

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Watt Equipment LLC Land Acquisition

**Project No.:** TER ID 13-0277

**Project Manager:** Harley Canaday – TERR-3

**Location:** Bingham County, Idaho

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.24 Property Acquisitions

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to acquire 1.84 acres from Watt Equipment LLC, in Bingham County, Idaho. The acquisition of the property would secure BPA's ability to consider communication facilities at this location. The newly created parcel would be located within the southwest portion of tax lot RP0149101; Township 3 South, Range 33 East, Section 35 near an Idaho Power substation. The property would maintain a 100-foot x 200-foot easement along the westerly boundary of the parcel to provide the existing landowner access to the surrounding property.

BPA will conduct environmental analysis for any facility or construction on the property.

**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/ Gene Lynard For  
Nancy A. Wittpenn  
Environmental Protection Specialist

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

Date: January 18, 2018

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 property to be acquired is located in Bingham County, southeast Idaho. It is surrounded by agricultural land and is across the street from Idaho Power and Light's Pingree Substation. Previously disturbed by agricultural use, the property is now covered in sage brush, grasses, and a few trees along the road. Several scattered rock piles and the remnants of an old cabin or shed are also present.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur and the acquisition of this property does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur with this acquisition and the geology and soils in the area would not be affected.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur with this acquisition and no vegetation or habitats would be affected.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur with this acquisition and no wildlife or habitats would be affected.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur with this acquisition and no water bodies, floodplains, or fish would be affected.		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur with this acquisition and no wetlands would be affected.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**    
Explanation: No ground disturbance would occur with this acquisition and no groundwater, nor aquifers, would be affected.
8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**    
Explanation: This property is not in a specially-designated area and the acquisition would not change land use.
9. **Visual Quality**    
Explanation: No ground disturbance would occur with this acquisition and there would be no impact to visual quality in the surrounding area.
10. **Air Quality**    
Explanation: No ground disturbance would occur with this acquisition and there would be no impact to air quality.
11. **Noise**    
Explanation: Noise would not be generated by this acquisition.
12. **Human Health and Safety**    
Explanation: Before purchase, BPA would conduct an Environmental Land Audit to ensure there are no environmental risks due to past or present activities.

### 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:

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: BPA is working with the landowner.

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

Signed: /s/ Gene Lynard For  
Nancy A. Wittpenn, ECT-4

Date: Januray 18, 2018