

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: South Mountain Communication Site Back-up Generator Replacement

Project No.: P00834

Project Manager: Benjamin Younce, TEP-CSB-1

Location: Mason County, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to maintain its South Mountain Communication Site, located in Mason County, Washington, by replacing the existing back-up generator and associated controls and ventilation system. The replacement is needed to ensure a reliable back-up power source for BPA's communication equipment.

Workers would remove the existing 20-kW generator and associated equipment from within the existing generator building. Workers would then install a new 20-kW generator and the associated exhaust piping, muffler, automatic and manual transfer switches, propane exhaust fan, high temperature exhaust fan, iWatch control, alarm panel, and cables.

The propane line that runs from the existing propane tank to the existing generator would be replaced. The existing propane tank would remain in service. Workers would hand-dig a one-foot by one-foot by one-foot hole immediately adjacent to the exterior of the generator building to disconnect the existing generator and connect the new generator to the propane line. Workers would also clean and repaint the existing propane tank.

All work would take place within the fence of the existing graveled communication site yard.

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 Date: June 11, 2015

Katherine S. Pierce or Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: South Mountain Communication Site Back-up Generator Replacement

Project Site Description

All work would take place within the previously disturbed yard of the South Mountain Communication Site on BPA fee-owned property, located in Mason County, Washington. The project site is situated on a hilltop surrounded by private forest lands.

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> WA SHPO concurrence on no adverse effect determination 5/4/15. Squaxin Island Tribe concurrence on no adverse effect determination 4/28/15. Skokomish Tribe consulted—no response.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance. All work within previously disturbed communication site yard.		
3. Plants (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. Wildlife (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. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (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; maximum depth of disturbance would be about one foot.

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

Explanation: All work in existing communication site yard.

9. **Visual Quality**

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

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions due to construction. Generator not anticipated to run outside weekly exercise cycle of 20-30 minutes, and Mason County is not a nonattainment area for air quality.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Generator would create negligible operational noise of 18 to 32 dbA, and operation of generator would be rare (not anticipated that generator will run outside weekly exercise cycle of 20-30 minutes). No houses in the vicinity of the project area.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions at project location.

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:

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

Date: June 11, 2015

Hannah Sharp

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

CorSource Technology Group