

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: January 26, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

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

Proposed Action: Nike Clearwire Wireless Communication Facilities

Budget Information: WO# 227499, Task 01

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: Washington County, Oregon, Township 1 South, Range 1 West, Section 5

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed project includes construction and operation of Communication (Clearwire) wireless facilities on the Keeler-Oregon City #2 transmission line, at tower 9/2 in Washington County, Oregon. Clearwire is interested in locating three panel antennas and three microwave dishes atop the 79 foot tower. Coaxial cables will run to a support cabinet mounted on an at-grade 7 feet x 7 feet concrete slab within an existing T-Mobile fenced area. All construction activities will occur within a previously disturbed, fenced-in area within the existing BPA right-of-way (ROW).

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.

Section 106 consultation was initiated on December 9, 2009 with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (ORSHPO), Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde, and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz. Due to the nature of the project, the area having been previously disturbed by the installation of the tower, and all activities remaining within the disturbed footprint, BPA determined that the proposed undertaking would have no effect on historic properties. No response was received from the consulted tribes.

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 eGIS database search results, lack of habitat and prey species, and distance away from water bodies.

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

/s/ Claire Bingaman

Claire Bingaman
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: January 27, 2010