

# memorandum

DATE: November 5, 2013

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Charla Burke  
Project Manager - TEP-TPP-1

**Proposed Action:** Targhee Substation Land Acquisition

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.24 Property Transfers

**Location:** Driggs, Teton County, Idaho

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to acquire five acres of undeveloped land adjacent to the Targhee Substation near the intersection of Bates Road and Courthouse Drive in Teton County, Idaho. The property consists of portions of two separate parcels located near the western limits of the City of Driggs which are bisected by a corridor containing the Targhee Tap to Swan Valley-Teton No. 1 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. The parcels are zoned for agricultural use and are currently used for livestock grazing. The acquisition is necessary for the anticipated future expansion of the Targhee Substation. Although the substation expansion would likely occur beyond BPA's current 10-year planning horizon, encroaching residential development nearby necessitates purchase of the land now so as to ensure BPA has it available when the expansion becomes necessary. BPA will conduct a separate environmental analysis in the future for the proposed expansion and any other related actions.

**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.

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: *November 5, 2013*

Attachment(s):  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

# Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Targhee Substation Land Acquisition

Work Order #: 00343823

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 SHPO concurrence on No Adverse Effect received 10/7/2013.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) None present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands None present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety No Recognized Environmental Conditions identified in the Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands None present.	<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/ Justin T. Moffett

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