

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Hungry Horse Radio Station Shelter Installation

Project Manager: Amy Gardner – TEP-TPP-1

Location: Flathead County, Montana

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

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to provide a roof shelter over the existing Hungry Horse Radio Station building. The existing building is at severe risk of failure or collapse due to its age and heavy snowfall in the area, which could cut power production. The roof shelter would be a temporary solution and will eventually need to be replaced.

The new roof shelter would be sized to cover the existing 10-foot by 20-foot building and would consist of a metal roof held up by six posts installed in 2-foot by 2-foot footings at less than 18" deep. The posts would be placed within 5 feet of the building within the existing fenced radio station grounds. The building would be accessed using existing roads.

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/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 25, 2016

Attachment: 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: Hungry Horse Radio Station Shelter Installation

Project Site Description

BPA's Hungry Horse Radio Station is in Flathead County, Montana in the Flathead National Forest which is managed by the US Forest Service. The radio station is located 50 feet north of the west side of Hungry Horse Dam and can be accessed using an existing Forest Service road or Hungry Horse Dam Road. All project work would be within the graveled area surrounding the radio station building.

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> BPA determined that the proposed activities have no potential to affect historic or cultural resources. No historic properties are known to occur on or near the proposed site.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Soil impacts would be limited to excavation for the six posts installed in 2-foot by 2-foot footings at less than 18" deep.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species are known to occur in the project area.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The radio station is in an area where grizzly bears, a federally Threatened species, are known to occur. However, due to the proximity of the project area to existing human activity, specifically traffic along Hungry Horse Dam Road, any grizzly bears in the area would be habituated to noise and visual disturbance. The project would not significantly increase the level of disturbance above ambient levels during construction, or after, thus there would be no effect on any grizzly bears that may happen to be in the area. No other special-status species are known to occur in the project area.		
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 construction would occur in close proximity to Hungry Horse Dam and Reservoir; however, no impacts to water bodies, floodplains, or fish are anticipated.		

6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No wetlands are present.		
7. Groundwater and Aquifers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No new wells or use of groundwater is proposed.		
8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No change to land use is proposed.		
9. Visual Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The new shelter would be similar in appearance to the existing building.		
10. Air Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction.		
11. Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> A temporary increase in noise would occur during construction.		
12. Human Health and Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Project would alleviate the risk of the existing building collapsing during use. No other impacts to human health and safety are anticipated.		

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 U.S. Forest Service is the landowner and they have been notified of the proposed work.

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

Signed: /s/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping, ECT-4

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: August 25, 2016