

**FCC Antenna Structure Registration
Program
Draft PEA Public Meeting**

September 20, 2011

AGENDA

- Background
- Draft PEA
 - Process
 - Alternatives
 - Findings
 - Migratory Birds
 - Bald and Golden Eagles
 - Threatened/Endangered Species
 - Cumulative Impacts
- Questions & Answers

BACKGROUND

- *American Bird Conservancy, Inc. v. FCC* (2008)
 - FCC to evaluate effects of ASR Program on T/E species and migratory birds
 - Preparation of PEA
- FCC Draft Procedures (currently on circulation)
 - Public notice and 30-day opportunity for public comment
 - Prepare EA for towers > 450 feet tall (interim measure)

DRAFT PEA - PROCESS

- Agency/Public Outreach
 - Scoping Meetings (December 2010)
 - Agency Meetings (USFWS, CEQ)
 - Public Workshop (April 2011)
- Proposed Action – Review existing NEPA compliance procedures for ASR Program
- Primary focus on effects of ASR Program on migratory birds
- Public Draft PEA issued August 26, 2011
- Comments due October 3, 2011

DRAFT PEA - ALTERNATIVES

- *No Action Alternative (Existing ASR Program)*
- *Alternative 1 (Existing ASR Program w/FAA Lighting Changes)*
- *Alternative 2 (Modification to ASR Program)*
 - Option A (EAs for all projects)
 - Option B (Limit which projects are categorically excluded and require EAs for the rest)
 - Option C (EAs for projects > 450 feet tall)

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Continuation of existing ASR Program/NEPA compliance procedures

- Includes public notice and 30-day public comment requirement of FCC Draft Procedures
- Existing FAA-permitted lighting configurations

ALTERNATIVE 1

Continuation of existing ASR Program/NEPA compliance procedures with FAA lighting changes

- Includes public notice and 30-day public comment requirement of FCC Draft Procedures
- Assumes potential changes to FAA-permitted lighting configurations (future towers that use red flashing lights would not also have red steady-burning lights)

ALTERNATIVE 2

Modification to existing ASR Program/NEPA compliance procedures

- Requires more comprehensive assessment of impacts, particularly on migratory birds
- Includes public notice and 30-day public comment requirement of FCC Draft Procedures
- No change in procedures for
 - Tower modifications or replacements that do not involve a substantial increase in size
 - Certain lighting changes
 - Minor ASR actions

ALTERNATIVE 2 OPTION A

Require an EA for all projects except for certain changes to existing towers

- EA for new towers outside of antenna farm – regardless of location, height, use of guy wires, or lighting scheme
- EA for new towers within antenna farm, replacement towers, and tower modifications if a substantial increase in size over existing tower(s)
- EA for changes to existing towers that involve
 - Change to steady-burning lights
 - Change to high-intensity white lights in residential area
 - Addition of lighting
 - Human exposure to RF radiation in excess of limits

ALTERNATIVE 2 OPTION B

Limit which projects are categorically excluded and require an EA for the rest

- EA only for certain combinations of location and structural and lighting features:
 - Required under existing FCC rules **OR**
 - Within 660 feet of Bald Eagle nest or 0.6 mile of Golden Eagle nest **OR**
 - Within ridgeline, coastal zone, bird staging area, or colonial nesting site **AND** more than 450 feet tall **OR** would use a red steady lighting scheme **OR** would use guy wires

ALTERNATIVE 2 OPTION C

Require an EA for projects > 450 feet tall

- EA for
 - Tower for which EA is required under existing FCC rules
 - Proposed new tower, or substantial increase in size of modified or replacement tower, that is > 450 feet tall, regardless of location, lighting scheme, or use of guy wires

DRAFT PEA - FINDINGS

- Impacts analyzed in terms of context and intensity
- Impacts on resources other than migratory birds are negligible, minor, or moderate and are not significant
- At the national level, impacts on migratory birds are major but not significant
- At the local level, impacts on migratory birds may be significant. Only Alternative 2 Options A and B fully address these impacts.

DRAFT PEA – FINDINGS: Migratory Birds

- Principal adverse impact of communications towers is on birds, especially migratory birds
- Relative severity of impacts on birds
 - taller towers result in higher levels of avian mortality than shorter towers
 - towers with guy wires result in higher levels of avian mortality than towers without guy wires
 - steady-burning lights on towers result in higher levels of avian mortality than flashing lights
- Under all alternatives, major adverse impact on migratory birds would continue and annual mortality is expected to increase in proportion to number/types of towers constructed

DRAFT PEA – FINDINGS: Migratory Birds

No Action Alternative (Existing ASR Program)

- Annual mortality estimated to increase from ~5 million currently to ~6.6 million by 2021
 - Represents 0.05% of overall U.S. population of 10 billion birds
 - Constitutes 0.2% of annual mortality due to human sources and cat predation
- Site-specific EAs not required in areas important to migratory birds, so would not address impacts to local populations

DRAFT PEA – FINDINGS: Migratory Birds

Alternative 1 (Existing ASR Program w/FAA lighting changes)

- Annual mortality from new towers reduced by 50-70% because future towers using red flashing lights would not also use red steady lights
- Annual mortality from existing towers to decrease by 25-35% if red steady lights are extinguished or changed to red flashing lights on 50% of existing towers
- Site-specific EAs not required in areas important to migratory birds, so would not address impacts to local populations

DRAFT PEA – FINDINGS: Migratory Birds

Alternative 2 Option A (Require EAs for all projects)

- Impacts reduced due to EA mitigation measures
- If FAA adopts revisions to its lighting circular
 - Increase in annual mortality reduced by 50-70% because future towers using red flashing lights would not also use red steady lights
 - Annual mortality from existing towers to decrease by 25-35% if red steady lights are extinguished or changed to red flashing lights on 50% of existing towers
- With or without revisions to FAA lighting circular, site-specific EAs in areas important to migratory birds would address impacts to local populations

DRAFT PEA – FINDINGS: Migratory Birds

Alternative 2 Option B (Limit which projects are categorically excluded and require EAs for the rest)

- Impacts reduced due to EA mitigation measures
- Impacts reduced due to incentives to avoid constructing towers that are tall, use guy wires, or use red steady lights in areas important to migratory birds
- If FAA adopts revisions to its lighting circular
 - Increase in annual mortality reduced by 50-70% because future towers using red flashing lights would not also use red steady lights
 - Annual mortality from existing towers to decrease by 25-35% if red steady lights are extinguished or changed to red flashing lights on 50% of existing towers
- With or without revisions to FAA lighting circular, site-specific EAs in areas important to migratory birds would address impacts to local populations

DRAFT PEA – FINDINGS: Migratory Birds

Alternative 2 Option C (Require EAs for all projects > 450 feet otherwise do not change the categorical exclusion)

- Impacts reduced due to incentives to avoid constructing tall towers (> 450 feet) if feasible
- Impacts reduced due to EA mitigation measures for tall towers (> 450 feet)
- If FAA adopts revisions to its lighting circular
 - Increase in annual mortality reduced by 50-70% because future towers with red flashing lights would not also use red steady lights
 - Annual mortality from existing towers to decrease by 25-35% if red steady lights are extinguished or changed to red flashing lights on 50% of existing towers
- With or without revisions to FAA lighting circular, site-specific EAs not required in areas important to migratory birds, so would not address impacts to local populations

DRAFT PEA – FINDINGS: Bald and Golden Eagles

- Impacts
 - Disturb breeding/nesting, feeding, sheltering near towers
 - Disturb Bald Eagles nesting on towers
- No Action Alternative, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2 Option C
 - Short-term minor to moderate adverse impacts
 - Impacts to local populations not addressed by site-specific EAs
- Alternative 2 Option A and Option B
 - Short-term minor adverse impacts
 - Reduced impacts due to incentive to locate new towers away from nests
 - Impacts to local populations addressed by site-specific EAs

DRAFT PEA – FINDINGS: T/E Species

- Determination of potential impacts based on site-specific review
- If impacts anticipated, coordination with USFWS required
- Under all alternatives (including No Action) – short- to long-term negligible to minor adverse impacts

DRAFT PEA – FINDINGS: Cumulative Impacts

- Current annual migratory bird mortality due to collisions with towers estimated at 5 million
- Depending on alternative selected and whether FAA revises its lighting circular, mortality is estimated to be between 3.7 million and 6.6 million in 2021
- With no FAA lighting circular changes, all alternatives would result in an incremental increase in avian mortality over existing conditions
- Because tower mortality constitutes only 0.2% of total deaths and 0.05% of total population, incremental contribution to cumulative impacts is not significant

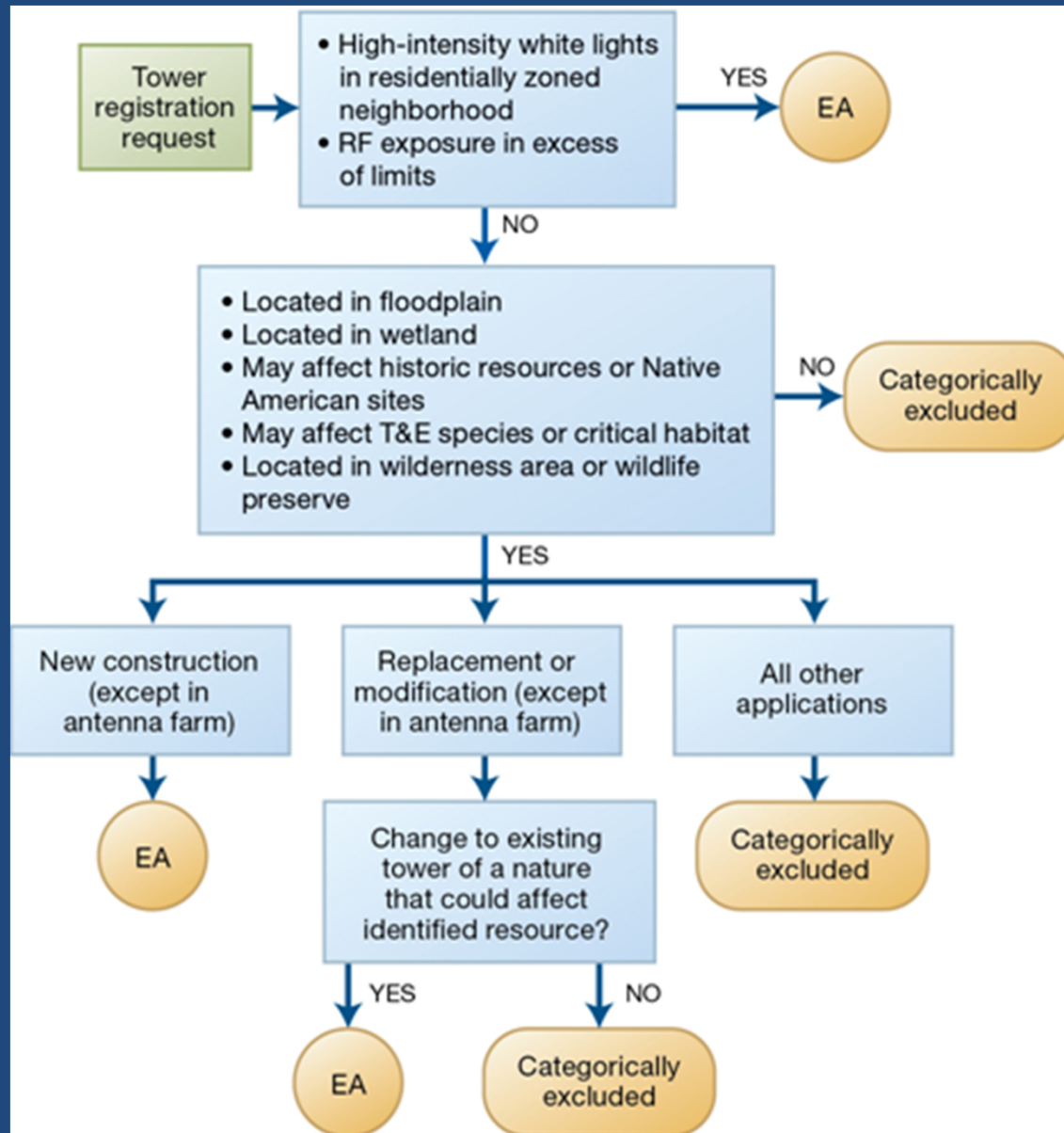
DRAFT PEA – FINDINGS: Summary

- Impacts on resources other than migratory birds are negligible, minor, or moderate and are not significant
- At the national level, impacts on migratory birds are major and adverse but not significant
- At the site-specific level, potentially significant effects on local migratory bird and Bald and Golden Eagle populations:
 - Would be addressed in EAs prepared under Alternative 2 Options A and B
 - Would not be addressed under the No Action Alternative, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2 Option C

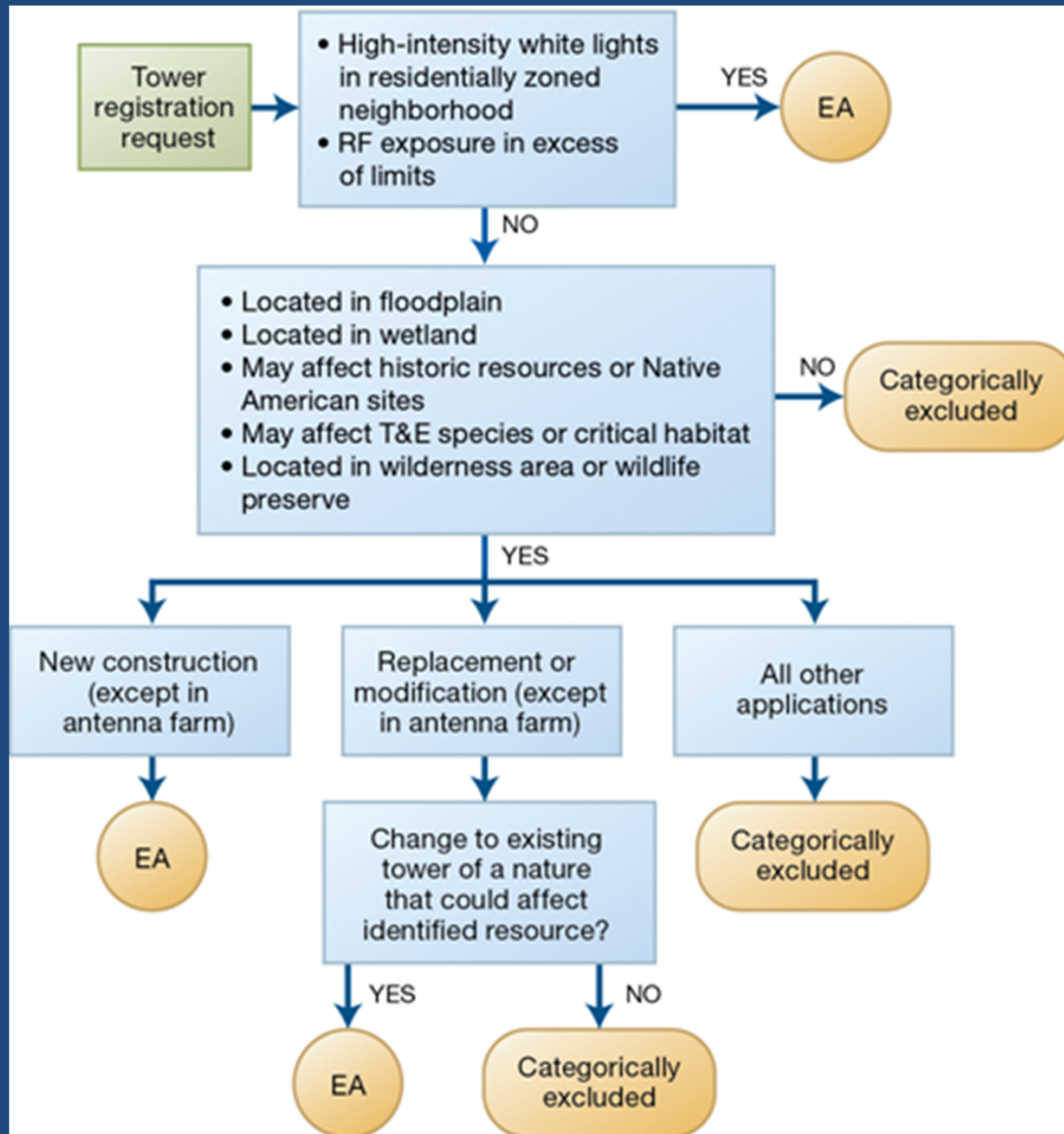
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

APPENDIX

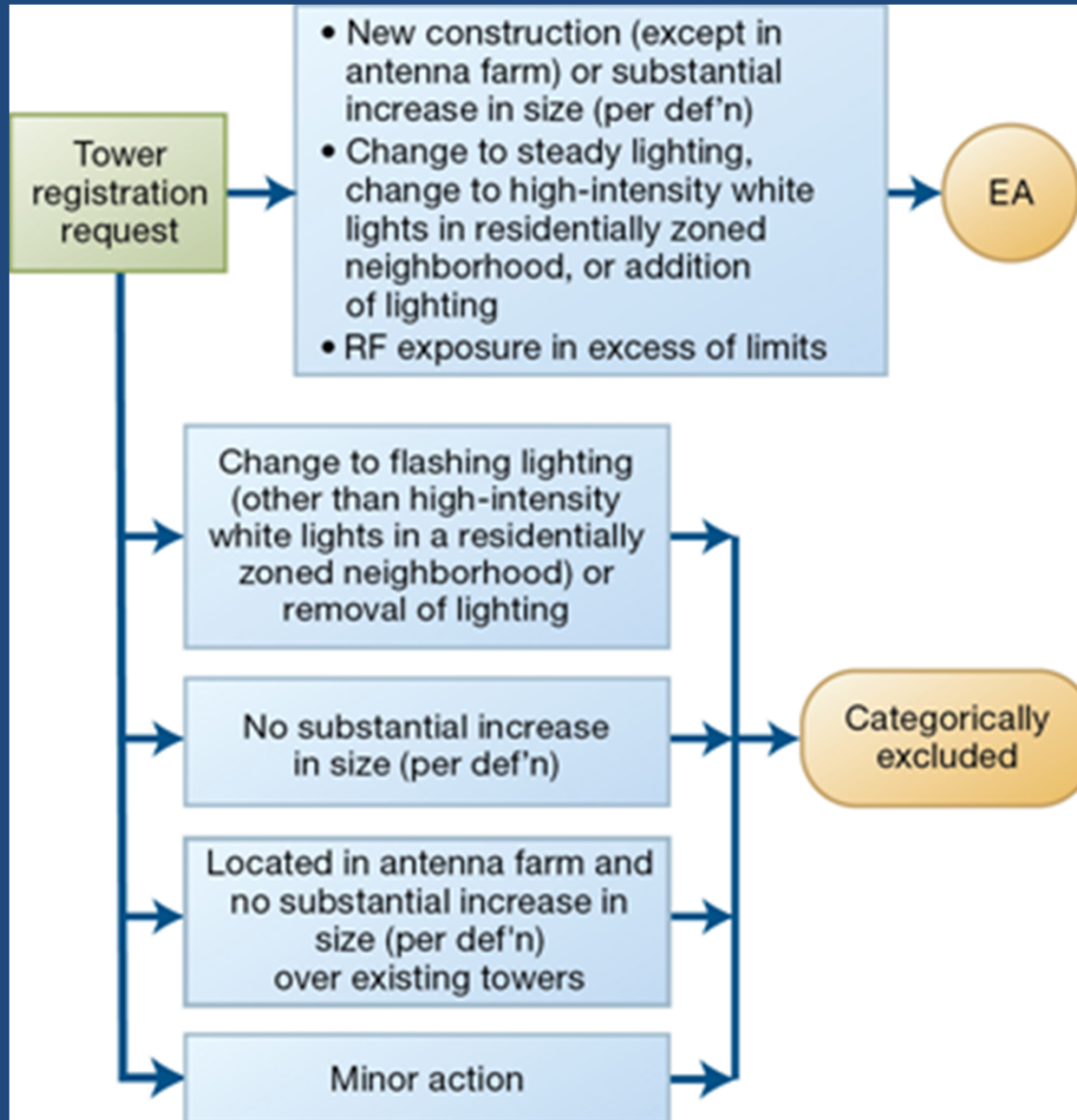
NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE



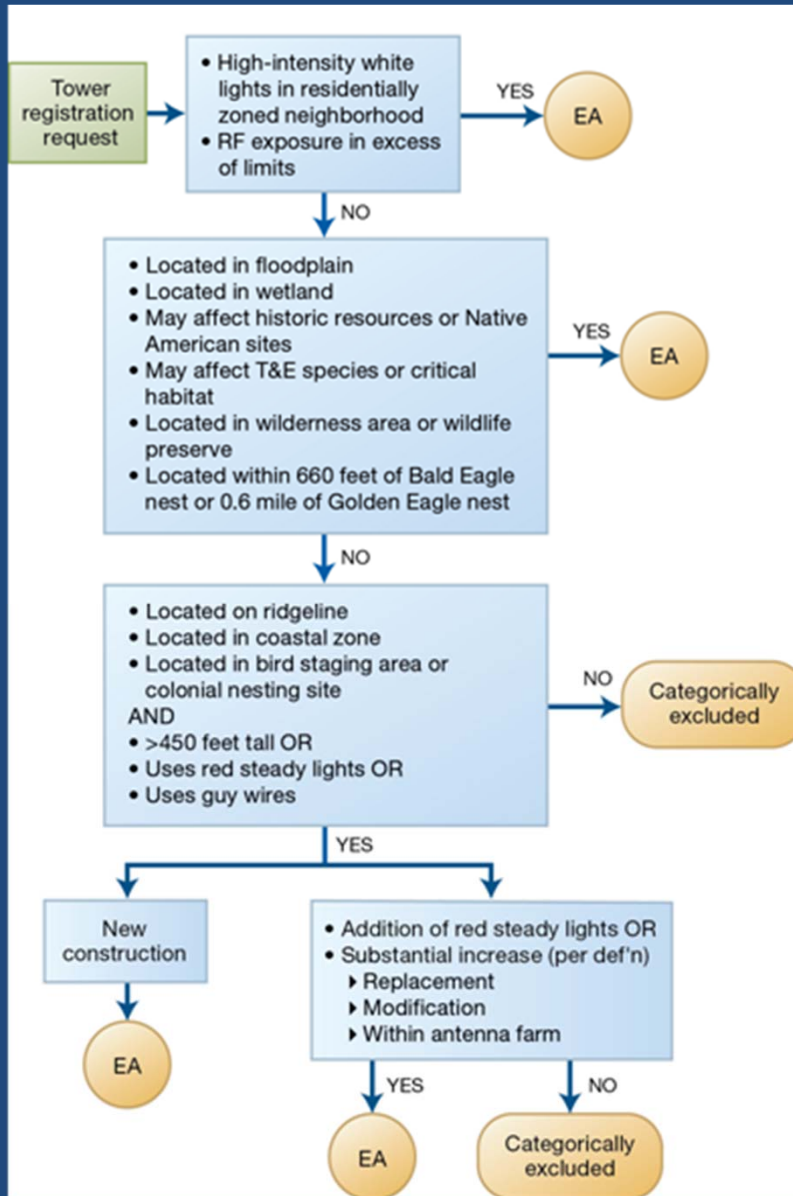
ALTERNATIVE 1



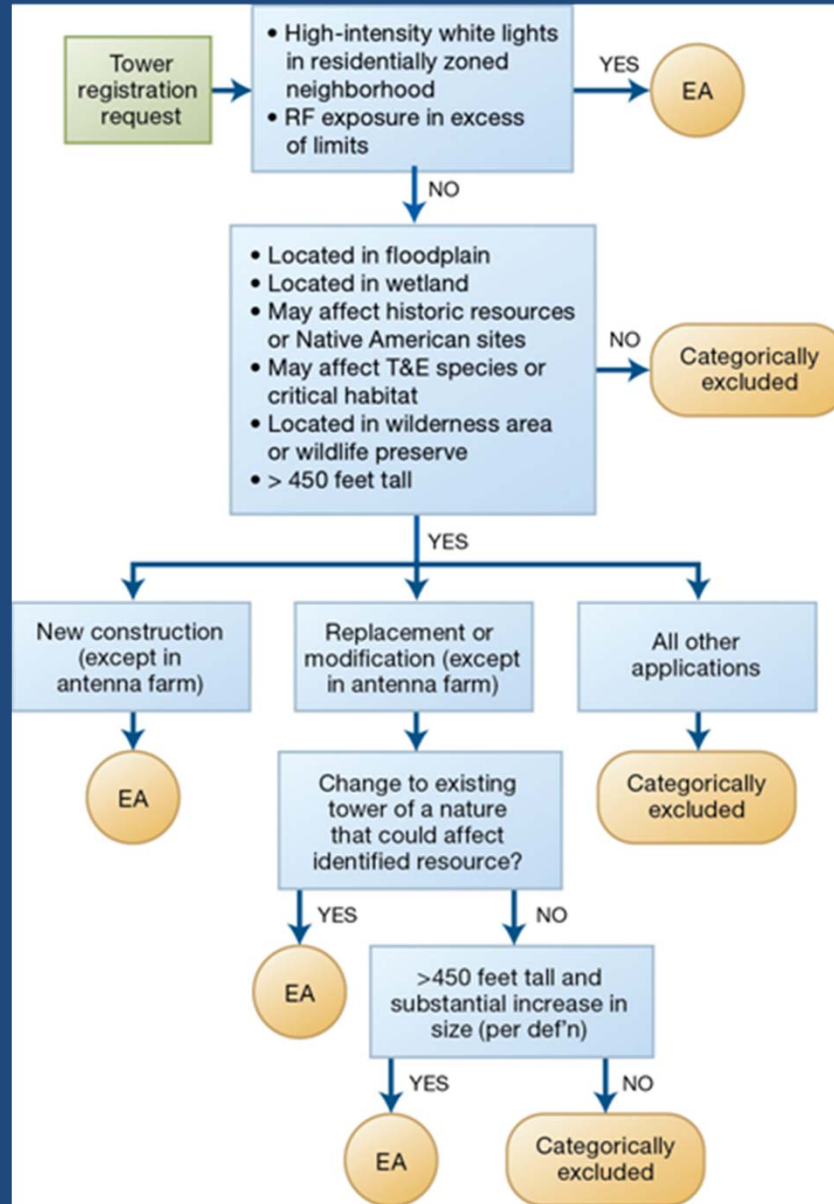
ALTERNATIVE 2 OPTION A



ALTERNATIVE 2 OPTION B



ALTERNATIVE 2 OPTION C



COMMENTS

- All comments must be submitted in WT Docket No. 08-61 and WT Docket No. 03-187 (electronic comments) or must reference both WT Docket No. 08-61 and WT Docket No. 03-187 (paper comments). Comments due by October 3, 2011.
- **Electronic comments (preferred):** <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>
- U.S. Postal Service
Mailed paper comments: Secretary Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
- Commercial Overnight
Mailed paper comments: Secretary Federal Communications Commission
9300 East Hampton Drive
Capitol Heights, MD 20743
- Messenger-delivered or
Hand-delivered paper comments: FCC Headquarters
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554
- All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. The filing hours are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.