

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Back-up Generator Replacements at Kenyon Mountain Communication Site and Scott Mountain Communication Site

Project No.: P00834

Project Manager: Benjamin Younce, TEP-CSB-1

Location: Coos and Douglas Counties, Oregon

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 Kenyon Mountain Communication Site and Scott Mountain Communication Site, located respectively in Coos County and Douglas County, Oregon, by replacing the existing back-up generators and associated controls, ventilation systems, and underground propane lines that connect the propane tanks to the generators. The replacements are needed to ensure a reliable back-up power source for BPA's communications equipment. All work would take place within the previously disturbed fenced communication site yards.

At both locations, workers would remove the existing 20-kilowatt (kW) generators and associated equipment from within the existing generator buildings. Workers would then install replacement 20-kW generators and the associated exhaust piping, mufflers, automatic and manual transfer switches, circuit breakers, propane exhaust fans, high temperature exhaust fans, iWatch controls, alarm panels, and cables. The indoor propane piping would be replaced at both sites. A new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning unit would be installed on the north wall of the Kenyon Mountain communication building and on the west-northwest wall of the Scott Mountain communication building to protect equipment from extreme temperature fluctuations. The walls in the generator rooms would be repaired and repainted.

Workers would hand-dig a 1-foot by 1-foot by 1-foot hole immediately adjacent to the exterior of the generator buildings to disconnect the existing generators and indoor propane piping and connect the replacement generators and replacement propane piping to the existing underground propane lines. The existing propane tanks would remain in service, and would be cleaned and repainted.

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

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/ David Kennedy, for

Gene Lynard
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 26, 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

Kenyon Mountain Communication Site is situated on a hilltop on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land in Coos County, Oregon. Scott Mountain Communication Site is situated on a hilltop on BLM land in Douglas County, Oregon. The surrounding landscape at both project sites consists of public and 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> Oregon State Historic Preservation Office issued its concurrence on BPA's no adverse effect determination on 8/20/2015. The Siletz, Grand Ronde, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe, and Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians did not respond to BPA's request for consultation.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance (approximately 1 cubic foot). All work within previously disturbed communication site yards.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work in previously disturbed communication site yards. Minimal soil disturbance (approximately 1 cubic foot).		
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> No floodplains or water bodies at or adjacent to the project site. No in-water work proposed.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells or use of ground water proposed; maximum depth of disturbance would be about 1 foot.

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



Explanation: All work in existing communication site yards.

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. Coos and Douglas counties are not nonattainment areas for air quality.

11. **Noise**



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

12. **Human Health and Safety**



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

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: Notification will be sent to BLM.

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: August 26, 2015