

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Trentwood Substation Communication Upgrade

Project Manager: Molly Kovaka, TEP-CSB-2

Location: Spokane, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.19 Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace current communication equipment at the Trentwood Substation. Work would primarily occur within 50 feet of the existing Trentwood Control House and would include installation of a new 30-foot-tall tower with an approximately 13 foot- by 2 foot-wide base. The new tower would replace an existing wood monopole. The tower disturbance area would extend approximately 3 feet beyond the tower footprint. The tower grounding would be installed to the control house ground ring within an existing trench. Work at the control house would include the installation of a new waveguide port, installation of a waveguard support system, and ice protection (excavation of three post holes approximately 3 feet deep and 2 feet in diameter). The control house footprint would not change. New communication racks would be installed inside the control house, which would involve drilling new holes into the concrete floor. No additional building modifications would occur.

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/ Katey Grange

Katey Grange
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Date: February 11, 2015

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: **Trentwood Substation Communication Upgrade**

Project Site Description

Trentwood Substation is located within the Spokane metropolitan area adjacent to heavy and light industrial uses. The new tower would be located within the graveled substation yard.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> WA SHPO concurred with BPA's no effect determination on 1/5/15. No response was received from the Colville and Spokane Tribes.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance would occur in an existing graveled substation yard.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work would occur in an existing substation yard- no plants are present.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work would occur in an existing substation yard- no wildlife habitat or species are present.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No waterbodies are present. The project would not be within a floodplain.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Ground disturbance would only occur to a maximum depth of 4 to 5 feet.

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



Explanation: All work would occur within the existing substation.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The new tower would not be significantly taller than the other substation equipment.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would be produced during construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours in an area surrounded by industrial uses.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions are present.

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:

- 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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: No notification. All work would be on BPA fee-owned property. No visual effects to adjacent landowners would occur.

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

Signed: /s/ Katey Grange

Date: February 11, 2015