

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Radio Equipment and Antenna Retirements at Capitol Peak, Olympia Substation, and Paul Substation

**Project Manager:** Jennifer Bachman-TEPF-CSB-2

**Location:** Lewis and Thurston Counties, Oregon

**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 remove retired radio equipment and antennas from the communication facilities at Capital Peak, Olympia Substation, and Paul Substation. The equipment slated for removal has been retired and is no longer needed. At Capital Peak, four antennas and two waveguides would be removed from the tower. At Olympia Substation, an antenna that is mounted to the substation control house building would be removed and equipment racks inside the building would also be removed. At Paul Substation, an antenna and waveguide would be removed from the radio tower. Fall protection equipment would be installed on the radio tower, along with an energized antenna warning sign.

Removed material from all locations would be recycled or disposed of at approved facilities.

**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/ Sylas M. Daughtrey

Sylas M. Daughtrey

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

<u>/s/ Katey C. Grange</u>	<u>July 28, 2022</u>
Katey C. Grange	Date
NEPA Compliance Officer	

Attachment: 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:** Radio Equipment and Antenna Retirements at Capitol Peak, Olympia Substation, and Paul Substation

## **Project Site Description**

All work would occur within BPA substations and radio tower facilities. The sites are located in Washington. All sites have previous ground disturbance, and are located in areas that are graveled, paved, or have compacted soils. There are no water bodies or wetlands within close proximity to the project locations. Capital Peak is surrounded by timberland. Olympia substation is surrounded by a mix of undeveloped land and residential parcels. Paul substation is surrounded by undeveloped timberland and the Centralia Generation Station is located half mile eastward.

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

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed work does not include any ground-disturbing activities that would affect subsurface resources. BPA Historian review has shown that the proposed project would have no potential to cause effect to historic resources.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project does not involve ground-disturbing activities; therefore, there would be no impacts to geology or soils.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project locations are unvegetated; therefore, there would be no impacts to vegetation, including Federal or state special-status species and/or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no Federal or state special-status species or habitats at any of the sites that would be impacted by the project. If any active nests are found on the towers prior to the project activities, the work would be delayed until the nest is unoccupied. Work station sites are located within well established areas outside critical habitat. Temporary disturbance to non-sensitive wildlife may occur during work periods,

but it is anticipated that wildlife would distribute to adjacent habitats and that noise disturbance would be consistent with ongoing operations of the sites.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No water bodies, floodplains, or fish disturbance would occur at the existing communication sites.

## **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no wetlands at the existing communication sites.

## **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance would occur at the existing communication sites.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no change to land use at any of the locations. None of the sites are in specially-designated areas.

## **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: At most of the sites, the presence of antenna equipment would be reduced, but overall, the visual quality would be similar to pre-project conditions.

## **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction; however, there would be no significant changes to air quality during or after construction.

## **11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours. Operation noise would not change.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed work would improve work areas and structural integrity of structures that support network operations, and would maintain reliable power in the region.

### **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 be conducted on BPA-owned property.

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

Signed: /s/ Sylas M. Daughtrey  
Sylas M. Daughtrey, ECT-4  
Environmental Protection Specialist

July 28, 2022  
Date