

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** T-Mobile Wireless Antenna Upgrades – Multiple Locations

**Project No.:** Multiple (See table below)

**Project Managers:** Chuck Wedick, TELP-TPP-3; Jonathan Toobian, TELP-TPP-3

**Location:** Multiple locations within Washington state.

**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 the T-Mobile corporation to remove and replace multiple antennas, remote radio units (RRUs) and associated equipment at 10 wireless sites, see table below for site name, associated BPA facility and description of equipment to be replaced. Some project locations are legacy Sprint locations that were acquired by T-Mobile upon the merger of the two companies. New antennas and remote radio units (RRUs) to be used are similar demensions compared to the exsisting equipment. Project actions also would include replacing mounting hardware and communication cables as necessary for each site location using existing locations and equipment cabinets.

Project Number	Site Name	BPA facility location	Impacted equipment
W0853	Hazel Wolf Wetlands (Historic Sprint name: East Platue Drive 5g)	Sammamish-Maple Valley No 1 230 kV; mile/structure: 14/4	Remove 3 existing panel antennas and 6 existing RRUs.  Install 6 antennas and 6 RRUs.
W0850	Fruit Valley BPA	Ross-Carborundum No 1 115 kV; mile/structure: 5/9	Remove 6 existing antennas and 9 existing RRUs.  Install 6 antennas and 6 RRUs.
W0854	South Machina (Pilchuck 5g)	Chief Joseph-Snohomish No 3 & 4 345 kV, mile/structure 131/2	Remove 3 existing panel antennas and 6 existing RRUs.  Install 6 antennas and 6 RRUs.

W0847	Lincoln Tree Farm HWY 7  (Rocky Ridge 5g)	Olympia-Grand Coulee No 1 287 kV, mile/structure 37/2.	Remove 6 existing panel antennas and 6 existing RRUs.  Install 6 antennas and 6 RRUs.
W0846	Boistfort	Boistfort Peak Radio Station	Remove 3 existing panel antennas, 6 existing RRUs.  Install 6 antennas and 6 RRUs.
W0860	Snoqualmie Ridge	Echo Lake-Monroe No.1 500 kV, mile/structure 4/3	Remove 6 existing panel antennas, 6 RRUs, 2 ultra-site cabinets and chain link gates.  Install 6 antennas, 6 RRUs, 2 new cabinets on existing pads and new fence gates using existing fence pole hardware.
W0868	Dullenty Park	Sifton Ross No. 1 230 kV, mile/structure 2/3	Remove 6 existing antennas, 9 existing RRUs, all unused coax, two cabinets  Install 9 antennas and 9 RRUs.
W874	KSLM Anchor	Chemawa-Salem Nos. 1 & 2 230 kV, mile/structure 10/4	Remove 6 existing antennas, 6 existing RRUs.  Relocate microwave dish on existing tower  Install 6 antennas and 6 RRUs.
W0875	Mt Solo	Longview-Chehalis No. 3 230 kV, mile/structure 2/5	Remove 4 antennas, 6 existing RRUs, all Sprint hybrid cables and 2 cabinets  Install 6 antennas, 6 RRUs, new hybrid

			cabels with Pendants, and 2 new cabinets located on existing cabinet pads.
W0869	Burton & 98th	North Bonneville-Ross No. 2 230 kV, mile/structure 32/3	Remove 6 antennas, 6 RRUs and 6 TMAs.  Install 6 antennas, and 6 RRUs.

**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/ Nicholas Johnson

Nicholas Johnson  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange                      November 18, 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 Antenna Upgrades – Multiple Locations

### Project Site Description

Project sites are located throughout Washington state within existing BPA rights-of-ways (ROWs). Access to each site would be via the existing access road network.

<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>BPA facility location</b>	<b>County, State, Township, Range, Section</b>	<b>Site Description</b>
W0853	Hazel Wolf Wetlands  (Historic Sprint Name: East Platue Drive 5g)	Sammamish-Maple Valley No 1 230 kV; mile/structure: 14/4	Township 25 North, Range 6 East, and Section 35	This site is located in a golf course. There is a wetland approximately 500 feet south.
W0850	Fruit Valley BPA	Ross-Carborundum No 1 115 kV; mile/structure: 5/9	Township 2 North, Range 1 East, and DC 52	This site is located in an industrial area. There is a small patch of grass around the structure in a larger gravel and paved area.
W0854	South Machina  (Historic Sprint name: Pilchuck 5g)	Chief Joseph-Snohomish No 3 & 4 345 kV, mile/structure 131/2	Township 28 North, Range 6 East, and Section 6	This site is located in a greenway between neighborhoods. The nearest waterway is an intermittent stream approximately 1,100 feet west.
W0847	Lincoln Tree Farm HWY 7  (Rocky Ridge 5g)	Olympia-Grand Coulee No 1 287 kV, mile/structure 37/2.	Township 18 North, Range 4 East, and Section 23	This site is located in a agricultural field in a rural low density residential area. The structure is approximately 150 feet off of 122 <sup>nd</sup> Ave East. The nearest waterway is South Creek approximately 350 feet east.

W0846	Boistfort	Boistfort Peak Radio Station	Township 12 North, Range 4 West, and Section 32	This site is in a remote forested area. The nearest waterway is an unnamed intermittent tributary of Big Creek approximately 250 feet west. Access to the structure is provided by a road.
W0860	Snoqualmie Ridge	Echo Lake-Monroe No.1 500 kV, mile/structure 4/3	Township 24 North, Range 7 East, and Section 25	This site is located in a greenway between neighborhoods. The nearest water body is an unnamed stream approximately 650 feet west.
W0868	Dullenty Park	Sifton Ross No. 1 230 kV, mile/structure 2/3	Township 2 North, Rang 2 East, and Section 14	This site is located just north of a neighborhood. An unimproved road runs approximately 40 feet north of the structure. The nearest waterway is Burnt Bridge Creek, approximately 1,000 feet north.
W874	KSLM Anchor	Chemawa-Salem Nos. 1 & 2 230 kV, mile/structure 10/4	Township 7 South, Range 3 West, and Section 20	This site is located in a ROW between neighborhoods. The nearest waterway is Glenn Creek approximately 1,800 feet north.
WO875	Mt Solo	Longview-Chehalis No. 3 230 kV, mile/structure 2/5	Township 8 North, Range 3 West, and Section 23	This site is located in a low density residential area with trees. The nearest waterway is Ditch number five approximately 1,800 feet southwest.
W0869	Burton & 98th	North Bonneville-Ross No. 2 230 kV, mile/structure 32/3	Township 2 North, Range 2 East, and Section 28	This site is in a greenway between neighborhoods. The nearest waterway is an intermittent stream approximately 1,100 feet north.

**Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

## 1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Proposed actions would have no potential to affect cultural resources. BPA cultural resources issued No Potential to Cause Effect memos, which were recorded for each location on the following dates:

Project Site Name	NPE Memo date
Hazel Wolf Wetlands (East Platue Drive 5g)	July, 15, 2021
Fruit Valley BPA	April 22, 2021
South Machina (Pilchuck 5g)	July 15, 2015
Lincoln Tree Farm HWY 7 (Rocky Ridge 5g)	April 22, 2021
Boistfort	April 22, 2021
Snoqualmie Ridge	July 15, 2021
Dullenty Park	July 15, 2021
KSLM Anchor	July 19, 2021
Mt Solo	July 15, 2021
Burton & 98 <sup>th</sup>	April 22, 2021

## 2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no planned ground disturbance to occur with the proposed project actions.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No known occurrences of threatened or endangered plants are located with the project areas. No impacts would occur to local vegetation as proposed by project actions.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No known occurrences of threatened or endangered wildlife are located within project areas. Project locations are not located within any defined critical habitat areas. Some project sites are located in vicinity (less than a mile) of potential suitable habitat of marble murrelet and Northern spotted owl. However, project actions would not be conducted in actual habitat and project actions would be conducted outside critical breeding and nesting periods respectively. Local wildlife could be momentarily disrupted during the short 1-2 day installation period at the project locations.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project locations are not located within water ways, riparian areas, floodplains or fish habitat. Proposed actions would not impact identified nearby water resources.

**6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project location is not located within known wetland areas. Project actions would not impact nearby wetlands that occur near project locations.

**7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project actions would not impact groundwater resources.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project actions are co-located within existing wireless communication facilities within BPA transmission ROWs. Land use would remain the same.

**9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project actions would replace existing equipment with similar size and dimensions. Visual quality would be similar to existing conditions and would not change the overall visual quality of each location. Some project locations would increase the total amount of antennas, but would not degrade the overall appearance because additional antennas would be arranged within the existing footprints in order to cover multiple azimuths.

**10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project actions could create some dust associated with vehicle traffic on ROW roads and general construction actions. Air quality impacts from dust would be relatively minimal and short in duration.

**11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project would have noise associated with the general construction equipment used to replace the equipment. Noise would be occurring during daylight hours and occurring for one to two days per location.

## 12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Crews would follow all applicable health and safety protocols.

### **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 T-Mobile Corporation has existing access and use rights through BPA's existing easements. No landowner notification or coordination would be needed for the proposed actions. BPA's real property services group would be the primary point of contact concerning any adjacent landowner concerns.



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

Signed: /s/ Nicholas Johnson November 18, 2021  
Nicholas Johnson, ECT Date  
Environmental Protection Specialist