

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Decatur Island Shoreline Stabilization Project

PP&A No.: 3675

Project Manager: Todd Nicholson – TELF-TPP-3

Location: San Juan County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 – Routine Maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to stabilize the western shoreline of Decatur Island by installing approximately 140 cubic yards of riprap, enhancing the strength of the riprap already in place at this location. The riprap would be granitic rock 1-3 feet in diameter and each stone would be individually placed using an excavator. Riprap placement is needed to stop rapid erosion and failure of slope where cables transition from above-ground to submarine on the west side of the island.

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/ Emma Reinemann

Emma Reinemann

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 17, 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: Decatur Island Shoreline Stabilization Project

Project Site Description

The proposed project is located on Decatur Island in San Juan County, Washington in the BPA Covington District. The work would be performed within a BPA easement on privately-owned land in the 7th mile the Fidalgo-Lopez Island No. 3 and No. 5 lines, specifically where the lines transition from above-ground to submarine. Work will take place at the shoreline of the island, above the mean higher high water mark.

Township		Range		Section
35	N	1	W	21

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<p>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</p> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <p><u>Explanation:</u> A cultural site was documented during the review and survey process of the work area. BPA has determined that project activity would have no adverse effect on cultural resources, with the stipulation for archaeological monitoring. BPA will have a cultural monitor on-site throughout the project. The Washington Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation issued a letter of concurrence with BPA findings on April 4, 2017. In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area secured, and the concerned tribe’s cultural staff and cultural committee notified.</p> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>2. Geology and Soils</p> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <p><u>Explanation:</u> The scope of this project does not include ground-disturbing activity.</p> </div>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</p> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <p><u>Explanation:</u> No known federal/special-status species are present in the project area.</p> </div>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)</p> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area does not include habitat for any special-status species. There would be no effect to ESA-listed species in the area.</p> </div>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)</p> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <p><u>Explanation:</u> All project activities will occur above the mean higher high water mark and will not impact the surrounding water body or any fish that may inhabit it. Erosion control measures will be implemented to ensure</p> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

potential impacts from sediment are mitigated.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are no wetlands within the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Spill prevention measures would be utilized during construction activities. The project would not provide a pathway for groundwater contamination.

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



Explanation: No change in land use would occur and project activities would not impact land use.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be no change to the visual quality of the area as a result of the proposed activities.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The project would have no significant impacts on air quality; however, a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust may occur during construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: During project activity, all standard safety protocols would be followed. Project activities would not impact human health or safety.

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: NA

- 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: NA

- 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: NA

- 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: NA

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: All activities would be coordinated with landowners prior to beginning work.

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

Signed: /s/ Emma Reinemann
Emma Reinemann
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: May 17, 2017