

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Verizon Franklin Park Wireless Installation

**Project Manager:** Jonathan Toobian—TELP-TPP-3

**Location:** Clark County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.19 Microwave, meteorological and radio towers

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to allow Verizon Wireless to install an unmanned telecommunications facility at tower 2/3 of the Ross-Alcoa transmission line. The proposed project would consist of installing twelve new panel antennas (72 inches tall by 18 inches wide), three hybrid cables, nine remote radio units and three raycap splitters/surge suppressors on an existing 117.5 foot tall BPA transmission tower. Additionally, six equipment cabinets would be installed on an 8 foot x 22 foot equipment pad and one GPS antenna on a proposed ice-bridge, within a proposed 26.5 foot x 26.5 foot lease area inside a new fenced compound. There will be approximately 85 feet of trenching to install an underground power conduit, to connect the equipment area to a new dedicated transformer, along the edge of the right-of-way. Additionally, an underground fiber cable would be routed from the Verizon equipment compound to an existing LEC pedestal, approximately 35 feet away. An approximate 50 foot by 12 foot gravel access road would connect the proposed lease area to NW 58<sup>th</sup> Street.

**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 Staffing & Recruiting

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Date: May 2, 2016

Sarah T. Biegel

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 area is located in Vancouver, Washington in Township 2N, Range 1E, Section 10, at an elevation of approximately 165 feet (amsl). The area is within the Burnt Bridge Creek watershed and consists of relatively flat terrain. Vancouver Lake is located one mile to the west and Burnt Bridge Creek is approximately 0.35 mile to the east. The vegetation in the proposed lease area consists of invasive Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), Queen Anne’s lace (*Daucus carota*) and unidentified grasses. The remainder of the right-of-way is mowed annually. The surrounding areas are developed with residential housing, with vegetation consisting mostly of grasses and ornamental plants. The project lies within a BPA fee-owned right-of-way.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> A Section 106 review concluded that there would be no adverse effects to historical or cultural resources. WA DAHP concurred with the determination on March 28, 2016. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe did not respond to notifications sent on December 18, 2015, and March 25, 2016.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Soils would be excavated for installation of the concrete equipment pad beneath the tower, the access road, and trenching for installation of power conduit from the lease area to a transformer located on NW Lincoln Ave. Approximately 115 cubic yards of ground disturbance would occur; however, most of the backfilling would use the native soils and the area would be re-seeded. Best management practices (BMPs) would be utilized to prevent erosion of soils. The maximum depth of soil disturbance would be 4.5 feet.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status plant species or habitat present. The project area consists mainly of blackberry, Queen Anne’s lace and unidentified grasses. The right-of-way corridor is annually mowed, and managed to deter shrub and tree growth.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status wildlife species or habitat present. The site is in a residential setting. The project would have no impacts to special-status species.</p>		

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



Explanation: The project area does not have any water bodies, floodplains or listed fish species. Burnt Bridge Creek is located approximately 0.35 mile to the east. BMPs will be utilized to avoid erosion during construction.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: The project area does not contain any wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project would not impact groundwater or aquifers as maximum depth of soil disturbance would be 4.5 feet.

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



Explanation: There would be no permanent changes to the land use at this location. Trenched areas would be returned to their present use.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The wireless antennas would extend approximately eight feet above the 117.5-foot tall BPA tower and would not be noticeably different from existing conditions.

10. **Air Quality**



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

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

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

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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                      Date: May 2, 2016  
Beth Belanger  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
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