

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Clarkston MHQ Communication Antennas

Project Manager: Thomas Pender – TEPF-CSB-2

Location: Asotin County, Washington and Nez Perce County, Idaho

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 install a new microwave communication antenna on an existing communication tower at BPA's Hatwai Substation and to install a new microwave communication antenna on a new free-standing monopole at BPA's Clarkston Maintenance Headquarters. The new communication antennas are needed for operation of the recently constructed Clarkston Maintenance Headquarters located in Clarkston, WA.

The new monopole would be approximately 40' in height and would be installed about 10' away from the edge of the SW corner of the existing building. Both antennas would be approximately 6' in diameter and would be installed approximately 30' off of the ground.

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/ Michael Henjum

Michael Henjum

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 23, 2020

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.

Proposed Action: Clarkston MHQ Communication Antennas

Project Site Description

The Clarkston MHQ facility is located about 550 feet from the Snake River in a developed commercial business park owned by the Port of Clarkston. BPA's MHQ facility began construction at this location in 2019 and is projected to be completed in 2020. The new free-standing communication monopole would be located approximately 10' away from the edge of the building and within the project construction footprint, adjacent to the paved parking area and concrete sidewalk.

Hatwai Substation is located approximately 8 miles NE from the Clarkston MHQ facility. The project area is a developed electrical substation surrounded by agricultural land. The new antenna at Hatwai Substation would be installed on an existing communication tower.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Explanation: The BPA archeologist has reviewed the proposed project and has determined that the type of activity proposed does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties. The proposed project is within an area that has been completely modified, artificially leveled from previous building construction with imported fill identified, and disturbed by industrial development.

Condition: In the unlikely event that cultural materials are identified during the project construction, all work in the vicinity must stop, that area secured, and the BPA environmental lead and Washington DAHP would be notified.

2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: Ground disturbance for the new free-standing monopole at the Clarkston MHQ would be required to install the approximately 10'x10' concrete footing. Ground disturbances would be stabilized and managed with BMPs in accordance with the Port of Clarkston's stormwater pollution prevention planning and permitting standards. No other ground-disturbing activities would occur.

3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: No vegetation, including ESA-listed plant species, is present on the site; therefore, there would be no vegetation disturbance resulting from the project.

4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: No wildlife habitat, including that for ESA-listed species, is present on the site; therefore, no wildlife habitat would be disturbed by the project.

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

Explanation: There are no waterbodies or floodplains on the site; therefore, there would be no disturbance to aquatic resources. Implementation of the Port of Clarkston's stormwater pollution prevention planning and permitting would prevent sediment runoff occurring during ground disturbance from reaching the Snake River.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands are present on the site; therefore, no wetlands would be disturbed by the project.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: The monopole footing excavation would not be deep enough to intersect groundwater. No other excavations or soil disturbances would occur as a result of this project.

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

Explanation: The new communication monopole would be located at BPA's MHQ and within an active industrial park. The Hatwai antenna would be located on an existing communication tower at an existing electrical switchyard. As such, addition of the communication antennas would be consistent with the zoning and previous site uses.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The new communication monopole would be taller than the immediately surrounding buildings; however, the land is zoned for commercial use and the free-standing monopole would not negatively impact the visual quality of the surrounding area. The new antenna at Hatwai Substation would be located on an existing communication tower and would not significantly modify the visual quality of the area.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Air quality impacts would be a result of equipment emissions during construction activities. As such, these impacts would be minimal and temporary.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Installation noise would be minimal, temporary, and occur during daytime 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: BPA has a lease with the Port of Clarkston for the Clarkston MHQ facility and a lease with a private citizen at Hatwai. BPA's would verify these proposed actions are consistent with the terms of the leases.

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

Signed: /s/ Michael Henjum
Michael Henjum – ECT-4
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: January 23, 2020