

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Metaline Radio Site Roof and Vent Repair

**Project Manager:** Kevin Briggs—NWM-1

**Location:** Pend Oreille County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3 Routine maintenance

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to repair the metal roof and an exterior vent on the equipment building at the Metaline Radio Station. The building was damaged by snow and ice during the winter of 2018/2019. Flashing and sealant would be used to ensure that the repaired roof is water-tight. The work is expected to last for approximately two weeks.

**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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Doug Corkran

Doug Corkran  
Acting Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange

Katey C. Grange  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 23, 2019

# 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 proposed project area is in the Colville National Forest, in Pend Oreille County, Washington. It is in Section 31, Township 40 North, Range 43 East. The site is an existing radio tower facility, surrounded by contiguous forested mountains. The nearest body of water is Middle Fork Flume Creek, approximately 0.5 miles south. The site is approximately three-miles west of the Pend Oreille River, five-miles south of the Canadian border, and twenty-miles west of the Idaho-Washington border. There are no wetlands or waterbodies at or within close proximity of the site.

## 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> The proposed project was reviewed by BPA's Cultural staff. The building was constructed in 2013, and an archaeological survey was done at that time. The results of that survey were negative. BPA Cultural staff has determined that the project has no potential to cause effects to cultural or historic properties, and that no further Section 106 review is required.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project would not involve any ground-disturbing activities; therefore, there would be no impacts to geology or soils.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area is devoid of vegetation; therefore, there would be no impacts to Federally-listed or special-status plant species.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species that have been known to inhabit the forested areas surrounding the site include Canada lynx, grizzly bears, and woodland caribou. Woodland caribou were declared extirpated from the continental United States in early 2019. Construction related noise would be of a short duration (approximately two weeks) and would occur outside of the mating and breeding season for Canada lynx and grizzly bears. Additionally, the project would not involve habitat removal.</p> <p>The following restrictions would be followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Project work would occur between August 15-October 31</li><li>➤ Onsite garbage would be stored properly, as to not attract wildlife</li></ul> <p>There would be no impacts to ESA-listed or state special-status wildlife. Noise from construction activities may temporarily displace non-listed wildlife but there would be no long-term impacts to wildlife.</p>		

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**

(including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)



Explanation: The project does not have any water bodies, floodplains, or listed fish species; therefore, there would be no impacts to these resources.

6. **Wetlands**



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

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



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

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: There would be no change to the visual quality of the project area.

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. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: During project activities all standard safety protocols would be followed. Project activities would not impact human health or 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: BPA has notified the underlying landowner, U.S. Forest Service—Colville National Forest Office, of the project activities. The U.S. Forest Service Special Use Manager for that area has responded that BPA can proceed with the in-kind repairs and that no further notice is required.

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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  
Flux Resources, LLC

Date: July 23, 2019