

# memorandum

DATE: June 3, 2013

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Alaric Hsu  
Project Manager – TEP-CSB-2

**Proposed Action:** De Moss Substation Expansion

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

**Location:** Sherman County, Oregon

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to expand its De Moss Substation yard located in Sherman County, Oregon. The expansion is necessary to install additional reactors that would provide the necessary reactive support to address the extreme high voltage at De Moss Substation resulting from the loss of the Big Eddy – DeMoss transmission line during winter peak conditions. The equipment at De Moss Substation is currently sustaining voltage levels that are beyond their approved ratings. The proposed expansion would occur on the southeast side of the existing substation yard, extending out to the existing property line. The entire area is located within BPA's fee-owned parcel and consists of a 100 foot by 200 foot area (0.5 acre) in which all proposed activities would take place.

**Resource Review:** BPA reviewed potential impacts to vegetation, wetlands and floodplains, water, federally listed species and critical habitat, and cultural resources within and around the proposed project area and determined there would be no effect to these resources.

**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/ Justin T. Moffett*  
Justin T. Moffett  
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

*/s/ Katherine S. Pierce*  
Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 3, 2013

Attachments:  
Provisions  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## **ATTACHMENT**

### **PROVISIONS**

#### **PROVISIONS**

This categorical exclusion will meet the following provisions:

##### **Natural Resources**

- Implement erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) that are protective of water resources.
- Collect, remove, and legally dispose of any construction waste, or fill material unsuitable for grading and backfilling off-site in accordance with the policies and procedures prescribed by BPA's Pollution Prevention and Abatement group and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

##### **Cultural Resources**

In the event any archaeological or historical material is encountered during project activities, the following actions will be taken:

- Stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, a BPA archaeologist, appropriate BPA project staff, interested Tribes, Oregon SHPO, and the appropriate county, state, and federal agencies.
- 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, including restricting access.

# Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: De Moss Substation Expansion

Work Order #: 00329858

**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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area will be secured and the SHPO and the environmental project lead will be notified.</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement erosion and sediment control best management practices.</li> </ul>	<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"/>

Other supporting documents:  
 Provisions  
 Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Signed: /s/ Justin T. Moffett

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