

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Boistfort Peak Washington State Patrol Interchange

Project Manager: Dave Tripp – TEP-CSB-1

Location: Lewis County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): xxxxx

Description of the Proposed Action: As part of upgrading its digital communications system, BPA proposes to migrate circuits off of the "N" analog system and replace an existing interchange that is due for retirement. The project would create a new interchange between BPA's Boistfort Radio Site and Washington State Patrol's (WSP) Radio Site, both located on Boistfort Peak in Lewis County, Washington. A new approximately 250 foot long conduit would be placed between the two sites via a 3 by 3 foot deep trench. The conduit would be stabilized using crushed gravel and sand, then the trench would be backfilled with native soils. New copper cabling would facilitate both analog and digital signals. BPA would provide WSP a new channel bank for their radio site. The channel bank would be owned and maintained by WSP but the channel bank resources would be shared evenly between WSP and BPA. Any ground disturbance would take place within a previously disturbed area. No new access road work is needed for this project.

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

Date: May 7, 2015

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:

Project Site Description

Boistfort Peak is located about seven miles southeast of Pe El in Lewis County, Washington. The project is located in the Willapa Hills Physiographic province that covers most of southwestern Washington. Most of the area is covered by dense plant cover typically found in humid regions. Plants in the area include Douglas fir, Indian paintbrush, wild blueberry and various grasses. The proposed route of travel for the 250 foot conduit is located within areas that have been previously leveled and graveled.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> A cultural resources survey uncovered a disturbed refuse scatter that was determined ineligible for inclusion in the National Register. Washington Department of Archaeologist and Historic Preservation concurred with this determination on 3/23/15.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Soil disturbance would be limited to areas that have been previously leveled and graded.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special status species present. Some non-native grasses and shrubs removed or disturbed.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> All work within an existing disturbed area. No habitat present.</p>		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> None present.</p>		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation:

None present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation:

Maximum depth of disturbance would be 4 feet. No new wells or use of ground water proposed.

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

Explanation:

All work in existing disturbed area used to facilitate radio communications.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation:

No aerial work proposed.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation:

Small amount of dust and vehicle emission due to construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation:

Temporary construction noise would be limited to daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation:

No hazards present.

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: The property is owned by Weyerhaeuser Lumber and leased by BPA and WSA. BPA has obtained the necessary lease agreements from Weyehaeuser to begin work for this project.

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
Claire McClory KEC-4

Date: May 7, 2015