

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: February 15, 2011

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

to: Timothy Murray  
Project Manager – TELP-TPP-3

**Proposed Action:** Woodland & 148<sup>th</sup> Clearwire Wireless Communication Facilities

**Budget Information:** Work Order #00241948, Task 01

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):**

B1.7 Acquisition, installation, operation, and removal of communication systems...

B1.19 Siting, construction, and operation of microwave and radio communication towers and associated facilities...

**Location:** Township 19 North, Range 4 East, Section 20 in Pierce County, Washington

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Clearwire Communications has requested to attach wireless communication facilities atop tower 50/2 of BPA's Chehalis-Covington #1 transmission line. The proposed project includes the attachment of panel antennas on an existing transmission tower. Ethernet and coax cable would run from the top of the tower to a 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 3 Foot x 1 Foot deep concrete piers. Additional metering equipment would also be mounted within the fenced area, but outside of the concrete slab space.

Additional ground disturbance would include a 3-foot deep trench approximately 18 inches wide that would run from the support cabinet to an offsite transformer approximately 115 feet north of the tower site. The purpose of the trench is to run conduit to an offsite power source for added safety and reliability. An approximately 60 foot long gravel access road south of the tower will provide access to the site for future upgrades and maintenance.

**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). 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, 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, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

Section 106 consultation was initiated on September 27, 2010 with the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (WADAHP), Puyallup Tribe, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, and the Nisqually Tribe. Due to the nature of the project, the area having been previously disturbed by the installation of the tower, and all activities remaining within the disturbed footprint, BPA determined that the proposed undertaking would have no effect on historic properties. WADAHP concurred with this determination on December 27, 2010. No response was received from the consulted tribes.

Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, BPA has made a determination of no effect for all ESA proposed or designated listed species and critical habitats due to eGIS database search results, lack of habitat and prey species, and distance away from water bodies.

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 Bingaman  
Claire Bingaman  
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

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

Date: February 15, 2011

Attachment:  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Woodland & 148<sup>th</sup> Clearwire Wireless Communication Project

**Work Order #:** 00241948, Task 01

**This project has been found to not adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:**

Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect With Conditions
1. Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime agricultural lands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Claire Bingaman

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