

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Chemawa Substation Wireless Communication Facility

Project Manager: Jonathan Toobian, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Marion County, Oregon

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 Wireless to construct a new wireless communication facility on BPA fee owned property at the Chemawa Substation. Several antennas and pertinent equipment would be attached at the 70 foot level of Chemawa Substation's microwave tower. Cables would run from the antennas to a new southbound 100-foot long trench, to a new 15-foot by 28-foot lease space outside the south substation fence. Verizon proposes to build a perimeter fence around the leased area, construct a 4-foot by 20-foot concrete equipment pad, and install new base cabinetry on the pad.

A new buried electric cable would run from the equipment pad east to a dedicated transformer located along the adjacent Tepper Lane NE on BPA fee owned property. The cable run would be about 220-feet long and travel through a PVC conduit buried no less than 36 inches below grade. All work would occur within previously disturbed areas.

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/ Becky Hill

Becky Hill

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

David Evans and Associates

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Date: December 8, 2015

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

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: Chemawa Substation Wireless Communication Facility

Project Site Description

The proposed communication facility and trenching would occur on BPA fee-owned property. It is currently covered by lawn, wood chip bark mulch, and ornamental shrubs. This area has been previously disturbed by substation construction and buried utilities.

The substation is located in the Interstate 5 corridor, with the town of Keizer to the south and agricultural production to the north. In the immediate vicinity of the project, Tepper Lane NE and Keizer Station shopping center are located just south of the proposed project area, a minor league baseball stadium and parking lot are to the east, residential home developments are to the west, and a nursery and agriculture fields to the north.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No potential to affect historic or cultural resources.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance, erosion control measures would be used.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special status species present. Lawn and ornamental shrubs may be disturbed due to construction activities.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special status species present, and no suitable habitat.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present.		

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. Trenched areas would be returned to their present use.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation:

Aerial antennas would not be noticeably different from existing substation equipment and structures. While the new fence surrounding the equipment pad would be visible from Tepper Lane NE, it would be made of chain link, similar to the existing fencing surrounding the substation. Additionally, Tepper Lane NE is a dead end street, and does not connect to the residential community to the west. Very little traffic is observed on this road, and the visible difference from Tepper Lane NE would not be significant.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation:

Small amounts 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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: BPA owns the property in fee; surrounding landowners would not be affected.

Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts to any environmentally sensitive resource.

Signed: /s/ Becky Hill

Date: December 8, 2015