

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Sprint Bethel Wireless Communication Equipment Upgrade

Project Manager: Jonathan Toobian—TELP-TPP-3

Location: Lane 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 Sprint Corporation to upgrade their antennas and equipment at an existing radio tower site, on BPA's Eugene Substation property at DC (donation claim) 43, Township 17 South, Range 4 West. The work would consist of removing three Omni whip antennas and replacing them with six panel antennas. A small (15 inch) microwave dish would be installed on the tower. Nine remote radio heads (RRHs) would be added to the antenna mounts and new coaxial cable would be installed, connecting the RRHs to existing equipment located beneath the radio tower base. Two new equipment cabinets would also be installed within the equipment compound. To ensure safety, BPA workers and subcontractors would complete the wireless antenna and coaxial cable installation work. The project would not involve any excavation.

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/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 2, 2018

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 antenna and equipment upgrades would occur on an existing BPA radio tower, located within a fenced compound at the Eugene Substation. The surrounding area is a mix of commercial, industrial, and residential use with a large train yard to the east of the site. The project location is 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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> BPA Cultural staff have reviewed the proposed project and have determined that this type of activity does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, per 36 CFR 800.3 (a). In addition, the project location was reviewed and is not located in, or near, any known archaeological sites.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The proposed project does not involve ground disturbance. The project would have no impacts to geology or soils.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would have no impacts to any special-status plants.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species or habitat is present at the project location. The project would have no impacts to special-status wildlife.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project area does not have any water bodies, floodplains, or listed fish species; therefore, there would be no impacts to these resources.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project is not in a wetland.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: The project does not involve any 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. Additionally, there are no specially designated areas at the location.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The wireless antennas and equipment would be consistent with the existing visual quality of the radio tower.

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: Construction noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours. Operation 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 is on BPA property and surrounding landowners would not be affected: the project is approximately 50 feet from residential housing; however, the project would be of short duration and construction activities would occur during normal business hours.

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

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Motus Staffing & Recruiting

Date: February 2, 2018