

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Grizzly Substation Equipment Installation

**Project No.:** P03456

**Project Manager:** Mike Henjum, TEPS-TPP-1

**Location:** Jefferson County, Oregon

**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 replace electrical equipment at BPA's Grizzly Substation. Replacement of several disconnect switches, three risers, two neutral CTs, one set of voltage arresters, and an emergency generator is required due to the end of the equipment's economic life. The associated footings would also be replaced or reinforced in order to comply with BPA's structural design standards.

An existing staging area adjacent to the electrical switchyard would be used during this project. Otherwise, all project activities would occur within the existing fenced in electrical switchyard.

**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/ Christopher H. Furey  
Christopher H. Furey  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange August 26, 2020  
Katey C. Grange and Date  
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.

**Proposed Action:** Grizzly Substation Equipment Installation

## **Project Site Description**

The project is located at the existing BPA Grizzly Substation property. The equipment would be installed within the fenced substation. The site is located in Oregon Township 12 South, Range 14 East, and Section 35. The surrounding topography consists of undeveloped high desert and desert grasslands. A freshwater emergent wetland is located over 1 mile south of the substation and 1.1 miles northwest of the substation. Willow Creek and McMeen Creek are located about 1.1 miles north of the substation.

## **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The BPA archaeologist reviewed the proposed activities and determined that these activities at the project area do not have potential to cause effects to historic and cultural resources. The proposed work would take place at the Grizzly Substation with no new ground disturbance.

### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be minimal soil disturbance for installation of the equipment in the substation. All work is occurring at the substation property with any disturbance limited to within the existing perimeter of the fenced in switchyard and the adjacent staging area. Best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented to limit soil transport by wind. Spoils from excavation for installation/removal of equipment or spill cleanup would be disposed of according to all local, state, and federal regulations.

### **3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not impact plants because all work would occur within the substation and adjacent gravel staging area.

### **4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project would occur on Grizzly Substation property with no expected impact to wildlife.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project would occur on Grizzly Substation property without impacts to water bodies, floodplains, and fish. Appropriate Best Management Practice (BMP) would be utilized to keep sediment from entering waterways.

## **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project would occur on Grizzly Substation property with no wetlands, so no impacts to wetlands would occur. Appropriate BMPs would be utilized to keep sediment from entering wetlands.

## **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Any digging would not be more than a few feet within the substation and the project would not impact groundwater or aquifers. Spill prevention measures would be utilized during project activities.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project would occur on Grizzly Substation property consistent with existing substation land use without impacts to land use and specially designated areas.

## **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project would be consistent with the visual quality of the Grizzly Substation property without impacts to current visual quality.

## **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during installation. Dust would be kept to a minimum by adhering to BMPs to limit wind and water erosion of soils to water bodies.

## **11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary construction noise would occur during daylight hours. No ongoing noise increase.

## 12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project would occur on Grizzly Substation property without expected lasting impacts to human health and 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: 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: 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: 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: N/A

### Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: Grizzly Substation is a BPA substation.

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

Signed: /s/ Christopher H. Furey August 26, 2020  
Christopher H. Furey, ECT-4 date  
Environmental Protection Specialist