

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Equipment Additions to Multiple Substations and Radio Facilities

Project Manager: Scott Lissit—TEP-3

Location: Multiple locations—see list below.

County, State	Site
Benton, WA	Wautoma
Clark, WA	Sifton
Franklin, WA	Franklin
Gilliam, OR	Slatt
King, WA	Covington
King, WA	Raver
Kittitas, WA	Ellensburg
Kittitas, WA	Schultz
Klickitat, WA	Knight
Klickitat, WA	Spring Creek
Lewis, WA	Chehalis
Lincoln, WA	Creston
Morrow, OR	Boardman
Umatilla, OR	McNary
Wasco, OR	Big Eddy 230
Wasco, OR	Big Eddy 500
Yakima, WA	Moxee
Yakima, WA	Wine Country

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.7 Electronic Equipment

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to install equipment in existing substations to improve communications bandwidth used in support of network operations. New telecommunication equipment (including routers, switches, and Ethernet) would be installed and fiber would be tested and spliced at all locations. In addition, existing 48-volt lead acid telecommunication batteries would be removed and replaced. The replaced lead acid batteries would be removed by a qualified contractor and the batteries would be transported to the Hazardous and Toxic Material Handling (HazMat) Facility at BPA's Ross Complex for appropriate disposal and/or recycling.

Additional work, as identified in Table 1, would be completed at the various sites depending on the condition of existing equipment. Chargers would be installed, upgraded, or replaced. Also, alternating current (AC) circuit breakers may require upgrades and new racks may be installed. No structure alterations or ground disturbance would be required for the project.

Table 1: Activities Proposed for Each Site

Installation Site	Install telecom equipment and fiber splicing/testing ¹	Replace 48-volt battery	Replace charger	Install racks	Install AC circuit breaker
Moxee (MOXI)	X	X	X	X	
Ellensburg (ELLN)	X	X	X	X	
Boardman (BOAD) Complete	X	X	X	X	
Slatt 230 (SLAT)	X	X	X	X	X
Big Eddy 230 (BIGE)	X			X	
Big Eddy 500 (BEDG)	X	X	X	X	X
Knight (KNIT)	X	X	X	X	X
Wine Country (WINE)	X	X	X	X	X
Spring Creek (SPCK)	X			X	
Chehalis (CHEH) Complete	X	Add 2 nd Battery	Add 2 nd charger	X	X
McNary (MCNY)	X	X	X	X	X
Sifton (SIFT)	X	X	Add charger	X	X
Creston (CRES)	X	X	X	X	X
Wautoma (WAUT)	X	X	X	X	X
Franklin (FRAN)	X	X	X	X	X
Covington (COVI)	X	X	X	X	X
Raver (RAVR)	X	X	X	X	X
Schultz (SHUL)	X	X	X	X	X

¹ Includes routers, switches, and Ethernet

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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Recruiting & Staffing

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 23, 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.

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Project Site Description

Work would be conducted inside existing BPA buildings.

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> The BPA Historian, Tama Tochiara, has reviewed the proposed equipment installations and determined that the project would have no effect to historic properties.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The proposed project would not involve ground-disturbing activities.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The proposed project would not disturb vegetation.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The proposed project would not disturb wildlife.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The proposed project would not disturb water bodies, floodplains, or fish.		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: The proposed project would not disturb wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: There would be no potential for spills to enter ground water or aquifers.

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

Explanation: The proposed project would not change existing land use at the sites.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The visual quality of the project areas would not change.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: There would be insignificant, temporary vehicle emissions.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: There would be insignificant, temporary construction noise.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: Lead acid batteries would be removed by a qualified contractor and disposed of at BPA's Ross HazMat facility.

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: Lead acid batteries would be removed by a qualified contractor and disposed of at BPA's Ross HazMat facility.

- 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: All work would be conducted at BPA-operated facilities.

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

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger
Beth Belanger, ECT-4
Motus Recruiting & Staffing

Date: November 23, 2016