

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: T-Mobile Grouse Ridge Anchor L600 Antenna Upgrade

Project No.: CR Project WA 2022 069

Project Manager: Chuck Wedick TELP-TPP-3

Location: King County, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed project would involve allowing T-Mobile to implement the proposed anchor and antenna upgrades to Structure 103/1 of BPA's Rocky Reach-Maple Valley No. 1 transmission line located on privately-owned lands in King County, Washington. The proposed project would upgrade the anchor, antenna, and equipment on Structure 103/1 of BPA's Rocky Reach-Maple Valley No. 1 line approximately 5 miles southeast of North Bend, WA. The project would include replacing an existing unistrut equipment mounting rack with a new H-Frame system and attaching upgraded equipment to the new H-Frame. The new H-Frame mounting system would be installed and anchored to an existing concrete pad in an existing equipment area. Proposed equipment upgrades would include replacing the existing service meter, disconnect switch, and two electrical panels/cabinets with a larger 200 amp service meter, and upgrading a 200 amp intersect panel LED light and AAV cube. All equipment upgrades would be installed above ground. Ground-disturbing activities associated with the project would include the excavation of a utility trench that would connect the new service meter to an existing pad-mounted transformer through newly laid buried 3-inch conduit. The trench would be an approximately 75-foot linear run, which is anticipated to be approximately 1.5-foot wide with a depth of 3.5 feet. The trench would be back filled with the excavated sediments. The site is located in Township 23N Range 9E Section 29.

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/ Christopher H. Furey
Christopher H. Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel June 2, 2022
Sarah T. Biegel 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 Grouse Ridge Anchor L600 Antenna Upgrade

Project Site Description

The installation of the anchor and antenna upgrades and new service meter connection at Structure 103/1 of BPA's Rocky Reach-Maple Valley No.1 transmission line would be on Weyerhaeuser Timber privately-owned lands in King County, Washington where BPA holds a transmission easement. The project area consists of the transmission tower structure and existing concrete pad in the right-of-way with some low-growing vegetation and disturbed soils. The surrounding land uses include the Homestead Sand and Gravel Quarry and some timber lands. A review of the National Wetland Inventory, soil information, topography, and aerial photos did not reveal any wetlands or waterbodies at the site. A riverine wetland is located 2,900 feet south of the project area. The South Fork Snoqualmie River is located about 2,500 feet south and 3,200 feet west of the project site.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A BPA archaeologist reviewed the proposed activities and determined that activities at the project area would not have potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources. BPA sent a determination letter to WA State Historic Preservation Officer, Puyallup Tribe, Snoqualmie Tribe, and Muckleshoot Tribe on April 28, 2022, that the proposed undertaking would result in no historic properties affected and the WA SHPO concurred with the determination. No other comments were received as of May 31, 2022. In the unlikely event that cultural material is inadvertently encountered during implementation of the project, BPA would require that work be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by BPA and in consultation with the appropriate consulting parties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be some soil disturbance for the installation of the utility line to connect the new meter. Trenching would be expected for the new 75 feet of underground utility line at a depth of 3.5 feet and width of 1.5 feet.

Notes:

- Use of BMPs for dust and soil control would be expected to be implemented. The trench would be backfilled with the excavated sediments.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would be occurring on BPA right-of-way on property that is owned by the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company and adjacent to cleared quarry land. The project area is mostly disturbed soil with scant low-growing vegetation with minimal impacts to non-listed plants. There are no listed or special-status species that would be impacted.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The work would be in BPA right-of-way on property owned by Weyerhaeuser Timber Company that is clear of trees and is mostly disturbed soil. A spotted owl management circle is over 5,900 feet northwest of the project area. Installation of the transmission equipment and the underground utility line is expected to occur during daytime hours with no impact to listed or special-status species.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The nearest waterway is the South Fork Snoqualmie River located about 2,500 feet south and 3,200 feet west of the project site. A riverine wetland is over 2,900 feet south of the project location. There would be no in-water work occurring and project activities would not be in any river, creek, or wetland area.

Notes:

- Use of BMPs for dust and erosion control would be expected to be used at the project site.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are present at the project area. A riverine wetland exists approximately 2,900 feet south of the project location.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The shallow digging for the project would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no impact to the current land use.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be limited visual changes to the project area and surrounding environment.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during installation.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. No ongoing noise increase is expected.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No impacts expected.

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: Weyerhaeuser Timber Company is the owner of the land and BPA has a right-of-way easement.

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

Signed: /s/ Christopher H. Furey June 2, 2022
Christopher H. Furey Date
Environmental Protection Specialist