

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Wahkiakum 115-kV Disconnect Switch Addition

**PP&A No.:** 3112

**Project Manager:** Chad Caldwell

**Location:** Wahkiakum County Public Utility District (PUD's) Wahkiakum Substation

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to install a single disconnect switch in Wahkiakum County PUD's Wahkiakum Substation. This project would allow BPA to perform maintenance on switches B468 & B471 without having to take both Wahkiakum PUD's Cathlamet and Wahkiakum substations out of service. Cathlamet and Wahkiakum substations are immediately adjacent to each other and share a common fence. The disconnect will be installed directly under the BPA Driscoll-Naselle 115kV line, in a large graveled area of Wahkiakum's substation yard between the taps for their Cathlamet and Wahkiakum substations. Energization is scheduled for summer of 2015.

**Findings:** In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) 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), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- (1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);
- (2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

*/s/ Philip Smith*

Philip W. Smith

Manager-Technical & Regional Services, KEPR-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: December 30, 2014

Attachment(s):

Environmental Checklist

## Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

**Proposed Action:** Wahkiakum Substation 115-kV Disconnect Switch Addition

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### Project Site Description

Wahkiakum Substation is located in Wahkiakum County, Washington within the town Cathlamet approximately 20-miles west of the city of Longview, WA. The project is located entirely on property owned by Wahkiakum PUD and is confined within the existing substation yard. The area immediate surrounding the substation is residential housing.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work to be performed inside the existing graveled substation yard.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work to be performed within existing substation yard.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present-existing graveled substation yard.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present-existing substation. Work to be confined to existing graveled substation yard.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Located within 500-ft of the Columbia River but outside the FEMA mapped flood hazard area. Project would not impact water bodies, floodplains, or fish.		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present, work inside substation yard.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: BMPs will be installed as needed to prevent sediment from leaving the site.

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**



Explanation: No change in land use.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Project installs substation equipment inside existing substation yard. No significant change in the appearance of the substation or surrounding area.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: No impact, except possible temporary and limited impacts from dust during construction

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Some temporary construction noise

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation:

### **Evaluation of Other Integral Elements**

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

Explanation, if necessary: Control house batteries would be removed using BMPs to prevent accidental spills; equipment will be managed and disposed of in accordance with all applicable state and federal regulations.

- 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, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

Explanation, if necessary:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: N/A, owned by Wahkiakum County PUD and project is subject an agreement with Wahkiakum PUD.

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Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on any environmentally sensitive resources.

Signed: /s/ Philip W. Smith  
Philip W. Smith/KEPR-4

Date: December 30, 2014