

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: BPA Equipment Removal and Transfer within Surprise Valley Electric Cooperative's Canby Substation

Project Manager: Rasha Kroonen, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Modoc County, California

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to transfer ownership of three potential transformers (PT) and a meter house, and the easement rights to that equipment to Surprise Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC). The PTs, meter house, and easement rights are located within SVEC's Canby Substation adjacent to BPA's Canby Substation. BPA also proposes to remove three current transformers (CT) plus equipment in the meter house from SVEC's Canby Substation. The three CTs and their respective steel pedestals would be unbolted from the concrete pads (the pads would remain in place). No ground disturbing activity would occur.

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/ Nancy Wittpenn FOR

Tish Eaton
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Office

Date: October 11, 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.

Proposed Action: BPA Equipment Removal and Transfer within Surprise Valley Electric Cooperative’s Canby Substation

Project Site Description

SVEC’s Canby Substation is located adjacent to BPA’s Canby Substation on land disturbed during the original substation construction. Topography is flat with vegetation consisting of weeds and some grasses. Adjacent land use is agricultural with some rural residences within 0.25 miles. High voltage transmission lines cross between the two substations.

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> Because SVEC’s Canby Substation is not owned by BPA, no potential to effect determination was made by BPA contract historian Tama Tochiara on October 1, 2017.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would occur.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present.		
7. Groundwater and Aquifers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present.		
8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present.		

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: While substation equipment would be removed, the look of SVEC's substation would remain the same. Viewers from nearby residences would not likely notice a difference.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: No ground disturbance would occur.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Noise may be generated by equipment during removal of three CTs although it would be of short duration.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: None present.

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: None necessary because the project is located within SVEC's Canby Substation.

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

Signed: /s/ Nancy Wittpenn FOR
Tish Eaton, ECT-4
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: October 11, 2018