

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Burns Communication Site Upgrade (update to previous categorical exclusion issued January 13, 2015)

**Project Manager:** Vincent C. Majors, TEP-CSB-2

**Location:** Harney County, Oregon

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3 Routine maintenance

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA has proposed replacing existing analog communication equipment with digital equipment and installing an engine generator (EG) at its Burns Communication Site, located in Harney County, Oregon. In addition to the work described in the previous categorical exclusion for this project (January 13, 2015), BPA proposes to upgrade the building flooring and roofing. The existing flooring contains asbestos and must be removed prior to future equipment additions. The existing roofing is beyond its useful life and must be replaced. BPA would remove the existing asbestos tile flooring and mastic and install new rubber base and tile. BPA would remove the existing roofing system and metal flashing down to the existing decking and install new modified bituminous membrane roofing over tapered insulation. New stainless steel flashing, fascia, gutters, and downspouts would be installed to drain the roof. All work would take place within or on the roof of the Burns Communication Building.

**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/ Hannah Sharp

Hannah Sharp

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

CorSource Technology Group

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 03/11/2015

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.

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### Project Site Description

All work would take place within the previously disturbed gravel yard of the Burns Communication Site on BPA fee-owned property, located in Harney County, Oregon. The project site is situated on a hilltop surrounded by Bureau of Land Management land.

### 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> No additional consultation needed—building not eligible.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No additional soil disturbance from the work described in the previous categorical exclusion for this project.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work in existing communication site yard; no plants present.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work in existing communication site yard; no habitat present.		
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> None present.		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: None present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No new wells or use of ground water proposed; no additional ground disturbance from the work described in the previous categorical exclusion for this project.

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

Explanation: All work in existing communication site yard.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: New roofing would not be noticeably different from existing conditions.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions due to construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: Workers would remove asbestos tile from the Burns Communication Building.

Mitigation: Asbestos will be removed using appropriate health and safety mitigation measures.

### **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:

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: No notification. All work on BPA fee-owned property and no visual or other effects to adjacent landowners.

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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/ Hannah Sharp

Hannah Sharp

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

CorSource Technology Group

Date: 03/11/2015