

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Electronic Equipment, HVAC, and Security System Replacement and Upgrades at Existing Buildings or Facilities – 2016 thru 2017 (*update to previous Categorical Exclusion issued on January 5, 2016*)

**Project Manager:** Multiple

**Location:** Multiple locations in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Montana, California, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.7 Electronic Equipment, B2.5 Facility safety and environmental improvements, and B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to replace, upgrade, and/or modify a variety of electronic equipment and security systems at BPA-owned buildings throughout the BPA service territory in 2016 and 2017. Further, BPA proposes to conduct additional non-electronic equipment activities that would support the electronic equipment and security system replacements, upgrades, or modifications. This categorical exclusion is an update to the January 5, 2016 version to provide clarification regarding the types of electronic equipment upgrades covered. Specifically, BPA proposes to conduct the following activities within or on the exterior of existing buildings:

- **Electronic equipment upgrades** – Upgrade electronic equipment required for operation and maintenance of BPA’s transmission grid. Several types of actions involving communications, meters, relays, Remedial Action Scheme (RAS) and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system upgrades would fall into this class of actions. Activities could include installing, upgrading, or modifying equipment racks, cabinets, phone systems, radios, meters, disconnects, switches, power circuit breakers, capacitive voltage transformers, bus ties, inter- and intra-net equipment, and associated wiring. Electronic equipment upgrades or modifications in support of new interconnection or integration activities are not included.
- **Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades and replacements** – Modify HVAC systems to accommodate electronic equipment installation. Activities falling under this class of action could include: replacing HVAC equipment with new equipment installed in the same location; widening existing holes or cutting new holes in the exterior building wall in the vicinity of the existing HVAC equipment to accommodate the new size or shape of the replacement equipment; and installing or replacing duct work, wiring, and other electrical-related equipment inside the building or facility.
- **Security system modifications** - Install or upgrade security systems to comply with security standards established by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation’s Critical

Infrastructure Protection (NERC-CIP). Activities falling under this class of action could include: installing card readers on exterior pedestrian doors; running surface-mounted conduit from card readers through floors or ceilings from door locations to security racks located near existing communication racks; installing new security racks/enclosures to walls or floors; installing fire-rated doors with card readers and/or replacing the door handles within access tunnels between the control house and substation yard; and/or installing additional security hardware, such as motion detectors, glass break detectors, interior visitor key pads, and new interior door hardware.

These actions would occur at existing facilities, would not require major exterior building modification (e.g. removing or replacing windows or doors, cutting wall holes in new locations), would not require major interior building modifications (e.g. tearing out walls), would not require ground disturbing activities, and would not involve hazardous materials (e.g. no old lead-acid batteries to retire and no building modifications that might expose asbestos).

Each project would be reviewed by the BPA NEPA lead to ensure that the activities fall within the range of those described in this Categorical Exclusion prior to initiating work.

**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/ Katey Grange  
Katey Grange  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason  
Stacy L. Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 1, 2016

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

becc:

K.Grange – ECT-4

G. Lynard – ECT-4

P.Smith – EPR-4

S.Mason – ECP-4

H.Adams-LN-7

Official File – EC (EQ-15)

KGrange:KCG:4047:11Jan2016:

*[http://portal.bpa.gov/orgs/efw/KEC/tsrvcs/Projects/2016\\_2017\\_Bundled\\_Electronic\\_Update\\_CX\\_08Jan2016.docx](http://portal.bpa.gov/orgs/efw/KEC/tsrvcs/Projects/2016_2017_Bundled_Electronic_Update_CX_08Jan2016.docx)*

## 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

Existing fenced and graveled BPA facilities, including electric substations and control houses, maintenance headquarters, and radio facility support structures. These facilities are located in BPA’s service territory, including Idaho, Oregon, Washington, western Montana and small parts of eastern Montana, California, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> BPA archaeologist reviewed proposed activities and determined that these types of activities do not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in existing, fenced facilities. No wildlife habitat present.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in existing, fenced facilities. No water or fish resources present.		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: Work would occur in existing, fenced facilities. No wetlands present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No ground or groundwater disturbance would occur.

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

Explanation: No change in land use would occur.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: No change in the visual character of the facilities would occur.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Minor, temporary generation of emissions associated with increased vehicle traffic would occur during construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Minor, intermittent noise associated with installation activities would occur during construction.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No asbestos-containing materials or other hazardous materials would be disturbed.

### **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:

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: Facilities would be BPA –owned or leased.

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Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts to any environmentally sensitive resource.

Signed: /s/ Katey Grange  
Katey Grange, ECT-4

Date: January 12, 2015