

# memorandum

DATE: July 3, 2013

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

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

**Proposed Action:** Teakean Butte Radio Station Upgrade

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.19 Microwave, meteorological and radio towers; B1.24 Property transfers

**Location:** Township 38 North, Range 1 East, Section 31, Clearwater County, Idaho

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:**

BPA proposes to upgrade analog radio communication equipment with a new digital communication system at the Teakean Butte Radio Site located near Lewiston, Idaho. BPA would replace equipment including a tower, communication building, and propane tank to ensure communication reliability. Teakean Butte is used by several different entities to operate communication equipment and eight radio towers are located adjacent to BPA's existing facility.

BPA proposes to construct the new facilities prior to removal of the outdated equipment and would acquire 0.23 acres to the west of the existing facilities to locate the new facilities. The area around the new tower and building would be graded and rocked. One 24-foot conifer, shrubs, and low growing vegetation would be removed. The new equipment would include a 140-foot self-supporting radio tower on a pier foundation (6 feet in diameter by 30 feet deep for each tower leg), a control building (approximately 18 feet x 36 feet), and two 1,000 gallon propane tanks meeting current safety standards. Bollards would be installed around the propane tanks at a depth of 3 feet (3 feet remaining above ground). The building would house batteries, communication racks, a generator, and an HVAC system. To provide power to the new facilities, an existing overhead power line would be rerouted to the new control building by removing one power pole and installing two additional poles. Entering the control building, the electrical conduit would be trenched at a depth of 36 inches. The existing facilities that would be removed include a self-supporting lattice-steel tower 75 feet tall, a fiberglass communication building, and a 64,000 gallon propane tank.

The site is accessible by an existing access road, though some grading of the road would be needed for construction vehicle access. Tree removal for the radio beam paths would not be necessary since the antennas would be mounted on a taller tower above tree height.

**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/ Carolyn Sharp*  
Carolyn A. Sharp  
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

*/s/ Katherine S. Pierce*  
Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *July 3, 2013*

Attachment: *Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions*

# Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Teakean Butte Radio Station Upgrade

Work Order #: 254976

**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 ID SHPO no effect concurrence 1/8/2013	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Carolyn Sharp

Date: July 3, 2013