

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Verizon Wireless Oakland Hills (Murray Crest) Antenna Installation

**Project No.:** W0859

**Project Manager:** Brian Keith, TELP-TPP-3

**Location:** King 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 Verizon Wireless to install their wireless network antennas and equipment, and upgrade the four structure footings on structure 7/2 on the Tacoma Raver No. 1 – Tacoma-Covington No. 2 transmission line in King County, Washington. The work would consist of installing six antennas with three pipe mounts with cross plates mounted on the BPA lattice-steel transmission structure. In addition, six remote radio units (RRUs), three remote radio heads (RRHs), three surge suppression units, and additional associated equipment would be installed. Ground work under the transmission structure includes a 10-foot by 20-foot concrete pad, two equipment cabinets, H-frame, ice-bridge, and a 30kW diesel generator. Ground disturbance from the installation of the concrete pad would occur in previously disturbed soils below the tower.

Structural analysis identified a footing capacity deficiency that would require adding an anchor base of gravel on all four footings at structure 7/2 prior to the installation work. The gravel anchor bases would be approximately 21 x 27 feet (567 square feet) centered on each footing and would extend approximately one foot above the existing ground. No subsurface excavation would be required.

**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/ Jeremy Doschka

Jeremy Doschka  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. Grange                      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 at an existing BPA-owned 500-kilovolt (kV) lattice steel transmission structure 7/2 on the Tacoma-Raver No. 1 – Tacoma-Covington No. 2 transmission line in King County, WA (Section 9, Township 21 North, Range 4 East). Ground disturbance would occur at the base of the transmission structure in an area that was previously disturbed when the structure was constructed and is currently graveled with some common, low-growing grasses, forbs, and weeds. No wetlands or water bodies are present within or near the project site. The project site is immediately surrounded by a maintained electrical transmission right-of-way (ROW). Outside of the ROW, land use is primarily characterized by urban commercial development interspersed with isolated patches of forested land.

## **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No previously recorded historic or cultural resources are recorded within the area of potential effects (APE), and the APE was previously disturbed during construction of the lattice steel transmission structure. Therefore, on January 5, BPA determined that the proposed undertaking would have no potential to cause effects to historic properties (BPA CR Project No.: WA 2024 011).

### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would permanently cover approximately 2,270 square feet (0.05 acre) of land with gravel in an area that has been previously-disturbed and is currently graveled or characterized by common, low-growing grasses, forbs, and weeds. Ground disturbance from the installation of the concrete pad (200 square feet) would be minimal and would occur below the tower. Because the work would occur in a previously disturbed area below the tower and disturbance to soils would be minimal, the proposed action would not significantly impact geology and soils.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small quantity (about 0.05 acres) of previously-disturbed common, low-growing grasses, forbs, and weeds would be covered by gravel or the concrete pad. The proposed action would have no effect on special-status plant species or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action could temporarily impact wildlife through minor construction noise and visual disturbance. However, the project site is previously disturbed with limited wildlife habitat. Most wildlife species are likely accustomed to this level of disturbance given surrounding land uses and would likely be able to avoid the project site. If any active nests are found on the structure prior to construction, the construction would be delayed until the nests are unoccupied. The proposed action would have no effect on special-status wildlife species or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No water bodies or floodplains are located within or near the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not impact water bodies or floodplains and would have no effect of special-status fish or fish habitats.

#### **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are located within or near the project site. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact wetlands.

#### **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would include ground excavation below the tower, but not to depths that would affect groundwater. No new wells or other uses of groundwater or aquifers are proposed. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no change in land use at the project site. No specially-designated areas are in the project vicinity.

#### **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The structure currently has T-Mobile equipment mounted on the structure and on the ground below the tower. The additional antennas, associated equipment, concrete slab, and cabinets would be similar to the equipment already mounted on or below the structure. In addition, approximately 2,270 square feet of rock centered on each of the four structure footings would be added. This would constitute permanent visual changes; however, the

structure is located in a heavily disturbed area and surrounded by development and would be consistent with the existing visual quality of the project site as there is an existing concrete slab and equipment owned by T-Mobile situated below the tower and would not be overtly noticeable.

## **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would cause a minor and temporary increase in dust and vehicle emissions in the local area. There would be no long-term change in air quality following completion of the proposed action.

## **11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action could temporarily generate noise from the use of vehicles and equipment at levels above current ambient conditions. Noise would occur during daylight hours (approximately 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM), and there are no noise-sensitive properties near the project site. There would be no long-term change in ambient noise following completion of the proposed action.

## **12. Human Health and Safety**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would be completed by professionals trained in proper techniques and equipment use. The project would not generate or use hazardous materials and would not create conditions that would increase risk to human health and safety. Therefore, no impacts to human health and safety are expected as a result of the proposed action.

### **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: BPA would notify the underlying landowner. No other landowner notification, involvement, or coordination would be required.

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

Signed: /s/ Jeremy Doschka  
Jeremy Doschka  
Environmental Protection Specialist

01/09/2024  
Date