

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Umatilla Electric Cooperative Solar Interconnection

Large Generator Interconnection Request No.: G0509

Project Manager: James Hall, TPC-TPP-4

Location: Umatilla County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.7 Electronic equipment

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to allow Umatilla Electric Cooperative (UEC) to interconnect its 999-kilowatt Solar Photovoltaic Array into BPA's Balancing Authority Area in Umatilla County, Oregon. The proposed point of interconnection is UEC's 12.47-kilovolt distribution line, which terminates at UEC's Power City Substation. To integrate the proposed generation, BPA would provide specifications for a meter and communications service equipment to be installed at the solar site and owned and maintained by UEC. BPA would also perform acceptance testing on the communications service equipment and program BPA's revenue meter data acquisition system to retrieve data from UEC's meter. All interconnection work would take place inside existing facilities and no ground-disturbing activities or building modifications would occur.

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

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: September 28, 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: Umatilla Electric Cooperative Solar Interconnection

Project Site Description

All interconnection work would take place at UEC's existing 999-kilowatt Solar Photovoltaic Array Site, located in Umatilla County, Oregon. No ground-disturbing activities or building modifications would occur.

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> Because the interconnection would not entail any ground-disturbing activities or building modifications, BPA has determined that these project activities have no potential to affect historic properties provided that the project activities are carried out as described.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No soil disturbance proposed.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work in existing facilities. 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 facilities. 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 in-water work proposed; no work in a flood plain.		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: None present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No soil disturbance proposed.

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

Explanation: All work in existing facilities.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: No visual structural changes proposed.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: No proposed ground-disturbing activities or building modifications that would affect air quality.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: No proposed ground-disturbing activities or building modifications that would produce noise.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions.

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: Not applicable.

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: September 29, 2015