

Categorical Exclusion Determination
Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Power Management Demand Response Activities

Project Manager: Various PMs, Planning and Evaluation, PEH-6

Location: Throughout the BPA service territory

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.4 Power Marketing Services and Activities

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to contract with certain customer utility(s) served by transfer service for participation in demand response activities for the purposes of power management such as transfer peak-load shaping, provided that the operations of generating projects would remain within normal operating limits. BPA may declare demand response events, and the participating customer utility shall coordinate with its participating end-use customers if and as necessary to correspondingly decrease their loads for the duration of such demand response events. Some actions associated with the demand response activities could occur at BPA facilities such as making adjustments to computer models; performing timely computer model runs to support an activity; or, analyzing data. Other actions could occur at existing facilities or on real property of the participating customer utility or its participating end-use customer such as recruiting or notifying participants; monitoring participants' meters; turning off irrigation-water pumps; or, controlling operations of water-heaters. No change to existing conditions would be anticipated within or contiguous to previously disturbed or developed areas where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible. The activities would not involve construction; ground disturbance; changes to existing water rights; or installation of new, permanent equipment.

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/ Sandra Ackley

Sandra Ackley

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 22, 2018

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed action and explains why the activities 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: Power Management Demand Response Activities

Project Site Description

Actions associated with demand response would be conducted within the BPA service territory; at BPA facilities or at existing facilities or on real property of participating customer utilities or their participating end-use customers. No change to existing conditions would be anticipated within or contiguous to previously disturbed or developed areas where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible. The activities would not involve construction, ground disturbance, changes to existing water rights, or installation of new, permanent equipment.

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> No change to existing conditions would be anticipated within or contiguous to previously disturbed or developed areas where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible. Demand Response activities would not involve construction, ground disturbance, or installation of new, permanent equipment. Therefore, there would be no potential to effect historic or cultural resources.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would be required.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No plants, including any ESA-listed plants, would be disturbed.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No wildlife or wildlife habitat, including ESA-listed wildlife and habitat, would be disturbed.		
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 change in the existing water-rights, such as the amount of water or withdrawal location, would be required. No ground disturbance that would disturb water bodies or floodplains would be required. No fish or riparian and aquatic habitats, including ESA-listed fish and habitat, would be disturbed.		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No ground disturbance or change in hydrology that would disturb wetlands would be required.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No change in the existing water-rights, would be required. No ground disturbance or excavation that would disturb groundwater or introduce contaminants into groundwater would be required.

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

Explanation: All end-use loads would be previously established at existing facilities or on real property. No change in land use or to specially designated areas would be required.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: All end-use loads would be previously established at existing facilities or on real property. Existing visual quality of the area would not be altered.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: No air quality permits would be required. No ground disturbance or use of heavy equipment that would produce increased dust or emissions would be required.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: No exceedance of local noise regulations would be required.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No change that would result in a human health and safety regulation violation would be required.

Evaluation of Other Integral Elements

The proposed action would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The activities 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: Activities could begin within BPA prior to coordination occurring with a transfer utility. Outreach materials may be developed with and/or distributed to potential transfer utilities and their participants. Surveys may be conducted with transfer utilities and/or with participants involved in demand response events.

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

Signed: /s/ Sandra Ackley
Sandra Ackley, ECP-4

Date: January 22, 2018