

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Haystack Butte Radio Site Land Acquisition

**Project Manager:** Molly Kovaka TEP-CSB-2

**Location:** Klickitat County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.24 Property Transfers

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to acquire an 8,300 square foot parcel of undeveloped land 150 feet north of its Haystack Butte radio communication site in Klickitat County, Washington. The property is zoned for agricultural use, but is adjacent to several privately owned radio communication facilities. The acquisition is proposed at this time in anticipation of the potential need to move the existing facility when the existing lease expires. Although the parcel is currently undeveloped, adjacent radio site development is encroaching and purchase of the land now would help ensure BPA has a future site available. BPA will conduct environmental analysis for any proposed facility moves or new construction if and when the actions are proposed.

**Findings:** In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) 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), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- (1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);
- (2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Claire McClory

Claire McClory  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: October 27, 2014

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

## Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

**Proposed Action:** Haystack Butte Radio Site Land Acquisition

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### Project Site Description

The site to be acquired is located on a small sub-rectangular 8,300 square foot parcel situated on a level bench near the summit of Haystack Butte in the Columbia Basin physiographic province. Much of the area has been impacted by ongoing agricultural practices and pastoral farming. Several radio communication facilities and towers are immediately adjacent to the proposed site.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> WA SHPO concurrence on no adverse effect determination 10/21/14. Yakama Nation concurred 8/14/14, Warm Springs Tribes concurred 6/3/14.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance proposed; property acquisition only.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance proposed; property acquisition only.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance proposed; property acquisition only.</p>		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance proposed; property acquisition only.</p>		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation:

No ground disturbance proposed; property acquisition only.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation:

No ground disturbance proposed; property acquisition only.

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**

Explanation:

Acquiring the property would not alter its present grazing use.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation:

No ground disturbance proposed; property acquisition only.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation:

No ground disturbance proposed; property acquisition only.

11. **Noise**

Explanation:

No ground disturbance proposed; property acquisition only.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation:

No ground disturbance proposed; property acquisition only.

### **Evaluation of Other Integral Elements**

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

Explanation, if necessary:

- 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, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

Explanation, if necessary:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: BPA has been in contact with property owner to negotiate terms of acquisition.

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Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on any environmentally sensitive resources.

Signed: /s/ Claire McClory

Date: October 27, 2014