

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Mountain Avenue Substation Sale

Project No.: P05430; OR 2022 102

Project Manager: Jay Largo

Location: Jackson County, OR

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B.1.24 Property Transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to sell the BPA Mountain Avenue Substation to the City of Ashland. The proposed activity would be to sell the BPA substation and the associated fee-owned substation property to the city. The City of Ashland would then operate the substation. BPA would retain easements for the substation including the tap line into the substation.

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/ Christopher H. Furey
Christopher H. Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

<u>/s/ Sarah T. Biegel</u>	<u>August 22, 2022</u>
Sarah T. Biegel	Date
NEPA Compliance Officer	

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.

Proposed Action: Mountain Avenue Substation Sale

Project Site Description

BPA proposes to sell approximately 2 acres of land to the City of Ashland comprising the BPA Mountain Avenue Substation. The BPA Mountain Avenue Substation was energized in 1995. The substation property includes the fenced substation with electrical equipment and control house building, small paved parking area, and landscaped land area with some trees. The legal parcel description is Township 39 South, Range 1 East, and DC 43. The surrounding land consists of relatively flat lands with playing fields at North Mountain Park, green areas, and residential and mixed use development. No wetlands are within 500 feet of the substation. Beach Creek is located over 600 feet to the north.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA Historian has determined, per 36 CFR 800.3(a) (1), that this undertaking is a type of activity that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, assuming such historic properties were present.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed as a condition of the sale; therefore, there would be no impacts to geology or soils.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to plants.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to wildlife.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to water bodies, floodplains, or fish.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to land use or specially-designated areas.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to visual quality.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to air quality.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no noise impacts.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no 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: 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: BPA Realty is in coordination with BPA Transmission and the City of Ashland for this project.

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

Signed: /s/ Christopher H. Furey

Christopher H. Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist

August 22, 2022

Date