

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Troy Substation Tap Yard Expansion

Project Manager: Rasha Kroonen, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Lincoln County, Montana

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.11 Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace equipment inside the tap yard and expand the tap yard fence at its Troy Substation, located in Lincoln County, Montana. The equipment upgrade is needed to eliminate equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls. The tap yard expansion is needed to ensure that a safe distance exists between the replacement equipment and the fence per the National Electrical Safety Code.

BPA would remove three current transformers (CTs), three potential (voltage) transformers (PTs), three bus pedestals, and the associated footings from inside the tap yard, a 36-foot by 50-foot fenced yard located in the western corner of the Troy Substation yard. The contaminated equipment would be retired and transported to appropriate disposal areas. Workers would install three replacement combination CT/PT units and the associated foundations, supports, pedestals, conduits, and cables. The tap yard fence would be expanded approximately 37 feet by 10 feet to maintain a safe distance from the equipment. The grounding mat would be expanded to cover the newly enclosed area, extending one foot beyond the perimeter of the fence. Excavation of approximately 117 cubic yards of soil and concrete would be required. Contaminated material would be disposed of in an approved waste management facility.

BPA would also acquire in fee from Stimson Lumber Company a 0.73-acre land parcel adjacent to the western and southern boundaries of the tap yard. The parcel contains two transmission line crossings, limited vegetative cover, and a dirt road. The acquisition is necessary to accommodate the tap yard fence expansion.

All work would take place within the existing substation footprint and in a previously disturbed area adjacent to the substation fence.

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: July 14, 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.

Proposed Action: Troy Substation Tap Yard Expansion

Project Site Description

The project site is located at BPA's Troy Substation and the previously disturbed parcel adjacent to the southern boundary of the substation. The site consists of substation equipment and the graveled tap yard, a transmission line corridor, and dirt roads. The terrain is level and dry with vegetation consisting of grasses and stands of pine. The surrounding landscape includes forested hills, a stream, roads, and industrial uses, including two gravel pits within one mile of the project area. The project area is approximately 100 feet from U.S. Route 2 and approximately 0.29 mile from the Kootenay River. The Kootenai National Forest is located approximately 0.25 mile northeast and approximately 1 mile southeast 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> Based on field surveys and the previously disturbed nature of the project site, BPA has determined that these project activities have no potential to affect historic properties provided that the project activities are carried out as described.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Approximately 117 cubic yards of soil would be disturbed. Contaminated material would be disposed of in an approved waste management facility. Erosion and sediment controls would be employed as needed to control run-off and prevent off-site transport of sediment.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species present. No trees would be removed. Minimal disturbance to low-quality grasses.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Minimal removal of previously disturbed grass habitat adjacent to a highway.		

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



Explanation: No floodplains or water bodies at or adjacent to the project site. No in-water work proposed.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: None present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells or use of ground water proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance would be less than 6 feet. Spill prevention measures would be present on site.

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



Explanation: BPA would acquire the parcel of land bordering the southern and western sides of the Troy Substation property. The parcel has been previously disturbed and contains existing transmission line corridors.

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 PT/CTS containing PCBs eliminates a potential health/environmental hazard. Equipment would be removed using BMPs to prevent accidental spills; equipment will be managed and disposed of in accordance with all applicable state and federal regulations.

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: All PCB-containing equipment 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: BPA has been in contact with property owner to negotiate terms of land acquisition.

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: July 14, 2015