

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: John Day Substation Equipment additions—AvanGrid 20 MW Solar Integration

Project No.: G0516

Project Manager: Anna Cosola—TPCC-TPP-4

Location: Sherman 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 provide software upgrades, communications service, and ancillary equipment at its John Day Substation and control centers, to allow AvanGrid to integrate 20 MW of solar power generation into BPA's Balancing Authority Area in Sherman County, Oregon. The proposed point of integration is on BPA's existing Klondike Schoolhouse-John Day No.1, 230 kV transmission line.

All work would take place within existing facilities and the project would not require any new ground disturbance or building modifications.

AvanGrid is developing the solar project adjacent to their existing wind energy facility and have acquired necessary siting permits.

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/ Dave Kennedy for
Gene Lynard
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

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

Date: May 18, 2017

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

All work electronic equipment installation work would take place with existing BPA facilities (substation control houses, fenced graveled electrical yards) with no natural environment.

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’s cultural staff reviewed the project and determined that because there would be no ground disturbance and all equipment installations would be within interior spaces, the undertaking does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would not include any ground disturbing activities.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would not include any ground disturbing activities.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would not include any ground disturbing activities.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would not include any ground disturbing activities.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would not include any ground disturbing activities.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: The project would not include any ground disturbing activities.

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

Explanation: There would be no change to land use and all work done by BPA would occur within BPA facilities.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: There would be no change to the visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: There would be no impact to air quality.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: There may be minimal temporary construction noise within the existing substation.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: There would be 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 project would occur inside existing BPA facilities. No landowner notification, involvement or coordination would be necessary for this project.

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
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Recruiting & Staffing

Date: May 18, 2017