

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: November 30, 2009

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Timothy Murray  
Project Manager – TELP-TPP-3

**Proposed Action:** Eagle Junction Clearwire Wireless Communication Facilities

**Budget Information:** WO# 00239617, Task 1

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):**

B1.7 Acquisition, installation, operation, and removal of communication systems...

B1.15 Siting, construction (or modification), and operation of support buildings or support structures...

B1.19 Siting, construction, and operation of microwave and radio communication towers and associated facilities...

**Location:** Polk County, Oregon (Township 7 South, Range 3 West, Section 19)

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) [Add others as appropriate]

**Description of the Proposed Action:**

The proposed project includes construction and operation of Clearwire wireless facilities on the Chemawa-Salem #1 & #2 transmission line, at Tower 10/5 in Polk County, Oregon. Clearwire is interested in locating three 42 inch antennas and three 24 inch radiowave microwave dishes atop the tower. Six runs of 1 5/8" coaxial cable and three runs of 5" cable will run to a support cabinet mounted on an at-grade concrete slab directly underneath the existing tower.

The support cabinet would be enclosed within a 9'x 9' fenced area supported by six underground poles placed within 3'x 1' deep concrete piers. A metering base and dap units rack will also be mounted within the proposed fence area, but outside of the concrete slab space. Additional underground work will include five 3'6" deep by 1' wide holes for mounting proposed metering, rack, and conduit equipment. A 3'6" deep by 1' wide trench would run 100 feet north of the proposed Clearwire fenced compound to accommodate an underground conduit and power run.

All construction activities would occur within existing BPA right-of-way (ROW) and on previously disturbed surfaces.

**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.

Background research was undertaken by BPA Contract Archaeologist Nicole F. Brannan using the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office database. The 10/5 tower is located within the BPA right-of-way and was previously surveyed in 1979 as a part of the original assessment for Bonneville's Chemawa-Salem 230kV line. No cultural material was identified within one mile of the site. However, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office determined that the 1979 survey had insufficient information on methodology and surface visibility. As such, BPA agreed that a cultural resources monitor be present during all ground disturbing activities to ensure that no cultural material is affected by the proposed project.

A list of endangered, threatened, and proposed species, including critical habitats from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service showed two listed endangered plant species potentially located within the proposed project area. The Willamette daisy (*Erigeron decumbens* var. *decumbens*), is a perennial herb typically found in alluvial soils deposited by flowing waters. Bradshaw's lomatium (*Lomatium bradshawii*) is a perennial herb that typically occurs in saturated or flooded prairies adjacent to creeks and small rivers in the southern Willamette Valley. Both species occur on soils in the Wapto, Bashaw, and Mcalpin Series. The proposed project area is located in a previously disturbed BPA ROW that does not provide suitable soil or habitat for either species. Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, BPA has made a determination of no effect for all ESA proposed or designated listed species and critical habitats due to TView2 database search results, lack of habitat and prey species, and distance away from water bodies.

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 Bingaman

Claire Bingaman KEC 4  
Environmental Project Manager – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer - KEC-4

DATE: December 2, 2009

Attachment: Provisions

## **ATTACHMENT**

### **PROVISIONS**

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

A cultural resources monitor will be present during all ground disturbing activities.

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Eagle Junction Clearwire Wireless Communication Facilities

**Budget Number:** WO# 00239617, Task 1

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

<b>Environmental Resources</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No with conditions</b>
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	<b>x</b>	

**Note: Supporting documentation is attached.**

Signed: /s/ Claire Bingaman

Date: 12-02-2009