

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Sugar Mill Substation Equipment Sale

Project Manager: Roderick Morris, TPCV-TPP-4

Location: Bonneville County, Idaho

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.24 Property transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to sell BPA-owned equipment located at the Sugar Mill Substation to Idaho Falls Power. The Sugar Mill Substation is owned by Idaho Falls Power and is located in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The equipment sale would include three 46-kilovolt (kV) potential transformers, three 46-kV current transformers, control cable and a tap-tie line. BPA would continue to own its revenue meters at the existing location.

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, Jul. 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

Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Carol Leiter

Carol Leiter
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange June 14, 2021

Katey C. Grange Date
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: Sugar Mill Substation Equipment Sale

Project Site Description

The project location is at the Sugar Mill Substation, which is a graveled and fenced facility, in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The substation is surrounded by mostly residential housing to the south, east and west, and agricultural fields to the north. The substation is in Section 16, Township 2 North, Range 38 East. There are no waterways within 0.25 miles of the substation.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The BPA historian reviewed the project and concluded that the sale of equipment would have no potential to affect historic or cultural resources.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The equipment sale does not require any ground disturbance; therefore, there would not be an impact to geology or soils.

3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The equipment sale would not impact any plants or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The equipment sale would not impact any wildlife.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The equipment sale would not impact any water bodies, floodplains, or fish.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The equipment sale would not impact any wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The equipment sale would not impact any groundwater and aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The equipment sale would not change land use or impact any specially-designated areas.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The visual quality at the site would not change.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The equipment sale would not impact air quality.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no change to noise levels at the site.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Human health and safety would not be impacted by the equipment sale.

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: N/A

Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation: N/A

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: N/A

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: N/A

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The equipment would be sold to the underlying landowner, Idaho Falls Power, therefore, additional landowner notification or coordination would not be required.

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
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Flux Resources, LLC

June 14, 2021

Date