

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Verizon Longacre Wireless Installation

**Project Manager:** Jonathan Toobian—TELP-TPP-3

**Location:** Washington County, Oregon.

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to allow Verizon Wireless to install an unmanned telecommunications facility at base tower 17/1 of the Pearl-Keeler Line #1 transmission line. The proposed project would consist of installing six new panel antennas, three hybrid cables, six remote radio units, and six surge suppressors on an existing 108-foot tall BPA transmission tower. Additionally, four equipment cabinets would be installed on an 8-foot by 15-foot concrete equipment pad, and a GPS antenna would be installed on a proposed ice-bridge, within a proposed 24-foot by 20-foot lease area inside a new fenced compound. A 5-foot wide gravel access path would connect the lease area to the existing asphalt sidewalk. There would be approximately 285 feet of underground trenching for installation of power from the lease area to a new transformer on Jay Street, to the south.

**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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Motus Staffing & Recruiting

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 17, 2016

Attachment: 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 project would occur in Aloha, an unincorporated community in Washington County, Oregon. The tower is located in Township 1 South, Range 2 West, Section 2. The area is within the Beaverton Creek watershed and consists of flat terrain. The vegetation in the proposed project area consists of unidentified grass species. The surrounding areas are developed with residential housing developments; vegetation consists mostly of sod grass and ornamental plants. The project lies within a BPA right-of-way.

### 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> A Section 106 review concluded that there would be no adverse effects to historical or cultural resources. On March 4, 2016, the cultural resource survey was sent to Oregon SHPO, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. The OR SHPO office requested further analysis on the impact of this project to the BPA transmission line. Additional information was sent to SHPO on April 13, 2016. To date, the SHPO office has not responded. Neither tribe responded.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Soils would be excavated for the concrete equipment pad beneath the tower, the gravel walkway, and for utility trenching and transformer installation along SW Jay Street. Approximately 115 cubic yards of ground disturbance would occur; however, most of the backfilling would use native soils and the area would be re-seeded with a native seed mix. Best management practices (BMPs) would be utilized to prevent erosion of soils. The maximum depth of soil disturbance would be 4.5 feet.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status plant species or habitat present. The project area consists mainly of grasses. The right-of-way corridor is routinely mowed, and managed to deter shrub and tree growth.</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 special-status wildlife species or habitat present. The site is flanked on either side by residential subdivisions. The project would have no impacts to special-status species.</p>		

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**  
(including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)



Explanation: The project area does not have any water bodies, floodplains, or listed fish species. An ephemeral stream is located approximately 0.10 mile to the east. Best management practices would be used to avoid erosion during construction.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: The project area does not contain wetlands. The soils in the project area are classified as hydric; however, a site visit was completed in February 2016 and the project area did not exhibit wetland vegetation or hydrology characteristics.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project would not impact groundwater or aquifers as maximum depth of disturbance would be 4.5 feet.

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



Explanation: There would be no permanent changes to the land use at this location. Trenched areas would be returned to their present use.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Eight-foot tall aerial antennas would be installed at 60 feet on the 108-foot tall BPA tower and would not be noticeably different from existing conditions.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: There would be a small amount of dust and vehicle emissions during construction; however, there would be no significant changes to air quality during or after 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:

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: The project proponent, Verizon Wireless, is responsible for notification and permitting with the underlying landowner, the City of Hillsboro.

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

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Motus Staffing & Recruiting

Date: May 17, 2016