

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Spare Transformer Installation at Central Ferry Substation

Project No. (if applicable): 3,908

Project Manager: Sarah Sprague, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Garfield County, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.11 Electric Power Substations and Interconnection Facilities

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to add equipment at the Central Ferry Substation to accommodate load growth and prevent transformer overloading due to inadvertent flow. The new electrical equipment to be installed is a spare 230/500 kV transformer. The new substation equipment would be installed on concrete pads for stability

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

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel
Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: September 28, 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 Central Ferry Substation is located in Garfield County, WA. Nearby land uses include farmland and steep sloped rangeland.

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 proposed improvements to the Central Ferry Substation would all occur within the substation fence. A cultural resource study was conducted of the substation footprint prior to construction. As a result of the survey, no cultural resources were identified within the substation boundary. The footprint of the substation was heavily disturbed by construction, and the potential to contain undiscovered, intact cultural resources is extremely low. I have discussed this project with BPA archaeologist Kurt Perkins, who has determined that this project has no potential to cause effects to historic properties, and no further review under Section 106 is required.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> At Central Ferry, temporary soil disturbance would be less than 1 acre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion and sediment controls for soil stabilization would be implemented.✓ Vehicles would be limited to access roads and immediate work areas.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No federal/state special-status plant species are present within the project areas. All disturbance activities would occur within the existing substation fence line.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species or designated habitats are present. All work would be performed in the substation yard. There would be minimal potential disturbance to wildlife in the vicinity from the noise generated or the vehicular traffic to and from sites.</p>		

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

Explanation: There are no federal/state special status species, water bodies, or flood plains found within the project area.

6. Wetlands

Explanation: No wetlands are present in the project area.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Explanation: No wells or use of groundwater are proposed. An oil containment system would be located around the new transformers to prevent oil from entering the drainage system during a catastrophic event. Spill prevention measures would be present on-site during construction.

8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas

Explanation: The project area is located primarily in existing transmission line right-of-way. No special restrictions apply and no additional land use evaluation has occurred.

9. Visual Quality

Explanation: Addition of equipment would 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.

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
Physical Scientist, EPR-4

Date: September 28, 2018