

memorandum

DATE: May 31, 2016

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: ECT-4

SUBJECT: Categorical Exclusion Determination – Moxee Substation Equipment Upgrades

TO: Deborah Staats, TEP-TPP-1
Project Manager

Attached to this memorandum is BPA's CX Determination for the Moxee Substation Equipment Upgrades Project. Also included is the CX checklist that supports this determination.

The CX checklist identifies mitigation measures required to help your project meet environmental laws or CX criteria. The EP environmental lead that will help facilitate implementation of mitigation measures required is Shawn Barndt.

Please be aware that if project changes are required that involve new locations to be disturbed not analyzed as part of the CX (such as landing pads, relocations, access road widening, tree clearing, new structures, etc.), you need to immediately contact me, the EC environmental lead, to determine if additional environmental review is required.

/s/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping

Environmental Protection Specialist

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Moxee Substation Equipment Upgrades

Project Manager: Deborah Staats, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Yakima County, Washington

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 upgrade and install equipment at its Moxee Substation, located in Yakima County, Washington. The equipment is outdated and inadequate for providing reliable power to BPA's service region.

Equipment to be added or replaced includes bus tie relays, bus differentials, disconnect switches, surge arrestors, metering, current transformers, and seismic risers. The existing station equipment records/supervisory control and data acquisition (SER/SCADA) would be upgraded per current standards. Conduit and associated wiring would be installed from the new power circuit breaker foundations to the existing manhole system via trenching for 40 feet at a depth of 3 feet. All indoor and outdoor cables and wiring associated with this project would be replaced. All existing footings and foundations would be reused, to the extent possible. If footings or foundations must be replaced, excavation of a maximum of 100 cubic yards of soil and concrete would be required. Retired surfacing, concrete walks, and drain pipes would be disposed of per the Disposal Plan and Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.

BPA is also proposing to install new backup station service to improve redundancy and reliability and meet current electrical needs. PacifiCorp would install three new wood poles outside of the substation fence. Conductor would extend aerially on the new wood poles from PacifiCorp's existing distribution line on Bittner Road to a new meter base adjacent to the substation fence. BPA would then trench approximately 30 feet from the meter base to inside the substation fence to connect the backup station service 12.5 kV line to existing equipment in the substation.

All work would occur within the existing substation fence and no ground disturbance would occur beyond the existing substation footprint.

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/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 31, 2016

Attachment: Environmental Checklist

becc:

G. Lynard – ECT-4

E. Siping – ECT-4

D. Staats – TEP-TPP-1

L. Lippai – TEPO-TPP-1

P. Smith – EPR-4

S. Barndt – EPR-4

H. Adams – LC-7

Official File – EC (EQ-15)

ESiping:eas:4145:4/11/2016

[https://portal.bud.bpa.gov/orgs/efw/KEC/tsrvcs/Projects/CX Moxee Substation Equipment Upgrades.docx](https://portal.bud.bpa.gov/orgs/efw/KEC/tsrvcs/Projects/CX%20Moxee%20Substation%20Equipment%20Upgrades.docx)

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: Moxee Substation Equipment Upgrades

Project Site Description

The project site is located at BPA's Moxee Substation in Yakima County, Washington. The project area consists of the graveled yard, substation equipment, transmission lines, the control house, and the undeveloped area just outside the substation fence. The surrounding terrain generally slopes to the south. The area is partially undeveloped and partially in agricultural use with scattered residences.

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><u>Explanation:</u> The area of potential effects (APE) was surveyed for cultural resources by Applied Archaeological Research in 2015 and no cultural resources were identified. Consultation with tribal parties both directly through this project and through the ongoing consultation in relation to BPA's proposed Midway-Grandview upgrade project has resulted in the identification of no traditional cultural properties at this location. No cultural resources will be affected as a result of this proposed undertaking.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Some soil disturbance would occur within the substation yard (approximately 40 feet of trenching for the new power circuit breaker, approximately 30 feet of trenching for station service connection, and excavation of a maximum of approximately 100 cubic yards of soil and concrete). Minimal soil disturbance would occur outside the substation fence for installation of three wood utility poles.</p> <p><u>Mitigation:</u> Erosion and sediment controls would be employed as needed to control run-off and prevent off-site transport of sediment. Soil and concrete would be disposed of in an approved waste management facility.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The majority of work would occur in the previously disturbed substation yard where no plants are present. Minimal disturbance would occur to vegetation outside the substation yard. No federally listed or state special-status plant species were documented or observed on the site.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The majority of work would occur in the previously disturbed substation yard where no habitat is present. Minimal disturbance would occur outside the substation yard in a previously disturbed area. An occupied red-tailed hawk nest has been documented in the stand of trees adjacent to the south of the control house, outside of the substation yard. No federally listed or state special-status plant species were documented or observed on the site.</p>		

Mitigation: Avoid any disturbance to the stand of trees and avoid any major disturbance near the stand of trees. If any such work would occur, it shall be conducted after August 15 and before March 15 to avoid any potential disturbance to the red-tailed hawks. Work may also be conducted before August 15 if the nest has been abandoned or if the young have left the nest and are no longer using it.

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

Explanation: No floodplains or water bodies at or adjacent to the project site. No in-water work proposed.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: None present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance would be less than five feet.

Mitigation: Spill prevention kits would be present on site.

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

Explanation: All work on BPA fee-owned property.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: Modifications would not be noticeably different from existing conditions.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions anticipated during construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No impact 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, 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: No notification. All work on BPA fee-owned property and no visual or other effects to adjacent 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: May 31, 2016