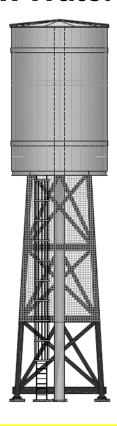
GEIST ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP INC



# **Tower Avian Avoidance Plan**

# AT&T Faux Water Tank and Shelter





# **COPY TO BE POSTED ONSITE**

AT&T Site Number: CCL03978 / AT&T Site Name: Manchester Cable Station 45001 Kinney Road, Manchester, Mendocino County, California 95459 GE<sup>2</sup>G Project Number: 311066

# **Wireless Client:**

AT&T Mobility, LLC 2600 Camino Ramon, 4th Floor San Ramon, Contra Costa County, California 94583

# Prepared by:

Geist Engineering and Environmental Group, Inc. 4200 Park Boulevard #149 Oakland, California 94602

August 31, 2021

Ausust 31, 2021

RE: Tower Avian Avoidance Plan for the Faux Water Tank Facility (updated)

**AT&T Tower & Ground Improvements** 

AT&T Site Number: CCL03978

AT&T FA: 13787556

AT&T Site Name: Manchester Cable Station

45001 Kinney Road, Manchester, Mendocino County, California 95459

GE<sup>2</sup>G Project # 311066

Geist Engineering and Environmental Group, Inc. (GE<sup>2</sup>G), appreciates the opportunity to provide this updated Tower Avian Avoidance Plan. This Tower Avian Avoidance Plan was completed for the above listed proposed AT&T Mobility, LLC undertaking per input from the California State Parks Sonoma-Mendocino District, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). GE<sup>2</sup>G prepared this Tower Avian Avoidance Plan to discourage birds of prey from using the new tower facility as a predator perch.

# Objective:

This Tower Avian Avoidance Plan will be implemented to stop birds of prey from using the new tower facility as predator perch. Winter flocks of Western Snowy Plovers along with other migratory shorebirds and nesting bank swallows may be present to the west approximately 700-feet along the Manchester State stretch of beach. While the tower will be more than 700-feet away from potential nesting and foraging habitat, the tower without anti-predator controls could potentially allow the tower to be used as a predator perch.

This concise Tower Avian Avoidance Plan is designed to be easily understood by tower technicians and contractors so it is clear that the anti-bird measures in place on this tower are designed to protect vulnerable shore birds located to the west on Manchester Beach.

AT&T Tower & Ground Improvements AT&T Site Number: CCL03978

AT&T Site Name: Manchester Cable Station



**Map Location of the Tower and Manchester State Beach:** 



Figure 1: Vicinity Map **Subject Property: CCL03978** 

(Source http://www.californiasbestbeaches.com)

AT&T Tower & Ground Improvements AT&T Site Number: **CCL03978** 

AT&T Site Name: Manchester Cable Station



# Timeline:

This 2021 Updated Tower Avian Avoidance Plan will be implemented during construction and remain in effect until the tower is deemed to be no longer required and the tower is physically removed from service. Tower anti-perch engineering control devices will be installed at the time of construction and maintained yearly or as needed.

# **Background and Regulation:**

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712; MBTA), is administered by USFWS. The MBTA implements four treaties that provide for international protection of migratory birds. Wording is clear in that most actions that result in a "taking" or possession (permanent or temporary) of a protected species may be a violation. The MBTA prohibits the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Department of the Interior." The word "take" is defined as "to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect." A violation of the MBTA by an individual can result in a financial fine of up to \$15,000 and/or imprisonment for up to six months for a misdemeanor, and up to \$250,000 and/or imprisonment for up to two years for a felony. Fines may be doubled for organizations.

While the Service generally does not authorize incidental "take" under these Acts, USFWS realizes that some birds may be killed even if all reasonable measures to avoid the take are implemented. USFWS Office of Law Enforcement carries out its mission to protect migratory birds through investigations and enforcement, as well as by fostering relationships with individuals, companies, and industries who seek to minimize their impacts on migratory birds. Unless the take is authorized, it is not possible to absolve individuals, companies, or agencies from liability even if they implement avian mortality avoidance or similar conservation measures. However, the Office of Law Enforcement focuses on those individuals, companies, or agencies that "take: migratory birds with disregard for their actions and the law, especially when conservation measures have been developed but are not properly implemented (Avian Protection Plan (APP) quidelines, USFWS 2005).

The faux water tank tower has the potential to provide perching habitat for birds of prey (Raptors), including but not limited to Peregrine Falcons and or Merlin Falcons. These birds of prey could potentially prey on Western Snowy Plovers and other special status bird species (including Bank Swallows) that may be present on or near Manchester Beach. This impact would be considered significant. To reduce or avoid this potential impact, AT&T will install bird deterrence devices on the proposed telecommunications tower to discourage birds of prey from landing and/or nesting.

AT&T Tower & Ground Improvements AT&T Site Number: **CCL03978** 

AT&T Site Name: Manchester Cable Station



## **Anti-Predator Controls:**

The telecom industry has many devices available to them that can be employed on the proposed tower to exclude raptors from using the tower as a nesting or perching site. AT&T will implement the below devices to be installed on the proposed tower. Use of these devices should help to avoid raptor impacts on Western Snowy Plover and other special-status bird species, including but not limited to Bank Swallow.

Field Offices: Arizona, California, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington

AT&T Tower & Ground Improvements AT&T Site Number: **CCL03978** 

AT&T Site Name: Manchester Cable Station



# **Tower Top:**

- Bird Premium Spikes to be placed at the peak
- Bird Premium Spikes to be placed above the open mesh roof on mounting brackets. The expended bracket design will provide for additional bird Premium Spikes to block perching locations.
- Bird Spikes to be placed at the edge of the upper perimeter edge of the faux water tank top.
- Open Mesh Roof to be placed beneath the Nixalite Bird Premium Spikes supports. Netting to be placed below the supports and field checked by the Biologist during install to verify perching conditions are not present.

(Specific Bird Spikes part specification, see attached plan sheet)

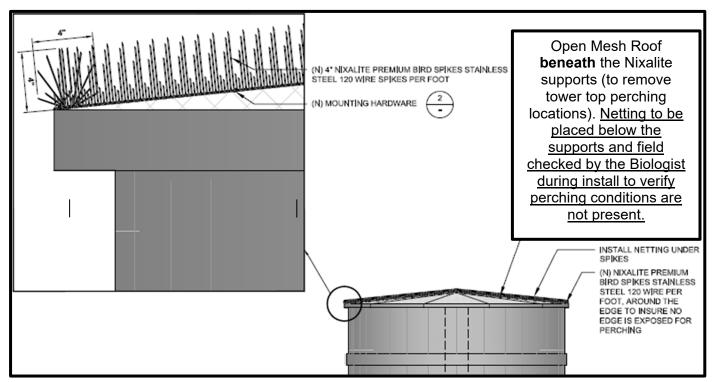


Figure 2 Tower Top Anti-Predator Controls (Tower Top Figure 1 of 2)

AT&T Tower & Ground Improvements AT&T Site Number: **CCL03978** 

AT&T Site Name: Manchester Cable Station



# **Tower Top:**

- Bird Spikes to be placed above the open mesh roof on mounting brackets below.
- Bird Spikes to be placed at the edge of the upper perimeter edge of the faux water tank top.

(Specific Bird Spikes part specification, see attached plan sheet)

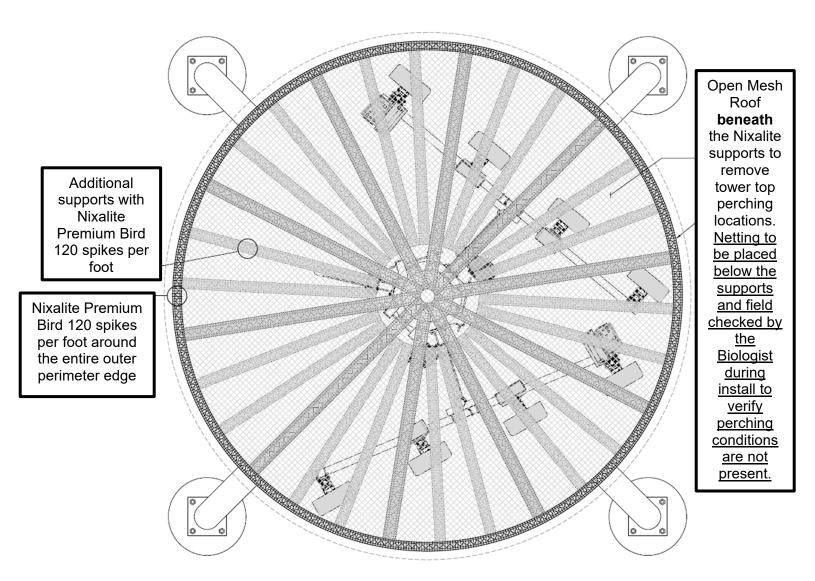


Figure 3 Tower Top Anti-Predator Controls (Tower Top Figure 2 of 2)

AT&T Tower & Ground Improvements AT&T Site Number: **CCL03978** 

AT&T Site Name: Manchester Cable Station



# **Tower Bottom and Legs:**

- Netting (NIxalite Lite Netting) deterrent to be placed on the tower support legs
- Faux center tower water fill pipe (Cable Pipe) to have all entry points sealed
- Sealed grating to be placed at bottom of the tank
- Faux center tower water fill pipe (Cable Pipe) to have all entry points sealed (Specific Bird Spikes part specification listed in the attached plan sheet)

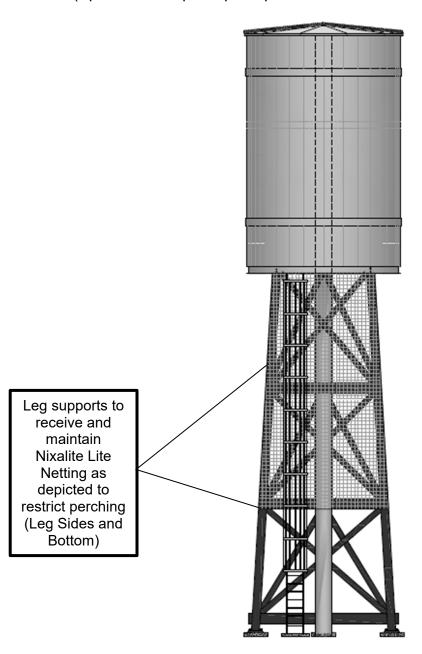


Figure 4 Faux Tower Tank Bottom Anti-Predator Controls

GEIST ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP, INC.

4200 Park Boulevard #149, Oakland, California 94602 510.238.8851 (p) / sgeist@ge2g.com

Field Offices: Arizona, California, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington

AT&T Tower & Ground Improvements AT&T Site Number: **CCL03978** 

AT&T Site Name: Manchester Cable Station



# **Lighting Restrictions:**

- No lights on the Tower.
- The at grade facility compound will have a manual light switch (if required) with a timer set for 15 minutes maximum or less.
- Motion activated lights will not be used at this time.
- The potential exists that lighting placed on the proposed telecommunications tower and associated facilities could impact the feeding and nesting activities of avian species at Manchester Beach.
- Per the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) lighting on the upper potions of the tower is not required.
- To reduce potential impacts to less than significant, AT&T would direct any ground equipment lighting away from Manchester Beach and set lighting for a manual start with a limitation timer.

# **Construction (Initial and Maintenance):**

As a part of the condition of approval, AT&T will have a Biological Monitoring during initial construction or significant facility upgrades, on the tower. The Biological Monitor will document the biological avian deterrent controls by noting the type and installation locations.

# **Crane Lifting (Initial and Maintenance):**

As a part of the condition of approval, AT&T will have a Biological Monitoring during initial construction or significant facility upgrades, on the tower for all elevated crane work. The Biological Monitor will document the biological avian deterrent controls by noting the type and installation locations.

# Signage:

The below signage will be fabricated and installed in at least four locations at the AT&T facility.

# Warning:

This tower facility has anti-bird perching devices which must be kept in place. If the anti-bird perching devices are removed for equipment servicing they must be reinstalled. Significant liability (civil and financial) may be incurred by any entity that damages or does not replace the anti-bird perching devices prior to completing any daily task.

# Sign Locations:

- 1) At the front facility entrance gate;
- 2) At the base tower leg base;
- 3) At the front door to the Shelter; and
- 4) Inside the shelter.

AT&T Tower & Ground Improvements AT&T Site Number: **CCL03978** 

AT&T Site Name: Manchester Cable Station



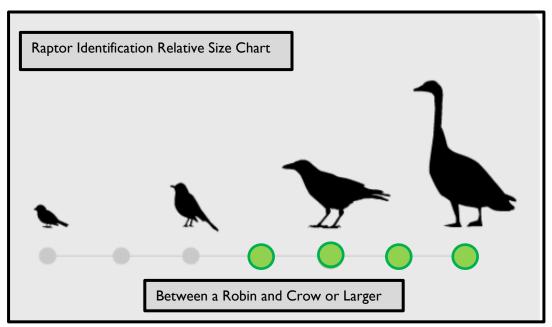
# **Tower Avian Avoidance Plan Onsite Availability:**

A copy of this plan will be kept inside the shelter and clearly located on the wall for any AT&T staff or AT&T subcontractors to review and understand.

# **Ground based Shelter Equipment and Fencing:**

Based on the distance and the elevation topography (sand dunes) to Manchester Beach from the AT&T grade based equipment will likely not need anti bird deterrent controls.

# **Raptor Observation:**



# Figure 5 General Public Raptor Size Reference Chart (source: The Cornell Lab)

- If a medium to large bird or raptor is observed on the tower, facility improvements (**Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Red Tail Hawk, Hawk, Eagle, Osprey, etc.**) is observed please contact the assigned AT&T contact the same day of the observation as soon as possible.
- Example approximate wing widths (from small to large) ranges:
  - o 20-inches to 27-inches (Merlin)
  - o 39-inches to 43-inches (Peregrine Falcon)
  - 45-inches to 52-inches (Red Tail Hawk)
  - 59-inches to 71 (Osprey)
  - 73-inches to 87 (Eagle)

# **Nest or Avian Carcasses:**

- If a nest is located on the tower, facility improvements or on the ground, please contact the assigned AT&T contact.
- If a bird carcass is found on the tower, facility improvements or on the ground, please contact the assigned AT&T contact.

### GEIST ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP, INC.

AT&T Tower & Ground Improvements AT&T Site Number: **CCL03978** 

AT&T Site Name: Manchester Cable Station



# AT&T Yearly Inspection and Record Keeping:

AT&T will retain a qualified consultant to visually document the condition of the antipredator control devises each year by February 15. The consultant will prepare a report of findings on the condition of the anti-predator control devises and if required make appropriate recommendation for repairs, additions, or replacement. AT&T will keep the yearly inspection reports on file.

# **AT&T Point of Contact:**

Melissa Murphree AT&T Mobility Property Manager Lower Northern California Mobile: (925) 963 – 8027

# **Environmental Consultant of Record:**

Geist Engineering and Environmental Group, Inc GE<sup>2</sup>G Mr. Steve Geist, GE<sup>2</sup>G President Mobile: (510) 610 - 1453

sgeist@ge2g.com

# Attached:

AT&T Avian Anti-Perching Design Sheet dated July 20, 2021

# Sources:

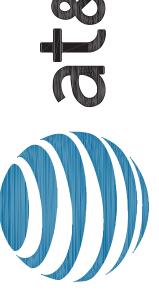
Avian Protection Plan (APP) Guidelines, A Joint Document Prepared By The Edison Electric Institute's Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (2005) <a href="https://www.californiasbestbeaches.com">www.californiasbestbeaches.com</a>

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/, The Cornel Lab

http://www.californiasbestbeaches.com

Field Offices: Arizona, California, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington

# APPENDIX AT&T Avian Anti-Perching Design Sheets



SITE NUMBER: CCL03978

SITE NAME: MANCHESTER CABLE STATION SITE TYPE: FLUX WATER TANK

45001 KINNEY ROAD MANCHESTER, CA 95459

JURISDICTION: MENDOCINO COUNTY

APN: 133-010-04-05

MRSFR073668, MRSFR035265, MRSFR051905, RSFR052164 3701A0WDCV, 3701A08XKQ, 3701A0JZV7, 3701A0JZMA PACE ID:

RFDS VERSION: 4.0 RFDS DATE: 01/04/2 RFDS ID: 148883

01/04/2021 1488830

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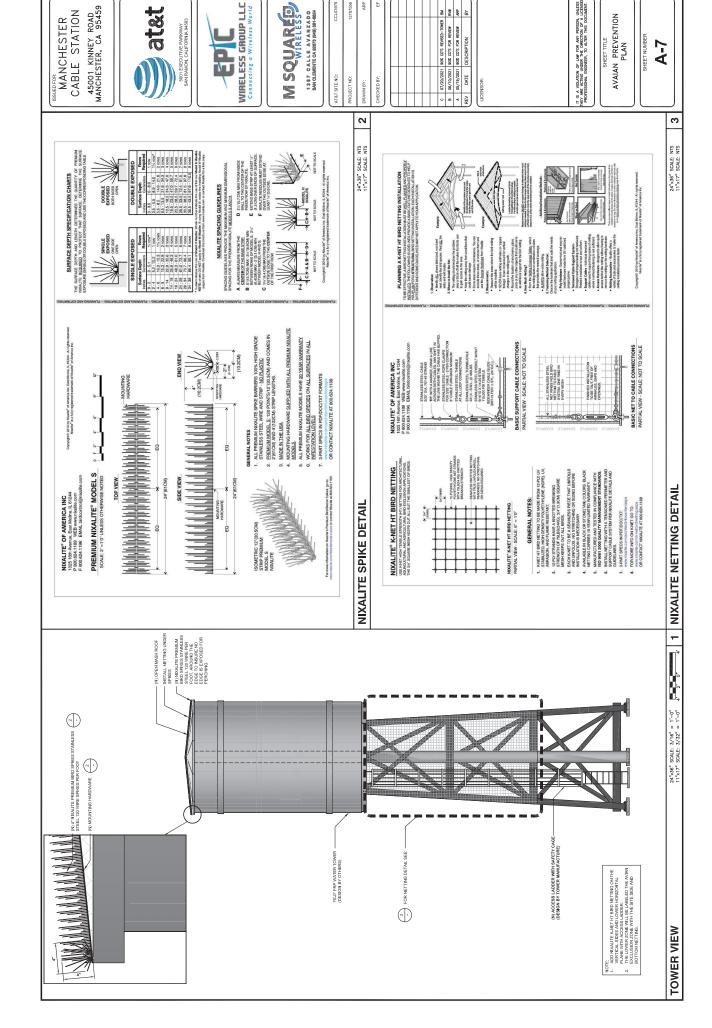
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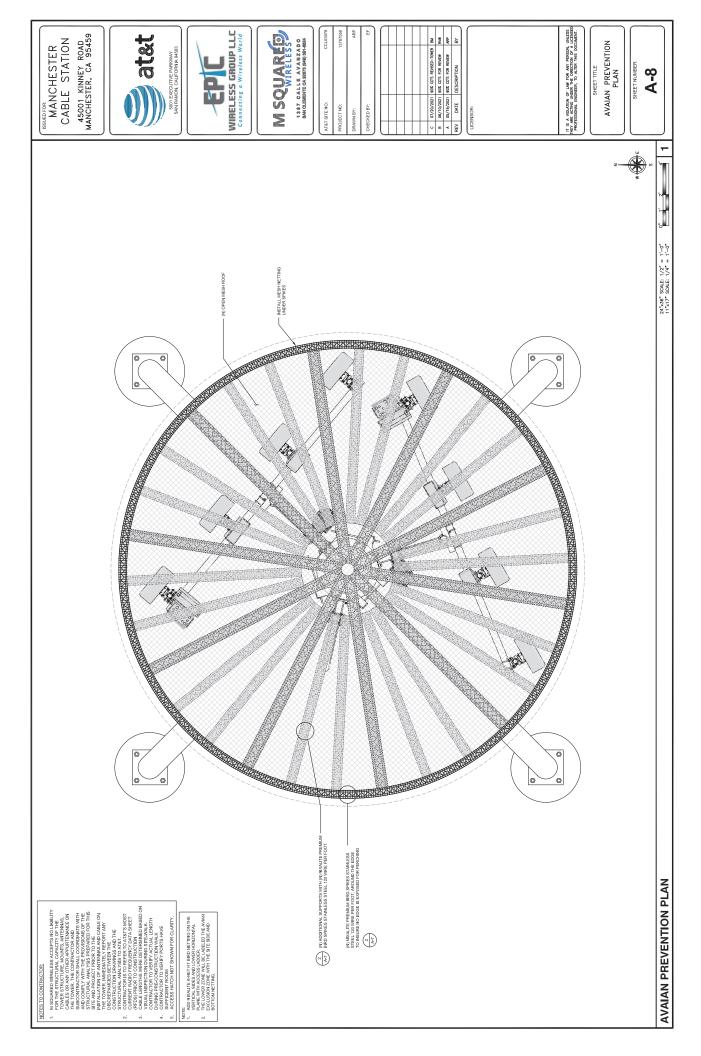
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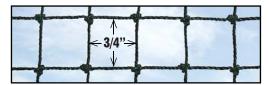






# **K-Net HT Bird Netting**

High strength, seamless construction and unbeatable prices make K-Net HT the perfect choice for all types of bird exclusion jobs. Now available in UV resistant black HDPE.



# **K-Net HT Features**

- 75 lbs/strand knotted breaking strength
- 12-ply high density polyethylene (HDPE)
- · Seamless nets with steam-set knots
- · UV, flame and abrasion resistant
- 3/4" square mesh keeps out most birds
- 15 Year warranty for black HDPE K-Net
- ISO 9001-2000 Quality Management Standards

Some bird netting is packaged in a 'rope' or

collapsed mesh form. This may save space but

it takes valuable time and considerable effort to

stretch this 'rope' net out to it's advertised size.

Short Form Specs on back --->

# **K-Net HT Versatility**

Perfect for architecture, industrial, aquaculture and agriculture bird exclusion. K-Net HT's strength and durability make if ideal for the toughest bird exclusion jobs. The seamless 3/4" square mesh keeps out all but the smallest of birds.

# K-Net HT Netting Sizes

25 feet wide by 25, 50 or 100 feet long 50 feet wide by 25, 50 or 100 feet long Each piece of K-Net is seamless.

# **Bird Net Installation Hardware**

Nixalite offers a full line of bird netting hardware, accessories and tools to help you securely fasten the K-Net HT Bird Netting to nearly any surface. From tensioned perimeter cables to air powered ring tools, we have what you need to complete your netting installation. For details, visit our website at www.nixalite.com or call 800.624.1189.

K-Net HT is a square mesh netting that is pack-

aged in a 'square' or folded bundle. To prepare

stretching is required to get the advertised size.

K-Net netting is a

true square mesh

net. It is shipped

in a folded bundle

that you unfold to

width and length.

for installation, unfold and unroll. No sizing or

Toughest netting in bird control. K-Net HT is perfect for long term use in tough conditions.



- · Canopies, Bell towers
- Pediments, Columns
- Bridges, Stadiums
- Retail Stores...



- Communications
- Utility Substations
- Oil Tank Net Covers
- Aircraft Hangars



- Fish Ponds, Aviaries
- Plant / Tree Nurseries
- High Density Orchards
- Large Area Enclosures

Nixalite® of America Inc 1025 16th Avenue, East Moline, IL 61244 Experts In Architectural Bird Control Since 1950

K-Net HT Bird Netting is the best netting you can buy for all types of bird exclusion

jobs. Refer to the short form specs on back or contact Nixalite® of America Inc.

Other nets come in

a collapsed mesh

This takes time &

effort to stretch out

or 'rope' form.

to size.

K-Net HT is Easier to Work With and Goes Up Faster!

P: 309.755.8771
E: birdcontrol@nixalite.com
www.nixalite.com

# K-Net HT Bird Netting Short Form Specs Master Format 1995 - 10290 - Bird & Pest Control

Master Format 1995 - 10290 - Bird & Pest Control
Mater Format 2004 - 10 81 00 - Pest Control Devices
Master Format 2004 - 10 81 13 - Bird Control Devices

# PART 1 - GENERAL

# 1.1 - SYSTEM DESCRIPTION:

K-Net HT Bird Netting is constructed of black, abrasion, UV, flame and rot resistant, high density polyethylene (HDPE). The 3/4" (1.9cm) square mesh keeps out all but the smallest of pest birds. All knots are steam set.

Bird Netting Hardware provides a solid foundation that quality, long lasting installations require. Nixalite offers netting hardware to fasten all brands of bird netting to all types of surfaces.

Surface Cleaning System includes surface disinfectants and deodorizers to neutralize potentially hazardous bird or animal waste and prepare surface for installation.

# 1.2 - QUALITY ASSURANCE

A. Installer must obtain, review and understand all K-Net HT and bird netting hardware installation guidelines.

B. Installer must be familiar with the proper installation procedures for the K-Net HT bird netting and the installation hardware.

# 1.3 - SUBMITTALS

A. Manufacturer's literature including K-Net HT specifications and installation guidelines for the K-Net HT, netting hardware and specified surface cleaning system.

B. Sample of the K-Net HT Bird Netting not less than 4" square (15.2cm square).

# 1.4 STORAGE & HANDLING

Provide storage to keep all netting and netting hardware shipping boxes dry, clean and undamaged. Do not stack or place other packaging or objects on the K-Net HT boxes or bundles.

# **PART 2 - PRODUCTS**

# 2.1 ACCEPTABLE MANUFACTURER

Nixalite of America Inc 1025 16th Ave, East Moline, IL. 61244; U.S.A. P:309.755.8771 E:birdcontrol@nixalite.com

Web: www.nixalite.com

## 2.2 K-NET HT BIRD NETTING

Material: Black high density polyethylene. UV, flame and rot resistant.

Construction: Seamless knotted netting.

Standards: Must meet ISO 9001 2000 Quality

Management Standards.

Strands: 12 ply (4x3) strands with 75 lbs. (33.9 kg) knotted breaking strength.

Mesh size: 3/4"(1.9cm) square, steam set knots.

Widths: 25'(7.6m), 50'(15.2m). Lengths: 25'(7.6m), 50'(15.2m), 100'(30.4m).

Warranties: 15 year limited warranty on black K-Net HT bird netting.

Thermal & Physical Properties: Melting point: 293 degrees F. Remains flexible at very low temperatures. Specific gravity: 0.96, does not absorb water.

## 2.3 BIRD NETTING HARDWARE

A. Installer to contact manufacturer for up-to-date information and recommendations for hardware applications and procedures.

B. Manufacturer to recommend the hardware that best suits the netting application.

# **PART 3 - EXECUTION**

# 3.1 - INSPECTION

A. Visually inspect the surfaces that will receive the netting hardware and all areas that will end up behind or inside the installation. Note any damaged surfaces or incomplete construction that could compromise the bird netting installation.

- B. Note all areas, surfaces or objects that may require maintenance after the bird netting is installed (i.e. lights, electrical equipment, etc.). Plan on using the appropriate netting hardware to allow access after installation.
- C. Note any objects or conditions that could damage the installed bird netting. Plan on installing the K-Net HT in such a manner as to avoid these conditions.

## 3.2 - PREPARATION

A. Field Measurements: Verify dimensions of the areas to be enclosed. Make sure you have sufficient quantity of bird netting, netting hardware and surface cleaning products to properly install the K-Net HT Bird Netting.

# 3.3 SURFACE CLEANING

A. All surfaces to be clean, dry and free of obstructions before bird control is installed.

### 3.4 - INSTALLATION

A. Install the bird netting hardware as recommended by manufacturer. General order of installation: install perimeter and support hardware; attach bird netting to installed hardware; install access or additional support hardware as specified.

- B. Install K-Net HT as recommended by the manufacturer. If necessary cut the netting to fit the area. If multiple pieces are needed, join the pieces together with the recommended seam fastening hardware.
- C. Install K-Net HT to avoid contact with machinery, vehicles, extreme heat, tree branches, etc. Make necessary adjustments to keep the netting a sufficient distance from these objects or conditions.
- D. Finished K-Net HT installation to be taut, free of wrinkles, gaps and openings.

# 3.5 ADJUSTMENTS / CLEANING

- A. Remove debris and waste materials from project site.
- B. Inspect finished installation. Make any adjustments needed to conform to manufacturer's K-Net HT installation guidelines.



P: 309.755.8771
E: birdcontrol@nixalite.com
www.nixalite.com



# Black K-NET HT Bird Netting 15 Year Warranty

netting with a UV additive and marketed for use in structural bird & Nixalite of America Inc warrants the black K-Net HT polyethylene bat control applications will retain 70% of its published tensile strength for up to 15 Years from time of purchase.

replace the material at no charge. Adequate samples are required to be returned to the If any K-Net HT is found to fall below these tensile values, as determined by standard Instron test procedures conducted by the manufacturer, Nixalite of America Inc will manufacturer to determine tensile values through testing. This warranty does not cover costs associated with labor, installation or related hardware.

damage to the netting, such as rips, tears, etc. that may be caused by poor or improper installation, impact from objects, damage from severe weather or other acts of god, or This warranty covers the tensile strength of the product only. It does not cover other abnormal occurrences. Nixalite of America offers a wide variety of bird netting. This warranty does not warrant that a given product is suitable for a specific application. The purchaser determines the suitability of a particular product for a specific application.

Nixalite® of America Inc - 1025 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue - East Moline, IL 61244 Ph:309.755.8771 Fax:309.755.0077 www.nixalite.com

# **Premium Nixalite®**

All Stainless Steel Barrier Spikes











Premium Nixalite is the original and most successful bird barrier needle strip ever made. Made entirely of high grade stainless steel wire and strip, these barriers protect all types of surfaces from all pest birds and climbing animals. Premium Nixalite's applications are limited only by the imagination.

# The Spikes That Have No Equal

Premium Nixalite Bird Barrier Spikes are superior to all other spikes in every way.

No other bird spike can match Nixalite's quality, versatility or design. Its effectiveness for all bird species, in all infestation levels and on all types of installation surfaces is a proven fact.



With 120 points per foot, Nixalite is engineered to provide the best possible surface protection without gaps or openings that birds can exploit.

Do your own side-by-side comparison and learn what our customers have known since 1950. Nixalite has no equal.

Go to www.nixalite.com/nixalitemodels.aspx

# **Bird Spike Comparison**



Works for
Infestation
Points/ft
Made of
Lengths
Hardware
Spike Cost
Warranty
Equivalents



Nixalite<sup>6</sup>

ALL BIRDS
ALL LEVELS
120 POINTS/FT
ALL STAINLESS
2 & 4 FT
INCLUDED
PAYS FOR ITSELF
20 YEAR

NONE



Economy

PIGEONS, SEAGULLS

LIGHT INFESTATION

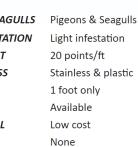
48 POINTS/FT

ALL STAINLESS

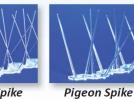
2 & 4 FT

AVAILABLE

ECONOMICAL



Numerous



Pigeon Spike Composite



Plastic

Go to www.nixalite.com/spikecomparisontable.aspx

15 YEAR

NONE

# BIRD BARRIER SPIKE WARRANTY NIXALITE® PREMIUM

Nixalite of America Inc warrants the workmanship of the Nixalite Premium Stainless Steel of 20 years against any manufacturing defects. If Nixalite of America Inc determines there is a defect with the Nixalite Premium Spikes they will be replaced. This warranty does not Bird Barrier Spike Models (hereafter referred to as Nixalite Premium Spikes) for a period Spikes caused by acts of God, abuse/neglect or ordinary wear and tear. This warranty is cover any labor costs of any kind nor does it cover any damage to the Nixalite Premium null and void if the Nixalite Premium Spike installation is not consistent with that of Nixalite of America Inc's written installation guidelines.

expressed or implied concerning individual installations. Any guarantee Since we can not control how proficiently Nixalite Premium Spikes are of effectiveness is the responsibility of the installer. There are many Nixalite Premium Spike installations still working today after being installed, we make no warranties, guarantees or representations, installed more than 50 years ago.



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