

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Verizon Chapman Hill Communication Facility Upgrades

**Project Manager:** Jonathan Toobian—TELP-TPP-3

**Location:** Polk County, 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:** BPA proposes to allow Sprint to upgrade their antennas and equipment at their wireless site named Chapman Hill located on a BPA transmission line tower. Sprint proposes to remove three antennas and replace with six new antennas on tower 10/1 of BPA's Chemewa-Salem-1 transmission line. Additionally, six remote radio units (RRU) would be removed and replaced on the antenna mounts. A new coaxial cable would be installed connecting the RRUs to the equipment on the ground. Additional equipment upgrades would be made within Verizon's equipment compound at the base of the tower. Approximately 150 feet of underground fiber would be installed from the equipment compound, down the access road, to a new Verizon vault near Glen Creek Road.

**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, July 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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Motus Staffing & Recruiting

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad J. Hamel For

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 23, 2018

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.

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### Project Site Description

The project site is within Bonneville Power Administration’s (BPA) Chemawa-Salem-1 transmission right-of-way, on tower 10/1. The site has an existing access road from Glen Creek Road to the transmission tower. The site is in Section 20, Township 7 South, Range 3 West. The surrounding area consists mainly of urban residential housing.

The vegetation consists mainly of Queen Anne’s lace (*Daucus carota*), California poppy (*Escholzia californica*), dandelion (*Taraxacum* sp.), blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), and various grasses.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> A Section 106 review concluded that there would be no effects to historical or cultural resources. On January 9, 2018, the cultural resource determination was sent to SHPO, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation. On February 5, 2018, the SHPO archaeologist concurred with BPA’s no effect determination. However, the SHPO office requested further analysis on the impact of this project to the BPA transmission line. Additional information was sent to SHPO on February 28, 2018. The SHPO historian provided concurrence on March 16, 2018.</p> <p>The Grand Ronde Tribe replied with no interest on March 2, 2018. The other tribes did not respond.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> An approximate 150-foot long by 3-foot deep trench would be excavated for installation of fiber cable along the access road. Excavated soils would be used to backfill the trench. Best management practices would be used to prevent erosion of soils. There would be no impacts to geology or soils.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There are no special-status plants in the project area. The project area is mostly graveled and adjacent vegetation plant communities consist of mainly non-native plants.</p> <p>To prevent the spread of noxious weeds, the construction vehicles would be cleaned before and after the project.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There are no special-status wildlife species or habitat present at the project location. The site is flanked on either side by residential subdivisions.</p>		

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



Explanation: The project area does not have any water bodies, floodplains, or listed fish species; therefore, there would be no impacts. Best management practices would be utilized to avoid erosion during construction.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: The project area does not contain wetlands; therefore, there would be no impact to wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project would not impact groundwater or aquifers because the maximum depth of disturbance would be 3 feet.

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



Explanation: There would be no change to land use at the project location. Additionally, there are no specially designated areas near the project site.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The wireless antennas and equipment are consistent with the existing use of the utility corridor.

10. **Air Quality**



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**



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

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: There would be no impact 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, 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:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: The project would occur on BPA owned property and would not require landowner notification or coordination.

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

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger—ECT-4  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Motus Staffing & Recruiting

Date: March 23, 2018