

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Verizon Franklin Park Antenna Upgrade and Vault Installation

Project Manager: Jonathan Toobian

Location: Clark County, WA

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 Verizon to remove and replace six antennas at their Franklin Park wireless site, which is on tower 2/3 of BPA's Ross-Alcoa-No. 3 transmission line. Six remote radio units (RRUs) would also be removed and replaced with nine new RRUs. Finally, a new 17-inch by 30-inch by 36-inch vault would be installed in the right-of-way, approximately 15-feet west of the transmission tower.

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: May 17, 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 project site is located within Bonneville Power Administration’s (BPA) Ross-Alcoa-No. 3 transmission right-of-way in Vancouver, WA. The site is in Section 10, Township 2 North, Range 1 East. The surrounding area consists mainly of urban residential housing.

The vegetation in the project area consists of invasive Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), Queen Anne’s lace (*Daucus carota*) and unidentified grasses.

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 has reviewed the proposed project and determined that this type of activity does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, per 36 CFR 800.3 (a). Additionally, the project location has been previously surveyed and no cultural resources were identified during those surveys. The project is not located in, or near, any known archaeological sites; therefore, it has been determined that there is no potential to affect cultural resources.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be minimal soil disturbance for the vault installation and best management practices would be used to prevent erosion of soils. There would be no impacts to geology or soils.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no special-status plants in the project area. The project area is mowed regularly and does not have a native plant community. To prevent the spread of noxious weeds, the construction vehicles would be cleaned before and after the project.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no special-status wildlife species or habitats present at the project location. The site is surrounded by residential subdivisions.		
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. Best management practices would be utilized to avoid erosion during construction.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: The project area does not contain wetlands; therefore, there would be no impact to wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: The project would not impact groundwater or aquifers because the maximum depth of disturbance would be 3 feet.

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 near the project site.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The wireless antennas and equipment are consistent 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: 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 would occur on BPA owned property and would not require landowner notification or coordination.

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 Recruiting and Staffing

Date: May 17, 2018