

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Sprint Springhill Antenna Installation

Project Manager: Chuck Wedick—TELP-TPP-3

Location: Benton 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: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow Sprint to install six new antennas on tower 21/6 of the Salem-Albany-1 transmission line. Sprint currently has three antennas on the 21/6 wooden pole, which is slated for removal and replacement with a new 100-foot-tall steel monopole, as part of BPA's Salem-Albany-1 line rebuild. The new antennas would be 6 feet tall and 4 feet wide. The existing equipment would be removed and relocated in the same location. There would be no new ground disturbance associated with the Sprint 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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Staffing & Recruiting

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lyndard

Gene Lyndard
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel
Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: September 1, 2017

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 location is in Benton County, Oregon, along Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Salem-Albany-1 transmission line, tower 21/6. The site is located in Section 36, Township 10 South, Range 4 West. The tower is within BPA's right-of-way easement, which is within a residential neighborhood, just south of NW Crittenden Loop. A small community park is located to the north of the project location.

The vegetation at the site consists of Pacific dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*), cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) saplings, horsetail (*Equisetum* sp.), and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*).

A review of the National Wetland Inventory, topography and aerial photos did not indicate that there are any wetlands or water bodies at the sites; however, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey rates the soil as being hydric. During a site visit, BPA staff determined that the location does not exhibit wetland characteristics.

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 cultural staff determined that the project is unlikely to impact cultural or historical resources.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project does not involve ground disturbance; therefore, there would be no impact to geology or soils.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status plants exist at the site and there is no ground disturbance proposed; therefore, there would be no impact to special-status plants.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The site is in a residential neighborhood and is not likely to impact wildlife.		

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



Explanation: There are no water bodies, floodplains, or fish that would be impacted by this project.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: The site is not in a wetland and there is no ground disturbance proposed; therefore, there would be no impact to wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project would not involve ground disturbance; therefore, there would be no impact to groundwater and aquifers.

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



Explanation: There would be no change to land use at the project location and there are no Wild and Scenic areas adjacent to the project location.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Aerial antennas would be compatible with the existing use of the utility corridor.

10. **Air Quality**



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

11. **Noise**



Explanation: The nearest residence is approximately 80 feet from the project location. Construction noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: There would be 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: The project proponent, Sprint, is responsible for coordination with the underlying landowner and permitting with the local jurisdiction.

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 ECT-4

Date: September 1, 2017