

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Lyle Falls Fishway and Research Facility Maintenance

Project No.: 1997-013-35

Project Manager: Mary Todd Haight

Location: River Mile 2.2 on the lower Klickitat River, Klickitat County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine Maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the Yakama/Klickitat Fisheries Program (YKFP) to replace fill adjacent to a fishway at the Lyle Falls Fishway and Research facility. Extensive modifications were made at the facility and fishway in 2012. On December 9, 2015, a high water event at the facility resulted in water over topping the fishway, and subsequently washing out some of the loose rock fill along the toe of the slope adjacent to the fishway.

BPA proposes to fund YKFP to replace the fill that washed away with Controlled Density Fill (CDF), a plastic cement material used for backfill. Placement of CDF will occur on top of the ground, with no excavation of the area, to replace loose fill that was washed away during the high water event and to bring those areas back up to pre high water event elevations. These actions will stabilize the area and reduce future operation and maintenance costs associated with cleanup of loose rock after post-flood events. No changes to the overall facility or fishway form, functionality, or elevations will occur.

The CDF hardens rapidly and develops load-bearing properties with no compaction and will support a traffic load within hours of placement. BPA and YKFP do not expect the material to have any contact with water prior to curing because of the short curing time (hours) and the next high water event will not occur for several months after placement. CDF along a different fishway at the facility has held up extraordinarily well, despite enduring multiple, high water events.

Construction Best Management Practices will include employing a silt fence or coir logs or both to ensure material remains within the work/fill area and does not accidentally overflow on the Klickitat River side, and placing material slowly to prevent overflow and waterway entry of the material. Additionally, the entire fishway will be covered in plastic sheeting and sealed with duct tape during placement. This will prevent CDF entry into the fishway itself, and aid in cleanup.

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/ Gregory M. Smith

Gregory M. Smith
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 17, 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.

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Project Site Description

River Mile 2.2 on the lower Klickitat River, approximately two miles north of Lyle, Klickitat County, Washington. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) owns the land; however, the facility itself is property of the Yakama Nation and is operated and maintained by the YKFP.

Maintenance activities would occur adjacent to the existing fishway, in an area of exposed riprap and concrete. The area lacks vegetation and is approximately 50-100 feet from the Klickitat River.

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> All work will occur on existing, facility structures constructed in 2012. Due to the small amount of fill replacement, coupled with the lack of any new ground disturbance in an area previously impacted by construction, there is no potential to effect historic properties.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work will occur on existing facility structures. No new ground disturbance will occur.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work will occur on existing facility structures. No new ground disturbance will occur. No vegetation is present in the placement area.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work will occur on existing facility structures. No new ground disturbance will 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> All work will occur on existing facility structures. No new ground disturbance will occur. The CDF will not come in contact with water except during high water events, which will not happen until after the material has cured and is safe to be exposed to the aquatic environment.		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: All work will occur on existing facility structures. No new ground disturbance will occur.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: All work will occur on existing facility structures. No new ground disturbance will occur.

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

Explanation: No changes to land use are proposed nor will any traditional activities be interrupted.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The proposed maintenance will not change the look or character of the site.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Dust and other particulates generated prior to placement are expected to be minimal and temporary.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Noise generated during maintenance is expected to be localized and temporary in nature.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: Maintenance activities would not impact human health or 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: BPA is coordinating with both the landowner, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the the Yakama Nation who owns the facility.

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

Signed: /s/ Gregory M. Smith
Gregory M. Smith, ECF-4

Date: August 18, 2016