

# memorandum

DATE: January 29, 2014

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Joan Kendall  
Project Manager – TERR-3

**Proposed Action:** McNary Substation Equipment Acquisition

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021:** B 1.24 Property transfers

**Location:** Umatilla County, Oregon

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to purchase equipment owned by Umatilla Electric Cooperative (UEC) within BPA's McNary Substation. BPA already maintains all of UEC's equipment in the substation under an operations and maintenance agreement. The sale would support BPA's policy of simplifying mixed ownership arrangements at BPA substations. The transfer in ownership to BPA would not change the use of the equipment, and would not create the potential to release substances at a level or in a form that could pose a threat to public health or the environment.

UEC would transfer ownership of the following equipment:

- Major outdoor equipment consisting of one 230-kilovolt (kV) power circuit breaker, three 230-kV, disconnect switches; one set of three 230-kV rod gaps, one set of three 230-kV transformers, one single phase 230-kV voltage transformer, and one 230-kV dead-end tower;
- Associated outdoor miscellaneous items including footings, grounding, supports, insulators, aluminum bus and fittings, conduits, cables, and cable terminations;
- Associated line terminal relays consisting of a line phase distance relay, a directional overcurrent ground relay, a fault detector relay, two fiber optic transfer trip modules, a breaker failure relay, a hot line check relay; and a synchronizing check switch;
- Controls, indication and supervisory control and data acquisition equipment;
- Transducers, interchange metering and telemetering;
- Communications tone equipment associated directly with the controls, relays and telemetering; and
- Fiber optic terminal facilities.

**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/ Carolyn A. Sharp  
Carolyn A. Sharp  
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason  
Stacy L. Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 29, 2014

Attachment:  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

# Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: McNary Substation Equipment Acquisition

Work Order #: 00349134

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 Equipment does not have historic or cultural significance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No ground disturbing project activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No ground disturbing project activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation No ground disturbing project activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands No ground disturbing project activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water No ground disturbing project activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Carolyn Sharp

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