

# Draft Finding Of No Significant Impact

## Environmental Assessment for Verizon Fiber Optic Project

### Fort Irwin, California

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR, Parts 1500-1508) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 USC 4321 et. seq.) and US Army regulations (35 CFR 651, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions), the Army conducted an environmental assessment (EA) of the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Verizon Fiber Optic Project at Fort Irwin, California.

## Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to respond to increasing broadband demand in the Fort Irwin service area to support the installation's current and future broadband requirements for residential customers, government/education facilities, military, and businesses.

Broadband capacity is insufficient to meet the needs of users in the Verizon Fort Irwin service area. Additional capacity is required to meet current and future broadband demand.

The Proposed Action would achieve the following objectives:

- Provide sufficient data bandwidth for voice, video and data to Fort Irwin.
- Install a new fiber optic cable through the most cost-efficient and least environmentally damaging construction methods.

## Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is the installation of new conduit and fiber optic cable as the preferred alternative. It is comprised of three elements that include a Underground Route A, an Aerial Placement Route A, and a Staging Area located west of Fort Irwin Road and in the cantonment area of Fort Irwin. These project elements are described in greater detail below. The Proposed Action would take approximately 16 to 21 weeks to complete. Routine maintenance of the fiber optic line would not occur. Specific repairs would be made as-needed.

**Underground Route A** - would be approximately 7.8 miles in length. Underground Route A would begin at the existing Verizon manhole pickup located on the west side of Fort Irwin Road, approximately 0.25 mile south of the Fort Irwin welcome sign and static helicopter and tank display. From here, the route would follow an existing tank trail approximately 165 feet west of Fort Irwin Road until the trail ends at Outer Loop Road. The route would cross Outer Loop Road and the fiber optic line would transition to an aerial route at existing riser utility pole 4659666E, approximately 725 feet north of

the intersection of Barstow Road and Outer Loop Road.

Verizon would use the trenching construction method to construct the majority of Underground Route A. With this method, a 14-inch-wide, 36-inch-deep trench would be excavated the majority of the length of the route, from the existing Verizon manhole pickup described above to Outer Loop Road, using back hoes. Where large rocks are encountered, a rock saw would be used. A four-inch sand cushion will be placed under the fiber optic cable, and the cable will be covered with 32-inches of native soil. The total work area that would be temporarily disturbed during construction would be approximately 30 feet wide (15 feet on center of the trench). A maximum of 1,000 feet of trench would be open each day. Any open trenches would be covered at the end of the day, and temporary fencing would be placed to secure each location for the duration the trenches remain open. This alternative would require approximately 4,000 gallons of water per day, or less than 1 acre-foot of water, for dust control and trench compaction.

Directional boring would be used to tunnel under Outer Loop Road to existing riser utility pole 4659666E to avoid cutting into the road surface. The directional bore portion of Underground Route A would be approximately 670 feet in length. Detailed traffic control methods for construction in the cantonment area would be provided in a Traffic Control Plan (TCP) to be approved by Fort Irwin. Measures may include signs informing motorists to reduce speed, "Worker Ahead" signs, traffic cones, light boards, and flag control personnel as needed.

Hand holes (small access boxes) of dimensions 2-feet-wide by 3-feet-long by 30-inches-deep would be placed along the route every 1,000 feet. Approximately 41 hand holes would be required. The hand holes will be buried a minimum of 10 inches below grade, and a geographic positioning system (GPS) locator device would be placed inside the hand hole to aid in locating the hand hole for future maintenance, if required. A 50-foot coil of fiber optic cable would be placed inside every third hand hole (every 3,000 feet). In the event of accidental damage to the fiber optic cable, these 50-foot coils would be used to repair the damaged cable.

**Aerial Placement Route A** - Aerial Placement Route A is approximately one mile in length. With Aerial Placement Route A, the line would cross Barstow Road continue north on existing poles on the east side of Barstow Road, cross Barstow Road and Bastogne Street, continue north on the west side of Bastogne Street, travel briefly east on the north side of Salerno Drive to poles on the west side of Barstow Road, then travel north to terminate at the existing Verizon Fort Irwin Central Office located in Building 12 (Figure 2-3). All cable would be placed on existing utility poles in compliance with California General Order 95 Rules for Overhead Line Construction. Detailed traffic control methods for construction along in the cantonment area would be provided in a TCP to be approved by Fort Irwin.

Routine maintenance of the fiber optic line would not occur. Specific repairs would be made as-needed.

## Alternatives Considered

The Army considered the Preferred Alternative (Proposed Action), Alternative 1, Alternative 2, Alternative 3, and the No Action Alternative. The project alternatives include combinations of different routes for the underground and aerial components of the project. The staging area would be in the same location for all project alternatives.

With the No Action Alternative, the fiber optic line would not be installed at Fort Irwin. Although the environmental consequences associated with the project would not occur within the National Training Center, Fort Irwin would continue to have insufficient data bandwidth for voice, video and data.

Two potential alternatives were considered but not carried forward for detailed analysis. These alternatives were evaluated to determine whether they could provide a feasible alternative but were rejected because they did not meet one or more of the project objectives.

The alternative of using a directional bore method of construction along the tank trail (Underground Route A) was evaluated but not carried forward because this type of installation method would not be feasible due to the rocky nature of the soil. Therefore, the alternative of using a directional bore method for Underground Route A was not carried forward for detailed analysis.

The alternative of using trenching to install the fiber optic line along Fort Irwin Road (Underground Route B) was evaluated but not carried forward because this type of installation method would potentially cause greater disruption to the Fort Irwin Road infrastructure and traffic patterns than the directional bore method. Therefore, the alternative of trenching for Underground Route B was not carried forward for detailed analysis.

## Summary of Impacts

Impacts to environmental and socioeconomic resources resulting from implementation of the Preferred Alternative and the No Action Alternative are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of Impacts

Resource	Preferred Alternative Environmental Consequences	No Action Alternative Environmental Consequences
<b>Land Use Planning and Aesthetics</b>		
Site and Installation of Preferred Alternative	<u>Construction and Operation</u> : The proposed use would be compatible with installation land use plans and visual characteristics of its surroundings.	Other projects would continue to occur within the Fort Irwin cantonment, which may affect the aesthetics of the landscape and change or modify land uses.
Surrounding Area	<u>Construction and Operation</u> : No impact.	Other projects would continue to occur within the Fort Irwin cantonment, which may affect the aesthetics of the landscape and change or modify land uses.
<b>Geology, Soils, and Minerals Resources</b>		
Geology and Mineral Resources	<u>Construction and Operation</u> : No impact.	No impact on geology would occur. No impact on mineral resources would occur as Fort Irwin is designated for military training.
Soils	<u>Construction</u> : Potential for soil erosion impacts during construction.	Soil erosion impacts would continue as a result of construction from other projects and training activities.
Seismicity	<u>Construction and Operation</u> : The new fiber optic line would be exposed to seismic hazards but would be designed and constructed according to seismic design criteria in the current California Building Code.	With the No Action Alternative, seismic hazards would remain the same.
<b>Biological Resources</b>		
Flora	<u>Construction</u> : Temporary impacts to 4.38 acres of desert scrub habitat.  <u>Operation</u> : Minor temporary impacts if hand holes need to be accessed for repairs. The majority of hand holes are within disturbed/developed areas.	With the No Action Alternative, current conditions would be expected to continue and there would be no new effect on plant communities in the Proposed Action area.
Special-Status Species (Flora)	<u>Construction and Operation</u> : No impacts.	With the No Action Alternative, current conditions would be expected to continue.

Resource	Preferred Alternative Environmental Consequences	No Action Alternative Environmental Consequences
Fauna	<p><u>Construction:</u> Temporary impacts to 4.38 acres of desert scrub habitat.</p> <p><u>Operation:</u> 41 buried hand holds would create a total of 246 square feet of barrier to burrowing animals. Minor temporary impacts if hand holes need to be accessed for repairs. The majority of hand holes are within disturbed/developed areas.</p>	Current conditions would be expected to continue and no new impacts to wildlife, including general wildlife and special-status species that encompass federal- and state-listed species and other special-status species, would occur.
Special-Status Species (Fauna)	<p><u>Construction:</u> Potential temporary impact to transient desert tortoise, some bird species, kit fox, and American badger. Temporary impacts to 7.60 acres of critical habitat for desert tortoise, of which 5.37 acres is disturbed.</p> <p><u>Operation:</u> 41 buried hand holes would create a total of 246 square feet of barrier to burrowing animals. Minor temporary impacts if hand holes need to be accessed for repairs.</p>	Current conditions would be expected to continue and no new impacts to wildlife, including general wildlife and special-status species that encompass federal- and state-listed species and other special-status species, would occur.
Pest Species	<p><u>Construction:</u> Construction activity might attract additional pest species, including ravens and coyotes, where additional food, trash, or water is available.</p> <p><u>Operation:</u> No new impacts. Use of existing utility poles for aerial portion of the fiber line will not increase or decrease current impacts of these poles.</p>	Current conditions would be expected to continue.
Jurisdictional Waters	<p><u>Construction:</u> No impact.</p> <p><u>Operation:</u> No impact.</p>	Current conditions would be expected to continue.
<b>Water Resources</b>		
Surface Water	<u>Construction and Operation:</u> Ground disturbing activities can make soil on project sites more susceptible to soil erosion. Storm events can carry sediment from disturbed areas that are susceptible to erosion to surface waters affecting water quality.	Current impacts to surface waters (sedimentation) would continue as a result of construction and training activities.

Resource	Preferred Alternative Environmental Consequences	No Action Alternative Environmental Consequences
Groundwater	<p><u>Construction</u>: Consumption of groundwater resources during construction for dust control.</p> <p><u>Operation</u>: No impact.</p>	<p>With the No Action Alternative current groundwater impacts would continue into the future. Fort Irwin would continue to obtain its potable water from groundwater. Groundwater management indicates that following the <i>Water Basin Development Plan's</i> recommendation of groundwater development would extend the production longevity of the basins into the future while meeting estimated future post demands.</p>
Drainage Patterns	No Impact.	No Impact.
<b>Air Quality</b>	<p><u>Construction</u>: Potential for fugitive dust emissions from soil disturbance during construction. Construction vehicle and equipment exhaust emissions. All emissions would be below MDAQMD thresholds and General Conformity Rule <i>de minimus</i> thresholds.</p> <p><u>Operation</u>: Any emissions from repair, if needed, would be less than construction emissions.</p>	<p>With the No Action Alternative existing air quality conditions would continue. San Bernardino County, where Fort Irwin is located, is designated nonattainment for PM<sub>10</sub> for both federal and state standards. The southern portion of the installation (below the 90 Universal Transverse Mercator [UTM] grid line) is designated nonattainment for O<sub>3</sub> for both federal and state standards.</p>
<b>Climate Change</b>	<p><u>Construction</u>: The Proposed Action would generate GHG emissions from construction related activities. Construction would result in a short-term increase in GHG emissions. The Proposed Action would not result in significant GHG emissions.</p> <p><u>Operation</u>: Operational impacts would be limited to emissions from work trucks that would be used for repair of the fiber optic line on an as-needed basis. These emissions would be lower than those described for construction.</p>	<p>With the No Action Alternative existing conditions would continue.</p>
<b>Noise</b>	<p><u>Construction</u>: Temporary Increase in noise level from construction activities. Activities would occur during normal working hours.</p> <p><u>Operation</u>: Operation activities would not be associated with any noise impacts.</p>	<p>With the No Action Alternative existing noise impacts would continue. Existing noise sources that are common throughout the cantonment include overhead aircraft noise, vehicular traffic noise, and construction related noise.</p>

Resource	Preferred Alternative Environmental Consequences	No Action Alternative Environmental Consequences
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	<p><u>Construction</u>: No historic properties would be affected. The Preferred Alternative would comply with post-review discovery procedures pursuant to 36 CFR 800.13(b)(1), (2), or (3) in the event that any previously undiscovered archaeological remains are uncovered during construction.</p> <p><u>Operation</u>: No impacts to cultural resources are expected during operation.</p>	<p>Ongoing construction and training activities have the potential to uncover previously undiscovered archaeological resources. However, the Environmental Division of the Directorate of Public Works would continue to manage archaeological resources that are encountered.</p>
<b>Socioeconomics</b>	<p><u>Construction and Operation</u>: No impacts to housing. No disproportionate adverse impacts to low-income or minority populations or children.</p>	<p>With the No Action Alternative existing socioeconomic conditions of Fort Irwin and the surrounding communities would persist.</p>
<b>Hazardous and Toxic Substances</b>	<p><u>Construction</u>: One Small Arms Range and three historic ranges have been identified near the alignment of the underground route. No other recognized environmental concerns would be affected by the Proposed Action. Use of small quantities of potentially hazardous materials (e.g. oils, grease) during construction.</p> <p><u>Operation</u>: No impacts would occur during operation of the fiber optic line.</p>	<p>With the No Action Alternative existing use of hazardous and toxic substances on Fort Irwin would continue.</p>
<b>Transportation/ Utilities</b>	<p>Transportation (<u>Construction</u>): Effects to traffic during construction would be less than significant with use of traffic control plan.</p> <p>(<u>Operation</u>): No impacts during operation.</p> <p>Utilities (<u>Construction/Operation</u>): A beneficial effect would occur from the Proposed Action because the fiber optic line would increase the broadband capacity.</p>	<p>No impact. Without the fiber optic line, Fort Irwin's broadband capacity would remain the same.</p>

# Mitigation Summary

Mitigation measures will be implemented to ensure adverse environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the Proposed Action will be avoided or minimized to acceptable levels. These mitigation measures will be incorporated into the design, construction, operation, and maintenance plans, implemented by the project proponent and general construction contractor, and included in all contract documents. A summary of the measures is presented in Table 2. Mitigation measures must be implemented for the Proposed Action to have a less than significant effect on the human and natural environment.

Table 2. Summary of Mitigation Measures

Resource	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measure
<b>Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources</b>		
	Soil erosion	<p><b>G-1:</b> Proper construction, soil management, and stormwater protection practices will prevent soil erosion and the loss of topsoil. Construction specifications will identify areas where soil excavation, grading, stockpiling, backfilling, or other disturbance may occur. The construction specifications will identify appropriate construction and soil management practices, such as stockpiling adjacent to the construction area, minimizing areas of disturbance, and appropriate slopes for excavations and backfill. The construction specifications will also identify the proper methods for protection of disturbed or exposed soils to prevent erosion.</p> <p>Prevention of soil erosion and loss of topsoil due to rainfall and stormwater will be addressed through the preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP will be prepared to identify site activities and conditions that may result in erosion or loss of topsoil due to stormwater runoff. Appropriate best management practices (BMPs) for protection of disturbed areas and stockpiled soil will be identified. These BMPs may include check dams, slope diversions, and temporary diversion dikes for runoff control. Other BMPs that could be implemented for sediment control could include compost filter berms and socks, fiber rolls, or berms; sediment basins, rock dams, filters, chambers, or traps; silt fences; and hay bales. Staked fiber roles would be placed at all potential drainage features for the duration of construction and 2 weeks after completion of construction. Good housekeeping measures would be practiced</p>

Resource	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measure
		during construction. Site-specific stormwater BMPs would be detailed in a construction SWPPP that would be prepared by the construction contractor prior to breaking ground. The SWPPP will also identify the applicable monitoring parameters and frequencies to be implemented in the case of storm events that occur during the construction period. The SWPPP will be submitted to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and a copy must be maintained onsite during construction.

**Biological Resources**

Desert tortoise (May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect)	<b>B-1:</b>	Within two weeks prior to the onset of construction, a pre-construction desert tortoise survey shall be conducted by an authorized biologist within all work areas that contain desert tortoise habitat and that would be affected, directly or indirectly, by project activities. If no tortoises or active burrows are identified, then construction would proceed without interruption. If active burrows or tortoises are identified, construction would be delayed and consultation with the Fort Irwin Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Division regarding compliance with the USFWS Biological Opinion (BO) for Operations and Activities at Fort Irwin would occur.
Desert tortoise (May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect)	<b>B-2:</b>	Before construction begins, personnel working on the site shall receive a briefing on the desert tortoise, detailing the life history of a desert tortoise and the protocol to follow if a tortoise is encountered at the work site.
Desert tortoise (May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect)	<b>B-3:</b>	During construction, a biological monitor shall be available to observe construction activities and verify that no tortoises wander into the construction site. If a tortoise is present, construction in the immediate vicinity would be halted and coordination with the Fort Irwin DPW Environmental Division regarding compliance with the USFWS BO for Operations and Activities at Fort Irwin would occur.

Resource	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measure
	Desert tortoise (May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect)	<b>B-4:</b> To avoid wildlife pitfalls, at the end of each day, the biological monitor shall ensure that all potential wildlife pitfalls, such as trenches and bores, have been backfilled. If backfilling is not feasible, all trenches, bores, and other excavations shall be sloped at a 3:1 ratio at the ends or at certain distances to provide wildlife escape ramps, or covered completely to prevent wildlife access, or fully enclosed with desert tortoise-exclusion fencing. All trenches, bores, and other excavations shall be inspected periodically throughout the day and at the end of the work day. Any wildlife encountered during the construction process shall be allowed to leave the construction area unharmed.
	Desert tortoise (May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect)	<b>B-5:</b> To avoid entrapment of desert tortoise, any construction pipe, culvert, or similar structure with a diameter greater than three inches, stored less than eight inches above ground for one or more nights, shall be inspected for tortoises before the material is moved, buried, or capped. These structures may be capped or placed on pipe racks as an alternative to required inspections.
	Desert tortoise (May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect)	<b>B-6:</b> Workers shall check underneath each on-site, parked vehicle or piece of equipment prior to moving it. If a desert tortoise is observed, the vehicle shall not be moved until the tortoise is relocated from the area.
	Desert tortoise (May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect)	<b>B-7:</b> Prior to construction start construction boundaries will be clearly delineated on the ground using flagging, survey lath, or wooden stakes.
	Mohave ground squirrel	<b>B-8</b> To the most practicable extent possible, the construction crews shall site bore pits and other excavation in areas where squirrel burrows are not located.
	Other special-status species (Fauna) (Migratory Birds)	<b>B-9:</b> To avoid take of any species protected under the MBTA, a pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist not more than seven (7) days prior to the onset of ground disturbance that is to occur between February 15 and September 15. The nest surveys shall include the project site and adjacent areas within 500 feet of the project site. If nesting migratory birds are not

Resource	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measure
		<p>observed during the survey, site preparation and construction activities may begin. If an active migratory bird nest is located, a buffer shall be established around the nesting location at a distance recommended by the monitoring biologist in coordination with the Fort Irwin Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Division. Typically this is a minimum of 300 feet from the nest site in all directions (500 feet is typically recommended by CDFW for raptors), until juveniles have fledged and there is no evidence of a second attempt of nesting. Stakes or signs shall be used to clearly mark the nest buffer. Construction shall not be permitted within the buffer areas while the nest continues to be active. A biological monitor shall be present during construction to monitor the nest(s), make sure construction activities are not disturbing the nest, and document any findings. Once the monitoring biologist determines that the nest is no longer active, the buffer shall be removed and construction activities may resume in that area.</p>
	<p>Other special-status species (Fauna) (Migratory Birds)</p>	<p><b>B-10:</b> Land and vegetation clearing should occur outside the breeding season for birds listed under the MBTA, defined as February 15 to August 31. If land and vegetation clearing occurs during the breeding season, then implementation of B-8 will prevent impacts to nesting birds during these activities.</p>
	<p>Other special-status species (Fauna) (Burrowing Owl)</p>	<p><b>B-11:</b> A pre-construction take avoidance survey for burrowing owl shall be conducted no less than 14 days prior to initiating ground disturbing activities using the methods described in CDFW Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012) and in consultation with the Fort Irwin Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Division. Identified active nests shall be protected from disturbance with a buffer distance determined through monitoring the behavior of the owls and according to CDFW guidelines (2012) which identifies buffer distances based on the time of year and level of disturbance associated with construction activities.</p> <p>Mitigation measures could also include passive relocation of burrowing owls outside of the nesting season (September 1 through January 31). A specific mitigation methodology for the owl shall be determined</p>

Resource	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measure
		in consultation with the Fort Irwin DPW Environmental Division.
Other special-status species (Fauna) (Kit Fox)	<b>B-12:</b>	During the pre-construction survey, biologists shall survey for desert kit fox dens. Active dens that are identified shall be flagged for avoidance and protected from ground-disturbing activities with a buffer distance determined through monitoring the behavior of the fox(es) and coordination with the Fort Irwin DPW Environmental Division. During the pup-rearing season, maternity dens shall be protected and avoided (1 January through 31 July). If avoidance of a non-maternity den is not feasible, the Fort Irwin DPW Environmental Division shall be contacted about approved kit fox passive relocation measures (den collapse after burrow scoping) outside of breeding and pup-rearing season (August 1 to January 1).
Other special-status species (Fauna) (Kit Fox)	<b>B-13:</b>	Domestic dogs shall not be allowed on the construction site.
Other special-status species (Fauna) (American Badger)	<b>B-14:</b>	During the pre-construction survey, biologists shall survey for badger dens. If present, occupied badger dens shall be flagged for avoidance and ground-disturbing activities avoided within 50 feet of the occupied den. During the pup-rearing season, maternity dens shall be avoided (15 February through 1 July) and a minimum 200-foot buffer established. Buffers may be modified with the concurrence of the Fort Irwin Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Division. If avoidance of a non-maternity den is not feasible, the Fort Irwin DPW Environmental Division shall be contacted about approved badger relocation techniques.
Pest species	<b>B-15:</b>	To preclude attraction of common ravens and coyotes, construction trash, including construction worker food trash, shall be placed in sealed containers and emptied at the close of each business day. The project area shall be kept as clean of debris as possible. Each water source will be caged or netted to prevent use by ravens.

Resource	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measure
	Pest species	<b>B-16:</b> All road-killed animals shall be reported to the Fort Irwin Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Division, Natural Resources Section immediately.
	Pest species	<b>B-17:</b> Water used for construction shall be used in a manner that does not result in the formation of standing water that may attract pest species. Water trucks with open tops shall be covered securely at the end of each work day.
	Pest species	<b>B-18:</b> Structures shall have appropriate nesting deterrent mechanisms installed such as bird spikes and auditory or visual deterrents to discourage and/or prevent common ravens from using structures as nesting substrates.
Air Quality	Fugitive Dust	<p><b>A-1:</b> During construction the contractor shall employ dust suppression BMPs, to comply with MDAQMD Rules 403 and 403.2 to reduce fugitive dust. The Rules' requirements are below:</p> <p>Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust, requires fugitive dust emissions to be restricted such that visible dust does not travel beyond the property line, and requires minimization of fugitive dust to the extent possible.</p> <p>Rule 403.2 – Fugitive Dust Control for the Mojave Desert Planning Area, requires dust control measures to be implemented during construction, including watering, reduction of track out, covering of vehicles carrying loose materials, stabilization of graded areas, and reduction of nonessential earthmoving activities during high wind periods.</p>

Resource	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measure
Hazardous and Toxic Substances	Historic Ranges	<p><b>H-1:</b> A qualified UXO contractor shall monitor trenching activities in the areas in proximity to historic ranges, approximately 3.5 miles to 4.5 miles from the beginning of the alignment at the existing Verizon manhole pickup and approximately 0.5 mile to 1.5 miles from the beginning of the alignment at the existing Verizon manhole pickup. If a hazard is identified, construction in the immediate vicinity will be halted and coordination with the Fort Irwin DPW Environmental Division regarding removal of the hazard would occur. Additionally, project plans would include the development of an approved Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Plan (SPCCP) to avoid potential spills or leaks of contaminants associated with the Verizon fiber optic line.</p>
Transportation	Traffic	<p><b>T-1:</b> During construction a traffic control plan will be designed and implemented, which could include lane closures and detours. Flaggers would be used only where determined needed. The construction contractor will coordinate with appropriate Fort Irwin personnel to ensure that emergency operations are not impacted by construction activities. If necessary, construction could occur during low-traffic volume periods, such as at night.</p>

## Public Comment

The final draft EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) were made available for review and comment for 30 days, from January 28, 2016 to February 26, 2016. Copies of the EA were available at the Barstow Library at 304 East Buena Vista Street, Barstow, California 92311, the Fort Irwin Post Library at 331 2nd Street, Fort Irwin, California 92310, and online at

<http://www.irwin.army.mil/Community/Environment/Pages/NEPA.aspx>.

Throughout this process, the public was able to obtain information on the status of the Proposed Action and EA through the Fort Irwin Directorate of Public Works (DPW), Environmental Management Division. The review and comment period ended February 26, 2016

## Conclusion

Based on the analysis presented in the EA, I find that implementation of the Proposed Action, as described, would have no significant impact on the human or natural environment. Therefore, a Finding of No Significant Impact is issued for the Proposed Action, and no Environmental Impact Statement is required.

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Date

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G. Scott Taylor

COL, AR

Commanding