

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Columbia Generating Station Seismic Bus Connections

Project Manager: Walker Miller – TPCF-W Richland

Location: Benton County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B2.5 Facility safety and environmental improvements

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to provide the necessary labor, material, and equipment to design, fabricate, and install 500-kV (kilovolt) Bus Connectors for Energy Northwest's 500-kV transformer bank, at Energy Northwest's expense. The existing transformer bank is located inside the yard at the Columbia Generating Station in Benton County, Washington. The purpose of the installation is to bring the transformer's existing bus connection up to BPA's current standard of seismic flexible connections.

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/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Adecco Engineering & Technical

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Date: February 6, 2015

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment: 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: Columbia Generating Station Seismic Bus Connectors

Project Site Description

All work would take place within the existing yard of Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station in Benton County, Washington. The construction will occur where the top of the transformers connect to the overhead bus. No ground disturbance will occur.

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> No potential to affect historic or cultural resources. | | |
| 2. Geology and Soils | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No soil disturbance will occur. | | |
| 3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No impacts to vegetation will occur. | | |
| 4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No impacts to wildlife will occur. | | |
| 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 impacts to water bodies or floodplains will occur. | | |
| 6. Wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> | | |

No wetlands are present in the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation:

No impacts to groundwater will occur.

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



Explanation:

No impacts to land use will occur. No specially designated areas are present in the project area.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation:

No impacts to visual quality will occur.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation:

No impacts to air quality will occur.

11. **Noise**



Explanation:

Temporary, intermittent noise from construction will occur. No long term changes to noise will occur.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation:

No impact to human health and safety will occur.

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 to landowner necessary.

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

Signed: /s/ Elizabeth Siping Date: February 6, 2015
Elizabeth Siping – KEC-4
Environmental Protection Specialist