

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Holmes Ranch Property Pole Building Improvements

Project No.: 1995-063-25

Project Manager: Michelle O'Malley, EWU - 4

Location: Kittitas County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B2.1 Workplace enhancements

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to make improvements to an existing pole building at the Holmes Ranch property in Ellensburg, Washington. The Holmes Ranch property is the proposed site for the Melvin R. Sampson Hatchery. The existing pole building is used to store equipment at the site. The proposed improvements include adding a concrete slab floor, metal siding for walls, and doors. The goal of the project is to better ensure the security of the equipment at the site, protect the equipment from weather impacts, and to improve aesthetics at the site.

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/ Elisabeth Bowers

Elisabeth Bowers

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

ACS Professional Staffing

Reviewed by: Dave Kennedy

/s/ Gene Lynard FOR

Dave Kennedy
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 6, 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: Holmes Ranch Property Pole Building Improvements

Project Site Description

The existing pole building is located on the Yakama Nation’s Holmes Ranch property, which is situated about 5 miles northwest of Ellensburg, Washington. The property is bordered by I-90 to the south, Klocke Road to the east, John Wayne Pioneer Trail (a National Recreation Trail) to the north, and private property to the west. The property is 50 acres total and is near the Yakima River. A canal, called the New Cascade Canal, diverts water from the Yakima River about 1 mile northwest (and upstream) of the property. Some of that water is used for irrigation, while some flows into the New Cascade Bypass channel that runs through the property then drains into a historical side channel of the Yakima River, and then into the Yakima River.

The Melvin R. Sampson (MRS) Hatchery is proposed to be constructed on this property. The MRS Hatchery and related facilities would be constructed on an 8-acre portion of the Holmes Ranch property. The existing pole building is adjacent to the proposed footprint of the hatchery within this 8-acre hatchery site.

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> The work will take place in previously disturbed areas (the footprint of the existing pole building). The project action that has potential to impact cultural resources is the installation of the concrete slab floor within the pole building and garage. The work will take place within an existing building that has a roof. The floor will not be excavated below existing fill material. Therefore, no effects to historic and cultural resources are anticipated.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> This action entails no ground disturbance outside the footprint of the existing pole building. Potential erosion and sedimentation impacts would be minimized by using Best Management Practices (BMPs). Some existing gravel fill would be removed from inside the pole building and replaced with concrete. The excess fill material would be stored and properly contained onsite and reused in the construction of the proposed hatchery. Prior to being reused in the construction of the proposed hatchery, the material shall be tested for contaminants to determine the appropriate use of the fill.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Construction activities will occur along existing access roads or in previously disturbed areas.</p>		

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



Explanation: There are no ESA-listed terrestrial wildlife species or potential suitable habitat for such species within the project footprint. Construction activities will occur in areas that have been previously disturbed.

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



Explanation: Concrete will be placed within the existing footprint of the building. In addition, BMPs will be implemented to ensure that sediment-laden or contaminated stormwater is not discharged to nearby surface water. The main concern is concrete washwater. If concrete washwater is dumped on the ground, it can run off the construction site to adjacent surface waters. Therefore, concrete equipment shall be washed out only into formed areas awaiting installation of concrete. When no formed areas are available, washwater and leftover product shall be contained in a covered and lined container and disposed of in a manner that does not violate groundwater or surface water quality standards.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are present where work is being done.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Any excavation that will occur as part of project activities will be within existing fill material and will not interfere with groundwater.

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



Explanation: The proposed activities do not have the potential to affect land use or specially designated areas. The property is owned by the Yakama Nation and the improvements to the existing pole building would have no impact on the use of the property or its designation.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Construction equipment and personnel would be temporarily visible by motorists on Klocke Road and users of the John Wayne Pioneer Trail. In the long-term, there will be minor improvements to the aesthetics of the site with the improvements made to the pole building.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Minimal impacts to air quality are anticipated because excavation is limited to existing gravel fill within the pole building.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Construction activities would cause minor short-term noise impacts in the vicinity of the pole building but is not anticipated to have any significant impacts.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: During construction, the potential for other public health and safety impacts are expected to be short-term, localized, and low. Construction workers should handle wet concrete and washout water with care because it may cause skin irritation and eye damage. Hazardous material storage would be limited to fill material excavated from the floor of the existing pole shed that could be contaminated with equipment oil/chemicals.

Herbicides are also currently stored in the pole building and would have to be moved during construction activities. Any hazardous materials shall be stored within enclosed areas or outside covered by plastic sheeting with secondary containment provided so contaminants are not transported by runoff. Finally, the excavated fill material shall be stored and properly contained onsite and reused in the construction of the proposed hatchery. Prior to being reused in the construction of the proposed hatchery, the material shall be tested for contaminants to determine the appropriate use of the fill.

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: The Holmes Ranch property is currently owned by the Yakama Nation; the project sponsor for the proposed action. A Yakama Nation employee would be the one coordinating and undertaking this work.

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

Signed: /s/ Elisabeth Bowers

Elisabeth Bowers, ECF-4

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

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Date: November 6, 2017