

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Monroe Substation Line Retermination

Project Manager: Charla Burke – TEP-TPP-1

Location: Snohomish County and Douglas 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 reterminate an existing transmission line and add related equipment at its Monroe Substation in Snohomish County and Chief Joe Substation in Douglas County, Washington. The work is needed to increase operational flexibility, reliability, and capacity of existing transmission lines.

Equipment to be added inside of the yard at Monroe Substation would include a substation dead-end tower, power circuit breakers, disconnect switches, breaker differential relays, instrument transformers, surge arrestors, and utility breakers. The Chief Joe-Monroe and the Custer-Monroe No. 2 transmission lines would be reterminated including their overhead ground wires. Equipment to be removed and replaced with bus pedestals includes a power circuit breaker, disconnect switches, instrument transformers, surge arrestors, and breaker relays.

Equipment to be replaced at Chief Joe Substation inside the control house includes line protection relays and transfer trip.

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

Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 16, 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.

Proposed Action: Monroe Substation Line Retermination

Project Site Description

The project site is located at BPA’s Monroe Substation in Snohomish County, Washington and Chief Joe Substation in Douglas County, Washington. The project area at Monroe Substation is inside the substation yard and consists of the graveled yard, substation equipment, transmission lines, and the control house. The project area at Chief Joe Substation is within the control house.

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> The proposed action occurs within both of the substation yards and was determined to have no potential to affect historic properties or cultural resources. No consultation required.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Some soil disturbance would occur within the yard at Monroe Substation for excavation and grading to remove existing equipment footings and install new equipment (total of approximately 665 cubic yards of soil). <u>Mitigation:</u> Erosion and sediment controls would be employed as needed to control run-off and prevent off-site transport of sediment. Soil and concrete would be disposed of in an approved waste management facility.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in the substation yards where no vegetation is present.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur in the substation yards where no wildlife is present.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No water bodies or floodplains at or near the project sites. No in-water work proposed.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present.		

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| 7. Groundwater and Aquifers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No new wells or use of groundwater proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance would be less than five feet. | | |
| <u>Mitigation:</u> Spill prevention kits would be present on site. | | |
| 8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> All work on BPA fee-owned property. There are no specially designated areas. | | |
| 9. Visual Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Modifications would not be noticeably different from existing conditions. | | |
| 10. Air Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions anticipated during construction. | | |
| 11. Noise | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change. | | |
| 12. Human Health and Safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No impact to human health and 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: No notification. 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 to any environmentally sensitive resource.

Signed: /s/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping – ECT-4
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC

Date: August 16, 2017