

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Slatt Substation Restroom Installation

Project Manager: Janice Grounds

Location: Gilliam 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) is proposing to renovate an interior restroom within the control house of BPA's Slatt Substation and install a new well, drainfield, and septic tank. Slatt Substation currently does not have access to running water, and the single outdoor portable restroom on site is impractical to use and costly to maintain.

In order to complete the project, BPA would renovate an interior restroom by installing new hardware, fixtures and piping. BPA would drill a new domestic water well and pump, and install a concrete septic tank, effluent filter, distribution box, and a drainfield consisting of four 100-foot long, 4-inch diameter perforated PVC pipe leach lines. BPA would install approximately 300 linear feet each of sewer and water lines, as well as electrical wiring in underground conduit to connect the new well, drainfield, and septic tank with the new restroom and control house. To install the underground pipe and conduit, BPA would excavate trenches approximately 4-feet deep using a directional boring machine, excavators, and backhoes. Trenches would be subsequently backfilled and graded. All disturbed areas within the fenced substation yard would be graded and rocked, and all disturbed areas beyond the fenced perimeter would be returned to pre-construction condition, to the extent possible.

The proposed project would permanently disturb approximately 0.8 acre to accommodate the installation of the well, septic tank, and drainfield, and temporarily disturb up to 20 acres for construction activities and equipment storage within the limits of previously disturbed BPA fee-owned land. Disturbance would result from the movement of construction vehicles and heavy equipment, organics/soil/debris removal, grading, and the addition and compaction of fill materials.

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/ David K Kennedy, for

Gene Lynard
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 12, 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

The project site is located on BPA fee-owned property southeast of the Town of Arlington. The site consists of control houses, maintenance and equipment sheds, transmission lines and towers, substation equipment, and graveled and paved areas for vehicle circulation and equipment storage. The surrounding landscape includes farmland, rangeland, wind power generation facilities, and scattered rural residences. Vegetated areas of the proposed project site are primarily non-native forbs and grasses and invasive weeds. The area has previously been disturbed with evidence of fill and grading. Much of the site has been cleared and is regularly mowed in association with the transmission lines and towers present on the site.

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"/>

Explanation: No effect determination made on July 14, 2015. Consulting parties notified included Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. No responses were received.

Mitigation:

✓ In the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:

- 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 local, state, and federal agencies.
- Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.

2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: Permanent disturbance of 0.8 acres for well, septic tank, and drainfield installation.

Mitigation:

- ✓ Implement erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) immediately after clearing and prior to initiating ground disturbing activities to prevent erosion and runoff.
- ✓ Limit the amount of time soils are left exposed. Use BMPs on exposed piles of soil to reduce erosion potential from rain or wind.

3. **Plants** (including federal/state special-status species)

Explanation: No federally-listed or state special-status plant species are present.

Mitigation:

- ✓ Reseed disturbed areas with a regionally appropriate seed mix and apply mulch.
- ✓ Clean and inspect all construction vehicles and equipment for weeds prior to accessing the project site.

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

Explanation: No special-status species or designated habitat present at the project site. Project area has been previously disturbed for construction of substation and associated access roads.

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

Explanation: The project site is located 0.8 mile east of Willow Creek, which drains approximately 2.3 miles to the northwest to the Columbia River. No in-water work is proposed for the project.

Mitigation:

- ✓ Implement erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) immediately after clearing and prior to initiating ground disturbing activities to prevent erosion and runoff.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: None present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: One new domestic water well and pump to be installed.

Mitigation:

- ✓ Construct new well in compliance with current Administrative Rules of the State of Oregon, Board of Water Well Contractors requirements and standards, and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality standards and specifications.

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

Explanation: All work on existing BPA fee-owned property. Project area has been previously disturbed for construction of substation and associated access roads.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The additional equipment would be visually consistent with existing structures and equipment already located at the substation.

10. **Air Quality**

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

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary, intermittent noise anticipated from construction activities during daylight hours. Operation noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Positive impact to human health and safety by providing restroom.

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

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/ Elizabeth Siping
Elizabeth Siping
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: August 12, 2015