

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Zayo Fiber Decommissioning Keeler to Alvey

Project No.: 20TP-12004

Project Manager: James Hall - TPC-TPP-4

Location: Lane, Linn and Polk counties, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.9 Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way; B1.27 Disconnection of utilities

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to authorize Zayo Fiber, LLC (Zayo) to remove existing fiber optic equipment at several BPA fee-owned substations. Zayo owns fiber optic equipment located on BPA property that it is proposing to decommission and remove. Zayo is not renewing their fiber license agreements and are proposing to decommission three of their in-line amplification (ILA) facilities on BPA fee-owned property located at BPA's Albany, Chemawa and Eugene substations. Zayo would remove the existing ILA prefabricated buildings, backup generators and fuel tanks, utility cabinets, vaults and underground conduit, fences, concrete pads and associated equipment and infrastructure totaling approximately 1 acre cumulatively at the three sites. Following removal of equipment, site remediation may include regrading the ground surface and re-graveling or hydroseeding as appropriate and as determined by BPA.

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/ Douglas Corkran

Douglas Corkran
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange June 24, 2021
Katey C. Grange 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: Zayo LLC Removal of Fiber Optic Equipment

Project Site Description

The project site is located within the Albany, Chemawa, and Eugene Substation properties. The Albany and Chemawa ILA sites are located adjacent to the substation fenced and graveled area, while the Eugene ILA site is located within the substation yard. The Albany ILA site is surrounded on the north, east and south sides by residential areas and on the west by the Calapooia River riparian area. The Chemawa ILA site is surrounded by a commercial area to the south, the substation to the east and north, and a residential area to the west. The Eugene ILA site is surrounded by industrial and commercial properties.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Oregon SHPO did not respond to BPA's determination of no adverse effect to historic properties within their 30 day response window that ended on June 7, 2021. As per SHPO guidelines, if no response is received then BPA's responsibilities under Section 106 are fulfilled and the project may proceed.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor grading of soils is expected to return the sites to pre-construction condition; however, all three ILA sites are on level ground with little chance of erosion or soil movement.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All three ILA sites are located in heavily disturbed areas with very little vegetative growth. Species that are present are landscaping or weedy in nature.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Only common wildlife species would be affected by the ILA removal activities and likely only at the Albany substation, which contains high value habitat approximately 100 feet to the west. Impacts would be temporary and consist only of noise and visual disturbance. No habitat would be removed.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The Chemawa and Eugene ILA sites are in upland areas with no water bodies or floodplains nearby. The Albany ILA site sits approximately 130 feet north of the Calapooia River on level ground. All work would be confined to the upland, level area and no impacts are expected to the river.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All three sites are located in gravel yards in upland areas with no wetlands. No wetlands have been identified adjacent to the sites.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Removal of the ILA sites and concrete pads is not expected to result in any releases of materials or changes in water movement that could affect groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Existing land uses (substation property) would remain; no changes to land use would result from the project.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The structures, fencing and equipment associated with each ILA station would be removed, thus altering the view of the site from surrounding areas. Removal of the ILA sites would likely improve views for some neighboring homes.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Some minor fugitive dust and emissions from vehicles and equipment would occur during removal of the ILA sites.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Some minor noise from vehicles and equipment would occur during construction, but long-term noise impacts are not expected.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: None of the ILA sites are located in areas with documented or suspected hazardous waste. The project would not create conditions that would impact human health and safety.

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: None needed; all work would take place within BPA's fee-owned substation property.

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

Signed: /s/ Douglas Corkran June 24, 2021
Douglas Corkran, ECT-4 Date
Environmental Protection Specialist