

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Fairview Substation Reactor Addition and Containment Installation

PP&A No.: 3987

Project Manager: Rasha Kroonen – TEP-TPP-1

Location: Coos County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 – Routine Maintenance, B1.6 – Tanks and equipment to control runoff and spills

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to upgrade the existing equipment at Fairview Substation. This project is necessary to meet the NERC transmission system requirements.

The outdoor electrical work would include the installation and replacement of 230 kV, 115 kV, 13.8 kV and 240V equipment including:

- one, 230/115kV power transformer;
- two, new 115kV reactor banks and breakers;
- one, 115kV power circuit breaker;
- Three, 13.8kV station service transformers; and
- 230kV, 115kV, and 13.8kV voltage and current transformers, disconnect switches, surge arresters, along with associated bus, conduit, grounding, and cables.

The indoor electrical work would include the installation of protective relaying, installation of new batteries and chargers, new external termination frames, replacement of line instrumentation, and installation of a new server system.

Civil work associated with the project would include installation of new footings and removal of existing footings, as well as trenching for the installation of conduit and cables. Additionally, a secondary containment system for the new transformer would be installed to protect nearby water resources. The secondary containment system would consist of a liner, piping, and containment vaults. Temporary construction erosion control measures would be implemented during ground disturbing activities.

All project activities would be conducted within the substation fenceline. Equipment that would be likely to be used for this project would include a combination of the following: dump trucks, bulldozers, backhoes, excavators, cranes, and work trucks.

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/ Emma Reinemann

Emma Reinemann

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange

Date: January 27, 2020

Katey Grange

NEPA Compliance Officer

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 project area is located within the fenceline of the BPA Fairview Substation, located approximately five miles northeast of the town of Coquille, Oregon in Coos County. The area consists of graveled yard, substation equipment, transmission lines, and the control house. There is a forested wetland located southwest of the substation connected to a small tributary to the Coquille River. The surrounding land use is agricultural.

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>The project area is located within the substation fenceline, which has been previously disturbed. Project activities would not affect the historic character of the substation; therefore, the proposed project activities would have no effect on historic and cultural resources.</p> <p>In the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, archaeologist, and project manager. Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering. Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project includes ground-disturbing activity within the previously disturbed substation yard. The yard would be re-rocked at the conclusion of the project. Native soil and geology would not be disturbed.</p>		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No known federal/special status species are present in the project area. The substation yard is rocked, so no vegetation would be impacted during activities within the substation fenceline.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area does not include habitat for any special-status species. There would be no effect beyond temporary noise disturbance to wildlife in the area.</p>		

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

Explanation: No in-water work is proposed for this project. A secondary containment system would be installed for the new oil-filled equipment which would prevent the transformer from releasing oil into nearby water bodies. Additionally, a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan would be designed and implemented during construction to ensure best practices for oil handling during removal and decommissioning of the old transformer and filling the new transformer. Stormwater best management practices would also be followed during construction to prevent sediment from leaving the substation site.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: A forested wetland is located to the southeast of the project. A secondary containment system would be installed for the new oil-filled equipment which would prevent the transformer from releasing oil into the wetland. Additionally, a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan would be designed and implemented during construction to ensure best practices for oil handling during transformer scrapping and filling the new transformer. Stormwater best management practices would also be followed during construction to prevent sediment from leaving the substation site.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: Spill prevention measures would be utilized during construction activities. The project would not provide a pathway for groundwater contamination.

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: The project would have a small temporary impact on air quality from a small amount of vehicle emissions and dust during construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. The operational noise of the substation and associated transmission lines would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: During project activity all standard safety protocols would be followed. 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: NA

- 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: NA

- 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: Samples would be taken to ensure that soils and footings removed by this project would be properly disposed of. Additionally, a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan would be designed and implemented during construction to ensure best practices for handling oil on site.

- 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: NA

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The proposed work would occur on BPA-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/ Emma Reinemann Date: January 27, 2020

Emma Reinemann
Physical Scientist (Environmental)