road maintenance is being addressed as part of the ORPI Roads Study. There has not been any NEPA or compliance done on the maintenance of the roads.

FONSI-5 L15-19: For the majority of the construction along the road, alternative methods for handling and storing of materials removed from trenching operation need to be addressed in order to keep the road open for travel which not always be possible in certain areas. When not in operation, trenches need to be covered. Please specify the dimensions needed for project implementation, staging, and road passage – and how all of these dimensions fit into the existing footprint of the road. The description of the proposed traffic management needs considerable clarification. The vast majority of the proposed project alignment is a primitive dirt road, 1 to 1.5 lanes wide. Opportunities for two standard motor vehicles to pass one another are infrequent, and often result in damage to roadside plants and soils, and incremental widening of the road footprint. NPS requests that both sides of the road be delineated in the active construction area using safety barrier fencing to ensure all traffic and disturbance is limited to the existing road footprint. In previous consultations, there was discussion regarding the need for development of ‘road usage plans’ for each agency impacted by the implementation of this project. This needs to be addressed. Also include a ‘trench detail blueprint’ indicating the placement of both utilities.

FONSI-8 L9-10: See FONSI 5 L15-19. Given the frequent traffic along the project route, it is likely flagmen will be passing vehicles around project machinery multiple times per hour. It is reasonable to expect the project will in fact be able to accommodate such levels of traffic within the existing road footprint along the project’s entire length? NPS requests that both sides of the road be delineated in active construction areas using safety barrier fencing to ensure all traffic and disturbance is limited to the existing road footprint.

FONSI8 L10 – The number of acres disturbed should be corrected throughout the documents. This section says permanently disturb .57 acre, and temporarily 15.18. (ES- 4 L3-4: says would permanently affect 1.36 acres and 14.21 temporarily). A table of permanent and temporary acres impacted areas by alternative would be helpful.

FONSI-8 L25-28: SEA states that the commercial power element of the proposed action will reduce operation of generators at towers 004 and 302, from about 8 hours/month to about 2 hours/month. We question if the operation is 8 hours/month or 8 hours/day? Please clarify. If it is 8 hours/month, this reduction of generator operation by 6 hours per month seems insignificant, in terms of noise reduction. The proposed action will reduce generator operation from about 1% of the 24-hour clock per month (8 of 720 hours for a 30-day month), to about 0.27% of that time. This would seem to be an insignificant benefit, when weighed against the costs and impacts on multiple resources associated with the proposed connection to commercial power.

FONSI-9 L23-25: The potential for future development caused by establishing commercial power along the 59.4 Road / Bates Well Road, concerns NPS. For the Sonoran pronghorn, this could result in additional impacts. The project will pass through Growler Canyon which provides an important corridor for Sonoran pronghorn to move back and forth between the Valley of the Ajo and Growler Valley.

FONSI-9 L32-39: If the statement 8 hours/month instead of 8 hours/day is correct, (FONSI 8 L25-28) the proposed project would actually result in a *net increase* in noise impacts, for more than 5 years.

FONSI-11 L34-35: See FONSI-5 L15-19. This provision should include clearly demarcating the current footprint of the road with safety barrier fence, and preventing vehicle travel outside of that footprint, by project vehicle or other traffic passing the construction zone. Any disturbance outside the current footprint of the road would constitute project-related disturbance, and is not authorized.

FONSI-12 L12: The document should specifically state that off-road activity is prohibited.

FONSI12 L 26-27 – Delete – “to the maximum extent practicable”. The document should specifically state that off-road activity is prohibited.

FONSI12 L42-43 – NPS agrees with the comment that they will “minimize disturbance to smallest footprint” as shown in Figure 2-3. NPS previously stated that 20x50 foot area at each pull box is excessive.

FONSI 12-L44 thru 13-L12: NPS requires that CBP obtain written permission to conduct any vegetation management within the project area in ORPI, including: seeding, trimming, cutting, mowing, herbicide application, restoration and removal. NPS requires that restoration activities in temporary disturbed sites be closely coordinated with and approved by NPS in writing, prior to contracting and implementation.

FONSI-13 L16-24: OTIA is advised there are multiple species of birds that nest on or near the ground. Because of this, any vehicles driving off the current footprint of the road may result in take, under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. No vehicles should be allowed to drive around the construction area to pass through, unless that can be done without leaving the current established road.

## Executive Summary

P ES-2 L28 – see FONSI 3 L33. Specify if power will go to 302 and the FOB.

ES4 L3-4: Please correct the number of acres disturbed throughout the document, as they are inconsistent.

P-ES4 L11-14: NPS respectfully disagrees with negligible long-term impacts. “There could be a minor to moderate indirect adverse effect...”depending on future development proposals. See FONSI P9 L23-25. The likelihood for development should be analyzed in this EA, specifically regarding the references in this document to expand the FOB, widen of el Camino del Diablo and the expand the Ajo Station.

P ES4 L25-27: See P ES4 L11-14 says negligible. This says minor. Please analyze the long-term indirect effects.

P ES-5 L31-37: See FONSI-9 L32-39.

P ES-6 L10-15: Please support claims of increases or decreases with data.

## **Environmental Assessment**

### **Chapter 1**

P1-1 L 18-20: See FONSI-3 L33.

P1-1 L20-25: Deterrence should be listed as a component of the CBP/USBP’s NBPS. See FONSI-1 L25-28.

P1-6 Section 1.1.2 – Cooperating Agencies – Please share a copy of the referenced January 2008 MOA with the NPS for our records. Thank you.

P1-3 L18-30: If fiber optic is run from 302 to 004, what additional infrastructure will be required at tower 004 in order to facilitate adequate communications interface?

P1-3 L18-30. This paragraph commingles the stated needs of the fiber optic cable and the commercial power line. The primary need of OTAI is to transmit data streams from tower 302 to tower 004. The fiber optic cable would accomplish this need. The stated purpose of the power line appears to be to “. . . reduce generator use and associated noise emissions . . .” at the towers. If this is the case, the potential adverse impacts of the proposed action on Sonoran pronghorn are far greater than the adverse impacts of the current level of generator noise.

P1-5. This map shows tower 204, and this tower was not constructed.

P1-7 Section 1.3.1 Public Review – The text mentions that a notice of availability was printed in local newspapers, but it does not describe what public comments were received. We recommend that you include a description of the number of public comments received, from whom, and the nature of those comments.

P. 1-9: Section 1.3.2 Agency Coordination – We appreciate that other agency coordination has been conducted or is ongoing. We recommend that you include a description of the results of tribal consultation as well as a summary of any outstanding comments amongst agencies that have yet to be resolved.

### **Chapter 2**

P. 2-1, Chapter 2.0 Proposed Action and Alternatives – Please identify the Preferred Alternative and the Environmentally Preferred Alternative in this chapter.

P2-1 L46 thru 2-2 L1: See FONSI-3 L33.

P2-2 L27: The document states: backfill material will be hand sifted at these locations. Is this correct?  
Where will the spoils be utilized?

P2-2 L9-10: See P1-3 L18-30.

P2-6: Figure 2-3. The trenching project should begin at the pull box location and trench toward the road in both directions in order to minimize impacts beyond the pull box. This would conceivably considerably reduce the size of the 20x50 foot temporarily impacted area Figure 2-3.

P2-7 L9: If no pull boxes are needed for the 2645' distance from SR 85 to tower 216, why are there pull boxes every 1000' along the rest of the project route? NPS wishes to minimize the number of pull boxes.

P2-9 L38-39: See FONSI-5 L15. This section should reflect the same language as in the document on EA P3-3 L26-29 to show the inconveniences along 59.4/Bates Well Road.

P2-9 L39-41: See FONSI 5 L15-19.

P2-9 L46-47. SEA states that towers 302 and 004 currently account for 80 maintenance/refueling visits per year, and (on the next page, lines 1-5) that the proposed action would result in that being reduced to 36 visits/year. However Table 2-1 (page 2-10) lists only 28 visits annually for these two towers *without* implementation of the proposed action. These numbers should be checked and clarified.

P2-10 Table 2-1: Lists total trips to 004 & 302 as 28; line 2 says 36 trips; needs to be clarified.

P2-10 L21-26: A plan for staging project equipment needs to be prepared and approved by affected agencies prior to being implemented during construction. The number and size of temporarily disturbed pull box areas should be minimized.

P2-23 Table 2-3: See FONSI 8 L10.

P3-3 L26-34: There was earlier dialog that there would not be any inconveniences on 59.4/Bates Well road. See in the document EA P3-3 L26-29.

P3-3 L33: See P-ES4 L11-14. See: P-ES4 L11-14. The likelihood for development should be analyzed in this EA.

P3-3 L36: See FONSI 4 L35-36.

P3-3 L38-39. Approximately .57 acres would be permanently disturbed, not temporary.

### Chapter 3

P 3-7, L17-19: How will implementation of the action alternatives result in or contribute to a reduction in illegal traffic or a reduction in the creation of illegal roads and trails? In other words, substantiate the statement that without implementation of one of the action alternatives "illegal traffic and the

creation of unauthorized roads and trails is likely to increase” given the fact that substantial infrastructure already exists.

P3-8 L20-26: See P ES4 L11-14. The likelihood of subsequent development should be analyzed.

P3-8 L44-45, P3-9 1-12: Please refer to P3-7 L17-19.

P. 3-29 Section 3.10.1.1 Federal – This section states that CBP has requested re-initiation of formal consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA for Sonoran pronghorn and lesser long-nosed bat, but does not state why. Presumably, the goal of this consultation will be to reopen discussions about changing the “may affect, likely to adversely affect” determination by developing new alternatives or introducing additional mitigation measures. If this is the case, NPS supports this effort. We recommend that you include language describing what the goal of this additional consultation is and where you are at in the process. We also recommend that you describe where you are at in the process in terms of reinitiating Section 7 consultation.

P3-21 Figure 3-6. The document needs to articulate how each drainage crossing will be implemented.

P3-24 L4-11. A reduction in off-road traffic does not correlate to indirect benefits with regards to water quality in the project area. Existing impacted areas will continue to erode in the absence of well designed and implemented restoration activities. This statement could use modification because all off-road travel past, present and future results in adverse impacts.

P3-25 L 26-33. See P3-24 L4-11.

P3-31 L38-43: See FONSI 9 L23-25.

P3-31 L41: The statement: “no known developments” is incorrect. There are two development projects already listed in this document (See EA P4-2 Table 4-1) in the foreseeable future regarding the expansion of the camp to an FOB at tower 302, and another proposal to widen the El Camino del Diablo. The implications of expanding operations at Tower 302 and Camino del Diablo need to be assessed.

P. 3-35 Section 3.11.1.1 Previous Investigations – We appreciate that a complete cultural resources inventory of the project area has been conducted; however, we are concerned that the SEA includes too much descriptive information related to archeological resources. Specifically, the text describes the types of archeological sites found during the surveys, which, in our opinion, provides the public with too much information that can lead to looting or damage. To avoid the potential for any increased harm to archeological resources in the area, we recommend that the descriptive nature of the text be eliminated and replaced with more simplified text that cites the number of sites and the site numbers. We also recommend that you describe where you are at in the process in terms of Section 106 consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

P3-42 L24: Do wetting solutions contain materials other than plain water? If so, please describe their contents.

P3-51 L26-34: Is there any potential for the power line to interfere with vehicle computers, two-way radios, hand-held electronic devices, GPS units, etc.?

P3-52 L34; “minimized” should be “utilized”; sentence doesn't make sense as is.

P3-55 L41-42. NPS suggests that it is more appropriate to acknowledge that the proposed action would have long-term, moderate adverse effects on visual and aesthetic resources. The project would change what until recently was a primitive, remote, one-lane dirt road through wilderness. The road would have electrical pull-boxes for over 21 miles. The drive along Bates Well Road through ORPI and on into CPNWR has long been popular with the public, as a remote desert excursion. Under the proposed action, the sense of solitude and escaping the overdeveloped world would be adversely affected, for the long term.

P3-63 L26-30. The commercial electricity component of the proposed action conflicts with basic sustainability and greening principles. Towers 302 and 004 are already equipped with solar energy systems, and backup propane generators. The towers are situated in one of the best areas in the U.S. for taking maximum advantage of solar potential, with nearly 360 sunny days per year. The proposed action would require extensive use of additional petroleum fuels and other products, in the course of installing the commercial-grid power line. The towers would then consume commercial electricity, which may be generated by burning oil, coal, or other non-sustainable resources.

## Chapter 4

P 4-1 L 15: The statement that the Sonoran Desert has been “significantly impacted” has greater implications. If these actions are contributing to significant adverse effects in this ecosystem, an EIS should be prepared.

P4-1 L20-22: This statement is incorrect. These actions are regulated by NEPA on federally managed lands.

P4-1 L42: Please change primary fence to pedestrian fence.

P4-1 L45-46: Please include that DOI funded the construction of 30 miles of vehicle fence through ORPI.

P4-2 L3 and Table 4-1: In light of the discontinuation of the SBI tower program these narratives could use revision. Also include CTMR.

P4-3 L10-12 – Provide data that demonstrate the relative changes in deterrence, travel volume and speed, and substantiate that statement that increased road maintenance and road widening are required.

P4-3 L45: Several projects should be added to list: entrance sign parking, Alamo Canyon Road re-alignment, Kuakatch berm repair, BP horse trailer pull-out off of Highway 85, the Powerline Corridor access to Tower 170, and access road to Tower 310.

P4-4 Section 4-4. In accordance with NEPA the assessment of cumulative effects of the project is inadequate and needs to be strengthened, given the diversity and size of many of the cumulative projects mentioned. Many projects involve large scale construction, significant increases in personnel, along with associated materials and infrastructure. Several of these are occurring in sensitive and protected environments and the cumulative effects of these actions need to be assessed more comprehensively. The document needs to explain how the specific conclusions were determined, and not just state the level of impact.

4-4 L43: See FONSI-2 L45-46.

P4-5 Section 4-5: See P4-4 Section 4-4. If there is a projected reduction in the most prevalent and damaging effects of CBV activities on monument resources, both the current level of impact and the projected decrease in impacts should be quantified.

## Chapter 5

P5-2 L3-4: CBP will coordinate with the appropriate land management agency to identify disturbed areas to be used for staging during the construction.

P5-2 L-25: CBP will utilize safety barrier fences to demarcate construction perimeters, access roads, etc.

P 5-3 L 18-19: Rewrite: Vehicular traffic associated with construction will remain on established roads.

P5-3 L18-19: See FONSI 5 L15-19.

P5-5 L25: Mitigations for lesser long-nosed bats; construction will be "avoided" within 4 miles of roosts; is this sufficient?

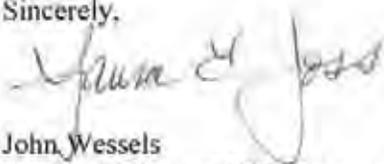
P5-7 L20-29: Please delete these lines.

P5-7 L 22: If human remains are encountered it doesn't matter if they are Native American or not...the archeologist will immediately notify SBI, the superintendent, and appropriate law enforcement authorities.

P5-8 L32: All spills will be reported to CBP add: and notify the appropriate land management agency.

Thank you for considering our comments on this project. We acknowledge the fact that we have provided several comments for you to consider and would like to extend our assistance in helping you understand and incorporate our concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. We look forward to working with you. Our main point of contact is Mark Sturm, Chief of Resource Management, ORPI, 520.387.6849 x7110.

Sincerely,



John Wessels  
Regional Director, NPS, Intermountain Region

cc: NPS EQD-WASO  
Robert Stewart, DOI  
Mark Sturm, NPS-ORPI

## Attachment A

7/10/09

NPS Comments on the  
Preliminary Draft EA for the SBInet Ajo 1 Tower Project

Comments:

### Proposed Action – Forward Operating Base

The NPS was previously informed that the proposed new forward operating base would be on the scale of the current Bates Well facility, and not a 2 acre development on par with the Papago forward operating base. The details of the proposed new, larger forward operating base should be more fully disclosed (e.g., the number of agents that would be staffed at the facility). The direct and indirect impacts of this new, larger facility, should be very carefully examined and completely disclosed.

### Proposed Action – Road Construction

The description of the proposed action contains only minimal information on how new roads would be constructed. Details of road construction activities should be more fully described.

### General Comments - Impact Analysis

Often times the impact analysis describes impacts without explaining or discussing the intensity of those impacts. For example, the analysis describes potential adverse impacts on migratory birds without identifying the intensity of the impacts. The intensity of all adverse impacts should be indicated.

When the intensity of an impact is described, it is typically done so without context and in a conclusory fashion. For example, the analysis claims that the proposed action would have a moderate adverse impact to aesthetic resources without discussion of what constitutes a moderate impact or sufficient enough description of the impact to support the determination of "moderate." The meaning of intensity modifiers should be clearly defined and the discussion of impacts should readily support the assignment of a particular intensity modifier to an impact.

The impact analysis discusses numerous beneficial impacts associated with reduced illegal alien traffic that would indirectly result from the proposed action. Is there evidence to suggest that reduced illegal alien traffic is, in fact, a reasonably foreseeable outcome of the proposed action? If so, and indirect impacts associated with reduced illegal alien traffic are addressed, so too should the reasonably foreseeable impacts associated with future on-the-ground enforcement activities be addressed.

The document contains internal contradictions regarding impacts of the proposed action. For example, the environmental consequences section claims that the new forward operating base will not interfere with Sonoran pronghorn, which is in apparent contradiction to a statement in the alternatives section acknowledging that Sonoran pronghorn may be impacted in the area of the new base. Such contradictions should be resolved.

## Wilderness

The treatment of impacts on wilderness is very limited in nature. For example, there is no discussion of how operation and visual and auditory elements of the proposed action (towers and new forward operating base) could permanently impact the wilderness values (opportunities to experience: solitude; primitive, unconfined forms of recreation; and naturalness, i.e., little evidence of human manipulation of natural conditions) of the Organ Pipe Cactus Wilderness. Impacts of the proposed action on wilderness values should be addressed.

## Surface Waters and Waters of the U.S.

The analysis for water quality impacts claims that activities associated with illegal alien traffic results in the impairment of water quality. Is there data to support this conclusion? If so, it should be cited. If not, the analysis should be modified so as not to over-state the impact.

## Floodplains

The analysis for floodplains impacts indicates that it is unknown if any access roads transect floodplains in OPCNM. This information should be obtained in order to adequately analyze the impacts of the proposed action. The analysis also notes that engineers would be consulted before road improvement, but then states that no construction of permanent structures such as culverts would be required. Can such a claim be made if engineers have not yet been consulted?

## Protected Species and Critical Habitats

The impact analysis for protected species and critical habitats raises concerning issues but offers limited discussion of impacts. For example, the analysis for Sonoran pronghorn notes possible long-term "avoidance of critical resources during sensitive periods" resulting from the proposed action yet does not go further than to label the impact as "adverse."

## Noise

The analysis under the noise impact topic is oriented solely on the issue of human annoyance caused by noise. The analysis fails to discuss the natural soundscape as a resource in and of itself. The analysis should address impacts on the natural soundscape. Additionally, it is not clear that noise impacts on wildlife species were considered for all species. For example, Sonoran pronghorn are especially sensitive to noise and are likely to be impacted by noise from the proposed action. However, noise-related impacts on this species are not called out in the analysis. The analysis should be broadened to include such concerns.

## Utilities and Infrastructure – Ambient and Artificial Lighting

The discussion of artificial lighting highlights mitigation measures that would be implemented to reduce adverse impacts, but does not indicate to what degree adverse impacts would still be expected to occur under the proposed action. The analysis should disclose the nature of these remaining impacts and discuss them especially in terms of their effect on nocturnal wildlife species such as the lesser long-nosed bat.

## Cumulative Impacts

There is an over-emphasis, especially in the cumulative impacts section, on equating the area impacted by an action with the size of infrastructure footprint. Impacts may, in fact, extend well beyond the project footprint. For cumulative impact analysis, the analysis should be conducted in a broader, resource-based spatial context rather than in a manner confined to project footprint.

The dismissal of many of the cumulative impacts issues is questionable. For example, given the nature of the projects and actions considered for cumulative impact analysis, it is very likely that there are accumulated impacts on resources such as wildlife, sensitive species, and vegetation that would be added to by construction and operation of the proposed action. The dismissal of cumulative impacts issues should be revisited.

The cumulative impact analysis does not describe the impacts that have been and are expected to be experienced as a result of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions. The existing cumulative impact analysis consists primarily of conclusory statements that cumulative impacts will not be significant or major. The analysis lacks any accompanying description of the impacts or context to provide a basis for understanding the characterization of the impact. Cumulative impacts should be fully described and characterized in terms of intensity and duration.

Attachment B

**DOCUMENT NAME:** SBInet AJO-1 Preliminary Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment

**DRAFT DATE:** 28 SEPTEMBER 2010

**DUE DATE:** COB 13 OCTOBER 2010

| Comment # | Page    | Section | Line | Commenter | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | NPS Annotations on How the Comment Was Addressed in January 2011 Draft |
|-----------|---------|---------|------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.        | FONSI-2 |         | 7    | ORPI      | Replace "CPNWR manager" with "the USFWS." The text as is personalizes a federal agency action, which is unnecessary and inappropriate, unless every management decision, request, proposal, and action by all agencies and contractors is going to be attributed to the specific individual making that decision, request, &/or action.                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Addressed throughout document                                          |
| 2.        | FONSI-2 |         | 16   | ORPI      | The need for tower #189 would be negated if a fiber optic line is constructed, connecting towers 004 and 302. However, constructing commercial grid power to those two towers is unrelated to, and independent of, tower #189 and any desires to eliminate that or other tower #189 alternatives. This should be identified and evaluated in the SEA. It may be appropriate to split these into two alternatives: 1) Running fiber optic cable to #302, #004, and #216, and 2) Running both fiber optic cable and commercial power to #302, #004. | Addressed on 3-33, line 14                                             |
| 3.        | FONSI-2 |         | 37   | ORPI      | SEA states that the affected area is "approximately 30 linear miles of U.S. border, which is incorrect. (See Figure 1-2). The proposed actions would take place approximately 12 to almost 20 miles north of the US border, along a meandering road alignment. The area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Addressed on FONSI-2, line 45                                          |

|    |         |  |    |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                    |
|----|---------|--|----|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    |         |  |    |      | affected by SBInet and related operations is a much larger, non-linear area, as identified in the 2009 EA and BO.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                    |
| 4. | FONSI-3 |  | 25 | ORPI | Same as comment #1.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Addressed                                                                                                          |
| 5. | FONSI-4 |  | 6  | ORPI | SEA says the trench will be about 4.5 feet "from" the southern edge or berm of the road. Please clarify that this will be to the north and inside footprint of existing road.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Addressed on FONSI-4, line 8                                                                                       |
| 6. | FONSI-4 |  | 19 | ORPI | The area of permanent impact seems excessive, considering the size of the pullboxes. The SEA text should elaborate on why this is necessary.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Change is reflected on FONSI-4, line 35                                                                            |
| 7. | FONSI-4 |  | 44 | ORPI | This paragraph does not adequately address the changes in (or impacts to) roads that the proposed action will cause, which were not covered by the 2009 EA. For example: How will the project accommodate pass-through vehicle traffic, during construction, without routing that traffic off the 59.4 and Bates Well Roads? Transportation issues and limitations must be clearly addressed and accepted by all stakeholders including CBP, project contractors, NPS, FWS, BLM, etc. For example Camp Grip transportation will be affected, how will this be addressed throughout? Any impacts outside the existing road footprint must be approved by the land manager, and thoroughly addressed in this SEA. | Flagmen will be on site at all times and will route traffic around construction vehicles. See FONSI-5, line 14-19. |
| 8. | FONSI-5 |  | 28 | ORPI | During our review we determined that neither the FONSI nor the SEA considers the potential long-term, adverse, indirect effects on wilderness, presented by establishing a commercial power line deep into what is currently a remote, undeveloped area. Presence of commercial power may facilitate additional developments and human presence. Such affects must be adequately addressed in this document.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Needs to be clarified throughout EA. See FONSI-8, line 30 and ES-4, lines 22-27 and 3-8, lines 10-18.              |
| 9. | FONSI 6 |  | 29 | ORPI | No pull boxes or transformers will be permitted within the vicinity of Bates Well, Growler Mines or Armenta Ranch.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Can't find any reference to this                                                                                   |

|     |         |                            |       |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                  |
|-----|---------|----------------------------|-------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10. | FONSI-6 | Environmental Consequences | 29-41 | ORPI | Two additional archeological sites considered Eligible to the National Register of Historic Places were inadvertently omitted from the SEA: AZ Z:13:38, the Growler Pass Mines and site AZ Y:16:32 adjacent to Tower #302. Site AZ Z:13:38 (Growler Pass Mines) is a separate and distinct archeological site from AZ Z:13:48 (Growler Area Mine Group), separated by a distance of approximately 2 mi. Both sites are eligible and AZ Z:13:48 is already listed on the National Register. AZ Z:13:38 was determined eligible by the Arizona SHPO in 2010. AZ Y:16:32 is a prehistoric firecracked rock site, believed to be a roasting pit with potential radiocarbon dates from charcoal & macrobotanical remains that may date to the San Dieguito phase, approx. 9,000 yrs. ago. It is unevaluated but considered Eligible by OPCNM. These 2 sites that were omitted from consideration in the SEA should have archeological monitors placed on ground disturbance in their vicinity during construction of the trenches; this should be added to the Mitigation section of the SEA. The NHPA Section 106 Finding of Effect should remain "No Adverse Effect" if the appropriate mitigation strategy is put in place. In the event artifacts and/or features are discovered during construction, the OPCNM Superintendent and Staff Archeologist must be notified to assess the find before construction continues. | Addressed on FONSI-9, line 41                                                    |
| 11. | FONSI 8 |                            | 37    | ORPI | Please describe the trench configuration during night time including lighting, barriers, tapering ends and any measures to address wildlife concerns.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Addressed on FONSI-4, line 43                                                    |
| 12. | FONSI 9 |                            | 22    | ORPI | Spoil should be sifted and to the extent possible the products used in the project area, particularly on the road surface. An appropriate area for sifting should be identified.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | See FONSI-4, line 12 through 17. Need for this is not anticipated by contractor. |
| 13. | FONSI 9 |                            | 26    | ORPI | Revegetation and restoration techniques and materials need to be developed and approved by the land manager.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Addressed on 3-23, line 36                                                       |

|     |          |  |       |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----|----------|--|-------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14. | FONSI-12 |  | 9     | ORPI | Replace "avoid constructing" with "not construct." Part of the project area (approx from tower 004 to tower 302) is in prime, heavily-used Sonoran pronghorn habitat. The winter of 2010 – 2011 is predicted to be a warm, dry winter, which will reduce fitness of pronghorn. The fawning season dates should be seen as absolute – no construction during that time. | "CBP will not install fiber optic and commercial grid power cables in Sonoran pronghorn habitat from March 15 to July 31." This leaves open the possibility of other types of construction. See 5-6, line 6. |
| 15. | FONSI 13 |  | 7     | ORPI | Specifically, where would the water storage containers be used and what do they look like, how big are they and how big are the water trucks needed to service them?                                                                                                                                                                                                   | See FONSI-4, line 22. 4-ton water trucks would be used; no info re: storage container size or location                                                                                                       |
| 16. | FONSI-13 |  | 16-21 | ORPI | The 2 eligible archeological sites that were omitted from consideration should be added to this section: AZ Z:13:38 and AZ Y:16:32. They should be temporarily fenced/flagged and monitored by a qualified archeologist during ground disturbance.                                                                                                                     | Addressed on FONSI-15, line 35                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 17. | FONSI-13 |  | 13-14 | ORPI | It is great that an archeologist will monitor all ground disturbance activities in previously undisturbed areas--- but it is paramount that an archeologist monitor all ground disturbance in the vicinities of known previously recorded eligible archeological sites.                                                                                                | Addressed on FONSI-15, line 32                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 18. | ES-1     |  | 25    | ORPI | Deterrence is not listed among CBP's goals here, whereas it has been in earlier documents, and is a large part of the public perception of CBP.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Addressed on ES-1, line 27                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 19. | ES-2     |  | 5     | ORPI | Same as comment #1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | See above                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 20. | ES-2     |  | 9     | ORPI | Same as comment #1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | See above                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 21. | ES-2     |  | 15    | ORPI | The proposed commercial power line is not relevant to the development of alternatives to the original tower #189. The issue is getting the data feeds from tower #302 to the USBP station in Why, which could be accomplished by the fiber optic cable. The issue of power is                                                                                          | Addressed on 3-33, line 14                                                                                                                                                                                   |

|     |      |  |    |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                             |
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|     |      |  |    |      | independent from, and not related to, the need/desire to find alternatives to tower #189.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                             |
| 22. | ES-3 |  | 29 | ORPI | Same as comment 5.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | See above                                                                                                                   |
| 23. | ES-4 |  | 21 | ORPI | This paragraph does not adequately address the changes in (or impacts to) roads that the proposed action will cause, which were not covered by the 2009 EA. For example: How will the project accommodate pass-through vehicle traffic, during construction, without routing that traffic off the 59.4 and Bates Well Roads? If vehicles will be expected to simply drive around the construction areas, then this project will have the effect of essentially doubling the width of the roads. This must be cleared with the land manager, and addressed in this SEA. Also, if the trench is to be dug 4.5 feet south of the south edge of the road (See comment #17), the proposed action would increase the width of the road by 50%. | See comment #7                                                                                                              |
| 24. | ES-4 |  | 42 | ORPI | Same as comment #1.<br>Since this is a recurring item, perhaps the SEA should outline how that excavation and the sling-loading operations conformed with permits/arrangements with the USFWS, and identify all contractor and DHS personnel involved.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | See above                                                                                                                   |
| 25. | ES-6 |  | 45 | ORPI | Adverse effects on aesthetics: Many would say these would be permanent, major (not minor), adverse effects. The Bates Well Road used to be a remote, primitive road used by visitors to the adjoining wildernesses of OPCNM and CPNWR. The presence of 5 ft x 5 ft electrical pullboxes at 1000-foot intervals would be a profound, permanent change in the experiences of these visitors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | SEA still says "minor"; see FONSI-9, line 13; ES-5, line 4; ES-6, line 6; 3-55, line 41; 3-56, line 4. SEA adds mitigation. |
| 26. | ES-7 |  | 2  | ORPI | There are no data to support this statement. In fact, the construction of considerable border infrastructure, increased CBP manpower and technology, and expansion of interdiction activities to include routine operation of vehicles in wilderness and endangered species habitats                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | No change in language.                                                                                                      |

|     |      |     |    |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                       |
|-----|------|-----|----|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|     |      |     |    |      | has not yet resulted in any measurably beneficial reduction in cross-border activities and the associated direct and indirect effects thereof. Our hope is that this will change soon.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                       |
| 27. | ES-7 |     | 37 | ORPI | Same as comment #26.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | See above                                                                                                                             |
| 28. | 1-3  |     | 3  | ORPI | Same as comment #1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | See above                                                                                                                             |
| 29. | 1-3  |     | 7  | ORPI | Same as comment #1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | See above                                                                                                                             |
| 30. | 1-3  |     | 17 | ORPI | Same as comment #21                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | See above                                                                                                                             |
| 31. | 2-1  | 2.3 | 43 | ORPI | Same as comment 21                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | See above                                                                                                                             |
| 32. | 2-2  | 2.3 | 18 | ORPI | Same as comment #5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | See above                                                                                                                             |
| 33. | 2-2  | 2.3 | 20 | ORPI | What is the fill between 49" and 38"? To what depth will the bedding materials be used? How will compacting be done in the narrow lower reaches of the trench?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Can't find any reference to this.                                                                                                     |
| 34. | 2-9  | 2.3 | 6  | ORPI | This section does not adequately address the changes in (or impacts to) roads that the proposed action will cause, which were not covered by the 2009 EA. The SEA needs to discuss how the project will accommodate pass-through vehicle traffic, during construction, within the footprint of the existing road infrastructure. During construction, given current usage levels, vehicles pass frequently, planning alternatives to accommodate this traffic is required and such alternatives need to be approved by the land manager and accepted by all stakeholders. | See comment #7                                                                                                                        |
| 35. | 2-9  | 2.3 | 35 | ORPI | The pull box disturbed areas have a very limited expanse that may not accommodate after hour staging of project equipment. As an alternative consideration, there are a number of delineated pull off areas that may be well suited to meet this need.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Addressed on 2-10, line 21                                                                                                            |
| 36. | 2-22 | 2.9 | -  | ORPI | Land Use: The proposed Action might result in major (not negligible) changes in land use, by providing commercial power along a 20-mile corridor. Presence of this power source increases the probability for future development in non-wilderness lands in OPCNM, CPNWR and BLM.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Need clarification on this topic; document variously describes impact as minor and negligible. See FONSI-8, lines 17-34 and 3-3, line |

|     |     |          |    |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                         |
|-----|-----|----------|----|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 37. | 3-3 | 3.2.2.2  | 17 | ORPI | The "inconvenience" caused by the project on travelers will extend beyond BLM and OPCNM employees. All travelers including CBP and project contractors. Methods for addressing travel needs on project roads during project implementation will have to be considered in this SEA. All impacted agencies will have to understand these affects and develop alternative access plans or accept limited road access during project implementation. Alternatively, the project would have to accommodate access needs during implementation. For example there will continue to be a need to regularly supply Camp Grip or the new FOB throughout the project, how will this be done within the existing road infrastructure? | 45.<br>See comment #7.  |
| 38. | 3-3 | 3.2.2.2. | 19 | ORPI | ". . . baseline conditions would return . . ." re: OPCNM and CPNWR visitors traveling the project route. This is not the case; in fact as a result of the proposed alternative baseline conditions would undergo permanent adverse impacts. These impacts need to be reevaluated. What is now a primitive undeveloped road through one of the largest wilderness systems in the US would have electrical pullboxes visible every 1000 feet. This would erode current aesthetics, and would imply the prospect of numerous new human developments tying in to commercial power. Also, restoration of these sites would need to be closely coordinated with and approved by the land manager.                                | No change in language   |
| 39. | 3-7 | 3.3.2.2. | 34 | ORPI | The proposed action would have indirect adverse effects on wilderness. For example although this and other future developments may take place in the non-wilderness corridor of the road, they could have major adverse impacts by being visible from the adjacent wilderness. These impacts need to be assessed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | See comment #8          |
| 40. | 3-8 | 3.3.2.2. | 4  | ORPI | As noted above, over the last 10 years, increases in DHS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Not addressed. See 3-8, |

|     |      |           |       |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                  |
|-----|------|-----------|-------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|     |      |           |       |      | staffing, infrastructure, technology, and vehicle access through wilderness areas has been coincident with continually increasing (not decreasing) impacts on wilderness values.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | lines 44-46 and 3-9, lines 1-12 as example.      |
| 41. | 3-22 | 3.6.2.2   | 38    | ORPI | BMPs involving re-vegetation and restoration must be developed with input from the land manager. The land manager must concur with planned re-vegetation and restoration work prior to solicitation of bids.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Addressed. See FONSI-12, line 36.                |
| 42. | 3-30 | 3.10.2.2. | 35    | ORPI | The proposed action may indirectly result in major, long-term adverse impact on Sonoran pronghorn. Establishing a commercial-grid powerline through the project area may facilitate further human development in the area, which would have adverse effects on Sonoran pronghorn.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | This topic needs clarification. See comment #14. |
| 43. | 3-32 | 3.10.2.2. | 1-2   | ORPI | This sentence is speculative, and is counter to observed trends over 10 years.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Don't know which sentence this is referring to.  |
| 44. | 3-53 | 3.16.2.2. | 15    | ORPI | The SEA is silent on the critical issue of how traffic passing through the construction zone(s) will be managed, to prevent additional impacts outside the current footprint of the 59.4 and Bates Well Roads. Currently these road may have as many as 6 vehicles passing per hour. Construction activities are likely to occupy virtually the entire width of these roads, which currently are barely wide enough for 2 vehicles to pass in opposite directions. How will pass-through traffic be managed, to prevent it from departing the current road footprint? If pass-through traffic will be driving off on the side of the road to pass construction area(s), that will result in additional environmental impacts. Such impacts would constitute major, long-term, adverse effects on multiple resources, and must be addressed in this SEA, or an EIS. | See comment #7.                                  |
| 45. | 3-54 | 3.17.2.2. | 30-41 | ORPI | Similar to comment 45.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                  |
| 46. | 5-5  | 5.7       | 7     | ORPI | CBP must identify, specifically what, if any improvements to existing roads will be required in order to implement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Addressed. See 2-9, line 37.                     |

|     |                 |     |       |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                             |
|-----|-----------------|-----|-------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|     |                 |     |       |      | the project throughout its entire length.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                             |
| 47. | 5-5             | 5.7 | 10-13 | ORPI | This paragraph is unclear. Any demarcation of project perimeters outside the footprint of the existing roadways in question must be determined solely by the land manager. Such areas, if needed, must be clearly identified, justified and openly coordinated with the land manager ahead of time during the compliance process. | Not well-addressed. See FONSI-11, line 34.                                  |
| 48. | 5-7             | 5.7 | 2     | ORPI | The maximum speed limit on all unpaved roads within OPCNM is 25 mph                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Addressed. See 5-6, line 9.                                                 |
| 49. | General comment |     |       | ORPI | Trenching by mechanical means may not be appropriate everywhere. Please describe more completely the methods, depths and locations that will be used to cross washes.                                                                                                                                                             | Horizontal boring will be used at some locations; see 2-7, line 14, 18, 42. |
| 50. | General Comment |     |       | ORPI | If a horizontal boring machine is to be used where will the sludge be stored and where will the machine be washed down?                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Addressed. See 2-9, line 10.                                                |
| 51. | General Comment |     |       | ORPI | How will compacting be done in trenched areas too narrow for the vibratory compactor.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Can't find reference to this.                                               |
| 52. | General Comment |     |       | ORPI | Please describe how the engineering road study being funded by CBP and conducted by Baker will be incorporated during this project to determine appropriate road grade and drainage for impacted sections of road.                                                                                                                |                                                                             |
|     |                 |     |       |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                             |
|     |                 |     |       |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                             |
|     |                 |     |       |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                             |





## THE COCOPAH INDIAN TRIBE

Cultural Resource Department  
County 15<sup>th</sup> & Avenue G  
Somerton, Arizona 85350-2689  
Telephone (928) 627-4849  
Cell (928)503-2291  
Fax (928) 627-3173

CCR-018-10-014

Patience E. Patterson, RPA  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
SBIInet, Program Management Office  
1901 S. Bell Street, Room 7-090  
Arlington, VA 20598

DATE: 01/11/2011

RE: Ajo-1 Draft SEA and Proposed FONSI

Dear: Ms Patterson

The Cultural Resources Department of the Cocopah Indian Tribe appreciates your consultation efforts on this project. We are pleased that you contacted our department on this issue for the purpose of solicitation of our input and to address our concerns on this matter. At this time we wish to make no comments on the development of the project. We defer the decision making process regarding the sensitive cultural resources of the area to the most local tribe(s) and support their determinations on this issue.

If you have any questions or need additional information please feel free to contact the cultural resource department. We will be happy to assist you with any future concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

H. Jill McCormick, M.A.

Cultural Resource Manager



# THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT (SEA) AND PROPOSED FINDING OF NO  
SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) FOR THE PROPOSED  
SBINET AJO-1 TOWER PROJECT, AJO STATION'S  
AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY, U.S. BORDER PATROL,  
TUCSON SECTOR**

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Phoenix, Arizona 85004

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- Comments on the draft SEA and proposed FONSI should be received by February 7, 2011. Please use only one of the following methods to submit your comments:
  - (a) By Email to: [ajoseacomments@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:ajoseacomments@cbp.dhs.gov)
  - (b) By mail to: Ms. Patience E. Patterson, RPA, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Technology, Innovation, and Acquisition Program Management Office, 1901 S. Bell Street, 7th Floor, Room 734, Arlington, VA 20556.
  - (c) By fax to: (571) 468-7331.
- When submitting comments, please include your name and address, and identify your comments as being for the SBinet Ajo-1 Tower Project draft SEA and proposed FONSI. To request a hard copy of the draft SEA, please use one of the aforementioned contact methods.
- Published: Jan. 6, 2011

STATE OF ARIZONA }  
COUNTY OF MARICOPA } SS.

Mark Gilmore, being first duly sworn, upon oath deposes and says: That he is a legal advertising representative of the Arizona Business Gazette, a newspaper of general circulation in the county of Maricopa, State of Arizona, published at Phoenix, Arizona, by Phoenix Newspapers Inc., which also publishes The Arizona Republic, and that the copy hereto attached is a true copy of the advertisement published in the said paper on the dates as indicated.

The Arizona Republic

January 6, 2011

Sworn to before me this  
7<sup>TH</sup> day of  
January A.D. 2011

  
Notary Public

# Ajo Copper News

Hollister David, Publisher  
Gabrielle David, Editor  
Michelle Pacheco, Office Manager

P. O. Box 39 • Ajo, Arizona 85321  
Phone (520) 387-7688  
FAX (520) 387-7505

STATE OF ARIZONA )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF PIMA )

Hollister David deposes and says that he is the publisher of the *Ajo Copper News*, a weekly newspaper of general circulation and established character, published weekly at Ajo, Pima County, Arizona, and that

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT (SEA) AND PROPOSED FINDING  
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THE PROPOSED SBINET AJO-1 TOWER  
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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                            |
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| Tohono O'odham Community College Library<br>Central Campus<br>Building 400, Room 402<br>Highway 86 Mile Post 115.5N<br>Sells, Arizona 85634<br>(520) 383-8401 | Phoenix Public Library<br>1221 N. Central Avenue<br>Phoenix, Arizona 85004 |
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- (b) By mail to: Ms. Patricia E. Patterson, RPA, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Technology, Innovation, and Acquisition Program Management Office, 190 S. Bell Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 734, Arlington, VA 22206.

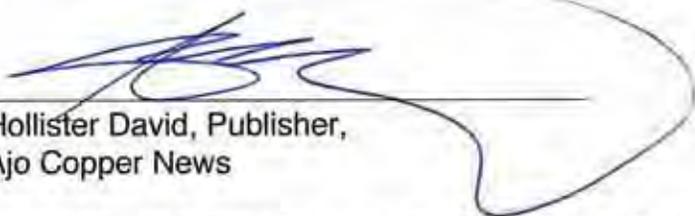
(c) By Fax to: (571) 468-7391. When submitting comments, please include your name and address, and identify your comments as being for the SBINET Ajo-1 Tower Project draft SEA and proposed FONSI. To request a hard copy of the draft SEA, please use one of the aforementioned contact methods.

Published in the *Ajo Copper News* on January 5, 2011.  
GSRC-NCA SBINet 110105 Gabrielle

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY DRAFT  
SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT (SEA) AND PROPOSED FINDING  
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PROPOSED SBINET AJO-1 TOWER PROJECT,  
AJO STATION'S AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY,  
U.S. BORDER PATROL, TUCSON SECTOR**

a correct copy of which is attached to this affidavit, was published in the said *Ajo Copper News* every week in the newspaper proper and not in a supplement for

Publ. January 5, 2011

  
Hollister David, Publisher,  
Ajo Copper News

Sworn to and subscribed before me, a Notary Public in and for the County of Pima, Arizona, this 5 day of January, 2010.



Notary Public



TUCSON NEWSPAPERS

Tucson, Arizona

STATE OF ARIZONA)
COUNTY OF PIMA)

Debbie Capanear, being first duly sworn deposes and says: that she is the Legal Advertising Representative of TNI PARTNERS, commonly known as TUCSON NEWSPAPERS, a General Partnership organized and existing under the laws of the State of Arizona, and that it prints and publishes the Arizona Daily Star, a daily newspaper printed and published in the City of Tucson, Pima County, State of Arizona, and having a general circulation in said City, County, State and elsewhere, and that the attached

Legal Notice

was printed and published correctly in the entire issue of the said Arizona Daily Star on each of the following dates, to-wit:

JANUARY 6, 2011

Debbie Capanear (handwritten signature)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4 day of February, 2011

Silvia H Valdez (handwritten signature)
Notary Public

SILVIA H VALDEZ
Notary Public—Arizona
Pima County
Expires 12/15/2013

My commission expires

TNI AD NO. 7370856

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Publtn January 6, 2011
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(c) By fax to: (571) 468-7391.





U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

January 6, 2011

Ms. Greta Anderson  
Center for Biological Diversity  
P.O. Box 710  
Tucson, Arizona 85702

Subject: Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

Dear Participant:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 6, 2011 and ends on February 7, 2011. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared this draft SEA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the construction of fiber optic and commercial grid power to existing CBP communication and sensor towers. The SEA also analyzes the rehabilitation of a hole on Growler Mountain that was excavated during the initial construction of a proposed communication tower on Growler Mountain. The existing communication and sensor towers were previously analyzed in the *Environmental Assessment for the Proposed SBnet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona*, finalized in December 2009. The document can also be viewed and down loaded at the following URL address: [http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/border\\_security/sbi/sbi\\_news/sbi\\_enviro\\_docs/nepa/](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/border_security/sbi/sbi_news/sbi_enviro_docs/nepa/)

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide a communication link between towers to ensure effectiveness and reduce impacts to sensitive resources. The supplemental action is needed to:

- 1) Increase efficiency of border surveillance and interdiction;
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- 3) Reduce impacts from the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project on designated wilderness;
- 4) Reduce impacts to Sonoran pronghorn; and
- 5) Remediate impacts that occurred at the TCA-AJO-189 tower site (Growler Mountain)

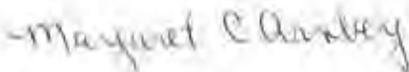
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- (c) By fax to: 571-468-7391, Attention: Ms. Patience Patterson

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Sincerely,



Margaret C. Arnberg  
Program Manager, SBInet  
Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition  
Customs and Border Protection  
Enclosure(s)



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

January 6, 2011

Mr. Lee Baiza  
Park Superintendent  
National Park Service  
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument  
10 Organ Pipe Drive  
Ajo, Arizona 85321

Subject: Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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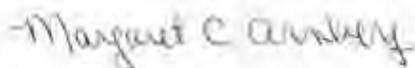
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Margaret C. Arnberg  
Program Manager, SBInet  
Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition  
Customs and Border Protection  
Enclosure(s)



**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

January 6, 2011

Ms. Sherry Barrett  
Assistant Field Supervisor for Southern Arizona  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
110 South Church Avenue  
Suite 3450  
Tucson, Arizona 85701

**Subject:** Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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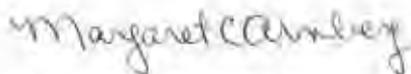
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Sincerely,



Margaret C. Arnberg  
Program Manager, SBInet  
Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition  
Customs and Border Protection  
Enclosure(s)



**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

January 6, 2011

Mr. Brian Bellow  
Field Manager  
Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of Interior  
12661 East Broadway  
Tucson, Arizona 85748

**Subject:** Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBnet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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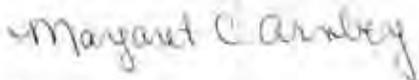
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Program Manager, SBInet  
Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition  
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Enclosure(s)



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

January 6, 2011

Ms. Marjorie Blaine  
Senior Project Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Los Angeles District, Arizona Regulatory Branch  
5205 East Comanche Street  
Tucson, Arizona 85707

Subject: Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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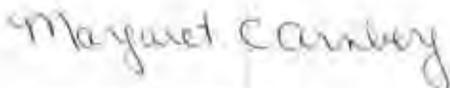
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Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition  
Customs and Border Protection  
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**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

January 6, 2011

Mr. Nova Blazej  
Manager Environmental Review Office Coordinator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, California 94105

Subject: Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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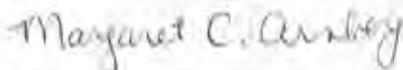
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Program Manager, SBInet  
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U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

January 6, 2011

Mr. Dan Brocius  
Public Information  
Smithsonian Institution, Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory  
P.O. Box 97  
670 Mount Hopkins Road  
Amado, Arizona 85645-0097

Subject: Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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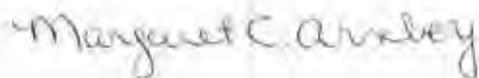
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U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

January 6, 2011

Ms. Laura Canaca  
Project Evaluation Program Supervisor  
Arizona Game and Fish  
Habitat Branch-Project Evaluation Program  
2221 West Greenway Road  
Phoenix, Arizona 85023

Subject: Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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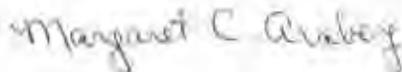
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U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

January 6, 2011

Ms. Elizabeth Alvarez del Castillo  
Kitt Peak National Observatory  
950 North Cherry Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85719

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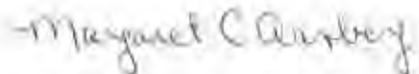
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Customs and Border Protection  
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**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

January 6, 2011

Mr. Matt Clark  
Southwest Representative  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Southwest Office, 110 South Church Street  
Suite 4292  
Tucson, Arizona 85701

**Subject:** Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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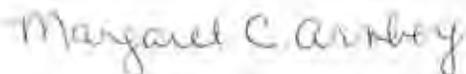
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U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

January 6, 2011

The Honorable Sherry Cordova  
Chairperson  
Cocopah Tribal Council  
Attn: Lisa Wanstall, Museum Director  
Cocopah Museum  
County 15<sup>th</sup> and Avenue G  
Somerton, Arizona 85350

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Sincerely,



Margaret C. Arnberg  
Program Manager, SBInet  
Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition  
Customs and Border Protection  
Enclosure(s)



**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

January 6, 2011

Mr. Christopher Corbally, S.J.  
Vatican Observatory Group  
University of Arizona, Steward Observatory  
Tucson, Arizona 85721

**Subject:** Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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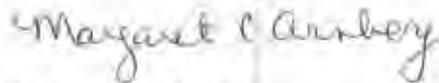
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Customs and Border Protection  
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**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

January 6, 2011

The Honorable Diane Enos  
President  
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community  
Attn: Mr. Dan Daggett, Cultural Programs Supervisor or Ms. Dezbah Hatathli  
10005 East Osborn Road  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85256

**Subject:** Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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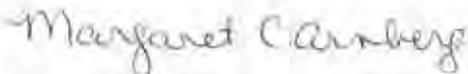
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Program Manager, SBInet  
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**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

January 6, 2011

Mr. Robert L. Gent  
President  
International Dark-Sky Association  
4204 South Hohokam Drive  
Sierra Vista, Arizona 85650

**Subject:** Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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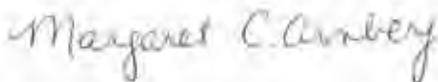
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U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

January 6, 2011

The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords  
Representative (Arizona-8<sup>th</sup>)  
United States House of Representatives  
502 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0308

Subject: Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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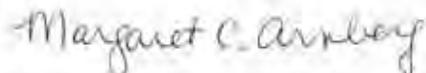
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**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

January 6, 2011

The Honorable Raul Grijavala  
Representative (Arizona-7<sup>th</sup>)  
United States House of Representatives  
1440 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0307

**Subject:** Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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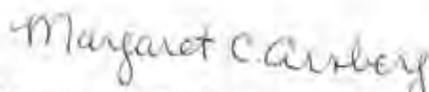
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U.S. Customs and  
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January 6, 2011

Mr. Benjamin Grumbles  
Director  
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
1110 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Subject: Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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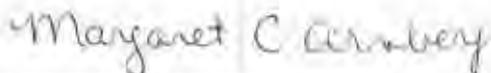
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**U.S. Customs and  
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January 6, 2011

Ms. Lisa Hanf  
Office of Federal Activities  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 9, Federal Activities Office (CMD-2)  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, California 94105

**Subject:** Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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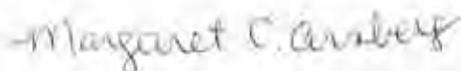
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**U.S. Customs and  
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January 6, 2011

The Honorable Chairwoman Marla Henry  
Tohono O'odham Nation  
Tohono O'odham Nation Administration Building  
49 Main Street  
Sells, Arizona 85634

**Subject:** Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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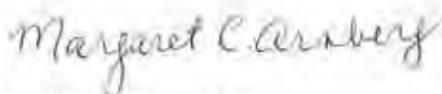
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Sincerely,



Margaret C. Arnberg  
Program Manager, SBInet  
Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition  
Customs and Border Protection  
Enclosure(s)



**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

January 6, 2011

Mr. Michael Horton  
National Section 7 Coordinator  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4401 North Fairfax Drive  
Suite 420  
Arlington, Virginia 22203

**Subject:** Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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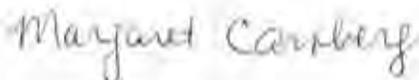
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Program Manager, SBInet  
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U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

January 6, 2011

Ms. Karen Howe  
Ecologist  
Tohono O'odham Nation  
Wildlife and Vegetation Management  
Tohono O'odham Nation Administration Building  
49 Main Street  
Sells, Arizona 85634

Subject: Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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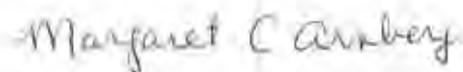
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Program Manager, SBInet  
Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition  
Customs and Border Protection  
Enclosure(s)



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

January 6, 2011

Mr. C. H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator  
Pima County  
130 West Congress St.  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Subject: Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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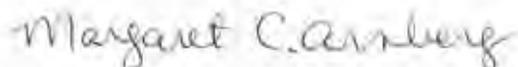
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U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

January 6, 2011

Dr. Buell T. Jannuzi  
Director  
Kitt Peak National Observatory  
950 N. Cherry Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85719

Subject: Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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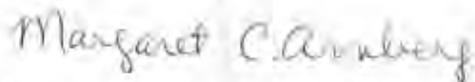
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**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

January 6, 2011

The Honorable Jon Kyl  
Senator (Arizona)  
United States House Senate  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0304

**Subject:** Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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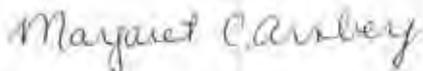
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U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

January 6, 2011

Ms. Jody Latimer  
Manager  
Arizona State Land Department  
Natural Resource Conservation Division  
1616 West Adams Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Subject: Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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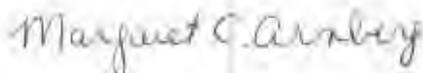
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**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

January 6, 2011

The Honorable Ronnie Lupe  
Chairman  
White Mountain Apache Tribe  
Attn: Mr. Mark Atalha, THPO  
White Mountain Apache Tribe Historic Preservation Office  
202 East Walnut Street  
Whiteriver, Arizona 85941

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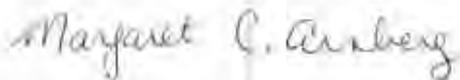
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**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

January 6, 2011

Colonel Thomas H. Magness, IV  
District Commander  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Los Angeles District  
915 Wilshire Boulevard  
Suite 980  
Los Angeles, California 90017

**Subject:** Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

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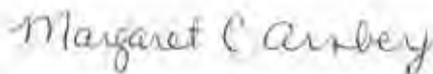
The draft SEA was prepared in accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 023-01, Environmental Planning Program*.

CBP invites your participation in this public review process. Comments must be received by close of business February 7, 2011. When submitting your comments, please include your name and address, and identify your comments as intended for the Ajo-1 Draft SEA and Proposed FONSI. Comments or questions regarding this enclosed document can be submitted via:

- (a) E-mail to: [ajoseacomment@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:ajoseacomment@cbp.dhs.gov), or
- (b) By mail to: Ms. Patience E. Patterson, RPA, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, SBInet Program Management Office, 1901 S. Bell Street, Room 7-090, Arlington, Virginia 20598, or
- (c) By fax to: 571-468-7391, Attention: Ms. Patience Patterson

Your comments regarding this effort are greatly appreciated. Please also provide any changes to your name and address information so that we may keep our contact records current. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Ms. Patterson via E-mail or the postal address listed above.

Sincerely,



Margaret C. Arnberg  
Program Manager, SBInet  
Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition  
Customs and Border Protection  
Enclosure(s)