

# memorandum

DATE: April 5, 2013

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Ben Deschuytter  
Project Manager –TEP-CSB-1

**Proposed Action:** Digital Communication System Upgrade Project: ‘D’ Analog System Retirement and #WC SONET Ring (*update to previous Categorical Exclusion issued on February 22, 2013*)

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

**Location:** Douglas County, Washington

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** In addition to the work described in the previous Categorical Exclusion, BPA proposes to add a permanent gravel parking area next to the existing access road outside BPA’s Columbia Substation. The new parking area would be used to accommodate construction vehicles and equipment and overflow from the existing parking area. An area about 0.3 acre in size would be cleared of vegetation, lightly graded, and covered with gravel.

**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/ Kara Hempy-Mayer*  
Kara Hempy-Mayer  
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

*/s/ Stacy Mason*  
Stacy Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

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Attachment:  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

# Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Digital Communication System Upgrade Project: 'D' Analog System Retirement and #WC SONET Ring (*update to previous Categorical Exclusion issued on February 22, 2013*)

**Work Order #:** 304511

**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.**

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources No effect determination: area surveyed and cleared previously by BPA: no cultural or historic resources present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No effect determination: no suitable habitat present for T & E species with potential to occur in Douglas County	<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 Workers would follow BPA standards for Health and Safety during construction	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Kara Hempy-Mayer

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