

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Zayo Fiber Decommissioning Covington-Bell (Raver Substation)

Project Manager: James Hall - TPC-TPP-4

Location: King County, Washington

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 BPA's fee-owned Raver substation. 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 their in-line amplification (ILA) facilities. Zayo would remove the existing ILA prefabricated buildings, backup generators and fuel tanks, utility cabinets, fiber vaults and underground conduit, fences, concrete pads and associated equipment and infrastructure totaling approximately 0.35 acre. 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 Grange 4/29/2022

Katey 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 Fiber Decommissioning Covington-Bell (Raver Substation

Project Site Description

The project site is located across the road to the north of the Raver substation in King County, Washington on BPA ROW. The ILA station is located on level ground in a densely forested area. Two fiber vaults are located in cleared ROW several hundred yards west of the ILA site. Access to the sites is from very short spur roads off the main paved two lane road.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Washington DAHP concurred with BPA's determination of No Historic Properties Affected on March 23, 2022. No other concerned parties or tribes responded within their 30 day response window that ended on April 22, 2022. 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 soil is expected to return the site to pre-construction condition; however, the project area is on level ground with little chance of erosion or soil movement. No significant impacts to geology and soils is expected.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area is located in a heavily forested area and a cleared ROW. No rare plants or special status species are documented in the area. No trees would be removed as part of the ILA station removal, but some grasses and shrubs may be removed. Species that are present near the two vault locations in cleared ROW are grassy and weedy (Scotch broom) in nature. Some vegetation removal would occur around the vaults. No significant impacts to plants are expected.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ESA or special status wildlife species are documented near the project area. Only common wildlife species would be affected, primarily by temporary noise, by the ILA and vault removal activities. All work would take place in previously disturbed areas. No significant impacts to wildlife are expected.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area is located in an upland area on flat ground away from streams and rivers. No impacts to water bodies floodplains or fish are expected.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area is in an upland area with no wetlands. No wetlands have been identified near to the sites. No impacts to wetlands are expected.

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. No impacts to groundwater or aquifers is expected.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Existing land uses (substation property, transmission line ROW) 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 the ILA station would be removed, thus slightly altering the view of the site from surrounding areas (it is mostly obscured by dense conifers). No impacts to visual quality are expected.

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 site.

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: Work would occur on BPA fee-owned land. No landowner notification is necessary.

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 4/29/2022
Douglas Corkran, ECT-4 Date
Environmental Protection Specialist