

# memorandum

DATE: October 12, 2011

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

to: Rodger Thomas  
Project Manager – TECT-CSB-1

**Proposed Action:** Targhee Substation Communication Equipment Upgrades

**Budget Information:** Work Order # 197237, Task 01

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.15 Siting, construction, and operation of support buildings and support structures within or contiguous to an already developed area...

**Location:** Township 5 North, Range 4 East, Section 35, Teton County, Idaho

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to upgrade communication equipment at its Targhee Substation in Teton County, Idaho. The proposed upgrades are required as part of a large multi-phase telecommunications project to relocate BPA's affected telecommunications systems onto newly created digital microwave radio and fiber systems. BPA must vacate certain frequency bands to facilitate relocation of frequencies for cellular providers and advanced networks.

The proposed upgrade includes construction of a new 21'x17' communication house at the base of an existing reflecting tower located within BPA's Targhee Substation fence. The existing microwave tower adjacent to the substation control house would be removed from site. A new microwave antenna would be placed atop the existing reflecting tower. New conduits would be trenched from the substation control house to the new communications building. All ground disturbing activity would occur within the existing substation fence and rock electrical yard. No new access roads or staging areas would be needed as part of this project.

**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.

The project area is absent of water features, unique wildlife habitat, or other environmentally sensitive resources. Because of the previous disturbance and lack of habitat, no ESA species listed or proposed for listing are likely to be present. There would also be no effect to floodplains or wetlands. It was therefore determined that no adverse environmental effects would occur from construction of the 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/ Claire Bingaman

Claire Bingaman

Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: October 12, 2011

Attachments:

Provisions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## **PROVISIONS**

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

### **Cultural Resources:**

1. Should archaeological materials be unexpectedly encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:
  - Stop work and immediately notify the COTR and a qualified archaeologist. In addition, all concerned Tribes and appropriate county, state, federal agencies should be notified.
  - 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.
  - Take reasonable steps to restrict access to the site of discovery.

### **Erosion Control and Land Use:**

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

### **Public Health and Safety:**

5. Limit construction to daytime hours for noise abatement.
6. No equipment with un-muffled exhaust is allowed. Fit all equipment with sound-control devices that are as effective as the original equipment.
7. 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 ODEQ 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.
8. Equip construction vehicles with spill containment kits able to respond to construction related spills.

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Targhee Substation Communication Equipment Upgrades

**Work Order #:** 197237, Task 01

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

Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect With Conditions
1. Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime agricultural lands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Claire Bingaman                      Date: October 12, 2011