

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Upgrades at Multiple Substations and Radio Facilities

**Project Manager:** Dino Zeppetella

**Location:** Multiple locations:

<u>Site</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>
Allston Control House	Columbia	OR
Big Eddy Control House	Wasco	OR
Grand Coulee Radio Station	Grant	WA
John Day Control House	Sherman	OR
N. Bonneville Control House	Skamania	WA
Olympia Control House	Thurston	WA
Ostrander Control House	Clackamas	OR
Raver Control House	King	WA

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to modify HVAC systems at multiple substations and radio facilities in Washington and Oregon. The work would be done in order to accommodate proposed equipment installation that would improve communications that support network operations. Work would include replacing HVAC units with larger units, duct work, and installation of new concrete pads at some of the locations.

**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/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 15, 2015

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.

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### Project Site Description

All work would take place within BPA substations and radio facilities on BPA fee-owned property in Washington and Oregon. All project areas have previously been disturbed.

### 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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA archaeologist reviewed proposed activities and determined that these types of activities do not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties.</p> <p><u>Mitigation:</u></p> <p>✓ In the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, a BPA archaeologist, appropriate BPA project staff, interested Tribes, Oregon SHPO, and the appropriate county, state, and federal agencies.</li><li>• Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.</li><li>• Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.</li></ul>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Minimal ground disturbance at some of the sites for concrete pad installation inside the substation yard.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No federally listed or state special status plant species are present.</p>		

4. **Wildlife** (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)



Explanation: All work in existing substation yards and radio facilities. No potential habitat present.

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



Explanation: No water bodies, floodplains, or fish are present.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater proposed.

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



Explanation: All work in existing substation yards and radio facilities.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: All work would take place inside existing substation yards.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Minimal amount of dust and vehicle emissions anticipated during construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impact.

### **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: Not applicable

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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/ Elizabeth Siping  
Elizabeth Siping, KEC-4

Date: July 15, 2015