

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: March 3, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Dave Tripp
Project Manager – TEP-CSB-1

Proposed Action: Mica Peak Radio Station Upgrade

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.19 Microwave, meteorological and radio towers

Location: Spokane County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace the analog communication system with a new digital system at an existing communication site in Spokane County, Washington. This proposed action would enhance communication reliability by enabling the connection of digital circuits.

The proposed work involves building a new, self-supporting, 70-foot lattice-steel tower on a 30-foot by 30-foot concrete pad. An approximate 8-foot-diameter radio antenna would be attached to the lattice-steel tower. A new 18-foot by 36-foot building would replace the existing fiberglass structure. The new building would house batteries, communication racks, a generator and a heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. A 40-foot power line, that would supply power to the building, would be buried underground between an electrical cabinet and the new building. The existing building would be decommissioned and removed from site. A propane tank would also be removed from site and replaced with two new propane tanks suitable to meet current safety standards.

Portions of an existing gravel road 2.5 miles long (Micah Peak Radar Site Rd.) and an unimproved dirt road through the radio site may require blading and rocking within the existing road prism for construction vehicle access. The area surrounding the site is owned by a private timber company and was logged in 2013. Therefore, no tree removal would be necessary for construction or beam paths to nearby radio towers.

The new tower and building would be scheduled for construction in summer of 2014, with radio antenna installation following in 2015.

Findings: The Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and the Spokane Tribe of Indians concurred with BPA's determination that no historic properties would be affected on November 18, 2013.

BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D 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). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) 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.

This proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Carolyn A. Sharp
Carolyn A. Sharp
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason
Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 3, 2014

Attachments:
Provisions
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

ATTACHMENT
PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

Cultural Resources

Per a request from the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Spokane Tribe of Indians, a BPA-provided archaeological monitor will be on site for all ground disturbing activities associated with construction of the communication site. The contractor will be responsible for coordinating with BPA to ensure that the monitor is on site at the appropriate time.

In the event any archaeological or historic materials are encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:

- Stop work in the immediate vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead and cultural resource specialist. Notify interested tribes, the landowner, and the appropriate county, state, and federal agencies.
- Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site and restrict access to the site of discovery.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Mica Peak Radio Station Upgrade

Work Order #: 00254976

This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources Washington SHPO & Spokane Tribe concurrence 11/18/13 Spokane Tribe requests presence of cultural monitor during ground disturbing activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Replacing equipment at previously developed site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety No risks as a result of this project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation in official project file
Section 106 consultation, site maps

Signed: /s/ Carolyn Sharp

Date: March 3, 2014