

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: T-Mobile PUD Power Route and Upgrades at BPA Port Angeles Substation

Project No.: 2021-1012

Project Manager: Jonathan Toobian – TELP-TPP-3

Location: Clallam County, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.19 Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers, B1.31 Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment.

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow T-Mobile to make upgrades to associated equipment at the PCC Port Angeles Substation facility, located in Clallam County, WA. Project actions would include the upgrade and installation of a new power feed and associated equipment to support T-Mobile's communication equipment. The proposed upgrades to T-Mobile's equipment would involve an approximately 135-foot-long (3 feet deep by 1 foot in depth) trench to supply a new 2.5-inch-diameter conduit power feed from the public utility pole to the T-Mobile communication equipment located on the west side of the BPA control house. The new power feed would connect to a new meter with a support post located outside of and adjacent to the fenced-in area of the PCC Port Angeles Substation facility. A proposed 60-foot-long trench (3 feet deep by 1 foot in depth) would supply power from the meter to a new transformer installed on the existing concrete pad located within the fenced-in communication structure area.

Equipment used would likely include pickup trucks, backhoe, a bucket truck, 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/ Sylas Daughtrey

Sylas Daughtrey
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist



NPCE MEMO

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

All work would occur within the BPA fee-owned or easement rights-of-way and Port Angeles Substation. The project site is located in Clallam County, WA. The legal parcel description is Township 30 North, Range 6 West, Section 14. The proposed site of construction has previous ground disturbance and is located in areas that are graveled, mulched, paved, or have compacted soils. The PUD power pole and fenced-in communication structure area are separated by graveled landscaping, a paved driveway, and parking area. Port Angeles substation is surrounded by residential parcels, undeveloped timberland, and the Peninsula College Campus.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed work does not include any ground-disturbing activities that would affect cultural or historic resources. BPA historian and cultural review has shown that the proposed project would have no potential to cause effect to historic properties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Ground disturbance would occur at the existing communication site and the area of ground-disturbing activities would take place in and around previous ground disturbance. These disturbed areas include graveled, mulched, paved, and/or compacted soils. The Port Angeles Substation site would be returned to pre-project conditions from all disturbed soils surrounding the proposed construction area.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project locations are unvegetated; therefore, there would be no impacts to vegetation, including Federal or state special-status species and/or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no Federal or state special-status species or habitats at any of the sites that would be impacted by the project. If any active nests are found on the tower prior to the project activities, the work would be delayed until the nest is unoccupied. Work station sites are located

within well-established areas outside critical habitat. Temporary disturbance to non-sensitive wildlife may occur during work periods, but it is anticipated that wildlife would distribute to adjacent habitats and that noise disturbance would be consistent with ongoing operations of the sites.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No water bodies, floodplains, or fish disturbance would occur at the existing communication sites.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no wetlands at the existing communication site.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Ground disturbance would occur at the existing communication site; however, the construction area would take place in and around previous ground disturbance. These areas include graveled, paved, and/or compacted soils. No disturbance to groundwater and aquifers would take place.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no change to land use at any of the locations. None of the sites are in specially-designated areas.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The presence of the proposed associated equipment would minimal impacts, however, the visual quality would be similar to pre-project conditions.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction; however, there would be no significant changes to air quality during or after construction.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours. Operation noise would not change.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed work would improve work areas and structural integrity of structures that support network operations, and would maintain reliable power for associated equipment. T-Mobile would provide a safety watcher and coordinate with Port Angeles substation operations during excavation and construction periods.

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: BPA Port Angeles Substation is located on BPA owned property. No additional landowner notification, involvement, or coordination would be required.

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

Signed: /s/ Sylas Daughtrey August 1, 2023
Sylas Daughtrey Date
Environmental Protection Specialist