

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 8, 2009

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Claire Bingaman KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Cynthia Rounds
Project Manager – TPC-TPP-4

Proposed Action: Interim Use of Scott Mountain Communications Site

Budget Information: Work Order 00004688, Task 04

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.7
Acquisition/installation/operation/removal of communication systems, data processing equipment
B1.19 Siting/construction/operation microwave/radio communication towers

Location: Douglas County, Oregon (Township 25 South, Range 3 West, Section 28)

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), PacifiCorp (PAC)

Description of the Proposed Action: As an interim (temporary) plan-of-service, BPA proposes to allow PAC to use two vacant rack spaces within BPA's existing Scott Mountain Communications Building, and three antennas spaces on BPA's existing Scott Mountain communication tower in order for PAC to satisfy its relicensing agreement for the North Umpqua Hydroelectric Communications Project.

The available racks within the communication building will accommodate PAC equipment. The racks and batteries will be utilized by PAC while alternative space solutions are considered for PAC's long-term plan-of-service after the winter season.

Proposed antenna systems would include:

- 6GHz 8-foot diameter PAR microwave antenna with radome and waveguide, mounted on the East leg or face at a height of 60-feet
- 6GHz 6-foot diameter PAR microwave antenna with radome and waveguide, mounted on the East leg or face at a height of 30-feet
- 11GHz 6-foot diameter PAR microwave antenna with radome and waveguide, mounted on the South leg or face at a height of 40-feet

As part of the proposed project, an ice shield would be mounted immediately above each antenna. The existing 12" waveguide ice bridge that runs between the communication building and tower is not sufficient to accommodate new coax cables and PAC will provide a temporary solution subject to BPA approval.

The proposed project would not include any boring or underground work. PAC would utilize two (2) existing rack spaces and coax ports available for stringing cables between BPA's existing tower and BPA's existing communication building. The proposed interim plan-of-service is valid only until October 1, 2010.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

BPA has determined that the project would have no effect on cultural resources.

No ground disturbing work will occur as part of the proposed project. Access to the Scott Mountain Communications Building will be through existing BPA access roads. No plant or animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will be affected by the proposed project.

This proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Claire D. Bingaman
Claire Bingaman
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: October 8, 2009

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Interim: Use of Scott Mountain Communications Site

Budget Number: (Work Order #, Task #) WO# 00004866 Task 04

This project has been found to not adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No	No with conditions
1. Cultural Resources	X	
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	X	
3. Floodplains or wetlands	X	
4. Areas of special designation	X	
5. Health & safety	X	
6. Prime agricultural lands	X	
7. Special sources of water	X	
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	X	
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	X	

Note: Supporting documentation is attached.

Signed: /s/ Claire D. Bingaman

Date: October 8, 2009

bcc:

H. Adams – LK-7

Official File – KEC (EQ-15)

*CDBingaman:cdb:5922:06Oct09 <http://bpaweb/orgs/orgs main/efw/epa/tsrvcs/Projects/Scott Mtn>
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