

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Keeler Substation Equipment Replacement

**PP&A No.:** 4290

**Project Manager:** Lawrence Carter, TEPF-CSB-2

**Location:** Washington 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:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to replace and relocate existing potential transformers (PTs), modify an existing concrete footing, and replace existing bus support footings. The proposed work would occur on BPA-owned land within the substation fence line at Keeler Substation.

Equipment used to perform this work may include a combination of the following: dump trucks, bulldozers, backhoes, excavators, and work trucks. All disturbed areas would be restored at the end of the project.

**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, Jul. 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/ Philip Smith for*  
Justin P. Johnson  
Environmental Engineer

Concur:

*/s/ Katey C. Grange*  
Katey C. Grange  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *October 24, 2019*

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:** Keeler Substation Equipment Replacement

## Project Site Description

The project would take place within the previously disturbed substation yard, which is surrounded by business and industrial land uses. Keeler Substation is located approximately 1,950 feet west of Rock Creek. There are no wetlands or floodplains located adjacent to the substation.

## 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> The BPA Historian has reviewed the undertaking and determined that there would be no potential to effect historic properties. All work proposed as part of this project would take place within the previously disturbed substation yard; therefore, there is no potential for effect to cultural resources.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All ground-disturbing activities proposed as part of this project would take place within the previously disturbed substation yard. The proposed work would not substantially impact geology and soils.		
3. <b>Plants</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 in the project area.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project area does not include habitat for any special status species. There would be no effect to ESA-listed species in the area.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No in water work is proposed for this project and there are no floodplains present within the proposed work area. Best management practices would be used during construction to prevent sediment from migrating off site during ground disturbing activities and to keep concrete washout in designated areas.		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Best management practices would be used during construction to prevent sediment from migrating off site during ground disturbing activities and to keep concrete washout in designated areas.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: Ground excavation would not be to a depth that would intersect ground water. Best management practices would be used during construction to prevent sediment from migrating off site during ground disturbing activities and to keep concrete washout in designated areas.

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

Explanation: No change in land use would occur and project activities would not impact land use. No specially designated areas were identified within the project limits.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: There would be no change to the visual quality of the area as a result of the proposed activities.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: A small amount of vehicle emissions and dust may occur during construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operational noise of the transmission line would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: During project activity all standard safety protocols would be followed. A site-specific health and safety plan would be prepared and implemented to address any hazards during the proposed work. Project activities would not impact human health or safety.

### **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: N/A

- 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: N/A

- 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: N/A

- 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: N/A

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**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: All activities would take place on BPA-owned land.

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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/ Philip Smith for  
Justin P. Johnson  
Environmental Engineer

Date: October 24, 2019