

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Temporary Propane Tank Installation at Easton Communication Site

Project No.: P00834

Project Manager: Ben Younce, TEP-CSB-2

Location: Kittitas County, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.19 Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to install two temporary 100-gallon propane tanks and replace the existing underground liquid propane gas (LPG) line within the chain link fence at the Easton communication facility. The temporary tanks would be located immediately adjacent to the unrepairable 2,000-gallon tanks located on the southeast side of the communication building. They would be used during emergency power outages until the larger tanks could be replaced. The LPG line between the propane tanks and the building is approximately 20 feet long and approximately 2 feet below grade. The area surrounding the line would need to be excavated to replace the existing LPG line.

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/ Becky Hill

Becky Hill

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 24, 2017

Attachment(s): 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 site is at the BPA Easton communication facility, located in Kittitas County, Washington. The communication site is surrounded by a chain link fence that currently contains a two-story communication building, two 1,250-gallon propane tanks, a communications tower, and an outhouse, which are all situated among gravel substrate. Vegetation management prevents plant species from establishing within the communication facility's fence.

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> On July 11, 2017, the BPA archaeologist determined that the proposed undertaking presented no potential to effect historic properties.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Soil disturbance would only occur within the existing communication facility. Best management practices to avoid potential erosion and to control sedimentation would be implemented.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There is no vegetation within the communication facility; therefore, there are no special-status species present within the project area.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no special-status species or designated critical habitat present within the project area.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no water bodies, floodplains, or fish habitat in the project area.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no wetlands in the project area.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: All proposed ground disturbance activities are not expected to impact groundwater resources in the region.

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

Explanation: There would be no permanent changes to land use at this location.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The two temporary propane tanks would be smaller than the existing 1,250-gallon tanks and would be visually consistent with the existing structures and equipment already located at the communication facility.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: There would be temporary dust and vehicle emissions during construction activities.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: There would be temporary, intermittent noise from construction activities during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: There would be no impacts to human health and safety from the project activities.

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: BPA coordinated with the LPG provider, AmeriGas.

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

Signed: /s/ Becky Hill

Becky Hill
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC

Date: July 24, 2017