

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Bureau of Land Management Request to Co-Locate at Miller Peak Radio Station

**Project No.:** P06286

**Project Manager:** Sergey Ovcharenko, TENP-CSB; Erik Lane TPCV-TPP-4

**Location:** Missoula County, MT

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.7 Electronic Equipment; B.2.2 Building and equipment instrumentation

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to install an antenna on the existing BPA communications tower and supporting equipment inside the existing BPA Miller Peak Radio Station. Specifically, BPA would allow BLM to install a small VHF antenna on the existing tower and a single equipment rack in the building. Three holes would be drilled in the existing radio station building to accommodate the coaxial cable. No ground disturbance would occur for 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.

Christopher H. Furey  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. Grange  
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.

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## **Project Site Description**

The project site consists of the existing Miller Peak Radio Station in Missoula County, MT. The Miller Peak Radio Station complex is accessible by existing access road. The Miller Peak Radio Station is located in Montana Township 12 North, Range 18 West, Section 32. The surrounding area outside of the Miller Peak Radio complex consists of some cleared area and adjacent forested land of the USDA Forest Service Lolo National Forest. Park Creek is located about 4,000 feet south of the radio station, and the intermittent Limestone Creek is located about 4,000 feet west of the radio station.

## **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The BPA archaeologist reviewed the proposed activities and determined that these activities at the project area for the installation of the fencing and gates does not have potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources.

### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no impacts to soils and geology for this work at the Miller Peak Radio Station.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance in areas with vegetation would occur and no plants would be disturbed.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would occur during daylight hours at radio station of existing facility with no impacts to wildlife expected.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Work would occur at radio station facility with no impacts to water bodies.

**6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetland areas are nearby the radio station and would not be impacted by the project.

**7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground or groundwater disturbance would occur for this project at the existing radio station.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in land use would occur.

**9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in the overall visual character of the radio station facility would occur by the addition of the small VHF antenna.

**10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

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

**11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor, intermittent noise associated with increased vehicle traffic and equipment use would occur during installation.

**12. Human Health and Safety**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Any hazardous materials such as batteries generated would be disposed of at a designated hazardous waste disposal facility. Workers on the project would be required to follow all applicable state and/or Federal safety standards.

### **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 Realty is coordinating with USDA Forest Service for this location.

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

Signed:

Christopher H. Furey  
Environmental Protection Specialist