

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Bell Substation Septic System Replacement

Project Manager: David McAfee – NWM-PSB-2

Location: Spokane County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B2.5 Facility safety and environmental improvements

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to replace four septic systems at its Bell Substation in Spokane County, Washington. One of the septic systems has failed recently and is being manually pumped, and the others are beyond their service life. Currently municipal sewer does not reach this location. Bell Substation is a large substation with maintenance headquarters for the region. The septic systems serve several buildings and will be decommissioned or replaced in the automotive shop, headquarters building, and control house. In order to do this, some new lines would be installed by directional boring.

Most of the work would occur within the existing Bell Substation yard. A new 45-foot by 170-foot drain field would be constructed outside of the yard to the west. Approximately 800 feet of transport piping to carry effluent to the drain field would be installed partially with directional boring and partially with open trenching. All work would take place on BPA property.

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 L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 3, 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: Bell Substation Septic System Replacement

Project Site Description

The proposed work would occur on BPA fee-owned property at Bell Substation in Spokane County, Washington. The project work would occur inside the fenced, graveled substation yard and west of the fenced yard in a disturbed sparsely-vegetated flat area. The surrounding area includes industrial areas, undeveloped areas, residential developments, and the North Spokane Corridor Highway (¼ mile east of the substation).

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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA determined that the proposed project would have no adverse effect to historic properties. Consulting parties for this project included: Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), Spokane Tribe, Kalispel Tribe, and Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. DAHP concurred with the no adverse effect determination on May 30, 2017 and Spokane Tribe concurred on June 5, 2017. No response was received from the Kalispel Tribe or the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.</p> <p>In the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, BPA archaeologist, appropriate BPA project staff, interested Tribes, DAHP, and the appropriate local, State, and Federal agencies.• Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.• Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Directional boring and trenching for transport piping installation would impact approximately 800 linear feet of soil at 3-feet deep, mostly inside the substation yard. The new drain field would impact 45-foot by 170-foot of mostly previously disturbed area outside the substation yard. Approximately 25 cubic yards of soil and 5 cubic yards of asphalt would be removed and disposed of offsite.</p> <p><u>Mitigation:</u> Soil sampling would occur during project excavation activities to ensure that soil is properly disposed. Excess soil would be placed on visqueen and kept covered until analytical results are obtained. Analytical results would determine disposal options. The onsite construction personnel would coordinate with Michael Rosales, the EP lead for this project.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explanation: Minimal disturbance to existing vegetation would occur. No special-status species are known to

occur in the area.

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



Explanation: Most of the proposed work would occur in previously disturbed area with no known wildlife or habitat. No special-status species are known to occur in the project area.

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



Explanation: No water bodies or floodplains are present at or near the project site.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are present at the project site.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells are proposed. The facility is located over the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, a sole source aquifer.

Mitigation: All federal, state, and local groundwater protection standards would be considered during installation of the new septic system. Best Management Practices would be observed to prevent spillage and control erosion.

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



Explanation: The proposed work is consistent with land use in and around the substation. No specially designated areas are present.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The proposed work would not impact adversely impact visual quality long-term.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions is anticipated during construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. No long-term impacts are anticipated.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Project would improve to human health and safety by decommissioning failing systems, which have the potential to adversely affect groundwater.

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: All proposed work would take place on BPA fee-owned land. No adjacent landowners are likely to be impacted by the proposed work.

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
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC

Date: July 3, 2017