

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Verizon Telecommunications Equipment Upgrades at Longacre Wireless Site

Project No.: W1023

Project Manager: Brian Keith, TELP-TPP-3

Location: Washington County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.19 Microwave, meteorological and radio towers. B1.3 Routine maintenance, B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities.

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow Verizon to make telecommunications upgrades to its Longacre wireless site located on structure 17/1 of BPA's Pearl-Keeler No. 1 transmission line in Washington County, Oregon. The transmission structure is located on property owned by the City of Hillsboro with an existing easement for the BPA transmission line Right-of-Way (ROW). Telecommunications equipment would be installed on the existing transmission structure and within the associated fenced equipment compound located at the base of the structure.

On the existing transmission structure, Verizon would:

- Remove six remote radio units (RRUs) and relocate them to the ground-level compound
- Install three antennas
- Install six triplexers
- Install 12 lines of COAX cable, each measuring 80-feet long

Inside the existing fenced equipment compound, Verizon would:

- Install the six relocated RRUs
- Install six triplexers

The site would be accessed via existing routes of travel. The upgrades would not involve any soil excavation nor access road improvements or modifications. Any activities that involve hazardous materials such as lead-acid batteries containing mercury or other hazardous materials would be disposed of at a designated hazardous waste facility.

BPA leases space on its transmission towers for wireless antenna facilities pursuant to its authority under sections 2(e) and 2(f) of the Bonneville Project Act. 16 U.S.C. § 832a(e)-(f).

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; 89 FR 34074, April 30, 2024), 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.¹

Justin Olmsted
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

¹ BPA is aware that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), on February 25, 2025, issued an interim final rule to remove its NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500–1508. Based on CEQ guidance, and to promote completion of its NEPA review in a timely manner and without delay, in this CX/SA/EA BPA is voluntarily relying on the CEQ regulations, in addition to DOE's own regulations implementing NEPA at 10 C.F.R. Part 1021, to meet its obligations under NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 *et seq.*

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: Verizon Telecommunications Equipment Upgrades at Longacre Wireless Site

Project Site Description

The project site is located on structure 17/1 of the Pearl-Keeler No. 1 Transmission line on City of Hillsboro owned land in Washington County, Oregon (Township 1 South, Range 2 West, Section 2). Verizon has an existing wireless telecommunications system and enclosed equipment compound located at the BPA structure. The surrounding land has been developed into an urban housing development, with a walking path and playground (Paula Jean Park) existing on the eastern side of the transmission line Right-of-Way (ROW). Vegetation in the area is dominated by grass which is maintained with regular mowing. Additionally, there are a limited number of trees on the eastern edge of the ROW which may provide habitat for the local bird population. There are no wetlands or surface waters located within the proposed work site.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA Cultural Resources staff has determined that the proposed project meets Stipulation I.A.1 of *Programmatic Agreement Among the Bonneville Power Administration, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, the Washington State Historic Preservation Office, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to Address Effects to BPA Transmission Lines* (December 19, 2024). No further Section 106 consultation is required.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Some minor soil compaction may occur from vehicles and equipment at the site, but no excavation or trenching is would be associated with the proposed actions. There would be limited impacts to geology and soils.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No vegetation removal would take place as a part of the proposed activities. The exception to this would be in the event that minor vegetation removal would be required to gain access to the fenced equipment enclosure. Some minor crushing of vegetation may occur due to increased vehicle and foot traffic during the project activities; however, these impacts would be minor and temporary. Vegetation would grow back soon after project completion.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The wireless site is located in an urban landscape with limited wildlife habitat. No wildlife habitat removal, including the removal of active bird nests, would take place as part of the proposed action. Some minor noise and visual disturbance could occur at the location, but these disturbances would be temporary. Given the existing urban development, activities would be similar to existing background levels of noise and visual disturbance. If active nests are discovered on the BPA transmission structure, construction would be delayed until the nests are unoccupied. Due to this, little impact to wildlife and no effect to ESA-listed or sensitive wildlife species are expected.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would take place on the existing BPA transmission structure and within the existing fenced equipment compound. No in-water work would take place, and no sediment or hazardous material releases are expected from the proposed action. No impacts to water bodies, floodplains, or fish are expected.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would take place on the existing BPA transmission structure and within the existing fenced equipment compound. No wetlands are located within the proposed action area. No sediment or hazardous material releases are expected from the proposed action. No impacts to wetlands are expected.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would take place on the existing BPA transmission structure and within the existing fenced equipment compound. No sediment or hazardous material releases are expected from the proposed action. No impacts to groundwater or aquifers are expected.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would take place on the existing BPA transmission structure and within the existing fenced equipment compound. No changes in land use are proposed. No impacts to land use or specially-designated areas are expected.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All work would take place on the existing BPA transmission structure and within the existing fenced equipment compound. Some minor changes in the visual appearance of the antennas, wiring, and equipment layout may occur, but these would be consistent with the existing use of the site and would generally not be overtly noticeable from nearby viewing areas. No substantial impacts to visual quality are expected.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Small amounts of fugitive dust and vehicle emissions may occur during site work; however, these would be temporary and minor. No substantial impacts to air quality are expected.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Some minor noise associated with construction equipment and vehicles may occur but would be temporary and during daylight hours. No substantial impacts from noise are expected.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No release of hazardous materials is expected. Verizon would be required to use equipment that meets FCC standards for radio wave emissions. Any hazardous materials, such as lead-acid batteries, removed from the site would be disposed of at a designated hazardous waste facility. No impacts to human health and safety are 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: Verizon would be required to coordinate with the City of Hillsboro and other appropriate landowners, as required, to identify all land access requirements and additional safety considerations associated with the playground and walking path.

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

Signed:

Justin Olmsted
Environmental Protection Specialist