

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Hat Rock Substation Upgrades

Project Manager: Deborah Staats, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Umatilla County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.1 Electric Power substations and interconnection facilities

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to upgrade equipment and install a Power Control Assembly (PCA) at its Hat Rock Substation, located in Umatilla County, Oregon. The existing equipment is outdated and has become inadequate for providing reliable power to BPA's service area.

The new PCA would be a prefabricated, modular building that is 736 square feet and would function as the new control house. It would house new equipment including: relays, instruments, meters, batteries, and chargers. Station service would be upgraded to accommodate the new PCA. New station service cables would be installed from the new PCA building to a panelboard and would require a 50-foot-long trench at a depth of three feet.

Equipment upgrades would include disconnect switches, potential transformers, current transformers, a surge arrester, batteries, and chargers. Yard conduit and grounding would be updated, as necessary, with minimal ground disturbance to connect new equipment to existing conduit runs. All indoor and outdoor cables and wiring would be replaced.

All existing footings and foundations would be reused, to the extent possible. If footings or foundations must be replaced or added, a maximum of 305 cubic yards of soil and concrete would be cut and then backfilled in place. Staging materials will be placed on existing graveled areas within the existing substation yard. Any contaminated materials would be disposed of in an approved waste management facility. All work for this project would occur within the existing substation fence.

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/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 22, 2016

Attachment: 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: Hat Rock Substation Upgrades

Project Site Description

The project site is located at BPA’s Hat Rock Substation in Umatilla County, Oregon. The project area consists of the graveled yard, substation equipment, transmission lines, and a control house. The substation is located in a rural area. The terrain slopes generally toward the Columbia River, which is approximately 1,000 feet to the north/northwest. The surrounding area is partially undeveloped and partially in agricultural use.

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> Oregon State Historic Preservation Office concurrence on no adverse effect determination on 4/22/2016. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation was consulted; no response was received.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All soil disturbance would be confined to previously disturbed areas inside the substation yard. <u>Mitigation:</u> Erosion and sediment controls would be implemented as necessary to control run-off and prevent off-site transport of sediment. Soil and concrete would be disposed of in an approved waste management facility. No permanent stockpiles would be permitted.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work in previously disturbed substation yard; no plants present.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work in previously disturbed substation yard; no wildlife habitat present.		
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 floodplains or water bodies at the project site. Columbia River is approximately 1,000-feet to the north/northwest but would not be affected by work in the substation yard.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> None present.		

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| 7. Groundwater and Aquifers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> No new wells or use of groundwater proposed.</p> <p><u>Mitigation:</u> Spill prevention kits would be present on site. Fueling shall not take place where any spilled material may enter any natural or manmade drainage conveyance including ditches, catch basins and pipes.</p> | | |
| 8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> All work in existing substation yard.</p> | | |
| 9. Visual Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> Proposed addition of PCA would be consistent with existing conditions.</p> | | |
| 10. Air Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions anticipated during construction.</p> | | |
| 11. Noise | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> Temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.</p> | | |
| 12. Human Health and Safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions.</p> <p><u>Mitigation:</u> Contractor would adhere to Best Management Practices in the Pollution Abatement Clearance. Spill prevention kits would be present on site.</p> | | |

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:

- 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: Hat Rock Substation is owned by BPA and, other than a slight change in visual appearance with the PCA, there will be no effect to adjacent agricultural landowners.

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

Signed: /s/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping

Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: April 22, 2016