

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Zayo LLC Covington-Bettas Road Structure 5/5 Fiber Decommissioning

Project Manager: Erik Lane - TPCV-TPP-4

Project Number: P04142

Location: King County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.9 Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way; B1.27 Disconnection of utilities

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to authorize Zayo Fiber, LLC (Zayo) to decommission BPA-owned fiber optic facilities installed for their use on BPA right-of-way (ROW) located near BPA's Covington-Bettas Road No. 1. Transmission Line Structure 5/5. Proposed decommissioning activities would include removal of three 4-foot by 6-foot concrete vaults. Following removal of equipment, site remediation may include regrading the ground surface and re-graveling or hydroseeding as appropriate and as determined by BPA.

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, Jul. 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/ Douglas Corkran

Douglas Corkran

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

<u>/s/ Sarah T. Biegel</u>	<u>August 1, 2023</u>
Sarah T. Biegel	Date
NEPA Compliance Officer	

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

The project site is located in Maple Valley, WA between SE Tahoma Way to the north, and a soccer and baseball field complex (Summit Park) to the south. Tower 5/5 sits in a grassy mowed area between Tahoma Way and the driveway into the park. The area is on flat gravelly ground that is regularly mowed. Surrounding areas are a mix of residential, light industrial, and school properties. Access to the site is from the Les Schwab parking lot east of the tower.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA archaeologists reviewed the project site and determined the project would result in no effect to historic resources. A historic railroad grade was located approximately 100 feet east of the site, but would not be affected by the project. BPA consulted with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) on June 26, 2023. Responses were received from DAHP, and they concurred with BPA's determination of No Historic Properties Affected during the consultation period which ended on July 24, 2023. No impacts are expected to historic and cultural resources.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor grading of soils at the site is expected to return the site to pre-construction conditions; however, the site is on level ground with little chance of erosion or soil movement. Only minor impacts to geology and soils are expected.

3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project site is located in an area of grassy vegetation with some small shrubs around Tower 5/5. No rare plants or special-status species are documented near the site. No trees would be removed but some grasses and shrubs would be. Only minor impacts to common plant species are expected.

4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ESA-listed or special-status wildlife species are documented in or adjacent to the project area. Common wildlife species may be affected by vault removal activities, but very

little habitat removal would occur. All work would take place in previously-disturbed areas. Only minor impacts to common wildlife species are expected.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area is located in an upland area on flat ground away from streams and rivers. No impacts to water bodies, floodplains, or fish are expected.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area is in an upland area with no wetlands, and no wetlands have been identified near the site. No impacts to wetlands are expected.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Removal of the concrete vaults would not result in any releases of materials or changes in water movement that could affect groundwater or aquifers. No impacts to groundwater or aquifers are expected.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Existing land uses (transmission line ROW) would remain; no changes to land use would result from the project.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The concrete vaults, one of which protrudes above the ground surface, would be removed, thus slightly altering the view of the site from surrounding areas. Only minor impacts to visual quality are expected.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Some minor fugitive dust and emissions from vehicles and equipment would occur during removal of the concrete vaults. Only minor, temporary impacts to air quality are expected.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Some minor noise from vehicles and equipment would occur during construction, but long-term noise impacts are not expected. Only minor temporary noise impacts are expected.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project site is not located in an area with documented or suspected hazardous waste. The project would not create conditions that could impact human health and safety. No impacts to human health and safety are expected.

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: N/A

Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation: N/A

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: N/A

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: N/A

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: All work would take place on BPA ROW. The underlying property owner would be notified prior to removal of the vaults.

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

Signed: /s/ Douglas Corkran
Douglas Corkran, ECT-4
Environmental Protection Specialist

August 1, 2023
Date