

Project title: Pleasant Valley Substation Pole Replacement and Switch Installation Project			
Requested By: Mike Jackson	Mail Code: N5700	Phone: 916-353-4031	
Date Submitted: 11-16-18	Date Required: 11-17-2018		

Description of the Project

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Sierra Nevada Region (SNR), proposes to replace a wooden power pole outside the Pleasant Valley Substation and install a switch on this new pole in order to improve safety for electricians working at the Pleasant Valley Substation.

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) owns a 69 kV line that runs along Fresno – Coalinga Rd in Fresno County. There’s a tap off this line that feeds Pleasant Valley Substation, a small substation owned by WAPA, and the substation feeds the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Pleasant Valley Pumping Plant at 28400 Fresno Rd in Coalinga, CA, in Fresno County. There are two old switches on either side of the tap that PG&E used to open so maintenance and repairs could be done at the substation, but due to their age, PG&E will no longer open these switches under load. Switching is now accomplished at two subs over 10 miles away and coordination is time-consuming and a safety concern. The last time switches were operated at these locations, the switches were inadvertently closed while electricians were still performing work inside the substation. This poses a serious safety issue.

In order to remedy this issue, WAPA proposes to place a manually operated 70kV switch on the pole immediately outside the substation. Due to the installation of the switch, the pole will need to be replaced. WAPA plans to use a glue lam pole for this replacement in order to eliminate the need for guy wires. The new pole will be placed in approximately the same location as the existing pole, however the location may shift up to six feet, depending on engineering and land owner requirements.

- Map(s)**
See attached Maps
- Figures(s)**
See attached Figures
- Work Order Number - 100395503**

To be completed by Environment Only

Action taken	
Note: All Documentation is Attached	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exclusion (CX)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integral Elements
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Assessment (EA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEPA Attachment Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Requirements/Mitigation
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Determinations: Biological Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Maps/Figures



Determination: Based on my review of information provided to me concerning the proposed action as NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the categorical exclusion listed above. Therefore, I have determined that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.


 Gerald Robbins, Environment Manager

11/19/2018
 Date Approved

bcc:	File Code:	Assigned to: Tish Saare	Project #:	Environmental Specialist Tish Saare
Western Area Power Administration Sierra Nevada Region		CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION		Project Number 100395503

Integral Elements

WAPA Sierra Nevada Region Pleasant Valley Substation Pole Replacement and Switch Installation Project

B4.6 Additions and Modifications to Transmission Facilities

Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities within a previously disturbed or developed facility area. Covered activities include, but are not limited to, switchyard rock grounding upgrades, secondary containment projects, paving projects, seismic upgrading, tower modifications, load shaping projects (such as the installation and use of flywheels and battery arrays), changing insulators, and replacement of poles, circuit breakers, conductors, transformers, and crossarms.

Regulatory Requirements for a Categorical Exclusion Determination: The Department of Energy (DOE), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021.410(b) require the following determinations be made in order for a proposed action to be categorically excluded (see full text in regulation).

1. The proposed action fits within a class of actions listed in Appendices A and B to Subpart D. For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements; i.e., to fit within a class, the proposal must not:
 - a. Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders;
 - b. Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include categorically excluded facilities;



- c. 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 un-permitted releases; or
 - d. Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B;
 - e. 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 listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal which may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal;
2. The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. The proposal is not connected to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions requiring preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Results of Review: In accordance with DOE environmental regulations (10 CFR 1021), WAPA has reviewed the proposed action in terms of the level of NEPA review needed. Based on this review, WAPA has determined the proposal is encompassed within a class of actions listed in Appendix B to Subpart D (10 CFR 1021.410) which do not require preparation of either an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA).

The proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.





Western Area
Power Administration

Western Area Power Administration,

SIERRA NEVADA REGION

NEPA Attachment Sheet

Project Number
100395503

PROJECT TITLE:

WAPA Sierra Nevada Region Pleasant Valley Substation Pole Replacement and Switch Installation Project

REVIEW ACTION:

WAPA proposes to replace an existing PG&E pole with a glue lam pole and install a manually operated 70 kV switch on the new pole.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT:

Pleasant Valley Substation is located off of West Ford Avenue near Hwy 145 in Fresno County. This area has a Mediterranean climate, which is characterized by hot, dry summers and damp to wet, mild winters. The substation is composed of flat terrain and surrounded by orchards and other agricultural operations.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESULTS:

- There are no cultural resource sites in the project area. The installation of a new pole will be in highly disturbed soils from the original construction of the canal and other facilities nearby.
- This action is covered by WAPA Programmatic Agreement, "Programmatic Agreement Among the WAPA the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the California State Historic Preservation Officer Concerning Emergency and Routine Maintenance Activities and Other Routine Activities at WAPA Facilities in California," revised March, 2010. (PA reference-B.III.11). This action will be included in WAPA's annual report.
- Natural Resources will be contacted immediately if archeological, paleontological, or historic evidence is found.

BIOLOGICAL RESULTS:

- Studies conducted, in order to evaluate potential impacts of the proposed project on special status species and/or their habitats, included background research to determine which special-status species and their habitats may occur within the project area and a review of habitat types in the project area.
- The project area is largely disturbed, consisting of a substation and access roads. It is also completely surrounded by agricultural use. No special status species are anticipated in the project area. Project conservation measures appearing below will be adhered to in order to avoid potential impacts to migratory birds.



- Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, migratory bird species and their nests and eggs are protected from injury or death. Impacts to migratory bird nests shall be avoided during the nesting season (defined as March 1 through August 31 in this area). If project activities occur during the nesting season, WAPA will survey the project area for migratory bird nests prior to project activities and establish appropriate buffers around any active nests that may potentially be disturbed. If work must be conducted within these buffers, a WAPA supplied biological monitor will be on site for project activities within the buffers. If the biological monitor determines that activities are likely to cause nest impacts or nest abandonment, then project activities in the area shall be postponed or adjusted until nestlings have fledged, the nest is no longer active, or the activities are not likely to cause nest impacts or nest abandonment.
- Excavated material will not be stock piled or deposited where they could be washed away by high water or storm run-off. In areas where excavation is not required, vegetation will be left in place whenever possible and original contours maintained in an undisturbed condition.
- Environmental will be contacted immediately if there is a "take" of a special status species or action affecting their critical habitat.
- If used, survey stakes will be removed as a part of the final clean up.
- Unknown Occurrence of Protected Species or Habitat: If evidence of a protected species is found in the project area, the contractor shall immediately notify the COR and provide the location and nature of the findings. The contractor shall stop all activity in the vicinity of the protected species or habitat and not proceed until directed to do so by the COR.

COMPLIANCE RESULTS

Recycled Materials Quantities: All materials generated from the project that can be recycled, shall be recycled. Submit quantities of all recycled material by category to the COR within 30 days of recycling and prior to submittal of final invoice. Record quantities of material by category that is salvaged, recycled, reused, or reprocessed.

Disposal of Waste Material: Waste materials will be disposed in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local regulations and ordinances. The project manager will coordinate with the COR and WAPA Environmental regarding sampling and signatures on manifests for waste materials if required.

Any wood waste treated with a preservative must be properly disposed or recycled in accordance with California regulations. It is not acceptable to place TWW in a commercial dumpster. TWW includes: poles, cross arms, pilings, fence posts, lumber, and support timbers. The TWW must go to a licensed landfill or recycling facility with a Consumer Information Document and be reported to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control within 30-days of disposal.

General Conformity Appendix B: Since the cited categorical exclusion is listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, a general conformity review is required for this project, pursuant to Clean Air Act General Conformity Requirements and the National Environmental Policy Act Process guidance document published by Department of Energy in April, 2000.



The project is located in Fresno County, and is within the jurisdiction of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) The SJVAPCD published Small Project Analysis Level guidance. This guidance pre-quantifies emissions based on project size and determined project sizes below which it is reasonable to conclude that a project would not exceed applicable thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants. In that guidance in Table 5-3 it lists an Industrial Project with less than 1506 trips per day as a small project. This project is not anticipated to require more than 1506 trips per day, and can thus be categorized as a small project, and will not exceed applicable thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants.

Citation here: <http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/CEQA%20Rules/GAMAQI-SPAL.PDF>

Prevention of Air Pollution: Federal law requires the protection of air quality under the Clean Air Act. All activities on this project shall be compliant with Federal, State, and local regulations. In particular, California Air Resources Board regulations apply to diesel equipment and trucks as well as fleets of large spark ignition equipment. Also, the project is located within the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District jurisdiction and is subject to the local rules from that agency. In particular, rule VIII pertains to PM10 pollution (dust) from construction and excavation activities, paved and unpaved roads.

Air Quality Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measures apply for all construction projects in the jurisdiction of SJVAPCD. (citation here: <http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/Mitigation-Measures.pdf>)

- 1) All on-site unpaved roads and off-site unpaved access roads shall be effectively stabilized of dust emissions using water or chemical stabilizer/suppressant.
- 2) All land clearing, grubbing, scraping, excavation, land leveling, grading, cut & fill, and demolition activities shall be effectively controlled of fugitive dust emissions utilizing application of water or by presoaking.
- 3) With the demolition of buildings up to six stories in height, all exterior surfaces of the building shall be wetted during demolition.
- 4) When materials are transported off-site, all material shall be covered, or effectively wetted to limit visible dust emissions, and at least six inches of freeboard space from the top of the container shall be maintained.
- 5) All operations shall limit or expeditiously remove the accumulation of mud or dirt from adjacent public streets at the end of each workday. (The use of dry rotary brushes is expressly prohibited except where preceded or accompanied by sufficient wetting to limit the visible dust emissions.) (Use of blower devices is expressly forbidden.)
- 6) Following the addition of materials to, or the removal of materials from, the surface of outdoor storage piles, said piles shall be effectively stabilized of fugitive dust emissions utilizing sufficient water or chemical stabilizer/suppressant.
- 7) Within urban areas, trackout shall be immediately removed when it extends 50 or more feet from the site and at the end of each workday.
- 8) An owner/operator of any site with 150 or more vehicle trips per day, or 20 or more vehicle trips per day by vehicles with three or more axles shall implement measures to prevent carryout and trackout.



Prevention of Water Pollution:

- Clean Water Act Section 401: No part of the project area involves waters of the U.S. or waters of the state of California, and project activities do not involve changes to water quality.
- Clean Water Act Section 402(d):
- This project involves trenching with collective ground disturbance totaling less than one acre. While best management practices will apply, the requirements of a General Construction Storm Water Permit are not applicable to the project.
- Clean Water Act Section 404: No part of the project area involves waters of the U.S. or waters of the state of California, nor does it involve dredging or discharges of fill material to waters of the U.S. or waters of the state of California.

Compliance Regulatory Requirements:

- Erosion control measures to be taken to prevent sediment from reaching waterways.
 - No violations of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders will be permitted.
 - To avoid adversely affecting environmentally sensitive resources there will be no uncontrolled or un-permitted releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum and natural gas products.
 - In the event of a hazardous material/waste spill, Environment and the COR will be contacted, WAPA Dispatch notified, and the appropriate Federal, State, and local regulating authority notified depending on the type and size of the spill.
 - Ensure proper management and disposal of hazardous materials/waste (i.e., fuel, concrete and pavement-related materials and waste, etc.).
 - All spills of fuel or hydraulic fluid would be immediately cleaned up according to WAPA's guidelines for hazardous material handling.
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