

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Dish Wireless Equipment Installation at Multiple Locations

Project No.: W0912 Evergreen, W0913 Hazel Dell, and W0914 UW Vancouver

Project Manager: Nathan Mullen, TELP-TPP-3

Location: Clark County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.19 Microwave, meteorological and radio towers; B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow Dish Wireless to install new wireless communications equipment on the following BPA transmission line steel-lattice structures:

- 30/2 of the North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 (W0912 Evergreen)
- 1/7 of the Ross-Alcoa No. 3 (W0913 Hazel Dell)
- 3/6 of the Ross-Lexington No. 1 (W0914 UW Vancouver)

Dish Wireless would install a pipe mounting structure, three new antennas (72 inches tall by 20 inches wide), and six diplexers on each of the structures. Coax cables would connect the wireless equipment to a cabinet at ground level, containing diplexer and RRH equipment. The ground-level equipment would be installed on a concrete pad underneath the transmission structure, connected to a grounding ring, and secured within a perimeter chain link fence, approximately 11 feet wide by 11 feet wide.

Power and fiber optic cable would be brought from existing sources nearby to each of the project sites. Trenches would be about 3 feet wide and up to 6 feet deep. In total, about 700 linear feet of trenching would be required on BPA fee-owned 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, 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/ Becky Hill
Becky Hill

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel April 10, 2023
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 sites are located at three BPA steel-lattice transmission line structures within existing BPA rights-of-way corridors located around Vancouver, Washington. Structure 30/2 of the North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 is located NE of the intersection of NE 17th Circle and NE 141st Avenue, in a residential area, located directly south of Evergreen High School. Structure 1/7 of the Ross-Alcoa No. 3 is located NE of the intersection of NE 59th Street and NE Hazel Dell Avenue, which is located in a neighborhood about 325 feet west of Interstate 5. Structure 3/6 of the Ross-Lexington No. 1 is located SW of the intersection of NE 104th Circle and NE 39th Avenue, which is located in a residential neighborhood with parks nearby.

While there are urban creeks (*i.e.*, LaLonde Creek, Burnt Bridge Creek) and riparian zones within one mile of each project site, no water bodies, floodplains, or wetlands are located within 1,000 feet of any of them.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No, with Conditions

Explanation: The North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 and the Ross-Lexington No. 1 transmission lines were originally energized in 1939, and the Ross-Alcoa No. 3 transmission line was energized in 1972. All three transmission lines are eligible historic resources per the BPA Pacific Northwest Transmission System Multiple Property Submission. However, the BPA historian and archaeologist reviewed the proposed action and determined that the undertaking is a type of activity that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties. The historian and archaeologist issued a memorandum for each site documenting the determinations on April 2, 2023.

Notes:

- Dish Wireless and its assigns shall carry with them onsite BPA's Inadvertent Discovery of Cultural Resources Procedure document, and shall review the procedure prior to conducting work. Should any cultural resources be discovered during project activities, then all project work must stop, and the EC lead should be notified immediately.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Ground-disturbing activities include trenching to install station service power and fiber optic cable at the project site. Best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented to prevent the migration of any sediment off site.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no special-status plant species or suitable habitat for special-status plant species present in the three project areas. Vegetation species that may be crushed during crane and vehicle use, or damaged during trenching activities, include native and non-native grasses, and Scotch broom. Therefore, the proposed action would not have an effect on special-status plant species or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no special-status wildlife species or suitable habitat for special-status wildlife species present in the project area. The increased height on two of the three structures, and the presence of wireless equipment mounted to the structures would have a negligible impact on birds potentially landing on the structures or flying nearby. Therefore, the proposed action would not have an effect on special-status wildlife species or habitats. Generalist wildlife species that are habituated to frequent human activity and urban right-of-way corridor habitats would temporarily relocate to other areas while project activities are underway, and are expected to return shortly after work is completed.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no water bodies, floodplains, or fish habitat present within 1,000 feet of the project areas; therefore, no water bodies, floodplains, fish habitat, or fish would be impacted by the proposed action.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no wetlands within 1,000 feet of the project areas; therefore, no wetlands would be impacted by the proposed action.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No, with Conditions

Explanation: The project area is within the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 10 Troutdale Sole Source Aquifer System area. Ground disturbance is unlikely to reach depths to groundwater and no new wells or other uses of groundwater or aquifers are proposed. BMPs would prevent impacts from unintended spills to groundwater or aquifers. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

Notes:

- Maintain an oil/fuel spill kit on-site during construction to address containment, cleanup, and disposal in the event of a spill.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Pedestrians using sidewalks and vehicles using the roads may be temporarily impacted by delays or detours to maintain safe distances from project work areas during project activities. However, the installation of wireless equipment and associated fiber optic cable and station service power would not change the land use at these three sites. No specially-designated areas are located within the three project areas.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The height of structure 30/2 of the North Bonneville-Ross No. 1 transmission line is about 70 feet above ground level, and the height of structure 3/6 of the Ross-Lexington No. 1 transmission line is about 88 feet above ground level. The new wireless equipment mounted at the top of these structures would increase the total height of each by about 6 feet. The existing height of structure 1/7 of the Ross-Alcoa No. 3 transmission line is about 126 feet, and the wireless equipment would be mounted at a height of about 96 feet above ground level.

The wireless equipment mounted on the structures would be relatively unnoticeable due to their height and relative size. The new perimeter chain link fence under each transmission line structure, would be visible, but would not substantially alter the visual quality of the three areas.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project activities would generate a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust during construction. However, there would be no substantial changes to air quality after construction is complete.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. However, there would be no substantial changes to noise quality of the area, beyond temporary construction-related noise impacts.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All standard safety protocols would be followed during project activities; therefore, project activities would not impact human health or 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: 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: Dish Wireless would notify the nearby landowners, as required by BPA, prior to commencing work.

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

Signed: /s/ Becky Hill

Becky Hill
Environmental Protection Specialist

April 10, 2023

Date