

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: January 5, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

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

Proposed Action: Redland South and Oregon City Microwave Tower Wireless Communication Projects

Budget Information: Work Order #257324, Task 01; WO#237081, Task 01

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

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

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

Locations:

Redland South

Township 3 South, Range 2 East, Section 12 in Clackamas County, Oregon

Oregon City

Township 3 South, Range 2 West, Section 2 in Washington County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action:

BPA proposes to attach wireless communication facilities atop a BPA-owned transmission tower and a BPA communication tower to accommodate requests from two wireless communication customers.

Redland South

AT&T Mobility requests to attach antennas and ground equipment to BPA's Big Eddy-Chemawa #1 line at tower 78/4.

Oregon City Substation

Clearwire requests to attach antennas and ground equipment to BPA's Oregon City Substation Microwave tower.

Each project will include the attachment of panel antennas atop an existing transmission or communication tower. Ethernet and coaxial cable will run from the top of each tower to a cable tray near the base of the tower, and to a support cabinet mounted on an at-grade concrete slab

directly underneath the existing tower. Each support cabinet will be enclosed within a fenced area supported by underground poles placed within 3'x 1' deep concrete piers. Additional metering equipment will also be mounted within the fenced area, but outside of the concrete slab space.

Additional ground disturbance will include a 3-foot deep trench approximately 18 inches wide that will run from the support cabinet to an offsite transformer a minimum of 100 feet away from the tower site. The purpose of the trench is to run conduit to an offsite power source for added safety and reliability. At sites where existing communications equipment is not present, a permanent access road will be developed off of existing access points within or adjacent to the right-of-way.

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 conducted with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (ORSHPO), Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Siletz Indian Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon. 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. ORSHPO concurred with this determination on September 3, 2010. 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 5, 2011

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Redland South and Oregon City Microwave Tower Wireless Communication Projects

Work Order #: WO#257324, Task 01;
WO#237081, Task 01

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

| Environmental Resources | No Adverse Effect | No Adverse Effect With Conditions |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Cultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Floodplains or wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Areas of special designation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Health & safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Prime agricultural lands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Special sources of water | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Pollution control at Federal facilities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Signed: /s/ Claire Bingaman

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