

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Canby Substation Expansion Project

**Project Manager:** Rasha Kroonen TEP-TPP-1

**Location:** Modoc County, California

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.11 Electric Power Substations and Interconnection Facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to expand its Canby Substation to interconnect PacifiCorp via a new bay. The existing yard would be extended approximately 136 feet south to accommodate the new 69-kilovolt (kV) bay (yard expansion area would be about 0.4 acre in size). The new bay would include one power circuit breaker, two disconnect switches, bus (electrical piping) work, and foundations with other electrical and communication equipment installed within the expanded yard. Installation of one to two wood-pole structures (with guy wires) south of the expanded yard would be required to interconnect PacifiCorp's line to the new bay.

About 200 feet of new switchyard road would be constructed within the expanded yard. The new road would cross under the new bay providing access to the existing northern bays. A stormwater pond approximately 100-feet long by 50-feet wide would be constructed on the southeast corner of the substation property. Additionally, electrical and communication equipment would be installed inside the substation fences or existing buildings at BPA's Captain Jack, Malin, and Warner substations.

Disturbance resulting from substation expansion, construction of the road, installation of new wood-pole structures with guy wire anchors, and excavation for the stormwater pond would be about one acre.

**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/ Tish Eaton

Tish Eaton  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: October 27, 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.

**Proposed Action: Canby Substation Expansion Project**

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### Project Site Description

The expansion area is located adjacent to the southern substation fence on land disturbed during the original substation construction. Topography is flat with vegetation consisting of weeds and some grasses. Adjacent land use is agricultural with some rural residences within 0.25 miles. A local electric cooperative substation is located adjacent to the southeast corner of the substation with high voltage transmission lines crossing within the eastern edge and southern portion of BPA's fee-owned property.

### 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> No potential to effect determination made by BPA contract archaeologist Amy Homan on April 12, 2016.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Soil disturbance during construction activities in previously disturbed area including temporary disturbance adjacent to the expansion and stormwater pond areas.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present because in previously disturbed area.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present because in previously disturbed area.		
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> None present because in previously disturbed area.		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present because in previously disturbed area.		
7. <b>Groundwater and Aquifers</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No potential to effect. Closest water well (about 20 miles west of the substation) shows depth to		

groundwater is greater than 300 feet below land surface.

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



Explanation: No change to existing land use.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The additional bay would look similar to the existing substation bays. New wood-pole structures would look the same as existing structures.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Short-term dust and vehicle emissions during construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Short-term increase in ambient noise levels during construction.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impact.

### **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: Canby Substation is BPA owned land.

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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/ Tish Eaton  
Tish Eaton ECT-4

Date: October 27, 2016