

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Pomeroy Substation Upgrades

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

**Location:** Garfield 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 equipment, replace the telephone system, and install a Power Control Assembly (PCA) at its Pomeroy Substation located in Garfield County, Washington. The existing equipment is outdated and has become inadequate for providing reliable power within BPA's service area.

Equipment upgrades would include indoor and outdoor cables and wiring, bus power transformers (PTs), station service PTs, yard panels, and steel footings. The existing grounding grid would be upgraded, including upgrades to grounding conductors and ground rods. Existing footings and foundations would be reused to the extent possible. Staging materials would be placed on existing graveled areas within the substation yard. Approximately 450 cubic yards of excess soil would be removed and disposed of per the Disposal Plan. Any contaminated materials would be disposed of in an approved waste management facility.

The existing telephone system would be replaced with wireless telephone modem. New fiber optic cable would be installed in conduit from the new PCA to the existing radio communication building. The existing ground line phone service would be removed.

The new PCA would be a prefabricated, modular building, 420 square feet in size, which would function as the new control house. It would house new equipment including: relays, instruments, meters, batteries, and chargers. The new PCA would require a 3,150-square foot expansion of the fenced substation yard and an approximately 850-square foot new parking area would be constructed. Approximately 600 cubic yards of fill would be imported for the work.

**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/ Dave Kennedy, for

Gene Lynard  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: October 27, 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:** Pomeroy Substation Upgrades

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## Project Site Description

The project site is located at BPA's Pomeroy Substation in Garfield County, Washington. The site consists of the graveled yard, substation equipment, transmission lines, and a control house. The substation is located in a rural area. The surrounding terrain is sloping, with the Blue Mountains to the south. The vicinity is mostly undeveloped with scattered agricultural plots.

## Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explanation: Washington State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurrence on no adverse effect determination was received on 1/11/2016. Spokane Tribe concurrence on no adverse effect determination was received on 12/30/2015. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the Nez Perce Tribe were consulted; no responses were received.

Mitigation: In the event that any archaeological or historic materials are encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:

- Stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead (Elizabeth Siping) and the BPA archaeologist (Tama Tochihara). Appropriate BPA project staff, interested Tribes, Washington SHPO, and the appropriate county, state, and Federal agencies should also be notified.
- Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.

2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: Soil disturbance would occur within the substation yard for trenching for conduit for new fiber optic cable and outside of the substation yard for the new PCA installation and parking area. Approximately 600 cubic yards of fill would be imported for that work. The trench would be 350-foot long, 2-feet wide, and 3-feet deep.

In addition, footings would be repaired or replaced, creating minor ground disturbances within the existing fenced yard. Approximately 450 cubic yards of excess soil (not reusable) would be removed and disposed.

Mitigation:

- All stockpiles would be kept within the substation yard and no permanent stockpiles would be permitted.
- Erosion and sediment controls would be employed as needed to control run-off and prevent off-site transport of sediment per the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.
- Soil and concrete would be disposed of in an approved waste management facility per the Disposal Plan.

3. **Plants** (including federal/state special-status species)

Explanation: Work would occur in previously disturbed substation yard and adjacent to the west in previously disturbed areas. No special-status species are known to occur in the area.

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

Explanation: Work would occur in the substation yard and adjacent to the west in previously disturbed areas. No special-status species are known to occur in the area.

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.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands are present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater is proposed. Maximum depth of disturbance proposed is three feet.

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

Explanation: No change to land use is proposed. There are no specially designated areas.

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: The existing equipment is outdated and has become inadequate for providing reliable power within BPA's service area; therefore, this proposed action would provide beneficial impacts 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:

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: BPA has notified the landowner, Inland Power and Light Co., of the work to be done.

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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

Date: October 27, 2016

Elizabeth Siping

Environmental Protection Specialist