

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Midway Substation Upgrades

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: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to upgrade and install equipment at its Midway Substation, located in Benton County, Washington. The equipment is outdated and inadequate for providing reliable power to BPA's service area.

Equipment to be added or replaced would include relays, equipment racks, meters, disconnects, switches, power circuit breakers, capacitive voltage transformers, bus ties, and transfer switches. BPA would also upgrade the existing SER/SCADA per current standards. A new underground cable would be installed from the replacement power circuit breakers to the existing control house. The cable would be installed via trenching for 700 feet at a depth of three feet. The iron bus and seismic riser associated with all breaker and disconnect switch upgrades would be replaced.

All existing footings and foundations would be reused, to the extent possible. If footings or foundations must be replaced or added, a maximum of 990 cubic yards of soil and concrete would be cut and then backfilled in place. Approximately 35 cubic yards of fill be brought onto the site for use. Staging materials will be placed on existing graveled areas. All contaminated materials would be disposed of in an approved waste management facility. This project would not require any ground disturbance beyond the existing substation footprint. All work would occur within the existing substation fence.

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
David Evans and Associates, Inc.

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: October 20, 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.

Proposed Action: Midway Substation Upgrades

Project Site Description

The project site is located inside the fenced yard of BPA's Midway Substation in 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 ridge formations just south of the substation and the Columbia River 0.75 mile to the north. The surrounding landscape consists largely of undeveloped scrub lands and some agriculture.

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> The proposed activities have no potential to affect historic or cultural resources. No historic properties are known to occur on or near the proposed site.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> All soil disturbance would be confined to previously disturbed areas of the substation yard (700 feet of trenching to a depth of 3 feet and potential excavation of concrete footings).</p> <p><u>Mitigation:</u> Implement erosion and sediment controls as needed to control run-off and prevent off-site transport of sediment. Sample stockpiled concrete footings and soil; dispose of any contaminated soil and concrete 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. Columbia River is approximately 0.75 mile away from the project site and would not be affected by work in the substation yard.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: None present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



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

Mitigation: Maintain spill prevention kits 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: Dust and vehicle emissions anticipated during month long construction period.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours; no residents or buildings in the area. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Removal of any contaminated equipment and soils would eliminate any potential health hazards.

Mitigation: Implement appropriate Best Management Practices to prevent accidental spill of any contaminated materials. Manage and dispose 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:

- 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: All PCB-containing equipment would be managed and disposed of according to applicable state and federal regulations.

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: No notification necessary. 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

Date: October 20, 2015

Elizabeth Siping

Environmental Protection Specialist