

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Lyle Falls Fishway Support Building

Project No.: 1997-013-35

Project Manager: Mary Todd Haight

Location: Klickitat County, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.15 Support Buildings

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (YN) to construct a new shop at the Lyle Falls Fishway site that will be located where the existing fenced parking area is now. The parking area would be relocated to a previously disturbed area between the two existing buildings on the site.

The new building is needed to store equipment and materials and to provide an indoor space to work during inclement weather. The existing storage facility is filled to capacity. In addition, all project capital equipment is stored outdoors in the parking area or gravel roadway. During the winter months, snow and ice must be removed before the equipment can be used or maintained. Required maintenance must be done in the open, sometimes by lying on the ground. There is no room in the existing equipment building to accommodate equipment such as the Skyjack Reach Fork, valued at more than \$120,000, or to do maintenance work safely.

The building would include a 2,400 square-foot, all steel shop: 60 feet long, 40 feet wide, 15 feet tall. The roof pitch and building colors would match existing structures. The building would have two tall doors to accommodate tall equipment and one commercial door. It would have no windows, gutters, overhangs, HVAC, or insulation but would have a continuous ridge vent for ventilation. It would have 220/110V power but no water. The new shop would be located where the existing fenced parking and maintenance area is now.

To accommodate the building, the existing fenced parking and maintenance area would be relocated between two existing buildings on the site. An area 50 feet long and 55 feet wide would be graded and regraded. The brown-coated chain-link fencing from the former parking area would be reused to enclose the relocated area.

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/ Judith L. Woodward

Judith L. Woodward
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
MBO Partners

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel
Acting Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 18, 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.

Proposed Action: Lyle Falls Fishway Support Building

Project Site Description

The existing Lyle Falls Fishway facility is sited within a 507-acre parcel of land owned by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in Klickitat County, Washington. WDFW land extends to the north and south of the facility, which is operated by the Yakama Nation (YN). The east side of the site borders the Klickitat River approximately 2.2 miles from its confluence with the Columbia River. This reach of the river is within the federally designated Klickitat Wild and Scenic River corridor. Washington State Parks' Klickitat Trail borders the site on the west and intersects the fishway access road to the southwest. Lyle Falls is about three quarters of a mile outside of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA) boundary.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) concurred with BPA's determination of No Adverse Effect on April 10, 2017, with the stipulation for professional archaeological monitoring during construction. Yakama Nation consulted but do not have comments.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Only a small amount of excavation would be required, and all of it would be in previously disturbed and/or graveled locations. The shop building would require excavation for footings, roughly 5 feet wide by 5 feet long by 2 feet deep. The number and precise location of the excavations will depend on the pre-engineered design submitted by the contractor, but they will be contained within the boundaries identified in the cultural survey. It is expected that approximately 12 footings would be needed, resulting in removal of approximately 22 cubic yards of soil. A 10-foot long, 2-foot deep trench would be dug from the existing equipment building to the new shop to supply electricity and would be re-filled with the excavated soil once the electrical line is in place. The construction contract will stipulate that all waste material such as construction debris and excess dirt shall be removed from the construction site and/or deposited above the limits of flood water in an approved upland disposal site.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would take place in any area previously identified as potentially having rare plants, including Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed plants. Only two ponderosa pine trees less than 20 feet tall and 3-4 inches in diameter at the base would be removed. All construction equipment entering the work area will be washed to minimize the risk of transporting noxious weed seeds and propagules.</p>		

4. **Wildlife** (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)



Explanation: No ESA-listed wildlife species have been documented at the site. Although a few Washington State-listed priority species have used the site (osprey, eagles, and western gray squirrels), work would be conducted in existing disturbed areas, would not remove existing habitat, and would be done in October-November 2017, outside the nesting season.

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



Explanation: All construction would be done in uplands at least 500 feet from the Klickitat River, which flows in a steep gorge below the site; therefore, construction would not affect ESA-listed fish or their critical habitat; other fish species, including lamprey; or the river. The facility is in the FEMA-designated 100-year floodplain, outside of the active floodway, but within the FEMA-designated flood zone. The new building and relocated parking area would not restrict high flow passage. Because maintenance work would move indoors to the proposed shop, the current low risk of spills of petroleum or other hazardous products during site operations would be further reduced from current conditions.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: The one wetland identified at the Lyle facility site is at least 1,000 feet from the work area for the proposed new shop and parking area relocation; therefore it would not be affected.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new sources of groundwater would be required. No ground disturbance or excavation that would disturb groundwater or introduce contaminants into groundwater would be required.

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



Explanation: Washington State Parks' Klickitat Trail borders the site, and the facility access road crosses the trail at one point. No construction activity, staging, or vehicle use is allowed within 60 feet of the Klickitat Trail at the Lyle site. This condition will be stipulated in the construction contract, and work will be monitored at all times to ensure compliance. The project will implement a revegetation plan using native plants that will provide screening of the facility from the trail and from the scenic Klickitat River.

The reach of the Klickitat River adjacent to the Lyle Falls site was designated part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) (PL 90-542, as amended; 16 USC 1271-1287). It is managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). In an email dated June 28, 2016, the USFS determined that the shop proposed at the Lyle Fishway site is outside of the river channel and would not affect the free flowing nature of the Klickitat (one of the values for which the river was designated) and therefore will not need Section 7 planning under the WSRA. The project will implement the USFS request to match the building's visual standards (colors, height and materials) to the other facilities at the Lyle fishway, and to consider using native vegetation/materials and building position as a way to mitigate to the greatest degree possible any visual impacts to the Wild and Scenic corridor. In addition, the brown-colored, non-reflective fencing from the existing parking area will be reused.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Vegetation screening and building style, materials, and colors will protect visual quality near the Klickitat Trail and the Klickitat River as described above.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Dust abatement measures will be implemented as needed on stockpiled soils to prevent the potential for wind-borne dust to degrade air quality in the CRGNSA, the boundary of which is about ¾ mile from the site.

11. Noise



Explanation: Hikers using the Klickitat Trail might hear construction noise as they pass the site, but any disturbance they might experience would be limited to a few minutes and only during the 4 – 6 week construction period in October and November 2017. Users of the Klickitat River, including tribal fishers, are unlikely to hear construction noise over the noise of the falls.

12. Human Health and Safety



Explanation: Warning signs will be placed where the facility access road crosses the Klickitat Trail to reduce conflicts between trail users and construction traffic.

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.
- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.
- 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.
- 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.

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: Coordination with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Parks, and the Klickitat County noxious weed specialist is ongoing. USFS-recommended mitigation for the Klickitat River will be implemented as described above.

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

Signed: /s/ Judith L. Woodward
Judith L. Woodward – ECF-4

Date: July 18, 2017