

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Pott Road Building Removal

Project No.: 1997-051-00

Project Manager: Michelle O'Malley, EWU-4

Location: Kittitas County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.23 Demolition and disposal of building; B1.20 Protection of cultural resources, fish and wildlife habitat

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund Yakama Nation Fisheries- Yakima Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP) for the removal of a house, outbuildings, invasive trees, and debris at the Alliance/Juniper Village property on North Pott Road. Building removal and site cleanup would allow for future fish and wildlife habitat restoration on the site.

The proposed project would include the complete removal of the approximately 1,000-square-foot, single-story house and an old brick structure of unknown use. The gravel driveway leading to the house would be removed. Miscellaneous debris on the project site would also be removed, including old garage building material. The house is a post and beam construction, while the brick building is stacked brick with no apparent floor. The brick building has a majority of its interior material disassembled and removed. Demolition would include complete removal of structures, foundation, utility piping, and septic from the project site. The demolition contractor would be responsible for obtaining a demolition permit from the City of Ellensburg. If asbestos is found on site, the contractor would hire an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)-certified hazardous material abatement contractor who would be required to file an abatement plan with the Department of Ecology's Central Regional Office verifying all air quality requirements would be met.

A large excavator would be used to break apart the house from top to bottom, the excavator would then stockpile or directly load debris into dump trucks to be hauled off-site. The excavator would then break apart all concrete slabs and foundation materials. Trenching would then take place using an excavator to track power, water, and septic lines from the house. Trenches would be 3 feet wide and 3 feet deep. The complete removal of the septic system and all piping up to 15 feet from the adjacent city road and 150 feet from the edge of the water would be removed. The excavator would also be used to remove crack willow (*Salix fragilis*) trees surrounding the house and outbuildings. This would give access to buildings in order to remove them fully while also removing an invasive species. Upon project completion, YKFP would implement a planting plan for the demolition area. YKFP would revegetate the site with native plants, potentially including willows (*Salix spp.*), blue elderberry (*Sambucus ceruiea*), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), and golden currant (*Ribes aurem*). This planting plan would be included to minimize and control the

remaining invasive plants that would regrow in the absence of the structures. Mechanical and chemical removal of invasive plants would be proposed for any invasive regrowth.

Funding the proposed activities is consistent with BPA's 2020 Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Washington and would support BPA's ongoing efforts to mitigate for effects of the Federal Columbia River Power System on fish and wildlife in the mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries pursuant to the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 (Northwest Power Act) (16 U.S.C. 839 et seq.).

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/ Catherine Clark

Catherine Clark
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. 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.

Proposed Action: Pott Road Building Removal

Project Site Description

The Pott Road Building Removal site is located in Ellensburg, Washington. The property is on Yakama Nation owned lands with the surrounding property being owned by the City of Ellensburg. The vegetation type is predominately grass species in the upland areas. The closest waterbody to the project site is Reecer Creek approximately 190 feet from the closest structure and septic removal approximately 150 feet from the waterway.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A BPA Archaeologist conducted National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultations with the Washington (WA) State Historic Preservation Office (DAHP) and the YN Cultural Resources Group. BPA determined that the implementation would result in no historic properties affected (WA 2021 116). WA DAHP concurred with BPA's determination on January 25th 2023. No additional responses were received within 30 days.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Heavy equipment that would be utilized in the demolition of the property would access the property via already existing travel routes, including paved city road. Soil disturbance would stay within an area that is approximately 1 acre in size and be limited to removing the septic system, the associated piping/wiring for the house, the concrete pads, and the out buildings. All debris would be hauled off-site to the proper disposal facilities in the county.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No Federal/state special-status plant species are present within the proposed project site. The vegetation that would be removed is considered invasive. Post-demolition, YKFP would implement a native planting plan for the site in order to inhibit the regrowth of invasive species.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No Federal/state special-status wildlife species or habitat would be impacted by the proposed demolition activities. Wildlife may be temporarily disturbed by demolition noise during implementation.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The demolition activities would occur upland of all water bodies and floodplains in the area. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact to these resources or listed fish species.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands would be disturbed by the proposed activities

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No groundwater or aquifers would be impacted by the proposed activities.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area would continue to be owned and operated by the Yakama Nation as a habitat restoration site. With the demolition of the house and its associated structures, the project area would no longer be a residential location and would be converted into upland habitat post-demolition, which is consistent with the purpose of the property.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed activities of structure demolition and native planting would add visual diversity to the overall area landscape. These activities would not negatively impact the visual quality of the area.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: The proposed demolition activities have the potential to emit loosened asbestos into the air. In general, single-family residential structures contain only small amounts of asbestos insulation, as found in the pre-demolition inspection.

Notes:

- YN's contractor would hire an OSHA certified hazardous material abatement contractor would be required to file an abatement plan with the Department of Ecology's Central Regional Office verifying all air quality requirements would be met.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary increase in ambient noise may occur during demolition activities. Any noise emitted from equipment would be short term and temporary during daylight hours.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed demolition has the potential to emit loosened asbestos into the air. The contractors would be required to follow OSHA certified hazardous material abatement protocols and regulations in order to mitigate for the risk of exposure.

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: YN's contractors would hire an OSHA certified hazardous material abatement contractor who would be required to file an abatement plan with the Department of Ecology's Central Regional Office verifying all air quality requirements would be met.

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: Yakama Nation is the owner and operator of the property with the proposed demolition and is responsible for the actions considered in this CX.

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

Signed: /s/ Catherine Clark March 28, 2023
Catherine Clark Date
Environmental Protection Specialist