

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Ponderosa Substation Interconnection Equipment for PacifiCorp

Project No.: 3,836

Project Manager: Emmanuel Jaramillo, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Crook County and Deschutes County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to install and upgrade equipment at its Ponderosa Substation, as well as at its LaPine and Redmond substations. The equipment additions would respond to a request from PacifiCorp (PAC) for the interconnection equipment to help accommodate their electric loads in the area.

The proposed work at the Ponderosa Substation would include installing equipment (cabinets for line and UR relays, RAS controllers, SCADA, etc.) within the control house and installing underground fiber optic cable within the fenced substation yard between Control House 1 and 2 and to a vault near the fence line. The work may also include new footings and the installation of two circuit breakers and three disconnects within the substation yard.

In addition, the La Pine Substation and Redmond Substation would require installation of equipment (UR relays) inside the existing control houses.

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/ Michelle Colletti
Michelle Colletti
Physical Scientist, EPR-4

Concur:

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

Date: *April 26, 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

All work would occur on previously disturbed soils within substation fence lines or in existing substation control houses. The surrounding areas are low density rural and agricultural land.

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> According to the scope of the proposed work, the activity is not a type that would result in changes in the character or use of historic properties. All work would be conducted within the existing substation yard. In the event of an inadvertent discovery, work will immediately cease and the Oregon SHPO and BPA archaeologist will be notified.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance will occur in the substation yard to install new fiber tunnels and vaults. Erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be used to stabilize soil during and after construction.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species are present.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species or designated habitats are present. All work would be performed in the substation yard.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no federal special status species, water bodies, or flood plains within the project area.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No wetlands are present in the project area.		

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Explanation: No wells or use of groundwater proposed. Spill prevention measures would be present on the site during construction.

8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas

Explanation: No land use would be affected and the work would not be in specially-designated areas.

9. Visual Quality

Explanation: Addition of equipment will be visually consistent with the existing substation.

10. Air Quality

Explanation: Small amounts of dust and vehicle emissions due to construction. Dust abatement BMPS would be used to control construction impacts.

11. Noise

Explanation: Construction noise would be temporary and localized.

12. Human Health and Safety

Explanation: No impact to human health and safety is anticipated.

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: All work would take place on BPA fee-owned land and adjacent landowners would not be affected.

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

Signed: /s/ Michelle Colletti
Michelle Colletti, EPR-4
Physical Scientist

Date: April 26, 2018