

# memorandum

DATE: August 13, 2012

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Joe Beebe  
Project Manager – TESH-CSB-2

**Proposed Action:** Raver Substation-Control House Expansion & Seismic Retrofit

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.11 Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

**Location:** King County, Washington; Township 21 North, Range 7 East, Section 4&5

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to expand the control house at BPA fee-owned Raver Substation and seismically retrofit the existing structure. The control house expansion is proposed in order to install additional equipment racks and batteries needed to accommodate load growth in the south Puget Sound area. Because the expansion would involve removing existing siding and exposing the underlying structure of the building, BPA would also use the opportunity to seismically upgrade the entire building.

The east side (rear) of the control house would be expanded 30 feet for a total of approximately 1500 square feet all within the existing developed substation yard. An existing access route, a gate, and a 30-foot section of perimeter wall that runs from the existing control house to the maintenance building would be removed to accommodate the control house expansion. The access gate would be relocated closer to the main complex entrance. For the seismic upgrade, a shear wall would be installed to provide additional interior structural support for the roof and bracing for all interior equipment.

The Raver control house was built in 1967 and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because the overall architectural integrity remains even though minor modifications have been made over time. The original exterior walls of the control house and accessory buildings were “BPA blue” composite asbestos panels with aluminum tube mullions (vertical elements) between the panels. In 2006, beige metal siding was installed over the paneling on the control house in an effort to encapsulate the asbestos, a hazardous material. To restore the original character of the building, BPA would replace the entire control house with modular panels that have a similar appearance to the original blue panels, though without aluminum mullions. The seismic retrofits would not be visible from the outside of the building.

Proper handling and disposal of the existing asbestos siding would be detailed in a safety plan prepared in accordance with applicable state and federal requirements and there would be no uncontrolled or unpermitted release of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants.

**Findings:**

BPA has determined that the addition to the control house as proposed would have an effect on the Raver Substation, a National Register eligible property, but that such effect is consistent with the original design intent of the facility and supports its historic character while extending its utility. The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation concurred with this determination on August 2, 2012.

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.

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/ Carolyn Sharp

Carolyn Sharp  
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 14, 2012

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

# Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Raver Substation-Control House Expansion & Seismic Retrofit

Work Order #: 304324

**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.**

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources Control house is a National Register-eligible structure. Washington DAHP concurrence that actions support its historic character received August 2, 2012	<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 Proper handling and disposal of asbestos siding would be detailed in a safety plan prepared in accordance with applicable state and federal requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Carolyn A. Sharp

Date: August 14, 2012