

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** T-Mobile Boistfort Peak Telecommunication Collocation

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

**Location:** Lewis 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 has received a request from T-Mobile to collocate a new telecommunications facility at BPA's Boistfort Peak Radio Site. The project would include the addition of a new equipment cabinet placed on a new 8-foot by 8-foot concrete platform located at the base of the existing BPA Boistfort telecommunications tower. T-Mobile would attach new 15-inch tall antenna arrays 140 feet up on the 200-foot tall tower. The antennas would be attached to coaxial cable runs protected by an ice bridge that would lead into the new equipment cabinet where the cables would terminate. All work would occur within the existing chain-linked fence on BPA property. Construction staging would take place within an existing rocked parking area. No new access roads or disturbance is proposed to support 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, 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/ Claire McClory

Claire McClory  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 3, 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.

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### Project Site Description

Boistfort Peak is located about seven miles southeast of Pe El in Lewis County, Washington. The project is located in the Willapa Hills Physiographic province that covers most of southwestern Washington. Most of the area is covered by dense plant cover typically found in the humid regions. Plants in the area include Douglas fir, Indian paintbrush, wild blueberry, and various grasses.

### 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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Previous cultural resource surveys indicate that there are no known historic or cultural resources located at the radio site. The proposed activities have been determined to have no potential to affect historic or cultural resources.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Soil disturbance would be limited to an 8-foot by 8-foot concrete mounting pad in an area that has been previously leveled and graded.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present; the project is located within a fenced communication compound.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present.		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present.		
7. <b>Groundwater and Aquifers</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Ground disturbance would be minimal. No impact anticipated.		

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

Explanation: All work in existing disturbed area used for radio telecommunications.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The proposed new antenna arrays would be visually consistent with the existing communication antennas and nearby communication towers and would not be located in a visually-sensitive area.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions during construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No hazards present.

### **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 site is located on BPA fee-property.

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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/ Claire McClory  
Claire McClory

Date: June 3, 2016