

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: AT&T Wireless Upgrade - Summit

Project Manager: Jonathan Toobian – TELP-TPP-3

Location: Pierce County, Washington

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 AT&T to upgrade portions of their existing wireless telecommunication facilities co-located with BPA's structure 51/4 of the Chehalis-Covington 230-kV transmission line in King County, Washington. The work would remove and/or install tower-mounted and ground-level telecommunication equipment including panel antennas, diplexers, quadplexers, amplifiers, and remote radio units.

Ground level equipment sits on a concrete pad within a fenced enclosure directly beneath the existing tower. No ground disturbance or excavation would occur.

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/ Nancy A. Wittpenn

Nancy A. Wittpenn
Environmental Protection Specialist

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 15, 2019

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

Structure 51/4 is located within BPA's existing Chehalis-Covington No. 1 transmission line right-of-way easement just west of 94th Avenue East in Puyallup, Washington. The underlying land parcel is privately owned. A large gravel driveway has been installed from the main road 100 feet directly to the tower. Gravel completely surrounds the tower and the concrete equipment pad that sits directly below the tower. The general surrounding area contains a mix of roads, suburban residential and commercial uses, and a high school.

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's Historian reviewed the project and determined that these minor upgrades would have no adverse impacts to the integrity of the transmission structure and line. In addition, no ground disturbance would occur. The project would have no adverse effects to historic properties.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The area around and beneath the existing tower has previously been disturbed and is now completely graveled. No new disturbance would occur.		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The area around and beneath the existing tower is completely graveled and no vegetation occurs in this area. No special-status species or habitats are identified in the general area.		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species or habitats are identified in the general area and none exist on the tower or directly around it. The tower is adjacent to a 4-lane major road and surrounded by residences and businesses. The proposed work would not cause unusual or anomalous noise or disturbance that would adversely affect urban wildlife in the surrounding area.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No water bodies, floodplains, or fish occur at the project site and no disturbance would occur at the site that would cause any effects to water resources that may occur in the general vicinity of the site.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No wetlands occur at the project site and no disturbance would occur at the site that would cause any effects to wetlands that could be in the general vicinity of the site.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No disturbance would occur at the project site and there is no potential to affect groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation: Utility use is a permitted use at the project site. There are no specially-designated areas at the project site or in the general vicinity of the site.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be no change to the visual quality at the project site. All upgraded equipment is consistent with existing equipment in use presently.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Since the area is entirely graveled, no additional dust is expected to be generated. Minor temporary emissions would occur from truck traffic at the site.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Minor construction noise would be temporary and not out of context with the surrounding area.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impacts to human health or 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, 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 transmission tower is owned by BPA. AT&T is responsible for acquiring and maintaining easements for their facilities from underlying landowners.

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

Signed: /s/ Nancy A. Wittpenn
Nancy A. Wittpenn ECT-4
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: April 15, 2019