

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Olympia Black Lake Wireless Communication Site

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

**Location:** Thurston County, Washington

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to allow Verizon to add a new wireless communication facility to BPA's Paul-Satsop No. 1 transmission line at tower 22/3. The project includes the attachment of panel antennas on the existing transmission tower. Ethernet and coaxial cables would run from the top of the tower to a new support cabinet mounted on an at-grade concrete slab located directly beneath the tower. The support cabinet would be enclosed within a fenced area supported by underground poles placed within 4 foot by 1.5 foot deep concrete piers.

About 150 feet of new subsurface conduit would run northeast of the tower to a dedicated offsite power transformer. Installation would require the use of a backhoe to create an 18 inch wide by 3 foot deep trench that would be backfilled with sand and gravel once the conduit is placed. The offsite power source would provide added safety and reliability to the communications facility.

A new, 100 foot long and 12 foot wide spur road would be cleared, graveled, and grated from the adjacent 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the new compound and would provide access to the site during construction and for ongoing maintenance. All work would take place within BPA's existing, disturbed right-of-way.

**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/ Claire McClory

Claire McClory

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 25, 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:** Olympia Black Lake Wireless Communication Site

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### Project Site Description

The project area is heavily vegetated with various grasses and has been previously disturbed by construction of the transmission line and adjacent public road system.

### 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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> WA SHPO concurrence on no historic properties affected on 10/23/14. Squaxin Indian Tribe concurred on 10/22/14.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance, erosion control measures would be used.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special status species present.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special status species present.</p>		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> None present.</p>		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation:

None present

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation:

None present.

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

Explanation:

No change to land use proposed. Equipment would be located at the base of an existing transmission tower. Trenched areas would be returned to their present use.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation:

New antennas and base cabinetry would not be noticeably different from existing conditions.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation:

Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions due to construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation:

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

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation:

No impact.

### **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: Verizon has been in contact with the landowner about the project in order to acquire necessary easements for their proposed facilities.

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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/ Claire McClory

Date: November 25, 2014