

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Coyote Springs Telecommunication Tower Disposal

**Project Manager:** Jay Largo – TPC-TPP-4

**Location:** Morrow County, Oregon.

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.24 Property Transfers

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is responding to a request by Portland General Electric (PGE) to dispose of a 50-foot tall, 3-leg self-supporting telecommunications tower to PGE. The tower is located in PGE-owned Coyote Springs Substation in Morrow County, Oregon. BPA no longer operates any communication equipment on the tower and PGE has requested transfer of ownership in lieu of BPA tearing the tower down. This property transfer would prevent BPA from being responsible for retirement and disposal costs, and PGE would not be required to construct another tower to continue operating telecommunications in the Port of Morrow area.

BPA is authorized to dispose of its interest in real property pursuant to sections 2(e) and 2(f) of the Bonneville Project Act. 16 U.S.C. § 832a(e)-(f).

**Findings:** In accordance with Section 1021.102 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; 89 FR 34074, April 30, 2024; 90 FR 29676, July 3, 2025 [Interim Final Rule]) and *DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Implementing Procedures* (dated June 30, 2025), BPA has determined the following:

- 1) The proposed action fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021;
- 2) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and
- 3) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal (see attached Environmental Evaluation).

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> BPA is aware that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), on February 25, 2025, issued an interim final rule to remove its NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500–1508. Based on CEQ guidance, and to promote completion of its NEPA review in a timely manner and without delay, in this CX BPA is voluntarily relying on the CEQ regulations, in addition to the interim final rule to revise DOE NEPA regulations implementing NEPA at 10 C.F.R. Part 1021 and NEPA Implementing Procedures (dated June 30, 2025), to meet its obligations under NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.

Jessica A. Heppler  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. Grange  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

# **Categorical Exclusion Environmental Evaluation**

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:** Coyote Springs Telecommunication Tower Disposal

## **Project Site Description**

The telecommunications tower that BPA would dispose of is located in Morrow County, Oregon, at the PGE-owned Coyote Springs Substation (T4N R25E Section 10). The land-uses around the substation consist of a mixture of high-traffic roads, buildings associated with light and heavy industry, green spaces, and freshwater ponds. The National Resources Conservation Service soil survey indicates soils at the site consist primarily of Burbank, which is not known to be hydric. There is a freshwater pond approximately 300 feet to the east of the project area

## **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: Based on Oregon State Historic Preservation Office guidance for recording historic resources, BPA did not document nor evaluate the c.1994 antenna radio tower as it meets the "Not Eligible/Out-of-Period" threshold (not yet 45 years old). Therefore, pursuant to Stipulation I.D.4. of the *Programmatic Agreement between BPA, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, the Washington State Historic Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to Implement the BPA Manual for Built Resources* no further Section 106 review or consultation is required.

### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: There would be no ground disturbing activities associated with this property transfer. Geology and Soils are not anticipated to be affected.

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

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: No Federal or state special-status plant species or habitats are present in the area that is proposed for disposal. The telecommunications tower to be disposed of is located in PGE's Coyote Springs Substation which is managed to prevent vegetation growth within the substation grounds. Special status plant species and habitats are not anticipated to be affected by this property disposal.

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

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: No Federal or state special-status species or habitats are known to occur in the area that is proposed for disposal. The location is in an urban setting on land owned by PGE as part of the Coyote Springs Substation. Wildlife present likely include species accustomed to

human presence, traffic, and activities related to substation operation. The disposal of the telecommunications tower is not anticipated to disturb wildlife.

## **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, floodplains or fish in the tower disposal area. There are some managed freshwater ponds approximately 300 feet to the east of the tower disposal area that are not anticipated to be affected. No federal or state special-status species, ESUs or habitats would be affected by the disposal of the tower.

## **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: There are no wetlands in the tower disposal area.

## **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: Disposal of the tower at the project location is not associated with any ground disturbing activities. Groundwater and aquifers would not be affected.

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

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: There would be no substantial change to land use at the project location. The telecommunications tower would remain in service under PGE ownership. There are no specially designated areas that would be impacted by tower disposal.

## **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: There are no visual quality impacts associated with the tower disposal. Site would remain as it currently exists with transfer of ownership.

## **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: There are no activities that would impact air quality associated with the tower disposal.

## **11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: There are no noise impacts associated or anticipated with the tower disposal.

## **12. Human Health and Safety**

Potential for Significance: No.

Explanation: Tower disposal would not generate or use hazardous materials and would not create conditions that would increase risk to human health and safety. No impact to human health and safety is expected as a result.

### **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: No landowner notification, involvement or coordination is necessary for the proposed tower disposal to PGE as it is a BPA owned tower.

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

Signed:

Jessica A. Heppler  
Environmental Protection Specialist