

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** New Line Terminal at Troutdale Substation

**Project No.:** L0365

**Project Manager:** Kelly Gardner TEP-TPP-1

**Location:** Multnomah County, Oregon

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.11 Electric Power Substations and Interconnection Facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA is proposing to allow PGE to interconnect a new Troutdale-Blue Lake No. 2 230-kilovolt (kV) line terminal into BPA's Troutdale Substation. PGE's new line would be double-circuited with the existing Troutdale-Blue Lake No. 1 line and would provide the redundancy needed to meet their North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) reliability standards for transmission planning.

To make room for the new line, BPA would move its existing North Bonneville-Troutdale No. 2 230-kV interconnection one bay to the east. New hardware would be installed on about two BPA towers on the North Bonneville-Troutdale No. 2 line to address hardware age. Wood pole structures 28/3 through 28/6 would be evaluated and potentially replaced as part of the project. Ground wire and conductor would be moved and tensioned into the new bay. PGE's circuit would connect into the newly vacant bay. To complete the interconnection, BPA would install a new power circuit breaker, bus work, and three new disconnect switches. The existing concrete footings would be repurposed where possible.

BPA would reduce tension in the conductor and groundwire on the existing North Bonneville-Troutdale No. 1 230-kV line from tower 28/4 to existing Bay 3. New hardware would be installed on three towers from 28/2 to 28/4.

The new interconnection would result in clearance issues with an existing PacifiCorp 230-kV line and interconnection. PacifiCorp would move the last tower of their 230-kV line about 30 feet west, to an area that has been previously disturbed. PacifiCorp and PGE are responsible for negotiating the terms of the tower replacement work.

At BPA's North Bonneville 230-kV substation, disconnects in Bay 13 would be removed and replaced to accommodate the changes at Troutdale.

All work would occur within previously disturbed areas.

**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/ Claire McClory

Claire McClory

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 27, 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:** New Line Terminal at Troutdale Substation

### Project Site Description

The project is located at BPA's Troutdale Substation in Multnomah County, Oregon. The project area consists of a graveled yard, substation equipment, and transmission lines. The right-of-way is located in a previously disturbed area covered by grasses and scattered shrubs.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA initiated consultation with Oregon SHPO, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz. BPA made a determination of no historic properties affected on January 17, 2017. Oregon SHPO did not respond; the Grand Ronde tribe concurred on June 23, 2017.</p> <p>✓ In the event of an inadvertent discovery, work would immediately cease and the SHPO and BPA archaeologist would be notified.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Minor soil disturbance and compaction during construction.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species present.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species present.</p>		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Company Lake, Columbia River, and the Sandy River are within ½-mile north and east of the Troutdale Substation. A large berm separates the project area from these water bodies and their floodplains.</p>		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Wetlands surround Troutdale Substation and vicinity – the closest wetland is 370 feet north of the</p>		

substation fence. The proposed work would not impact any wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Troutdale Substation is within an area designated as the Reynolds Superfund Site due to groundwater contamination. A Memorandum of Agreement among the US Department of Energy, BPA, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) restricts ground-disturbing activities on BPA's substation property, specifically addressing potential impacts to groundwater as a result of activities occurring at a depth greater than 15 feet. The project does not include any ground disturbance beyond the 15 foot reporting threshold.

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



Explanation: No change to land use proposed.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The replacement tower outside Troutdale substation would be similar in size and appearance.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Temporary amount of dust and vehicle emissions during construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary increase in noise during construction.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impacts expected.

### 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:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: Troutdale Substation is fee-owned by BPA. Portions of the BPA right-of-way are on Port of Portland property. PGE has been in contact with Port of Portland regarding their interconnection project.

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

Signed: /s/ Claire McClory  
Claire McClory, ECT-4

Date: June 27, 2017