

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Equipment Additions to Multiple Substations and Radio Facilities

Project Manager: S. Lissit, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Multiple locations- see table.

County, State	Site
Spokane, WA	Bell Substation
Douglas, WA	Columbia Substation
King, WA	Covington Substation
Lincoln, WA	Creston Substation
Benton, WA	Hanford Substation
Cowlitz, WA	Longview Substation
Benton, WA	Midway Substation
Pierce, WA	South Tacoma Substation
Grant, WA	Vantage Substation
Benton, WA	Wautoma Substation

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.7 Electronic Equipment

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to install equipment in existing substations to improve communication bandwidth used in support of network operations. New telecommunication equipment (including routers, switches, and Ethernet) would be installed and fiber would be tested and spliced at all locations. In addition, existing 48-volt lead acid telecommunication batteries would be removed and replaced. The replaced lead acid batteries would be removed by a qualified contractor and the batteries would be transported to the Hazardous and Toxic Material Handling (HazMat) Facility at BPA's Ross Complex for appropriate disposal and/or recycling.

Additional work, as identified in Table 1, depending on the condition of existing equipment would be completed at the various sites. Chargers would be installed, upgraded, or replaced. Also, alternating current (AC) circuit breakers may require upgrades and new racks may be installed. No structure alterations or ground disturbance would be required for the project.

Table 1: Activities Proposed for Each Site

Installation Site	Install Tele-communication Equipment and Fiber Splicing/Testing ¹	Replace / Upgrade Charger	Replace 48-volt Battery	Install Racks	Install AC Circuit Breaker
Bell Substation	X		X		
Columbia Substation	X		X		
Covington Substation	X		X		
Creston Substation	X	X	X	X	X
Hanford Substation	X		X		
Longview Substation	X		X		
Midway Substation	X	X	X	X	X
South Tacoma Substation	X		X		
Vantage Substation	X	X	X	X	X
Wautoma Substation	X	X	X	X	X

¹ Includes routers, switches, and Ethernet

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/ Katey Grange

Katey Grange
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: March 14, 2016

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: Equipment and Battery Additions to Multiple Substation and Radio Control Facilities

Project Site Description

Work would be conducted in existing BPA buildings.

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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> BPA archaeologist reviewed proposed activities and determined that these types of activities do not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance proposed.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance to plants would occur.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance to wildlife would occur.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance to waterbodies, floodplains, or fish would occur.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance to wwetlands would occur.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No potential for spills to enter ground water resources.

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



Explanation: No changes to existing land uses.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: No changes to the existing visual quality of the facility.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Limited, temporary emissions from vehicles would occur.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Limited temporary construction noise.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Lead acid batteries would be removed by a qualified contractor and disposed of at BPA's Ross HazMat facility.

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:

- 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:

- 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: Lead acid batteries would be removed by a qualified contractor and disposed of at BPA's Ross HazMat facility.

- 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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: All work would be conducted within BPA operated facilities.

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

Signed: /s/ Katey Grange
Katey Grange, ECT-4

Date: March 14, 2016