

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Columbia Generating Station Equipment Additions

**Project Manager:** Walker Miller – TPCV-TPP-4

**Location:** Benton 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 (at Energy Northwest's (ENW) request and expense) to remove some existing equipment and install new equipment in Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station transformer yard in accordance with BPA standards. This equipment is needed to allow the generating station to meet U.S. Nuclear Regulatory requirements. BPA would not own, operate, or maintain this equipment and no equipment would be installed in any BPA-owned facilities.

BPA would remove bus pedestals, insulators, and bus. BPA will then install pedestals, transformers (PTs and CTs), insulators, bus, seismic risers, and junction boxes; make final connections; and install relay racks in the communication room. BPA would also provide equipment testing, as-built drawings, and associated project management and operations coordination for outage and construction 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 A of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D;
- (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/ Nancy A. Wittpenn

Nancy A. Wittpenn

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 4, 2016

## 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:** Columbia Generating Station Equipment Additions

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### Project Site Description

The Columbia Generating Station is on and surrounded by the Hanford Nuclear Reservation and is an existing industrial complex with existing electrical facilities. All proposed work would be done within the existing facility footprint.

### 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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The Columbia Generating Station began operation in 1984. All proposed work would be done within the existing facility footprint. This type of activity does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties. No consultation or further action under NHPA is needed.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All disturbances caused by foundations, conduit, and grounding will have already been completed by ENW contractors.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The Columbia Generating Station is an existing industrial complex with existing electrical facilities. All work would be done within the existing facility footprint. No special-status plants exist within the yard.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The Columbia Generating Station is an existing industrial complex with existing electrical facilities. All work would be done within the existing facility footprint. No special-status wildlife exists within the station yard but there have been many sightings of the Loggerhead Shrike on the Hanford Reservation within the vicinity of the generating station. This species is a candidate for listing by WDFW and is considered an important indicator-species for the health of shrub-steppe habitat. No impacts to this species are expected because no habitat would be affected.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No water bodies, floodplains, or fish exist on the site. The Columbia River is over 3 miles to the east.		

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|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6. <b>Wetlands</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No wetlands exist on the site.  |                                     |                          |
| 7. <b>Groundwater and Aquifers</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> The project would not impact groundwater or aquifers, as all disturbances would be above ground.  |                                     |                          |
| 8. <b>Land Use and Specially Designated Areas</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> The Columbia Generating Station is an existing industrial complex with existing electrical facilities. There would be no permanent changes to the land use at this location. All work would be done within the existing facility footprint. |                                     |                          |
| 9. <b>Visual Quality</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> The Columbia Generating Station is an existing industrial complex with existing electrical facilities. The visual quality of the area would remain the same.  |                                     |                          |
| 10. <b>Air Quality</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during the equipment addition work; however, there would be no significant changes to air quality during or after the work is completed.   |                                     |                          |
| 11. <b>Noise</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> The Columbia Generating Station is on and surrounded by the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. The nearest agricultural activity is about 4 miles away.   |                                     |                          |
| 12. <b>Human Health and Safety</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> All equipment removed by BPA would be disposed of by ENW contractors following applicable rules and regulations.  |                                     |                          |

### 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: ENW and BPA have signed a Service Level Agreement and will continue to work together to move the project forward. Columbia Generating Station is on and surrounded by the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. No disturbance to adjacent landowners would occur. No notification, involvement, or coordination is needed.

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

Signed: /s/ Nancy A. Wittpenn

Nancy A. Wittpenn

Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: November 7, 2016