

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: November 8, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

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

Proposed Action: Snohomish 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, Sections 4 & 5

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: The BPA proposes to expand the control house at the Snohomish Substation in Snohomish County, Washington within BPA's existing fee-owned parcel. 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.

The expansion would be a 30 ft. x 50 ft. building addition within the existing substation yard, off the back (west) side of the existing structure to minimize the visual effect of the expanded footprint. The exterior of the addition would be a rainscreen system with double wall construction and composite board panel finish made from FSC-certified recycled paper that develops a patina over time. The addition would use aluminum-frame windows that are historically accurate to the construction of the original control house and several of the large windows on the existing control house would also be replaced to match.

The project would also involve seismic upgrades which may require the removal of interior ceiling finishes and includes non-structural bracing for all equipment. All work would take place within the substation fenceline in previously disturbed areas. The site is accessed by existing, paved roads within the city of Snohomish, Washington.

Findings:

Because all work would take place within the substation fenceline in previously disturbed areas, the project does not have the potential to adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

Although BPA believes the Snohomish Control House to be eligible for inclusion in the National Historic Register based on criteria set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation, the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation issued a determination on October 24, 2012 that the substation is ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places because of existing significant exterior alterations. Therefore the proposed work will have no adverse effect on historic or cultural resources.

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: November 8, 2012

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Snohomish Substation-Control House Expansion

Work Order #: 305376

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 Washington DAHP determination on 10/24/12 that the substation is ineligible for inclusion in the National Register because of significant existing exterior alterations	<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 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

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