

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** T-Mobile Echo Glen and Snoqualmie Ridge Antenna Upgrade Project

**Project Manager:** Jonathan Toobian

**Location:** King County, Washington

**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 the existing wireless facilities located on transmission line structures 2/3 (Echo Glen) and 4/3 (Snoqualmie Ridge) of BPA's Echo Lake-Monroe No.1 transmission line, located near the town of Snoqualmie, WA. The facility modifications include:

Echo Glen structure 2/3 - Removing six antennas and associated communication equipment and installing three new antennas and associated communication equipment.

Snoqualmie Ridge structure 4/3 - Removing all existing antennas and associated communication equipment and installing three new antennas and associated communication equipment.

The existing equipment is located approximately 100 feet above the ground on steel-lattice structures. The new equipment would be installed in the same location as the existing equipment.

No ground-disturbing activities would occur during implementation of this project.

**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, Jul. 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/ Tish Eaton

Tish Eaton

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 16, 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.

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## Project Site Description

Wireless communication equipment replacements would occur on steel-lattice transmission structures 2/3 and 4/3 of BPA's Echo Lake-Monroe No.1 230-kV transmission line, located near residential areas west of the town of Snoqualmie, WA. Access to the structures is via well-maintained gravel roads.

## 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> The BPA Historian has determined that because no ground disturbance would occur as a result of this project and minor additive features would not adversely impact the integrity of historic transmission lines, this undertaking has no potential to effect historic properties.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur as part of this project.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground-disturbing activities would occur as part of this project. Access to the structures would occur along existing gravel roads.		
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 is known to be present in the project sites.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No water bodies, floodplains, or other fish habitat exists in the project sites.		
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 sites.		
7. <b>Groundwater and Aquifers</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance, drilling, or excavation would occur as part of this project; thus, neither groundwater nor aquifers are anticipated to be affected.		

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



Explanation: There would be no change in land use at the project sites, as the project would replace existing equipment of the same purpose.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The new wireless antennas and equipment would look the same as the existing antennas and equipment.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Air quality would not be impacted during project work because no ground disturbance would occur.

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 sites are owned by King County and a private landowner. Rights to perform this work would be verified by BPA realty specialists prior to project implementation.

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

Signed: /s/ Tish Eaton  
Tish Eaton, ECT-4  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: May 16, 2019