

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: T-Mobile Wireless Upgrades at Tiffany Park

Project Manager: Chuck Wedick – TELP-TTP-3

Location: King County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.9 Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way; B1.19 Microwave, meteorological and radio towers

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow T-Mobile to make upgrades to antennas and associated equipment at the Tiffany Park site. Work would occur on and in the equipment yard of 127/4 of the Rocky Reach-Maple Valley No. 1 line. Project actions would include removing, adding, and replacing antennas, remote radio units, coax cable, tower mounted amplifiers, cabinets and other associated equipment. The project would likely utilize a bucket truck, pickup trucks, and hand tools.

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/ Kali Levy

Kali Levy
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Portland State University

Reviewed by:

/s/ Carol Leiter

Carol Leiter
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange November 2, 2021

Katey C. Grange Date
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: T-Mobile Wireless Site Upgrades at Tiffany Park

Project Site Description

Project actions would occur on structure 127/4 of the Rocky Reach-Maple Valley No. 1 line in BPA easement right-of-way in King County, Washington (Township 23 North, Range 5 East, and Section 22). This site is located in a greenway between neighborhoods. An access road runs approximately 20 feet north of the structure.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA historian review of the proposed project actions found no potential to cause effects to historic resources.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no ground disturbance associated with this project.

3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No special-status plants are known to be in the project area. The structure is approximately 20 feet from an unimproved access road, the use of which would minimize impacts to vegetation. Some vegetation may be crushed when vehicles access the site.

4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: No special-status wildlife are known to be near the project site. The project location is not located within or adjacent to any critical habitat areas.

Any local wildlife in the area may be temporarily disturbed by project noise.

Notes:

- If any active nests are found on the structure prior to construction, the construction would be delayed until the nests are unoccupied.

5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project site is not located in or near water bodies.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project site is not located in wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no ground disturbance associated with this project. There would be no impact to groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no change of land use. The project site houses existing communications equipment.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be minimal changes to the appearance of the project site.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during project work. There would be no significant changes to air quality during or after project work.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All applicable safety standards would be followed during project work. The project would not create conditions that would increase risk 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: N/A

Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation: N/A

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: N/A

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: N/A

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The project would occur in BPA easement right-of-way. T-Mobile would be responsible for notifying the landowners and coordinating access.

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

Signed: /s/ Kali Levy November 2, 2021
Kali Levy, ECT – 4 Date
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Portland State University