

memorandum

DATE: July 11, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: David Tripp
Project Manager – TEP-CSB-1

Proposed Action: Shaniko Radio Station Replacement Project

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.19
Siting/construction/operation of microwave/radio communication towers

Location: Township 6 South, Range 16 East, Sections 20 and 29, Wasco County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to install a new VHF/UHF radio system on the existing BPA Shaniko Radio communication tower, and to construct a new 600 square foot radio station adjacent to the existing fiberglass radio station that has reached the end of its life. The proposed radio station would share equipment space with PacifiCorp and would house batteries, communication racks, a generator, and an HVAC system. The existing radio station, which has begun to show signs of deterioration, would be decommissioned over time and eventually removed from site. The existing propane tank would also be removed from site and replaced with a new propane tank suitable to meet current safety standards. All construction activity would occur within the graveled tower yard on BPA fee-owned property, which is accessible by existing maintained access roads. The project area is heavily disturbed and absent of unique wildlife habitat, water features, or other environmentally sensitive resources.

On August 31, 2011 BPA initiated Section 106 consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation. A cultural resource survey and report were completed for the project. The cultural resource report determined that the project would have no effect on cultural resources or historic properties as protected under the National Historic Preservation Act. BPA sent letters notifying the SHPO and consulted Tribes of this determination May 17, 2012. The SHPO concurred with BPA's findings on May 30, 2012. No response was received from the consulted tribes.

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, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011). 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, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, 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, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements.

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 McClory

Claire McClory

Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 11, 2012

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Shaniko Radio Station Replacement Project

Work Order #: 255072, Task 03

This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and 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 or unique farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List any additional supporting documentation in project file.

Categorical Exclusion

Signed: /s/ Claire McClory

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