

memorandum

DATE: March 21, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Roger Thomas
Project Manager – TECT-CSB-1

Proposed Action: Install high frequency antennas at Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) maintenance headquarters

PP&A Project No.: 2,600

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.19 Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers

Locations: Multiple; including BPA's Alvey, Pasco, and Snohomish maintenance headquarters

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to install high frequency radio antennas within existing BPA maintenance headquarters sites. Antenna design varies by site, but generally the small antennas will be mounted between 20-35 feet above the ground using one or two wood poles or, where possible, a removable antenna will be mounted on the existing maintenance building roof. The purpose of this project is to expand and complement BPA's existing communications capabilities with a system that provides reliable exchange of voice and data information in those circumstances where existing systems are either not available or damaged by significant disruptive events. Transmission Emergency Planning has determined the creation of a High Frequency Automatic Link Establishment (HF-ALE) radio communications system will meet this requirement. The antennas are scheduled to be installed in 2013.

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.

The proposed project will not affect any listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act, or historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act. The project will not impact areas of great visual value and no project sites are within a governmentally designated scenic area.

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/ Makary A. Hutson

Makary A. Hutson
Environmental Project Manager

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: March 21, 2013

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: High frequency antennas at BPA maintenance headquarters

Work Order #: 310517

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.

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Typical equipment at existing facilities co-located with similar equipment. No potential to impact historic or cultural resources. Inadvertent discovery protocol should be included with construction spec if ground disturbance for pole installation is required.		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work within existing BPA facilities with no potential to impact ESA species		
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 – Visual Impacts - existing facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed /s/ Makary A. Hutson

Date March 13, 2013

Makary A. Hutson, KEPR-4