

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** AT&T Fiber Installation at Teton Substation

**Project Manager:** Jonathan Toobian, TEP-TPP-1

**Location:** Teton County, Wyoming

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.7 Fiber optic cable

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow AT&T to install fiber optic cable (fiber) at its facilities located at BPA's Teton Substation in Teton County, Wyoming. BPA has a commercial lease agreement with AT&T for collocation on BPA facilities and AT&T must request permission to upgrade those facilities when they have the potential to affect BPA's transmission resources. The purpose of the fiber addition is to support AT&T's LTE technology.

AT&T would install approximately 400 feet of fiber along BPA's fee-owned access road to connect to BPA's Teton Substation. The new fiber would run subsurface from the access road entry to AT&T's existing shelter, located approximately 20 feet from Teton Substation. Fiber would be pulled through existing underground conduit, except for 40 feet of new 4-inch PVC conduit that would be added from AT&T's pedestal, located along the access road approximately 60 feet from the substation, to the shelter. The addition of the new conduit would require trenching for a length of 10 feet, at a depth of 36 inches. The trenched portion would be hand dug. AT&T would also install omni balls at 40-foot intervals along the conduit. Holes for the omni balls would be hand-dug at a depth of 36 inches. Plastic warning tape would be installed 12 inches above the conduit. The project would not require a pulling site or staging area.

All work would occur within the boundaries of a previously disturbed BPA fee-owned access road and substation.

**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, July 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/ Hannah Sharp

Hannah Sharp  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
CorSource Technology Group

Reviewed by:

/s/ Dave Kennedy for

Gene Lynard  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 19, 2014

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.

## Proposed Action:

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### Project Site Description

All work would take place within the previously disturbed footprint of BPA's Teton Substation and the associated fee-owned access road, located in Teton County, Wyoming. The access road spans approximately 0.2 miles, connecting Teton Substation to Moose Wilson Road. Land surrounding the project area is private and residential.

### 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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> WY SHPO concurrence on no adverse effect determination 10/24/14. Eastern Shoshone, Shoshone-Bannock, and Northern Arapaho Tribes consulted—no response.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Minimal ground disturbance (only 10 feet of trenching on previously disturbed ground).		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work within previously disturbed footprint of substation and fee-owned access road. Minimal ground disturbance (only 10 feet of trenching on previously disturbed ground). No special-status species present.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No designated habitat present. Presence of special-status species unlikely because project area is limited to previously disturbed footprint of substation and fee-owned access road, and surrounding area is comprised of roads and residences.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No in-water work. Project would not be in a floodplain.		

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands present in project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells or use of ground water proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance would be approximately 3 feet.

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



Explanation: All work within previously disturbed footprint of substation and fee-owned access road.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: All work within previously disturbed footprint of substation and fee-owned access road. No visual structural changes proposed.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Proposed work would not generate dust or vehicle/equipment emissions and would not require air quality permits.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions at project locations.

### 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: No notification. All work on BPA fee-owned property and no visual or other effects to adjacent landowners.

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

Signed: /s/ Hannah Sharp  
Hannah Sharp, KEC-4

Date: November 19, 2014