

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Fiber Leasing at Existing BPA Facilities

Project Manager: Multiple

Location: Multiple locations in California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming

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

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow customers to lease excess operational fiber on existing BPA fiber optic cables connected at BPA-owned facilities throughout the BPA service territory in 2016 and 2017. Specifically, BPA would allow customers to gain access to leased fiber cables by splicing into cables located on existing structures or in existing vaults, including Bonneville Vaults (BVs) and/or Customer Vaults (CVs) or by installing new fiber cables in existing conduit.

The actions allowed would not require ground disturbing activities (i.e., no excavation) on BPA property. Each project would be reviewed by the BPA NEPA lead to ensure that the activities fall within the range of those described in this Categorical Exclusion prior to initiating work. Customers would be responsible for complying with applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations for their actions, including any work that may be required off of BPA-owned property.

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/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 4, 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.

Proposed Action: Fiber Leasing at Existing BPA Facilities

Project Site Description

Work would occur on existing BPA transmission line structures, fiber vaults, or conduit typically adjacent to or within BPA electric substations or maintenance headquarters. These facilities are located in BPA's service territory including Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Montana, California, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> BPA archaeologist reviewed proposed activities and determined that these types of activities do not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance to vegetation would occur. Work would occur on existing structures, in existing vaults, or in in existing conduit.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance to wildlife would occur. Work would occur at existing facilities and would be consistent with activities occurring in the area.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance to water bodies, floodplains, or fish would occur. Work would occur on existing structures, in existing vaults, or in existing conduit.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance to wetlands would occur. Work would occur on existing structures, in existing vaults, or in in existing conduit.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No ground or groundwater disturbance would occur.

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

Explanation: No change in land use would occur.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: No change in visual quality would occur.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Minor, temporary emissions associated with construction traffic would occur.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Minor, temporary noise associated with work activities would occur.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No impact to human health and safety.

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: Facilities would be BPA-owned or leased and the actions would be of the nature as to not cause impacts to surrounding landowners. If the customer required additional actions not on BPA property, they would be responsible for coordinating with underlying or surrounding landowners.

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

Signed: /s/ Elizabeth Siping
Elizabeth Siping – ECT-4

Date: May 4, 2016