

Update on the Proposed Cell Tower: Drone and Balloon Test

written by admin | May 20, 2021

[Diamond Communications](#) and [Ramaker & Associates](#) have agreed to do drone and balloon tests as part of the Section 106 “avoidance, minimization, and mitigation” process. The section 106 process is a process administered by the [FCC](#) when historical properties are being affected by the development of a cell tower. The Keweenaw Mountain Lodge and Brockway Mountain Drive are both historical properties, as both properties are on the [National Register of Historical Places](#). The Michigan [State Historical Preservation Office](#) (SHP0) is also involved.

The drone and balloon tests will occur on the evening of May 24th and during the day on May 25th.

- **Drone Test:** Monday May 24, 2021 will occur anytime between 7:00 PM and 8:45 PM. The drone will be in the air for approximately ***40 minutes***.
- **Balloon Test:** Tuesday May 25, 2021 beginning between 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The balloon will be in the air for ***approximately 2-3 hours***.



Copper Harbor Balloon and Drone Test

Site Location & Details:

The proposed Diamond facility will be located at 14252 US Highway 41 in Copper Harbor (Eagle Harbor Township), Keweenaw County, Michigan. The proposed undertaking consists of an approximately 60-foot by 60-foot fenced compound and construction of a 260-foot self-support tower (overall height with appurtenances of 263 feet) and associated equipment compound. The property is further identified as being located in the Northeast ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 1, Township 58 North, Range 29 West. The project is also identified as being located at 47° 27' 28.2" North and 87° 55' 21.6" West.

Field Work Purpose:

- 1) Ramaker & Associates proposes to conduct a drone and balloon test on behalf of Diamond Communications, at the proposed tower location at 47° 27' 28.2" North and 87° 55' 21.6" West.
- 2) Subsequently Ramaker will take photos from views along the Brockway Mountain Drive corridor. Additionally, Ramaker will capture photographs from vantage points throughout the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge (KML) facility.
- 3) Revised photo simulations will be prepared and provided to the consulting parties and stakeholders for comment.

Tentative Drone and Balloon Test Schedule (weather dependent and subject to change):

Drone Test: Monday May 24, 2021 will occur anytime between 7:00 PM and 8:45 PM. The drone will be in the air for approximately 40 minutes.

Balloon Test: Tuesday May 25, 2021 beginning between 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The balloon will be in the air for approximately 2-3 hours.

Proposed Photograph locations:

Ramaker proposes to take photographs (red circles) from the following vantage points. Based on the results from field work conducted, photo simulation will be prepared and provided to consulting parties and stakeholders.

[[View the Photo Sim – History Highlights 2021-04-28](#)]

The purpose of these two tests is to determine the height and location of the proposed tower, and where the tower will be seen from (e.g. from Brockway Mountain and KML). The past computer simulations have been inconsistent in the location and the height (as seen in the image and attached document provided below), so these tests will help with getting more accurate height and location of the proposed tower.



[[View the Photo Sim – History Highlights 2021-04-28](#)]

It will not determine the width and volume of the tower or the equipment that will be on the top of the tower. It will also not emulate the white (required initially by the FAA) and the red lights that will be on the tower.

The Keweenaw Mountain Lodge, [Grant Township](#), and [Eagle Harbor Township](#) are officially consulting parties to the process.

If you aren't able to attend in the drone / balloon tests in

person,
you can [watch via the Hole 1 / Brockway Mountain webcam](#).



Additional information on the proposed cell tower:

- [Results of Eagle Harbor Township Board Meeting; Proposed cell tower to be reviewed again by the Planning Committee \(April 15, 2021\)](#)
- [Proposed cell tower, in the viewshed at the Lodge from Hole 1 \(April 2, 2021\)](#)

Fall in love with the problem -> [Limited Cell Phone Communication](#), to come up with a solution or solutions.