

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: June 10, 2010

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Creig Millen  
Project Manager – TEC-CSB-1

**Proposed Action:** Granite Mountain 3G Radio Station Project

**Budget Information:** Work Order 00197218, Task 03

**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:** Stevens County, Washington (T34N, R38E, Section 17)

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to install a new 100-foot radio tower, communication building, and related digital radio equipment at an existing BPA communications site on Granite Mountain in Stevens County, Washington. The new tower and building will upgrade and replace the existing tower and communications building at the site, which will be removed. The project footprint will be approximately 80 x 80 feet. Within this area, BPA will construct the new 22 x 32 foot building to house radio equipment and a generator, an additional propane tank, and install the new radio tower and antenna system. The existing site is located on a previously logged ridgetop and will not impact areas of great visual value. No new access roads will be required.

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microwave radio frequencies or onto fiber optic infrastructure, and to ensure communications reliability by replacing outdated facilities. The radio equipment would be part of a radio hop linking several radio sites within the power systems control communications network for the BPA transmission system. The proposed project is scheduled to be completed and operating by fall 2010.

**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.

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. There will be no impact to floodplains or wetlands as a result of the proposed project.

An historic evaluation of the existing radio tower and building found that the site is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and background research and a pedestrian survey did not identify cultural resources in the vicinity of the project area. On May 5, 2010, BPA sent letters along with a copy of the cultural resources report to the Washington State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Spokane Tribe of Indians for review. In a letter dated May 10, 2010, the Washington SHPO concurred with BPA's determination that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project.

Based on the provisions identified on 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/ Makary Hutson

Makary A. Hutson

Environmental Project Manager – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: June 10, 2010

Attachment:

Environmental Provisions

## **ATTACHMENT**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS**

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

1. In the unlikely event that cultural resources are uncovered during construction, work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery will be halted, and BPA will consult with the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Spokane Tribe of Indians, and a BPA Archaeologist.
2. All standard erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used for any ground disturbances and road improvements to avoid/minimize excessive erosion, soil sloughing, and other surface alterations during the construction phase.
3. Maintain appropriate emergency spill response materials on-site to control unexpected and unanticipated releases of petroleum-based products or other hazardous materials. Have emergency supplies in an easily accessible location and clearly marked. Disposal of any spill material will be in accordance with applicable state and Federal requirements. Immediately notify the KEP environmental lead in the event of a spill or release to the environment.
4. If there are any changes in construction activities that require relocation or change of work parameters, or for sites that have not been previously identified as work sites, construction shall not proceed until the KEP environmental lead for this project can evaluate those changes.