

# memorandum

DATE: June 9, 2014

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

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

**Proposed Action:** Mica Peak Radio Station Upgrade (update to previous categorical exclusion issued March 3, 2014)

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

**Location:** Spokane County, Washington

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA is upgrading its Mica Peak Radio Station by replacing analog communication equipment with a digital system. In addition to the work described in the previous categorical exclusion for this project (March 3, 2014), BPA proposes to improve a road and remove trees.

About 400 feet of existing dirt road would be improved by adding 1.5-inch crushed rock; the road would be used for construction access. Also, tree removal was not considered in the previous categorical exclusion because the areas surrounding the site were scheduled to be logged by a timber company. However, the timber company did not clear some small and dead trees. These trees would need to be cleared in two, 20-foot by 50-foot areas next to the radio station. About 75 small or dead trees would need to be removed in these two areas combined.

**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 (also included with the original categorical exclusion), this proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above.

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

Concur:

*/s/ Stacy Mason*  
Stacy Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *June 9, 2014*

Attachments:  
Provisions  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**ATTACHMENT**  
**PROVISIONS**

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

Cultural Resources

Per a request from the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Spokane Tribe of Indians, a BPA-provided archaeological monitor will be on site for all ground disturbing activities associated with construction of the communication site. The contractor will be responsible for coordinating with BPA to ensure that the monitor is on site at the appropriate time.

In the event any archaeological or historic materials are encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:

- Stop work in the immediate vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead and cultural resource specialist. Notify interested tribes, the landowner, and the appropriate county, state, and federal agencies.
- Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site and restrict access to the site of discovery.

# Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Mica Peak Radio Station Upgrade (update to previous categorical exclusion issued March 3, 2014)

**Work Order #:** 00254976

**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 Washington SHPO concurrence with determination that no historic properties would be affected on 5/27/14. Spokane Tribe concurrence 11/18/13, with a request for presence of cultural monitor during ground disturbing activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Replacing equipment at previously developed site	<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 No risks as a result of this project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation in official project file  
Section 106 consultation, site maps

Signed: /s/ Carolyn A. Sharp

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