

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Sickler Control House HVAC Replacement & Asbestos Abatement

Project Manager: Janice Grounds—TEP-CSB-2

Location: Douglas County, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.4 Air conditioning systems for existing equipment, B1.16 Asbestos removal, B2.2 Building and equipment instrumentation

Description of the Proposed Action: The project would consist of removing existing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment, ductwork, controls, accessories, and appurtenances in both the basement and first floor of the control house building. Two variable refrigerant flow (VRF) condensing units would be installed, along with several new control panels. The existing exterior HVAC units are on an existing concrete pad, which would be removed and replaced with a new concrete pad. For the ductwork replacement, some ceiling tiles that contain asbestos would be removed, abated, and disposed of in an approved hazardous materials landfill.

Additionally, some interior pipes would be replaced. The carpet in the main hallway and control room would be removed and replaced with new carpet squares. A new fire alarm and monitoring system with hard-wired smoke detectors would be installed. Lastly, the existing sump pump would be removed and replaced.

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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Motus Staffing & Recruiting

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 16, 2018

Attachments: 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: Sickler Control House HVAC Replacement & Asbestos Abatement

Project Site Description

The project location is at BPA's Sickler Control House in central Washington. The building is located in Section 35 of Township 24 North, Range 20 East. The site is east of the Columbia River, located between Lincoln Rock State Park and Highway 97. The surrounding habitat consists of a shrub/steppe ecosystem.

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"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The BPA contract historian has reviewed the undertaking and determined that the activity would have no potential to cause effects to historic properties. On November 20, 2017, the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) concurred with the determination. The Colville Tribe responded with no interest on November 13, 2017.</p> <p>Some minor soil excavation work would occur in an area immediately adjacent to the control house. This area has had extensive prior disturbance during the original construction of the control house and subsequent landscaping; therefore, a BPA archaeologist has determined that there is no potential to affect cultural resources.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The proposed project involves minimal ground disturbance for replacing the concrete equipment pad. The maximum depth of disturbance would be approximately 3 to 4 feet. Best management practices (BMPs) would be utilized to avoid spills and leaks from construction equipment and to prevent erosion of soils.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The ground-disturbing activities are in an area that is landscaped with sod and ornamental shrubs; therefore, there would be no impact to special-status plants.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The proposed project would occur within a fenced facility which does not have good quality habitat; therefore, there would be no impact to special-status wildlife.</p>		

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



Explanation: No water bodies, floodplains, or fish are present within the project area.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are present within the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No impact to groundwater or aquifers would occur.

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



Explanation: No land use changes are proposed. All work would occur at an existing facility.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The visual quality would remain unchanged.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: There may be a small amount of dust and vehicle emissions during construction; however, there would be no significant changes to air quality during or after construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Temporary noise would occur during the installation of the outdoor equipment but the impact would be negligible.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impact to human health and safety. The building is known to have lead and asbestos materials in the construction materials. For protection of human health, workers would be required to comply with relevant Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards. Asbestos and lead-containing construction materials would be disposed of at a BPA-approved landfill, in accordance with Federal and local regulations.

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 facility is a BPA fee-owned property. There are no adjacent landowners that would be affected by this project; therefore, landowner notification would not be required.

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

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger
Beth Belanger, ECT-4
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Staffing & Recruiting

Date: March 16, 2018