

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Oregon City Station Service Replacement

Project Manager: Charla Burke, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Clackamas County, OR, and Washington County, OR

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace 0.2 miles of 13.8 kV underground cable that runs between BPA's Oregon City Substation in Washington County, Oregon, and BPA's Pearl Substation in Clackamas County, Oregon. The existing cable is an alternate power source for Oregon City Substation, but has failed and is no longer working. Workers would bore for approximately 1200 feet adjacent to the existing cable route from Pearl Substation to Oregon City Substation, at a depth of three to five feet, to install the replacement conduit and cable. The existing cable would be left in place.

To accommodate the replacement cable, BPA would add or upgrade equipment within the substation yards (both Oregon City and Pearl). Equipment to be added or upgraded would include low-voltage fused disconnect switches, an automatic transfer switch, a pad-mount transformer, and circuit breakers. BPA would install a new panel board inside the Oregon City Substation control house. A new vault would be installed on BPA fee-owned property outside the Pearl Substation yard, near the fence line along the adjacent access road. Excavation for the vault would consist of a six-foot by six-foot hole. All work would take place on previously disturbed BPA fee-owned property.

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/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 27, 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

The project site is located at BPA’s fee-owned Oregon City and Pearl Substations, located in Wilsonville, Oregon. The two substations border SW Ridder Road to the north and south, respectively. The site consists of control houses, transmission lines and towers, substation equipment, and paved areas. The area has been previously disturbed, and much of the site has been cleared of vegetation. The surrounding landscape includes urban and industrial development. The Coffee Lake Wetlands Nature Area is located approximately 0.4 mile southwest of the project area.

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> OR SHPO consulted on no adverse effect determination—no response. Grande Ronde and Siletz Tribes consulted—no response.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Conduit would be installed via directional bore. Minimal soil disturbance would occur. Approximately 15 cubic yards of soil containing low levels of PCBs would be removed. <u>Mitigation:</u> Employ erosion and sediment controls as needed to control run-off and prevent off-site transport of sediment. Dispose of contaminated soil at BPA-approved facility.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status species present.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status species or designated habitat present.		

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**
(including federal/state special-status
species and ESUs)



Explanation: No in-water work proposed. Project would not be in a floodplain.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: None present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater proposed; maximum depth of disturbance would be approximately six feet.

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



Explanation: Temporary disturbance of previously disturbed areas during construction.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Modifications 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. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Removal of soil containing PCBs eliminates a potential health/environmental hazard.

Mitigation: Contaminated soil would be removed using BMPs to prevent accidental spills and disposed of at a BPA-approved facility.

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: Soil containing PCBs would be managed and disposed of according to 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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

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

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

Date: April 27, 2015