

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** T-Mobile Fircrest Antenna Upgrade

**Project Manager:** Jonathan Toobian – TELP-TPP-3

**Location:** Clark County, WA

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow T-Mobile to modify its existing wireless facility located on the 82-foot tall steel lattice tower, structure 30/3 of BPA's North Bonneville-Ross #1 230-kV transmission line, in Vancouver, WA. The facility modifications include:

- Removing all (9) existing antennas on the structure
- Adding (3) new Commscope FFHH-65B-R3 antennas
- Adding (3) new Commscope HBXX-6517D8-A2M antennas (1 antenna type per sector)
- Adding (3) new Nokia AHLOA
- Adding (3) new Nokia AHFIB remote radio units at the antenna mount location
- Adding (3) new GOVP boxes
- Adding (3) new hybrid cables
- Adding new LED work lights
- Replacing the existing equipment cabinet and installing an ice shield canopy to cover the equipment and work area

The project would not involve any ground excavation.

**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/ Michael Henjum

Michael Henjum

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 23, 2019

Attachment: 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:** T-Mobile Fircrest Antenna Upgrade

## Project Site Description

Wireless communication equipment replacements would occur at BPA's steel lattice structure 30/3 of the North Bonneville-Ross #1 230-kV transmission line, located in Vancouver, WA. Several antennas would be replaced near the top of the 82-foot tall tower and other equipment would be replaced at ground level. The ground level equipment is currently secured to a concrete pad that is situated directly below the steel lattice structure. This structure is located adjacent to a paved commuter park and ride area and is contained by a chain link security fence. The surrounding land is a mixture of commercial, industrial, and residential.

## 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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> This project would use established, paved roads to access this facility and no ground-disturbing activities are proposed. A BPA historian and cultural staff verified that the small additive features to the transmission tower do not affect the integrity of the tower and there is no potential to affect historic or cultural resources.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur as a result of this project.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No vegetation exists within the project area; therefore, this project is not anticipated to have impacts to any state or federally protected plant species.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No wildlife habitat exists within the project area. If any active nests are observed on the tower prior to construction, the construction would be delayed until the nests are unoccupied.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No water bodies, floodplains, or other fish habitat exists near the project area.		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No wetlands are present or in close proximity to the project area.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No ground disturbance, drilling, or excavation would occur as a result of this project; thus, no groundwater, nor aquifers, are anticipated to be affected.

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

Explanation: There would be no change to the land use at the project location, as the proposed action is replacing existing equipment of the same purpose.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The wireless antennas and equipment are consistent with the existing use of the site.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: No air quality effects would occur during this equipment replacement project.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Installation noise would be minimal, temporary, and occur during daytime hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: There would be no impact to human health and safety.

### **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: The project area is BPA fee-owned property.

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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 Michael Henjum  
Michael Henjum – ECT-4

Date: January 23, 2019