

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: T-Mobile Winona L600 Antennae Upgrade Project

Project No.: 499080

Project Manager: Chuck Wedick, TELP-TPP-3

Location: Salem, 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: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow T-Mobile to replace their existing antenna equipment on a communications structure owned by BPA and leased to T-Mobile. The communications structure is located adjacent to the BPA Salem Substation and is referred to as the Winona Site by T-Mobile. The existing single frequency antennas would be replaced with new multi-frequency antennas, due to technological advancements. The four existing antennas would be replaced with two antennas that are about twice as wide as the existing antennas.

The communications structure is adjacent to the access road to the BPA Salem Substation. To install the antennae, T-Mobile would access the communications structure using a bucket truck and by climbing the structure, without any ground disturbance.

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/ Kimberly St. Hilaire

Kimberly St.Hilaire

Environmental Protection Specialist

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: T-Mobile Winona L600 Antennae Upgrade Project

Project Site Description

The communications structure is located in a grassy area between the Dallas Highway and the BPA Salem Substation on property owned by BPA. The communications structure is located along the access road used to access the BPA substation. The area is level, vegetated with non-native grasses, and routinely mowed. Some shrubs and trees grow nearby.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A BPA archeologist determined that the action has no potential to affect historic properties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The area is level and there would be no ground disturbance. Because the area is vegetated, there is no potential for erosion. The bucket truck would work from the access road or immediately adjacent to the access road to minimize the area where soils would be compacted.

Notes:

- Avoid ground disturbance
- Limit off-road use of the bucket truck to the smallest area needed to work effectively
- Require workers to park vehicles along the access road, rather than off-road on vegetation.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The grassy road shoulder and base of the communications structure is not habitat for special-status species and supports non-native grasses.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The communications structure is located about 60 feet from a busy 4-lane highway. The grassy habitat along the edge of the substation is not high-quality wildlife habitat. It could support common wildlife species, including birds, small mammals, insects, and other wildlife. Wildlife near the communications structure would be temporarily displaced by

noise and human and machine presence during antennae replacement but would be expected to return after work is completed.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no water bodies within 100 feet of the communications structure.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The area where the communications structure is an upland and there would be no disturbance of wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would no ground disturbance and any soil compaction would be in a small area that would not affect groundwater recharge.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The BPA Salem Substation is located along a highway with adjacent farmlands. There would no change in land use due to this Project.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Viewers would include motorists along the Dallas Highway. They could experience brief views of the communications structure and new antennae, but the change in the visual environment would be minimal and likely not noticeable to motorists. There are no nearby residents with views of the communications structure.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The minimal amount of work on an existing structure is not expected to impact air quality. The use of vehicles and equipment would result in a temporary, small increase in emission of air pollutants but would not be expected to affect air quality.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The communications structure is immediately adjacent to a 4-lane highway in an area that is predominantly farmland. The work would be cause a temporary increase in noise levels but there are no known nearby sensitive noise receptors.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would be conducted by a T-Mobile contractor experienced in working in a safe manner on communications structures so there would be little potential for harm to workers. There is no public use of the area so non-workers would not be in the vicinity of the work area.

Notes:

- Work would be conducted with a BPA inspector on-site to ensure work is conducted in a safe manner.

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: The underlying land is owned by BPA. Because the work is minimal, would take place over a short time frame and there are no nearby residents, no adjacent landowner notification was conducted.

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

<u>/s/ Kimberly St. Hilaire</u>	<u>07/14/2020</u>
Kimberly St. Hilaire, ECT-4	Date
Environmental Protection Specialist	