

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: AT&T Wireless Antenna Upgrades Multiple Locations

Project No.: Multiple

Project Managers: Chuck Wedick and Jonathan Toobian - TELP

Location: Washington County, OR; Clark County, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.19 Microwave, meteorological and radio towers

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow the AT&T Corporation to remove and replace multiple wireless communication antennas and associated equipment at two wireless sites located on BPA fee-owned property. Project actions also would include replacing mounting hardware and communication cables and equipment as necessary for each site location using existing locations and equipment cabinets. All equipment removals and replacements would occur on existing transmission line structures and within existing ground equipment yards located near the structures. Equipment used would likely be a bucket truck, crane, pickup trucks, and hand tools as necessary. The table below contains the site names, associated BPA facility, and detailed descriptions of the proposed equipment to be replaced and installed at each location.

BPA Project Number	AT&T Site Name	BPA facility location	Impacted equipment
W0851	162 nd & 18 th Street	North Bonneville-Ross No. 2, 230 kV, mile/structure: 29/4	Removing: 6 existing antennas 24 existing Tower Mounted Amplifiers (TMA) 3 existing Remote Radio Heads (RRH) Installing: 3 antennas (model: COMMSCOPE – NNHH-65B-R4; dimensions: 72 inches tall, 19.6 inches wide, 7.2 inches deep, weight: 66.1 lbs.) 3 antennas (model: COMMSCOPE NNH4-65B-R6H4; dimensions: 72 inches tall, 19.6 inches wide, 7.2 inches deep, weight: 82 lbs.) 6 TMAs (model: COMMSCOPE 2061F1V1-1) 6 TMAs (model: COMMSCOPE TMAT192123B68-31) 4 voltage converters 1 surge protector (model: DC12-48-60-0-25E)

			6 duplexers (model: COMMSCOPE CBC426T-DS-43) 6 duplexers (model: COMMSCOPE 782 11458) 3 RRH (model: Airscale 850 RRH 4T4R B5 160W) 3 RRH (model: Airscale 700 RRH 4T4R B12/14/29 370W) 1 thermo hex door on existing communications cabinet
W0849	PCC Rock Creek	Rivergate-Keeler No. 1, 230 kV, mile/structure: 7/2	Removing: 9 existing antennas 9 existing TMAs 3 existing RRHs Installing: 6 antennas (model: CELLMAX JAHH-65B-R3B-V3; dimensions:72 inches tall, 13.8 inches wide, 8.2 inches deep, weight: 65 lbs.), 12 TMAT (model:192123B68-31) 4 voltage converters 1 surge protector (model: DC6-48-60-01E) 3 RRH (model: Airscale TRI RRH 4T4R B12/14/29 370W) 3 RRH (model: Airscale RRH 4T4R B5 160W) 1 thermo hex door on existing communications cabinet

Findings: In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) 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, Jul. 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- 1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);
- 2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- 3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Nicholas Johnson
 Nicholas Johnson
 Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel August 17, 2021
Sarah T. Biegel Date
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

Proposed Action: AT&T Wireless Antenna Upgrades – Multiple Locations

Project Site Description

Proposed actions would occur at two locations.

162nd and 18th Street

The project site is located within Clark County in the state of Washington, Township 2 North, Range 2 East, and Section 25. Existing equipment is installed on the BPA-owned North Bonneville – Ross 230 kV transmission line No. 2 structure 29/4 which is located on BPA fee-owned property located directly south of 18th Street. Neighborhoods are located to the north and south, a parking lot to the east, and a grass field to the west. Access to the site is available using an existing gravel road located off of 18th Street. No water resources or wetlands occur within 0.5 miles from the project location.

PCC Rock Creek

The project site is located within Washington County in the state of Oregon, Township 1 North, Range 1 West, and Section 18. Existing equipment is located on the BPA-owned Rivergate-Keeler 230 kV transmission line structure 7/2. This site is located 1,100 feet to the west of Portland Community College's Rock Creek campus. Access is provided by an existing gravel driveway which terminates at the wireless equipment yard. Access to the tower is provided by an unimproved roadway approximately 100 feet northeast from the equipment yard. The structure is surrounded by grasses. The surrounding area is within a rural setting, populated with a few groves of trees, open fields, and several water features. A freshwater pond is located approximately 100 feet to the southwest. An unnamed intermittent stream is located approximately 250 feet to the west and the perennial Rock Creek is located approximately 550 feet to the west. Several intermittent wetland areas are also located within 500 feet from the project area.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Proposed actions would have no potential to affect cultural resources. After BPA historian review, a no potential for effect memorandum was issued for the the 162nd and 18th Street site on July 15th, 2021, and for PCC Rock Creek site on July 22nd, 2021.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no planned ground disturbance to occur with the proposed project actions. Work is anticipated to occur during the dry season. Wetland matting would be used on the un-improved access route to the PCC Rock Creek structure location to provide more stability and reduce soil compaction.

3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: No known occurrences of threatened or endangered plants are located with the project areas. Crews and equipment would be sanitized prior to accessing the site to reduce the likelihood of transporting invasive plant species into project locations. Native plants that are part of the ongoing restoration effort near the ground equipment at the PCC Rock Creek site would be left in place.

Notes:

- Access to the PCC Rock Creek site structure from the ground-based communications yard is blocked by native vegetation planted as part of restoration work previously conducted in the area.
- Access to the Rivergate-Keeler 230 kV transmission line structure 7/2 would be from the un-improved road to the northeast of the gravel driveway that leads up to the associated ground equipment.

4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No known occurrences of threatened or endangered wildlife are located within the project areas. Project locations are not located within any defined critical habitat areas. Local wildlife could be momentarily disrupted during the short 1-2 day installation period at both locations. No prolonged disruptions would occur post project completion.

5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project actions at both sites would not be located within water ways, riparian areas, floodplains, or fish habitat. At the PCC Rock Creek location, both streams are home to anadromous and resident fish. Proposed actions would not include in water work or impact the nearby water resources associated with the PCC Rock Creek location.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project locations are not located directly within known wetland areas. The PCC Rock Creek location occurs within 150 feet of intermittent wetlands associated with the reclaimed Washington County clean water services area. To reduce the likelihood of inadvertent soil compaction, crews would deploy wetland matting prior to bringing equipment and vehicles into the Rivergate-Keeler structure 7/2 site. Wetland matting would be placed within 50' of the structure and also on the roadway leading from the gravel road to the structure location.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project actions would not impact groundwater resources.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project actions are co-located within existing wireless communication facilities within BPA transmission ROWs. Land use would remain the same.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Visual quality would remain the same as existing conditions. Project actions would replace existing equipment with similar size and dimensions. Project locations would not increase the total amount of existing antennas.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project actions could create some dust associated with vehicle traffic on ROW roads and general construction actions. Air quality impacts from dust would be relatively minimal and short in duration.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project actions would have noise associated with the general construction equipment used to replace the equipment. Noise would be occurring during daylight hours and occurring for one to two days per location.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Crews would follow all applicable health and safety protocols.

Evaluation of Other Integral Elements

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

Explanation: N/A.

Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation: N/A.

Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

Explanation: N/A.

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, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

Explanation: N/A.

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The AT&T Corporation has existing access and use rights through BPA's existing easements. No landowner notification or coordination would be needed for the proposed actions. BPA's real property services group would be the primary point of contact concerning any adjacent landowner concerns.

Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts to any environmentally sensitive resource.

Signed: /s/ Nicholas Johnson August 17, 2021
Nicholas Johnson, ECT Date
Environmental Protection Specialist