

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Vault toilet installation at Lake Billy Shaw

**Project No.:** 1995-015-00

**Project Manager:** Cecelia Brown, EWM-4

**Location:** Lake Billy Shaw, Duck Valley Indian Reservation, Owyhee, Nevada.

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.15 Support Buildings

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to provide funding to the Shoshone Paiute Indian Tribes for the installation of two prefabricated concrete CXT-style toilets. These sealed vault toilets will replace two portable toilet units on site now. They are each located along existing roads at existing heavily impacted day-use areas on the western shore of Lake Billy Shaw. Lake Billy Shaw is an artificial lake formed by a dam across Billy Shaw Slough, a tributary to the Owyhee River.

**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/ Robert W. Shull

Robert W. Shull

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

FirstTekDOS, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard For

Chad Hamel

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 8, 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

Activities will occur along the western shore of Lake Billy Shaw, an artificial reservoir on Billy Shaw Slough, a tributary to the Owyhee River in Humboldt County in northern Nevada. Both toilet locations are at existing shoreline recreation sites characterized by compacted barren core areas surrounding roadway loops at the terminus of local access roads. The surrounding habitat type is the Intermountain Cold Desert Shrub, dominated by sagebrush and greasewood, with a willow-dominated riparian community along the reservoir’s shores. The toilets will be located on un-vegetated compacted soils on the footprint of existing portable toilet units.

### 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> Cultural resource surveys of both sites were conducted in late 2017. No cultural or historic properties were identified in the survey. Consultation with Nevada SHPO and tribes was completed on 5/8/18 with concurrence that no historic properties would be affected.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There is no remarkable soil or geologic features at the sites. The site is denuded and compacted by heavy recreation use. Excavation for the vault and erection of the toilet will have limited, if any effect on soil and geologic values.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no plants to be disturbed at the construction sites. The site is denuded and compacted by heavy recreation use. Toilet construction will not damage vegetation, nor attract increased visitation that might denude a larger area.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no federal/state special status species present. The current level of recreational activity at the sites has already displaced native wildlife that might otherwise use this upland or shoreline habitat. Construction of these toilets will neither increase nor reverse this impact.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The installation of these toilets will be along the shore of the reservoir, but it will be above the narrow riparian shoreline strip on a denuded upland site in what would otherwise be high desert scrub habitats.		

This toilet installation will have no effect on waterbodies, floodplains or fish.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: The installation of these toilets will be along the shore of the reservoir, but they will not be in wetlands. They will be installed above the narrow riparian shoreline on a denuded high desert upland site. This toilet installation will have no effect on wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: This is an installation of sealed vault toilets, which will be pumped on a regular basis. There will be no open pits. There will be no potential to impact groundwater.

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



Explanation: This toilet construction would require no change in land use and the sites are not within specially-designated areas. There would be no changes to land use and no impact to specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: These toilets will be installed in a location currently occupied by portable toilet units that are NOT designed or colored to be compatible with the surrounding landscape. The new toilets are of concrete structure with a wood-textured exterior in a color designed to be compatible with the surrounding high desert landscape. Visual quality will be maintained or improved.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: These toilet units would not emit pollutants and would have no potential to degrade air quality.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: These toilet units will not be mechanized and will not produce noise. The soundscape around Lake Billy Shaw will not be altered by installation of these toilets.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: The new toilets will be more consistently available and reliable than the current temporary structures now in place. Human health and safety conditions will be maintained or improved by the replacement of existing portable toilets with permanent sealed-vault CXT toilets.

### **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: The landowner (Shoshone Paiute Tribes on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation) is the proponent for this action and there are no other landowners nearby. The tribe has an information and engagement process for tribal members for projects funded by BPA each year. This project has been reviewed by tribal members.

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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/ Robert W. Shull  
Robert W. Shull – ECF-4  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
FirstTekDOS, LLC

Date: June 8, 2018