

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Kalispel Hatchery Equipment Replacement Funding

Project No.: 1995-001-00

Project Manager: Virgil (Lee) Watts III

Location: Pend Oreille County, WA

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the Kalispel Resident Fish Program to replace old and outdated equipment at the existing Kalispel Tribal Hatchery. The hatchery raises sterile, triploid rainbow trout for tribal consumption. The equipment replacements at the hatchery would include replacement of the water intake screen and installation of an air-burst backwash system within the Pend Oreille River; replacement of existing plumbing, pumps, piping, and oxygenation system; replacement of fiberglass troughs with 8-foot circular tanks and adding a trough and vertical stack incubators; replacing monitoring and alarm systems, and updating electrical services and controllers.

The existing hatchery, which was funded by BPA and built in 1997, is located on the east bank of the Pend Oreille River, approximately nine miles north (downstream) of Usk, Washington. Because the hatchery has been in continuous operation for 20 years, many of the facility's components are no longer operating properly, are outdated or insufficient. For instance, the intake screen on the existing 460-foot long, 8-inch diameter water intake pipe within the Pend Oreille River does not meet NOAA guidelines and lacks a backwash system; piping is inefficient; and electrical services, monitoring and alarm systems are obsolete or inconsistently operable.

The replacement work would be conducted generally within the footprint of the existing facility. The majority of the work would occur within and below the onsite structures. Replacement equipment for the ground water supply system (head tank and piping) would be placed underground immediately north and east of the northernmost hatchery buildings, and a new Pend Oreille River intake screen and airburst backwash pipe would be installed at the existing intake pipe location at the westernmost extent of the facility within the river channel. Existing roads would be used to access the hatchery for the work, and materials and equipment would be staged on existing disturbed ground at the hatchery.

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/ Jennifer Snyder
Jennifer Snyder
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad J. Hamel
Chad Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason
Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 29, 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.

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Project Site Description

The Kalispel Tribe hatchery facilities are located within an approximately 15 acre-site along the northern boundary of the reservation. They are situated on Flying Goose Ranch, one half mile from the eastern bank of the Pend Oreille River, approximately eight miles north (downstream) of Usk, Washington and 40 miles northeast of Spokane. The area around the existing pumphouse, which lies about 0.5 miles west of the hatchery buildings, and the hatchery buildings themselves, includes the river, sloughs, and wetlands. Vegetation on the property includes pasture hay, reed canary grass, snowberry, hawthorn, black cottonwood, willows, ponderosa pine, and red-osier dogwood.

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> Field investigations initially identified two archaeological sites within the proximity of the hatchery site; however, due to construction activity over the years there is no longer surface evidence of the site, according to the tribal archaeology project manager on July 14, 2017. Given the close proximity of the two sites to the adjacent project area of potential effect, BPA provided recommendations to be followed prior to project implementation, in the letter of determination sent to the Kalispel Tribe of Indians and the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) dated July 17, 2017. These recommendations are: An archaeologist will establish a buffer around the southern portion of the remaining site (as a “sensitive area”); no project activities will take place within this area; vehicular access will be limited to existing roads; and an archaeological monitor will be present during all ground-disturbing activities at the hatchery project area. BPA determined that with the recommendations in place, the hatchery improvement activities will result in “no historic properties adversely affected.” The Kalispel Tribe (on July 31, 2017) and the Washington DAHP (on August 8, 2017) concurred with this determination.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Only a small amount of excavation would be required, and it would be in previously disturbed area. This excavation for piping installation would be confined to 6-feet of centerline pipe routing from existing water wells to the hatchery building, and a single head tank location. All soils will be retained and replaced.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No plants would be disturbed or removed: no special-status plants are present.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> While ESA-listed wildlife species may be migrating or foraging within the vicinity of the hatchery facilities, (Canada lynx, Grizzly bear, Woodland caribou, wolverine (proposed threatened)), they do not use the</p>		

previously cleared and human-altered site for primary habitat as it is primarily lowland open grassland that experiences high human disturbance. Work would be conducted in existing disturbed area, would not remove habitat, and would be completed within a very short duration - from mid-September through October, 2017, outside of any nesting seasons. BPA prepared and submitted a Biological Assessment to the USFWS on June 19, 2017 with a determination of “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” for all the above listed species. This determination was concurred with by the USFWS Washington Field Office on August 17, 2017 through an informal consultation (USFWS No. 01EWF00-2017-I-1182).

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

Explanation: Installation of the new NOAA compliant intake T-screen and 1.5-inch flexible airburst backwash pipe would occur within the Pend Oreille River by SCUBA divers working from a boat. This would consist of unbolting the existing screen and bolting the replacement in its place. The airburst pipe would be placed adjacent to the existing water intake pipe to which it would either be banded, or held in place with using concrete pier blocks placed by hand every 10 feet along the 330 feet of the intake pipe. While ESA-listed bull trout use the Pend Oreille River for migration, it is unlikely they would be present near the intake site in August when the activities are planned, because water levels would be at their lowest and water temperatures would be at their highest. Thus, BPA determined that the hatchery activities “may effect but are not likely to adversely affect” bull trout. Anchoring the airburst backwash pipe with the concrete blocks would result in the loss of 30 cubic feet of natural substrate, which is already compromised due to the operation of the Boundary, Box Canyon and Albeni Falls Dams. This determination was concurred with by the USFWS Washington Fish and Wildlife Office on August 16, 2017 through an informal consultation (USFWS No. 01EWF00-2017-I-1182).

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: There are sloughs and wetlands situated between the hatchery and the Pend Orielle River. The nearest wetland to the minor excavation work is approximately 150 feet to the northwest and will not be affected.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: In order to supply the hatchery with adequate consistent water flow, a head tank will be added to the existing piped water system. The head tank does allow for some storage in case of mechanical failure so that flow to the fish is not interrupted while switching to the alternative supply – it will act as a backup for complete redundancy. Only one groundwater pump can be operated at any one time, thus its two pumps will be alternated. Water will flow from the head tank to the hatchery vessels to the settling basins to the wetland effluent pond. The facility has the capacity to pump about 180 cfs without impacting the aquifer based on 24 hour pumpdown testing.

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

Explanation: No changes to land use are proposed nor would any traditional activities be interrupted.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The proposed modifications would not change the look or character of the site.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Any potential dust or other particulates generated during the maintenance activity would be minimal, temporary and mitigated by the use of water trucks.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Noise generated during the maintenance activity would be localized and temporary in nature.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Maintenance 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:

- 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: BPA is coordinating with the Kalispel Tribe of Indians; there would be no visual or other effects to adjacent landowners.

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

Signed: /s/ Jennifer Snyder
Jennifer Snyder – ECF-4

Date: August 29, 2017