

memorandum

DATE: October 24, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Jonathan Toobian
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-4

Proposed Action: Lightspeed Networks Inc. Fiber Installation

Land Use Review Request Case Number: 20130461

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

Location: Sherman County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to allow Lightspeed Networks, Inc. (LSN) to install fiber optic cable on existing BPA fee-owned property adjacent to BPA's John Day Substation. LSN would install approximately 635 feet of underground fiber and approximately 940 feet of aerial fiber to connect LSN's fiber optic network to the existing fiber at John Day Substation. The proposed fiber installation would enhance LSN's capacity to meet increasing demand for high speed data and communication connectivity within its service area.

LSN's fiber installation work would disturb up to 4.0 acres of an area crossed by paved roads and transmission lines. The 635 feet of underground fiber would be placed within four inch diameter PVC conduit installed in trenches excavated approximately 36 inches below grade using excavators and backhoes. The trenches would subsequently be backfilled and graded. The 940 feet of aerial fiber would be attached to five existing Pacific Power and Light Company (PP&L) distribution poles along John Day Substation Road using a bucket truck. LSN would install guy wires on two PP&L poles to offset the additional tension from the new aerial fiber, and install a four inch riser on a PP&L pole to transition the fiber underground. A directional boring machine would be used to install the fiber beneath a private driveway and John Day Substation Road. LSN would install buried cable signs per BPA specifications to mark the location of the new underground fiber. LSN would own, operate, and maintain the new fiber and equipment.

Disturbance would result from organics/soil/debris removal, trenching, grading, the addition and compaction of fill materials, and the movement of construction vehicles and heavy equipment. The project would remove existing vegetation comprised of non-native grasses and shrubs, and invasive weeds. Disturbed areas would be reseeded with a regionally appropriate seed mix and mulched. The project site would be accessed from the intersection of China Hollow Road and John Day Substation Road.

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, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011). 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, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, 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, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) 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.

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/ Zachary R. Gustafson
Zachary R. Gustafson
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason
Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: October 24, 2013

Attachments:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Provisions

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

Natural Resources

- Clean and inspect all construction vehicles and equipment for weeds prior to accessing the project site.
- Avoid all unnecessary ground-disturbing and clearing activities.
- Implement erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) immediately after clearing and prior to initiating ground disturbing activities to prevent erosion and runoff.
- Segregate the top 1 foot of topsoil, if not weed-infested, from the area disturbed by trenching, and restore the topsoil to its original location immediately after backfilling is complete, to the extent possible.
- Limit the amount of time soils are left exposed. Use BMPs on exposed piles of soil to reduce erosion potential from rain or wind.
- Do not allow petroleum products, sediment, and other deleterious materials (i.e. concrete wash out) to enter any stream, wetland, waterbody, or drainage conveyance.
- Ensure spill containment and cleanup materials are readily available at the project site, staging areas, and in construction vehicles and equipment. Replace any used spill response material within 24 hours.
- Reseed disturbed areas with a regionally appropriate seed mix and apply mulch.

Cultural Resources

In the event any archaeological or historical material is encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:

- Stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, a BPA archaeologist, appropriate BPA project staff, interested Tribes, Oregon SHPO, and the appropriate county, state, and federal agencies.
- Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Lightspeed Networks Inc. Fiber Installation

Work Order #: 184006 Task 01

This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources Concurrence October 22, 2013 Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. Tribes consulted: the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Not present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands Not present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation Not present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands Soil group is classified as Wato very fine sandy loam, considered prime farmland if irrigated. Soils within the project area are not used as farmland, and are not irrigated.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Zachary Gustafson

Date: October 24, 2013