Ector County, Texas’s request for Emergency Authorization for standard Section 106 review to proceed, dated July 10 and posted on ECFS on July 13, 2020, for TCNS#s 201051 and 201048 is granted via this email.

On June 25, 2020, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau issued a Public Notice announcing an electronic process for FCC licensees to apply for emergency authorization to resume standard historic preservation review for qualifying critical infrastructure projects during this COVID-19 crisis. See Section 106 Emergency Authorizations During Covid-19, Public Notice, DA 20-668, Rel. June 25, 2020. Ector County requested an emergency authorization [click here to view request] under this process based upon one of the criteria set forth in the Public Notice – “support of public safety initiatives (e.g. public safety network deployments) or critical infrastructure initiatives (e.g., transportation and utilities) prioritized by Federal, State, or local governments or by public safety authorities to meet communications needs during the COVID-19 crisis.”

Standard Section 106 review will proceed for these projects in accordance with the procedures established in the Second Report and Order, notwithstanding State or Tribal Historic Preservation Office closures. See Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, Second Report and Order, 33 FCC Rcd 3102, 3151, para. 111 (2018) (Second Report and Order), remanded in part sub nom., United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians v. FCC, No. 18-1129, 2019 WL 3756373 (D.C. Cir Aug. 9, 2019). In addition, we note that the Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) process for these projects is pending, as referenced in Ector County’s request. Ector County must complete the ASR process before construction may begin. See 47 CFR § 17.4(a).

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