

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: ELI Fiber Splicing Project at Salem Substation

Project Manager: James Hall-TPC-TPP-4

Location: Polk County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.9 Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow Electric Lightwave, LLC (ELI), to splice existing fiber cable at BPA's Salem Substation in Polk County, Oregon. ELI had a previous lease agreement that was recently renewed; some of the previously leased fiber would be returned back to BPA for operational use and two new fibers would be "lit" for ELI use. ELI would splice fibers within two enclosures located on tower 1/1 of the Salem-Albany No. 1 transmission line and another on a wooden pole structure, located approximately 150 feet from the previously mentioned tower. Another splicing location would occur within the existing CV-5 vault, approximately 25 feet from the tower. All locations are on the south side of the substation, just outside the fence. The project would not have any ground disturbance, other than minor construction vehicle traffic.

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, July 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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Motus Recruiting & Staffing

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 12, 2016

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: ELI Fiber Splicing Project at Salem Substation

Project Site Description

The project location is at the Salem Substation, in Polk County, Oregon. Salem Substation is located in Township 7 South, Range 3 West, Section 29. The location is approximately 0.25 miles west of the City of Salem city limits. The topography slopes up to the north from the substation, with the Willamette River located approximately 350 feet to the south. Neighboring parcels are comprised of mostly rural residences and agricultural fields to the west and south; and a large subdivision to the north and west. A review of the National Wetland Inventory, soil information, topography, and aerial photos did not reveal any wetlands or water bodies at the site.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The proposed project would not have the potential to affect historical or cultural resources. No ground disturbance would be associated with the project.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would not include ground disturbance. All work would occur in and around a previously disturbed substation yard.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would not include ground disturbance. There would be no effect to any listed or special-status species.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would not include ground disturbance. There would be no effect to any listed or special-status species.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project area does not contain any water bodies, floodplains or listed fish species. The Willamette River is approximately 350 feet to the south of the substation. There are no tributaries on or near the substation property and the project does not entail any work that would cause erosion of soils or sedimentation to waterways. The project will have no effect on federal/state special-status species or ESUs.		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: The project area does not contain any wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: The project would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

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

Explanation: There would be no permanent changes to the land use at this location.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: There would be no visual changes to the project area or surrounding environment.

10. **Air Quality**

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

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No impact.

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, if necessary:

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- 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, if necessary:

- 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, if necessary:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The project would be occurring on BPA fee-owned property. There would be no visual or other effects to adjacent landowners.

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

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Recruiting & Staffing

Date: April 12, 2016