

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Badger Canyon Substation Upgrades

Project No.: P00521

Project Manager: Deborah Staats, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Benton County, Washington

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: BPA proposes to upgrade equipment at its Badger Canyon Substation, located in Benton County, Washington. The equipment is outdated and inadequate for providing reliable power to BPA's service region.

Equipment to be added or replaced would include disconnect switches, shark meters, power circuit breakers, single-phase synching capacitive voltage transformers, a potential voltage transformer, surge arrestors, yard panels, and a 115-kilovolt bus tie addition. The bus tie addition would require a 60-foot-long by 4-foot deep trench to install new conduit. In addition, 200 feet of conduit would be installed at a depth of 3 feet from the power circuit breaker foundations to the existing control house. BPA would replace current transformers and circuit breakers that are contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls. Contaminated material would be disposed of in an approved waste management facility. All indoor and outdoor cables and wiring associated with the project would be replaced. All outdoor control cables are lead-shielded and would be disposed of in accordance with construction specifications. All existing footings and foundations would be reused, to the extent possible. If footings or foundations must be replaced, excavation of approximately 435 cubic yards of soil and concrete would be required.

All work, including equipment staging, would take place within the previously disturbed substation 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/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 21, 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: Badger Canyon Substation Upgrades

Project Site Description

The project site is located inside the fenced yard of BPA's Badger Canyon Substation in Richland, Benton County, Washington. The site consists of the graveled yard, substation equipment, transmission lines, and a control house. The surrounding terrain is dry and scrubby, with a stream/wetland complex that is approximately 0.17 mile away from the substation. The surrounding landscape consists of a railroad track, substantial urban and residential development, and a community park.

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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Based on the heavily 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.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Approximately 435 cubic yards of soil would be disturbed within the substation yard.</p> <p><u>Mitigation:</u> Erosion and sediment controls would be employed as needed to control run-off and prevent off-site transport of sediment. Soil and concrete would be disposed of in an approved waste management facility.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> All work in previously disturbed substation yard; no plants present.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> All work in previously disturbed substation yard; no habitat present.</p>		

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. Nearest stream is approximately 0.17 mile away from the project site and would not be affected by work confined to the substation yard.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: None present at project site. Nearest wetlands is 0.17 mile away and would not be affected by work confined to the substation yard.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance would be less than five feet.

Mitigation: Spill prevention measures would be present on site.

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



Explanation: All work in existing substation yard.

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 equipment and soils contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls eliminates a potential health/environmental hazard.

Mitigation: Contaminated materials would be removed using BMPs to prevent accidental spill, and 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: 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: July 21, 2015

Hannah Sharp
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