

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Horn Rapids Solar SGI Request

Project No.: G0518

Project Manager: Anna Cosola—TPCC-TPP-4

Location: Benton County, Washington

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

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow Energy Northwest to intergrate a new 5 MW generation project into BPA's Balancing Authority Area in Benton County, WA. The point of interconnection into BPA's transmission system would be at BPA's White Bluffs substation. The project would be a mixed resource, including 3.2 MW of solar generation and 1 MW of battery installation. The project is fully funded by the customer. BPA would install two generation meters in a cabinet at Energy Northwest's project location and would make minor modifications to the telemetry equipment located at BPA's White Bluffs substation and Dittmer Control Center. The customer would provide a four-wire leased line telemetry from the solar meter back to BPA's closest SCADU RTU at White Bluffs substation. The White Bluffs-Ashe radio would be replaced prior to, or in conjunction with, this project.

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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Motus Recruiting & Staffing

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 4, 2016

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 location is at Energy Northwest's White Bluffs Solar Station in Benton County, Washington (Section 17-T10N-R28E). This site is approximately 2.75 miles west of the Columbia River and on the northern edge of the city of Richland. The project area is adjacent to the Hanford Nuclear site to the north and agricultural fields dominate the landscape to the south. The terrain is relatively flat.

The National Wetland inventory, soil survey, topography, and aerial photos were reviewed to determine that there are no wetlands or water bodies at the project location.

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> BPA cultural staff has determined that a Section 106 review would not be warranted for the BPA portion of this project, because no ground disturbance or building modifications would be required to install meters at Energy NW's solar generation facility.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance. No special-status plant species present in the meter installation area.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The meter installation and telemetry modifications would not disturb wildlife. No special-status wildlife species present within the meter installation area.		

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



Explanation: No ground disturbance. No water bodies, floodplains, or fish present within the meter installation area.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No ground disturbance. No wetlands present within the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No ground disturbance.

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



Explanation: No land use changes. All BPA work would occur at existing facilities.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The meter installation would not alter the visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: There would be no change to air quality.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary noise may occur during the installation of the meters but the impact would be non-significant.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impact to human health or safety.

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: The meter installation is at another operator's facility; therefore, BPA does not require landowner notifications, involvement, or coordination.

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

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger
Beth Belanger, ECT-4
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Recruiting & Staffing

Date: November 4, 2016