

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Teakean Butte Radio Station Property Disposal

Project No.: P01237

Project Manager: Roderick Morris, TPP-4

Location: Clearwater County, Idaho

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.19 Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers; B1.24 Property transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to dispose of its former Teakean Butte Microwave Radio Station property in Clearwater County, Idaho. In 2019, BPA built a new communications site located approximately 120 feet southwest of the former Teakean Butte Radio Station. The existing pre-2019 communications property and facilities were deemed to be in surplus. The sale of the 0.08 acre fee-owned legacy property includes a radio equipment and control shelter building, constructed in 1971, and a 75-foot-tall steel-lattice self-supporting communication tower, built in 1996. The property would be sold and transferred to the surrounding private landowner, Marek Cedar Creek Ranch.

Additionally, BPA would remove the current back-up power supply equipment, consisting of a propane storage tank, automatic station service transfer switch, and propane generator. The back-up power supply equipment is located on a concrete pad that would remain in place after removal. Any anchors or bolts affixing the existing back-up power equipment to the concrete pad would be cut flush after removal. The existing equipment would be transferred to a BPA equipment storage facility for future repurpose use at other BPA facilities as needed. Equipment used to remove the backup power equipment would be light-duty pickup trucks, a small crane, a flatbed truck, and associated hand tools. BPA would utilize existing roads to access and remove equipment. No other actions or ground disturbance is anticipated from this project.

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 the current *DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures*, 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.

Nicholas Johnson
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Evaluation

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Evaluation

This evaluation 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: Teakean Butte Radio Station Property Disposal

Project Site Description

The proposed project site encompasses the legacy BPA-owned property located near the summit of Teakean Butte (approximate elevation 4,140 feet) in Clearwater County, Idaho (Township 38 North; Range 1 East; Section 31). BPA's legacy parcel is adjacent to several additional communications facilities operated by other entities. The project site is within a gently sloping area of open grassland and shrubland surrounded by mixed conifer forest. The closest connection to surface waters is an unnamed tributary of Cedar Creek located approximately 600 feet west of the project site. Access to the site is provided by an existing gravel access road routing from the gravel county road located to the southwest of the project area.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: Teakean Butte is eligible for listing as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) because it is a significant landform within the Nez Perce ethnographic landscape and continues to play an important role in the cultural and spiritual beliefs and practices of the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT). BPA initiated Section 106 consultation with the NPT and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (ID SHPO) on March 21, 2024. On March 22, 2024, the NPT responded that the project would have an adverse effect on the TCP. On April 11, 2024, ID SHPO concurred with the APE. BPA sent a determination of adverse effect to historic properties on November 1, 2024, and completed a signed MOA on July 29, 2026.

Notes:

In accordance with the MOA, BPA will provide funding for the Nez Perce Tribe to:

1. Support the Nez Perce Cultural Resource Internship Program by providing funding to train students in the identification and protection of cultural resources important to the Nez Perce Tribe.
2. Support the improvement and/or expansion of the Nez Perce Tribe's existing curation space to help preserve cultural resources important to the Nez Perce Tribe.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no planned ground disturbance to occur with the proposed project actions.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project site is largely devoid of vegetation and covered by crushed rock surfacing. All project-related work would occur within the existing roadways and radio station yard. There are no documented occurrences of any federal/state special-status plant species within or

near the project site. Therefore, the proposed project is not expected to impact special-status plant species.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project is not located within any designated critical habitat areas. The project site is low-quality wildlife habitat. Disruption of normal wildlife behavior in and around the project site may occur from temporary elevated noise and human presence during backup power equipment removal. However, the level of activity and noise would not rise above typical maintenance projects at the site, so local wildlife in the vicinity would likely avoid the area during the relatively short duration of activities onsite.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project locations are not located within water ways, riparian areas, floodplains or fish habitat. The closest surface waterbody is an unnamed tributary of Cedar Creek located approximately 600 feet west of the project site and would not be affected by this project.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project is not located within known wetland areas.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed by project actions. Therefore, the proposed project is not expected to impact groundwater and aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Although Teakean Butte is a designated TCP, there are multiple existing communications facilities near the summit. There are no proposed land use changes associated with the sale. Therefore, the proposed project is not expected to impact land use or specially designated areas.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Proposed actions would not significantly alter the visual quality of the site. Removal of the propane tank would reduce the overall amount of facilities located on the butte but would not be a meaningful change when viewed from a distance.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project actions could create some dust associated with vehicle traffic on access roads and general equipment removal actions. Air quality impacts from dust would be relatively minimal and short in duration.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project would have noise associated with the general construction equipment used to remove the equipment. Noise would be occurring during daylight hours and occurring for one day.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action is not expected to have a significant impact to human health and safety because during project implementation, all standard safety protocols would be followed.

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: BPA has coordinated with the surrounding private landowner, Marek Cedar Creek Ranch, and the Nez Perce Tribe. No other landowner notification, involvement, or coordination is needed.

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

Signed:

Nicholas Johnson
Environmental Protection Specialist