

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Mount Spokane Radio Tower Acquisition

Project No.: WA 2021 167

Project Manager: Rod Morris – TPCV-TPP-4

Location: Spokane, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B.1.24 Property Transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to acquire an existing radio tower located at the Mt. Spokane Radio Microwave Station operated by BPA in Spokane County, Washington. BPA proposes to acquire the US Army Corps of Engineer- (USACE) owned Radio Tower-Microflex Model SO-336, Serial #3420, 50-feet-tall, 4-Leg Self-Supporting Tower. The tower would be used by BPA and provide potential radio tower space for other agencies. No ground-disturbing activities or building modifications would occur with the proposed action.

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), 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/ Christopher H. Furey
Christopher H. Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

<u>/s/ Sarah T. Biegel</u>	<u>July 26, 2021</u>
Sarah T. Biegel	Date
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.

Proposed Action: Mt. Spokane Radio Tower Acquisition

Project Site Description

The existing radio tower that would be acquired from USACE is located within BPA's fenced Mt. Spokane Radio Station on land that BPA leases long-term from Washington State Parks in Spokane County, WA. The radio tower site is located in Township 28 North, Range 45 East, Section 16.

The surrounding topography consists of sloped land interspersed with evergreen trees and low vegetation and access roads to the radio station. A review of the National Wetland Inventory, soil information, topography, and aerial photos did not reveal any wetlands or waterbodies at the site. Blanchard Creek and Burping Creek are located over 2,800 feet west of the BPA Mt. Spokane Radio Station.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA historian reviewed proposed activities and determined that these activities at the project area for the acquisition of an existing radio tower at the Mt. Spokane Radio Tower would not have potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance would occur for the acquisition of the tower; therefore, there would be no impacts to geology or soils.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance in areas with vegetation would occur and no plants would be disturbed by the acquisition.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Acquisition of the existing tower from the USACE would not affect wildlife. The tower is located in an existing fenced facility.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to water bodies, floodplains, or fish by the acquisition.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would no impacts to wetlands by the acquisition.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to land use or specially-designated areas.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore there would be no impacts to visual quality.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed. There would be no impacts to air quality by the acquisition of the existing tower.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed. There would be no noise impacts beyond occasional BPA vehicle traffic to the radio site.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no impacts to human health and safety by the acquisition of the existing radio tower.

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: BPA Realty is in coordination with Washington State Parks for activities at this facility.

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

Signed: /s/ Christopher H. Furey July 26, 2021
Christopher H. Furey Date
Environmental Protection Specialist