

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Radio Communication Equipment Removal – #KC Non-Disturbance

Project No.: P00214

Project Manager: Benjamin Younce – TEP-CSB-2

Location: Oregon Counties: Crook, Deschutes, Harney, Klickitat, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Sherman, Wasco, Washington, Yamhill

Clark County, Washington

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 decommission communication components at multiple substations and radio facilities listed below in Oregon and Washington. Replacement equipment has already been installed and now BPA needs to remove obsolete equipment. The proposed work would improve work areas and structural integrity of structures that support network operations. Work would include, but is not limited to, removing decommissioned antennas and fiber optic transmitters on towers or buildings, towers, ice shields, propane tanks (not the foundations), batteries and chargers, and analog equipment on racks. This work would not cause any new ground disturbance, and would occur at the following BPA facilities:

- Alcoa Substation – remove antenna and tower
- Alvey 230-kV Substation – remove antenna, tower, and racks
- Applegate Radio Site – remove antennas, tower, propane tank, battery, and racks
- Bald Peak Radio Site – remove antennas and racks
- Buck Butte Radio Site – remove antennas and battery
- Big Eddy 230-kV Substation – remove building mount, antenna, and racks
- Burns Butte Radio Site – remove antennas, tower, and rack
- Captain Jack Substation – remove antennas and racks
- Chemawa Substation – remove antennas and racks
- Coburg Radio Site – remove antennas and racks
- Dittmer Control Center – remove antenna
- Fort Rock Substation – remove antenna and tower
- Grizzly Mountain Radio Site – remove antenna and racks
- Harney Substation – remove antenna, tower, and rack
- Indian Mountain – remove antennas, tower, ice shield, propane tank, battery and racks
- John Day Substation – remove antenna and racks
- John Day Passive – remove tower and antenna
- Keeler Substation – remove antennas
- Malin Substation – remove antennas and racks
- Marion Substation – remove building mounted tower, antennas, and racks

- Odell Butte Radio Site – remove antennas and racks
- Pine Mountain Radio Site – remove antennas, angle, and racks
- Ponderosa Substation – remove antenna and racks
- Prospect Hill Radio Site – remove antenna and racks
- Salem Substation – remove antennas, building-mounted tower, and racks
- Sand Spring Substation – remove antenna
- Santiam Substation – antenna and fiber optic transmitter
- Shaniko Radio Site – remove antennas, propane tank, battery, and racks
- Summer Lake Substation – remove antenna and racks
- Swan Lake Radio Site – remove antennas, towers, propane tank, battery, and racks
- Sycan Substation – remove tower, angle, antenna, racks
- West Portland Radio Site – remove antenna and racks
- Wolf Mountain Radio Site – remove antennas, tower, and racks; Corps of Engineers and Forest Service VHF antennas on tower to be removed would be moved to other tower on 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/ Gene Lynard for
 Nancy A. Wittpenn
 Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason
 Stacy L. Mason
 NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 17, 2018

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.

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Project Site Description

All work would take place within BPA substations and radio facilities on BPA fee-owned property in Oregon and Washington. This work would not cause new ground disturbance. All project areas have previously been disturbed.

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’s archaeologist and historian 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 at these existing communication sites.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur at these existing communication sites.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> For the Odell Butte and Wolf Mountain sites, BPA will schedule work outside of the critical nesting period, March 15 th through July 15 th , to minimize potential impacts to the Northern Spotted Owl. Documented eagle nests are located within a mile of several sites or access roads to sites. If documented nests are active or new nests are observed and occupied, work at these sites would be scheduled outside of the breeding and nesting period (January through August). Sites include Buck Butte, Captain Jack, Grizzly Mountain, Indian Mountain, Pine Mountain, Sand Spring, Summer Lake, and Sycan. <u>Mitigation:</u> Before work begins, the project PM or PE will contact the environmental protection specialist to review work schedules and site access. The EPS will then contact the appropriate agency to confirm the presence of eagles and other raptors.		
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 water bodies, floodplains, or fish are present at the communication sites.		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands are present at the communication sites.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No ground disturbance would occur at these existing communication sites.

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

Explanation: The Big Eddy Substation site is within the National Scenic Gorge Area but within the urban land use. All work would occur within the existing communication sites and are allowed uses.

Mitigation: As some sites are owned by the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management, the BPA Realty Specialist and Project Manager will coordinate required notification and entry protocol with the land owner/manager before work begins at each site.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: Equipment would be removed which may actually improve the immediate visual quality of these sites.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Dust would be generated while equipment is being removed but the amount and duration would be temporary.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Sites are located in urban/industrial and rural areas. Noise would occur from vehicles on access roads travelling to the site and from equipment removal at the site; but duration would be during daylight hours and would be temporary. See Wildlife above.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: All safety requirements would be followed for equipment removal which should minimize impacts 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: Most sites are owned in fee by BPA. Others are owned by the USFS and BLM. All access rights have been acquired. The BPA Realty Specialist and Project Manager will coordinate required notification and entry protocol with the landowner/manager before work begins at each site.

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

Signed: /s/ Gene Lynard for
Nancy A. Wittpenn – ECT-4

Date: May 17, 2018