

memorandum

DATE: January 15, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

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

Proposed Action: Lightspeed Network's Fiber Installation near Pilot Butte Substation

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.7 Fiber Optic Cable

Location: Deschutes 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 within a BPA easement that contains BPA's Ponderosa-Pilot Butte 230-kilovolt (kV) and Redmond-Pilot Butte 230-kV transmission lines in Deschutes County, Oregon. BPA has determined that the fiber would not interfere with the operation of the lines and it is LSN's responsibility to work with the underlying landowner for use of the land.

LSN would install approximately 1,015 feet of underground fiber to connect their fiber optic network to the existing fiber at PacifiCorp's Pilot Butte Substation. The underground fiber would be placed in a 4-inch diameter polyvinyl chloride conduit. This would require trenching approximately 36 to 48 inches (and a width of 6 to 12 inches) below grade using excavators and/or backhoes. After the installation, the trench would be backfilled, graded, and revegetated with native plants. LSN would install buried cable signs per BPA specifications to mark the location of the new underground fiber, as well as place omni balls within the trenched area. LSN would own, operate, and maintain the new fiber and equipment.

The proposed fiber installation would enhance LSN's ability to meet increasing demand for high speed data and communications connectivity within its service area.

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/ Andrew M. Montaña, PMP
Andrew M. Montaña, PMP
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason
Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *January 15, 2014*

Attachments:
Provisions to the Categorical Exclusion
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

ATTACHMENT

PROVISIONS

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

Cultural Resources:

- Should archaeological materials be unexpectedly encountered during construction of the project, stop work and notify the COTR. A qualified archaeologist should immediately be notified and an evaluation made and a treatment plan developed should the find be significant. Under state law (ORS 358.905-955) it is a Class B misdemeanor to impact an archaeological site on public or private land in Oregon. Impacts to Native American graves and cultural items are considered a Class C felony (ORS 97.740-760).

Vegetation protection and noxious weeds:

- Restrict construction activities to the area needed to work effectively. Construction crews would be instructed to restrict vehicles to designated areas and existing roads as much as possible.
- Designated areas would be used to store equipment and supplies. The contractor would follow applicable state and federal regulations to protect plant communities.
- After construction, disturbed areas not needed for ongoing access or maintenance should be promptly reseeded with native species where possible.
- Seed mix for revegetation should contain a mixture of the common native bunchgrasses and dryland species present in the Project area. Native seed is commercially available for this area.
- Do not spread noxious weed seeds:
 - Certify in writing that all vehicles, equipment, and machinery are free of all weeds including seeds before moving the equipment into the construction area. The COTR will inspect vehicles prior to bringing them on site.
 - When an area contaminated by weeds is encountered on, or off of, the construction site, use caution to prevent the spreading of weeds to other areas. This may include cleaning the equipment with high-pressure water prior to moving from one work site to another, or installing wheel washes. Notify the COTR as to the location of the noxious weeds.
- Use only weed-free materials, or inert materials for mulching and for erosion control.

Erosion control and land use:

- Require dust abatement on road and construction site, if necessary.
- Appropriate erosion and sediment control best management practices will be utilized for the protection of water resources.
- Provide a schedule of construction activities to all landowners/agencies along the corridor that could be affected by construction.

Public Health and Safety:

- Limit construction to daytime hours for noise abatement.
- No equipment with un-muffled exhaust is allowed. Fit all equipment with sound-control devices that are as effective as the original equipment.
- Should contaminated media be unexpectedly encountered during construction of the project, stop work and notify the COTR. Contaminated media include materials that are potentially harmful to the environment or human health and safety. Work will proceed only after measures approved by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality are put in place to prevent the spread of contaminated materials and protect the health and safety of workers.
- Equip vehicles with fire suppression equipment, including a shovel, fire extinguisher, and bladder or water supply.
- Equip construction vehicles with spill containment kits able to respond to construction related spills.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Lightspeed Network's Fiber Installation near Pilot Butte Substation

Work Order #: 329773

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 APE concurrence on 11/25/2013; Final Determination concurrence on 12/13/2013 (SHPO Case No. 13-1358)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Survey conducted on 11/1/2013 with no listed species or habitat present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Andrew M. Montañó, PMP

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