

memorandum

DATE: November 5, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Jonathan Toobian
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-4

Proposed Action: Upgrade Six Wireless Communication Sites (Clear Creek, Evergreen, Fruit Valley, KSLM, Minnehaha, Popcorn)

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

Location:

Evergreen

Township 2 North, Range 2 East, Section 26, Clark County, Washington

Fruit Valley

Township 2 North, Range 1 East, Section 20, Clark County, Washington

Clear Creek

Township 20 North, Range 3 East, Section 36, Pierce County, Washington

Minnehaha

Township 3 North, Range 1 East, Section 36, Clark County, Washington

KSLM

Township 7 South, Range 3 West, Section 19, Polk County, Oregon

Popcorn

Township 7 South, Range 3 West, Section 18, Polk County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to allow Sprint to install additional fiber optic lines and upgrade antennas at six existing BPA wireless communication sites in Polk County, Oregon and Pierce and Clark counties, Washington. For each project, vault installation would require ground disturbance within a 6 foot by 6 foot by 3 foot area using an excavator and/or hand tools. New conduit would be placed within a 3-foot deep trench approximately 18 inches wide. Omni markers would be installed beneath the conduit about every 40 feet to mark the location of the new fiber line. Trenching would be completed using a walk behind trencher and/or hand tools. A crane or lift would be used to install the new antennas onto the

existing tower. No access road improvements would be required as part of the proposed action. The following paragraphs describe the specifications at each site.

Evergreen

Attach new antennas to tower 30/2 of BPA's North Bonneville-Ross No. 2 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. Sprint would install a new 17-inch by 30-inch utility vault immediately adjacent to BPA property. Approximately 80 feet of new 4 inch conduit and fiber optic cable would be installed from the new vault to the existing compound beneath the tower.

Fruit Valley

Attach new antennas to a BPA-owned monopole adjacent to tower 5/9 on the 115-kV Ross-Carborundum No. 1 transmission line. Sprint would install a new 17 inch by 30 inch utility vault and a new 100-foot run of 4 inch conduit and fiber optic cable from the new vault to an existing equipment compound adjacent to the tower.

Clear Creek

Attach new antennas to BPA's microwave tower at the South Tacoma Substation. Sprint would install a new 120-foot run of 4 inch conduit and fiber optic cable from an existing vault to the existing equipment compound adjacent to the tower.

Minnehaha

Attach new antennas to tower 3/5 of BPA's Ross-Lexington No. 1 230-kV transmission line. Sprint would install a new 17 inch by 30 inch utility vault alongside an existing utility pole. Approximately 230 feet of new fiber optic cable would be installed within an existing conduit from the vault to the equipment compound at the base of the tower.

KSLM

Attach new antennas to tower 10/4 of BPA's Chemawa-Salem Nos. 1 and 2 230-kV transmission line. Sprint would install a new 17 inch by 30 inch utility vault on BPA fee-owned property. New fiber optic cable would be installed within an existing conduit from the proposed new vault to the existing compound at the base of the tower.

Popcorn

Attach new antennas to tower 9/4 of BPA's Chemawa – Salem Nos. 1 and 2 230-kV transmission line. Sprint would install 3 feet of new 4 inch conduit and fiber optic cable from an existing vault to the existing equipment compound adjacent to the tower.

Findings: 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/ Claire McClory
Claire McClory
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *November 6, 2013*

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Upgrade to Six Wireless Communication Sites (Clear Creek, Evergreen, Fruit Valley, KSLM, Minnehaha, Popcorn)

Work Order #: 00318831, task 03

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 Field surveys determined that no historic properties would be affected as a result of the proposed undertaking. Washington SHPO concurred with BPA's findings on October 1, 2013. Oregon SHPO did not respond after 40 days of consultation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) None present.	<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 There will be no risks to health and safety as a result of the proposed project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands All six projects locations are classified as either Prime Farmland (Evergreen, Popcorn, KSLM), have the potential to be Prime Farmland if irrigated (Clear Creek) or protected from flooding (Fruit Valley), or are Farmlands of Statewide Importance (Minnehaha). However they are not irrigigable, are not used as farmland, and do not have the potential to be used as such due to their current use as part of BPA's transmission and communication network.	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting documentation in the official project file: Section 106 review and consultation; FEMA floodplain maps; Critical Habitat maps; NWI wetland maps.

Signed: /s/ Claire McClory

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