

# memorandum

DATE: May 12, 2014

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Amanda Williams  
Project Manager - TEP-TPP-3

**Proposed Action:** Bell-Boundary Fiber Project (*update to previous Categorical Exclusion issued on June 11, 2013*)

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.7 – Fiber optic cable

**Location:** Pend Orielle County, WA

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** In addition to the work described in the previous Categorical Exclusion, BPA proposes to clear brush, trim tree limbs, and remove up to 10 trees to enable equipment to install the underground fiber optic cable within about 10 feet of the Sacheen Radio Station fence.

**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.

Based on the provisions identified on the attachment, this proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above.

*/s/ Kara Hempy-Mayer*  
Kara Hempy-Mayer  
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

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

Date: *May 12, 2014*

Attachment(s):  
Provisions  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## **ATTACHMENT**

### **PROVISIONS**

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

#### **Migratory Birds**

- Both living and dead trees will be inspected by the contractor's environmental representative for active bird nests prior to tree removal.
- If an active nest with eggs or young is present, tree removal will be postponed until after the birds fledge.

# Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Bell-Boundary Fiber Project (update to previous Categorical Exclusion issued on June 11, 2013)

**Work Order #:** 291638

**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 No effect determination: area surveyed and cleared previously by BPA: no cultural or historic resources present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) The previous determination for the Bell-Boundary Fiber project found that it may affect, but would not likely adversely affect Canada lynx and grizzly bear from construction disturbance . The clearing of brush and removal of up to 10 trees, many of which are dead or small saplings, to lay underground fiber optic cable directly outside of the Sacheen radio station fence would not change the determination of effects made in the Biological Evaluation for the project, which received concurrence from USFWS on June 4, 2013 (see BPA 2013). Disturbance from construction activities has been accounted for, and there would be no loss of habitat for these species. No critical habitat or other federally listed species would be affected by the project (BPA 2013a, 2013b).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety Workers would follow BPA standards for Health and Safety during construction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands No prime or unique farmlands would be affected by this activity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe) To protect migratory birds, a nest survey will be conducted prior to any tree removal. If nests are found, removal of the tree with the nest will be postponed until after the birds have fledged.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Supporting Documentation:**

BPA (Bonneville Power Administration). 2013a. Biological Assessment: Bonneville Power Administration – ‘D’ Analog System Retirement Project and Bell-Boundary Fiber Project. Portland, OR: BPA. 69 pp.

BPA (Bonneville Power Administration). 2013b. Digital Communication System Upgrade Project: ‘D’ Analog System Retirement and #WC Sonet Ring and Bell-Boundary Fiber Project (Endangered Species Act) No Effect Memo. Portland, OR: BPA. 13 pp.

Signed: /s/ Kara Hempy-Mayer

Date: May 12, 2014