

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Chenoweth Substation Water and Sewer Connection

**Project Manager:** Jody Solmonsson, TEP-CSB-2

**Location:** Wasco County, Oregon

**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 connect its Chenoweth Substation control house to new city water and sewer lines in The Dalles, Oregon. Chenoweth Substation currently has no water supply and is not connected to any sewer system. The Port of Dalles is installing water and sewer for a new business park near Chenoweth Substation, which provides an opportunity for BPA to connect to those services.

Connection to the new city water and sewer lines would require excavation of two trenches (166-foot long and 68-foot long) from River Road to the substation control house across BPA fee-owned property. The water and sewer line would be stubbed within 10 feet of the substation yard. The project would impact less than 0.1 acre of previously disturbed area on BPA property.

BPA plans to upgrade the control house, including the addition of bathroom facilities in the near future. Environmental review of these upgrades will be conducted as appropriate.

**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: July 1, 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:** Chenoweth Substation Water and Sewer Connection

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### Project Site Description

The Chenoweth Substation is located on River Road in The Dalles, Oregon north of the city of The Dalles. The substation is in a rural area between the Columbia River and I-5. The business park being constructed by the Port of Dalles will significantly increase traffic into the area. Trenching would be done from River Road to the control house, outside of the substation yard in areas that were likely previously disturbed during construction of the substation.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<b>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurrence with no effect determination July 1, 2015; requested archaeological site monitor during trenching. Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon consulted; no responses received.</p> <p><u>Mitigation:</u></p> <p>Ensure archaeologist is present during ground disturbing activities. In the event any archaeological or historic materials are 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 and the BPA archaeologist. Appropriate BPA project staff, interested Tribes, Oregon SHPO, and the appropriate county, state, and federal agencies should also be notified.</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>		
<b>2. Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Soil disturbance of less than 0.1 acre would occur during trenching.</p> <p><u>Mitigation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erosion and sediment control best management practices would be implemented.</li> </ul>		
<b>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special status species present. All work would occur in previously disturbed areas.</p>		

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



Explanation: No special status species present. All work would occur in previously disturbed areas.

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 are present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells or use of ground water proposed.

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



Explanation: No change in land use proposed. The project site is in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area; however, it is designated as an urban area that is exempt from the scenic area land-use conditions.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: No permanent visual impacts. Temporary ground disturbance during trenching.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions anticipated during trenching.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary increase in noise anticipated during construction.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impact to human health and safety.

### **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: All work on BPA fee-owned property.

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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 1, 2015