

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Maupin Substation Mobile REDI Fronthaul VHF Radio System Antenna Installation

Project No.: P01237

Project Manager: Rian Dustan, TTBP-DITT-2

Location: Wasco 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 install a three-inch-diameter, 20-foot-tall whip style antenna to the radio tower at the Maupin substation to accommodate future equipment upgrades to its VHF mobile radio communications system. Installation would also involve running coax cable from the antenna, down the tower, and into the wave guide entry port at the radio control house. All work would occur within 1 day and involve two people raising the antenna up the tower with a rope, and attaching the antenna with hand tools. There would be no ground disturbance as a result of the work.

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/ Brenda Aguirre

Brenda Aguirre
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 23, 2020

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

The proposed project would be conducted in and around the Maupin Substation on BPA-owned property, located approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the town of Maupin, Oregon in the BPA Redmond and The Dalles Radio Communication Districts. The project area is flat rangeland with sagebrush ground cover. The land use in the surrounding area is also rangeland.

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> A BPA archaeologist reviewed the proposed activities and determined that this undertaking has no potential to effect historic properties.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no ground-disturbing activities proposed as part of the project.		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work would be on the existing tower and control house; no plants would be disturbed.		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work would be on the existing tower and control house; no habitat present.		
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> There are no water bodies, floodplains, or fish in or near the project area.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no wetlands in the vicinity of the project area.		
7. Groundwater and Aquifers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project area is in a dry upland area, with no shallow groundwater or aquifers.		

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



Explanation: The land is currently used for range and transmission facilities. No change in land use would occur and project activities would not impact land use. No specially-designated area was identified within the project limits.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be a minor change to the visual quality of the area as a result of the installation of the whip antenna; however, there are existing BPA transmission line structures and other utility structures immediately adjacent to the project area with similar visual characteristics. No residences or other sensitive viewing areas are located near the project area.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project would have no significant impacts on air quality; a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust may occur during the one-day installation.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Some minor temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours as the antenna and coax cable are being installed. There are no residences or other sensitive areas nearby that would be disturbed by the construction noise.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: During project activity, 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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: All activities would take place on BPA-owned land within the Maupin substation property. BPA Realty would contact affected landowners if needed.

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

Signed: /s/ Sarah T. Biegel
Brenda Aguirre – EC-4
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: April 23, 2020