

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: June 8, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Dave Tripp
Project Manager – TEP-CSB-1

Proposed Action: Marion and Sand Springs Substations Radio Tower Projects

Budget Information: Work Orders 00243411 and 00243190; Task 3

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.19 Siting, construction, and operation of microwave and radio communication towers and associated facilities...

Location: Marion and Deschutes counties, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to install new radio towers at the Marion Substation and Sand Springs Substation communication sites in Oregon. BPA must vacate radio frequencies in the 1710-1755MHz band to comply with a Federal law mandating reallocation of frequencies to be used for advanced wireless networks. The proposed work is required to transition the affected telecommunications systems onto new digital microwave radio frequencies or onto fiber optic infrastructure.

The Marion Substation project involves installation of a 60 foot tall radio tower in a previously disturbed area within the substation fence line. Due to the clay nature of the soil the tower requires anchoring with a drill bore. Each of the three tower legs would be anchored using a drill bore to drill holes that are up to 25 feet deep and 5 feet in diameter.

Additionally, the radio beam path approximately 1 mile east of the Marion Substation would require tree clearing. To maintain clear communication between the substation and the passive repeater, the radio beam path requires removal of encroaching trees in a strip approximately 30 feet wide and 200 feet long. The total clearing area would be approximately 0.14 acre and can be accessed on existing roads. This area has been previously cleared for the beam path easement.

At Sand Springs Substation the project involves installing a 60 foot tall radio tower in a previously disturbed area within the substation fence line. The tower would be placed on a new 24 foot square concrete pad. Excavation for the pad would be 3 feet deep and would be dug with a back hoe. No new access roads would be needed.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D 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). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

An archaeological survey was conducted on April 27 and 30, 2010 at Marion substation and April 28, 2010 at Sand Springs substation. No cultural material was observed at either location. The SHPO sent a letter for each substation on May 10, 2010 concurring with our no effects determination. It is BPA's opinion that the projects, as designed, would have no effect on historic properties within the areas of potential effect.

BPA has determined that there will be no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act. No floodplains or wetlands would be impacted from the installation of the radio towers or the tree clearing near the Marion Substation.

Based on the conditions identified in the attachment, this proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Jennifer Stolz
Jennifer Stolz
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 8, 2010

Attachment:
Environmental Clearance Checklist

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Marion and Sand Springs Substation Radio Tower Projects

Budget Number: (Work Order #, Task #) 00243411 and 00243190; Task 3

This project has been found to not adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No, with conditions
1. Cultural Resources	X No effect on historic properties within APE
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	X
3. Floodplains or wetlands	X
4. Areas of special designation	X
5. Health & safety	X
6. Prime agricultural lands	X
7. Special sources of water	X
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	X
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	X

Note: Supporting documentation is in the Project file.

Signed: /s/ Jennifer Stolz

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