

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Mobile Redi-Stampede Pass Radio Station

Project Manager: Courtney Kimmel—TEPF-CSB-2

Location: Kittitas County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.19 Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers, B1.7 Electronic equipment

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to replace the batteries and related hardware and equipment located within an existing equipment building owned by Vertical Bridge. One 23-inch equipment rack would be installed in rack position number 3, along with eight battery cells and one battery charger and associated wiring. The floor would be reinforced with wood flooring and plywood to support the equipment.

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.

Beth Belanger
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

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.

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Project Site Description

The Stampede Pass Radio Site is approximately eight miles northwest of Easton, Washington and three miles southwest of the Easton Radio Station. The Stampede Pass site is in the Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest in Section 2, Township 20 North, Range 12 East. The elevation is 4,527 feet. The Yakima River is 1.8 miles to the northeast, with an unnamed tributary 0.50 miles southeast of the project location.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The Stampede Pass Radio Station was originally constructed and energized in approximately 1993 and as such is not a historic property. Additionally, the proposed work does not include any ground disturbing activities that would affect subsurface resources. The BPA cultural resource review has shown that the proposed project would have no potential to cause effect to historic properties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no impacts to geology or soils because no ground disturbing activities are proposed.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no impacts to Federal or special status species or habitats because no ground disturbing activities are proposed.

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

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: There would be no impacts to Federal or special status species or habitats because all of the proposed work would occur within an existing equipment building.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no impacts to water bodies, floodplains, or fish because all of the proposed work would occur within an existing equipment building.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no impact to wetlands because all of the proposed work would occur within an existing equipment building.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no impact to groundwater or aquifers because all of the proposed work would occur within an existing equipment building.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The existing telecommunications site would continue to be used for that; therefore, land use would remain unchanged. There are no specially-designated areas that would be affected by the project.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All of the work would occur within the existing equipment building; therefore, there would be no change to visual quality at the site.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A slight localized increase in emissions may occur during project implementation; however, overall air quality would not change after project completion.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would not be a significant increase in noise during project implementation because all of the work would take place inside the equipment building. Operation noise would not change.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would have no impact on human health or 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: The underlying land manager, U.S. Forest Service, has been notified of the project. There are no adjacent landowners that BPA would need to notify. No further notification or coordination is required.

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

Signed:

Beth Belanger
Environmental Protection Specialist