

# **US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

DISTRICT, NEW ENGLAND

# WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN RADIO TOWER PRINCETON, MASSACHUSSETS

LATTICE TOWER INSPECTION

November, 2024

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Report by: Nathalia Arcaro

Project No. USACE.101.2024

November, 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024

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Site: Wachusett Mountain Radio Tower

Date: 11/23/2024

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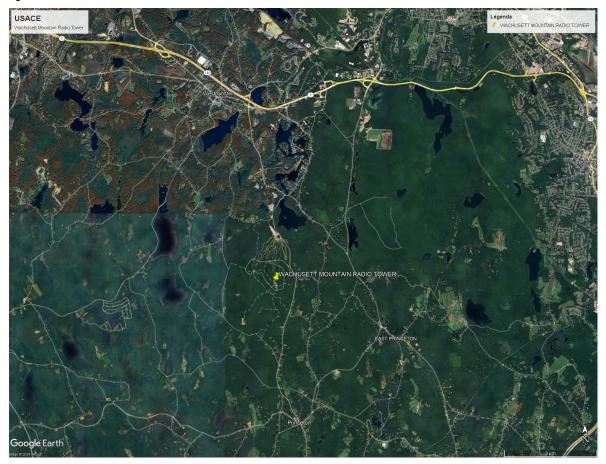


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### 1. SITE LOCATION AND INFORMATION

Figure 1 - Site Location



# Site Address

Wachusset Mountain Radio Tower
41 Mile Hill Road, Westminster, MA 01473

GPS Location (UTM, Zone 19T)

Latitude: 262731.67 m E Longitude: 4708160.63 m N

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<u>Tower information</u> <u>Point of Contact</u>

Tower Manufacturer: Unknown Dylan M. Dickson

Year of manufacture: Unknown Natural Resource Management Specialist

Model: Unknow Phone: (978) 318-8477

Tower finish: Galvanized/Painted coated (white/orange)

## Tower Print and Documentation

Complete, current tower prints and structural documentation are required as a basis of comparison for plumb and tension measurements made on the tower and as a basis for any structural analysis. Current prints should include copies of all original prints and records of any subsequent modifications to the tower structure or load.

<u>Tower prints made available?</u> YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_x\_

#### 2. SUMMARY

Elevated Consulting was retained by Client to inspect, identify deficiencies and evaluate the tower located at Wachusset Mountain.

According to Mr. Dickson, the last section of the tower was collapsed and USACE needed a report evaluating the actual condition of the tower, and future possible modifications to remedy the identified problems.

## 3. TOWER INFORMATION

- Tower Type Self Supported
- Tower Shape Tri-Leg

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- Tower Material Galvanized / Paint Coated
- Tower Height 90 ft
- Leg Type Pipe
- Solid steel rung bar ladder on side of tower
- Ladder Safety System (LSS) Not identified

#### 4. TOWER CONDITIONS

## **Members**

- 1. Bent members (legs and lacing) Entire last section is bent (10 ft)
- 2. Loose members None observed
- 3. Missing members None observed
- 4. Climbing facilities Good
- 5. Loose and/or missing bolts None observed

# **Finishing**

- 1. Paint and/or galvanizing condition Paint occasionally pealing, galvanizing in good condition
- 2. Rust and/or corrosion conditions Not significant, surface rust
- 3. FAA or ICAO color marking conditions Good
- Water collection in members None observed

## <u>Lighting – Hughey & Phillips</u>

- 1. Conduit, junction boxes, fasteners weather tight and secure Good condition
- 2. Drains and vents open Yes
- 3. Wiring condition Good condition
- 4. Controllers functioning Functioning
- 5. Light lenses N/A Top beacon not inspected. Located on bent section.
- 6. Bulb condition N/A Top beacon not inspected. Located on bent section.

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NOTE: Lighting system needs to be reinstalled after top section removal.

### Grounding

- 1. Connections checked and secure Yes, compression.
- 2. Corrosion observed and remedied None observed
- 3. Lightning protection secure N/A. There was a lightning rod located on bent section. Not possible to inspect. Necessary to reinstall after section removal.

# **Tower Base Foundation**

- 1. Ground conditions
  - a. Settlements or movements None observed, no ponding
  - b. Erosion None observed
  - c. Site condition (standing water, drainage, trees, etc.) None observed.
- Base condition
  - a. Nuts and lock nuts tight Yes
  - b. Grout condition Good
- 3. Concrete condition
  - a. Cracking, spalling or splitting None observed
  - b. Chipped or broken concrete None observed
  - c. Honeycombing None observed
  - d. Low spots to collect moisture None observed

#### 5. ANTENNAS AND FEEDLINES

## **Antenna Mounts and Antennas**

- 1. Members (mounting and stabilizing)
  - a. Bent, broken, or cracked None observed
  - b. Loose None observed
  - c. Missing None observed

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- d. Loose and/or missing bolts None observed
- 2. Adjustments secure and locked Yes
- 3. Elements
  - a. Bent, broken, cracked or damaged None observed
  - b. Loose None observed
  - c. Missing None observed
  - d. Loose and/or missing fasteners None observed
- 4. Corrosion condition None observed
- 5. Radomes and/or cover conditions NA

# Feed Lines (waveguide, coax, etc)

- 1. Hangers and supports
  - a. Condition Good
  - b. Quality Good
  - c. Corrosion condition None observed
- 2. Flanges and seals Visually checked
- 3. Line condition
  - a. Dents None observed
  - Abrasions None observed
  - c. Holes None observed
  - d. Leaks None observed
  - e. Jacket condition Good
- 4. Grounds
  - a. Top ground strap bonded both ends None
  - b. Bottom ground strap bonded both ends None



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#### 6. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Overall the tower appears to be in good condition.
- The last section of the tower is bent (80 90ft). According to visual inspection, one
  of the legs broke and the weight of the top beacon bent the top section over in 90
  degrees as showed on photo log, item 7 of this report.
- The bottom section of the structure, ranging from 70 to 80 feet, appears to be structurally sound. This presents an opportunity to potentially salvage the tower by removing the damaged top section and reinstalling the lighting system and lightning rod at an 80-foot height.
- We recommend performing a tower analysis after the removal of top section and reinstallation of lighting system to guarantee that the tower is not overloaded.
- A tower analysis is a critical step to ensure the structural integrity of the tower after the modifications. This analysis will help determine if the tower can safely accommodate the changes and identify any potential issues that need to be addressed. By conducting a thorough tower analysis, you can ensure the safety and reliability of the tower after the modifications.

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## 7. PHOTO LOG



**Tower Base** 



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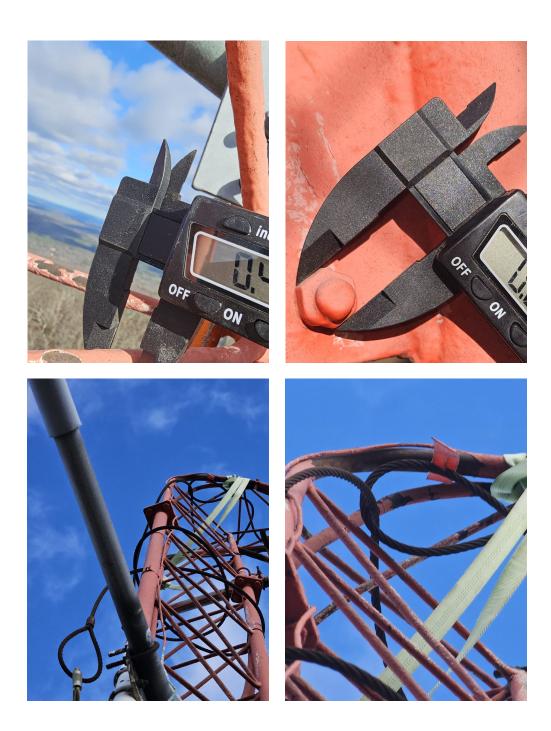
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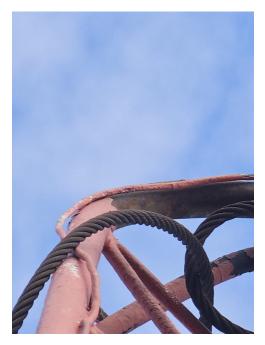


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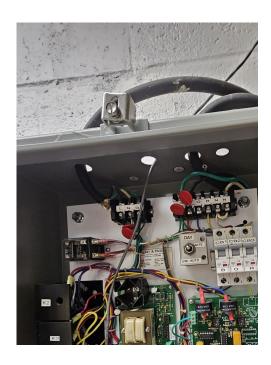


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