

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Equipment Replacements at Ashe, First Street and White Bluffs Substations

Project No.: PPID 1408 & 1409

Project Manager: Jay Chester TEP-TPP-1

Location: Benton County, WA

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: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to replace various equipment within the Ashe, First Street and White Bluffs substations that has exceeded their service life or do not conform to current safety ratings.

At Ashe Substation equipment replacements would include a set of 230-kilovolt (kV) rigid bus risers and three arrestors with supports and foundations (which will require excavations measuring about 15 feet long by 2 feet deep by 2 feet wide).

At First Street Substation work would include the replacement of a 115-kV, 3-phase disconnect switch with ground blades (which will require excavations measuring about 15 feet long by 2 feet deep by 2 feet wide) and the addition of five vacuum bottles (115-kV).

At White Bluffs Substation equipment replacements would include a 115-kV, 3-phase disconnect switch and foundation (with excavation measuring of about 15 feet long by 2 feet deep by 2 feet wide); three A-193 bus risers and arrestors; three 230-kV, three 115-kV, and three 15-kV arrestors in bank #1; a set of 115-kV rigid bus risers; and cables within the electrical panel for arc flash safety

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/ Justin Moffett

Justin Moffett
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 26, 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: **Equipment Replacements at Ashe, First Street and White Bluffs Substations**

Project Site Description

All work will take place within existing fenced and graveled substation equipment yards.

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> BPA archaeologists determined the proposed action has no potential to affect historic properties based on the fact that all work will take place within the substation yard, in disturbed/imported sediment etc., and is of a nature required for general upkeep and will not result in any appreciable change to each facilities appearance.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Minimal disturbance of imported fill and rock within fenced substation yard.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No vegetation present within substation yard.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No listed species or habitats present within or adjacent to work areas.		
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, floodplains or fish present within or adjacent to work areas.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No wetlands present within or adjacent to work areas.		
7. Groundwater and Aquifers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Excavations will not be deep enough to interact with groundwater or aquifers.		

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

Explanation: The proposed action will not affect land use or any specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The proposed action will not change the visual quality of the substations or the surrounding areas.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Small, temporary amounts of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction activities.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary increase in noise would occur during construction activities.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No impact to human health or safety anticipated. All solid and liquid wastes would be disposed of in accordance with the Pollution Abatement Clearance memo.

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 land owner coordination planned for Ashe and White Bluffs substation as BPA owns both facilities and surrounding landowners would not be affected. BPA has been coordinating with the City of Richland which owns First Street Substation.

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

Signed: /s/Justin Moffett
Justin Moffett ECT-4

Date: June 26, 2017