

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Verizon Upgrades at White Creek

Project Manager: Chuck Wedick – TELP-TTP-3

Location: Clallam 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 proposes to allow Verizon to make upgrades to antennas and associated equipment at the White Creek site in the Port Angeles Substation. Project work would include removing six existing antennas; installing six new antennas of a similar size to previous antennas; installing six triplexers, three bias-T units, and one over-voltage protection module; and installing one hybrid cable. There would be no ground disturbance associated with this project. Tools used would likely include a bucket truck, pickup trucks, and hand tools.

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/ Kali Levy

Kali Levy
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Portland State University

Reviewed by:

/s/ Carol Leiter

Carol Leiter

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel January 3, 2022

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.

Proposed Action: Verizon Upgrades at White Creek

Project Site Description

Project actions would take place on and around a communications tower next to the control building of the Port Angeles Substation in Clallam County, WA (Township 30 North, Range 6 West, and Section 14). The tower is in a graveled area surrounded by a landscaping strip that separates it from a sidewalk and a parking lot. The substation is in an urban area.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA historian review of the proposed project actions found no potential to cause effects to historic resources.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no ground disturbance associated with this project.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The only plants in the area are the plants in the landscaping strip; no special-status plants occur in the area. No plants would be impacted.

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

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: No special-status wildlife are known to be near the project site. The project location is not located within or adjacent to any critical habitat areas.

Any local wildlife in the area may be temporarily disturbed by project noise.

Notes:

- If any active nests are found on the structure prior to construction, the construction would be delayed until the nests are unoccupied.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project site is not located in or near water bodies.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project site is not located in wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no ground disturbance associated with this project. There would be no impact to groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no change of land use. The project site houses existing communications equipment.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be minimal changes to the appearance of the project site.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during project work. There would be no significant changes to air quality during or after project work.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All applicable safety standards would be followed during project work. The project would not create conditions that would increase risk 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: 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: Project actions would occur on BPA fee-owned property. Verizon would be responsible for coordinating access.

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

Signed: /s/ Kali Levy

January 3, 2022

Kali Levy, ECT – 4

Date

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Portland State University