Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy

Proposed Action: Carson Wireless Communication Site Fiber Upgrade

Project Manager: Jonathan Toobian TEP-TPP-1

Location: Skamania County, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to allow T-Mobile to install a new subsurface fiber conduit on BPA property. The conduit would run from T-Mobile's existing Carson wireless communication facility located beneath tower 10/2 on BPA's Bonneville-Midway No. 1 transmission line to an existing utility pole located 100 feet southeast. From there the fiber would run aerially along existing utility poles parallel to BPA's right-of-way.

The fiber would be placed in a 2 inch conduit in a 3 foot wide by 36 inch deep trench that would be backfilled with sand to stabilize, then capped and compacted with native soils. All work would occur within a previously disturbed area.

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:

fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);

(1) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
(2) 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 Date: *May 29, 2015*
Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

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.

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Project Site Description

The subsurface fiber would be installed on BPA-owned transmission line right-of-way. The area is covered in nonnative plants and grasses and has been previously disturbed by grazing operations, transmission line construction, and buried utilities.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. **Historic and Cultural Resources**	☑	☐
Explanation: WA SHPO concurrence on no historic properties affected on 4/16/2015. Cowlitz Indian Tribe has indicated that the project is within a tribal area of concern and asked that Inadvertant Discovery language be appended to this document.		
2. **Geology and Soils**	☑	☐
Explanation: Minimal soil disturbance, erosion control measures would be used.		
3. **Plants** (including federal/state special-status species)	☑	☐
Explanation: No special status species present.		
4. **Wildlife** (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	☑	☐
Explanation: No special status species present.		
5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish** (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	☑	☐
Explanation: None present.		

6.	**Wetlands**	☑	☐
	Explanation: None present.		
7.	**Groundwater and Aquifers**	☑	☐
	Explanation: None present.		
8.	**Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**	☑	☐
	Explanation: No change to land use proposed. Trenched areas would be returned to their present use.		
9.	**Visual Quality**	☑	☐
	Explanation: Aerial fiber would not be noticeably different from existing conditions.		
10.	**Air Quality**	☑	☐
	Explanation: Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions due to construction.		
11.	**Noise**	☑	☐
	Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.		
12.	**Human Health and Safety**	☑	☐
	Explanation: No impact.		

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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: BPA owns the property in fee.

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: *May 29, 2015*
Claire McClory