

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Jack Creek Acclimation Site Raceway Repair Project

**Project No.:** 1997-013-25

**Project Manager:** Michelle O'Malley – EWU-4

**Location:** Kittitas County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.20 Protection of cultural resources, fish and wildlife habitat

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to provide funding to the Yakima Klickitat Fisheries Program (YKFP) to implement improvements to a raceway at the Jack Creek Acclimation Facility (acclimation facility). The acclimation facility is located on land owned by the Washington Department of Natural Resources and leased by BPA in Kittitas County, Washington. The proposed project would fix a blockage in a valve associated with one of the raceways at the acclimation facility. All project work would take place within the acclimation facility, the boundaries of which are currently fenced. The acclimation facility is paved with asphalt within the fence line. Asphalt overlying the old valve and new pipeline location would be removed with heavy equipment and disposed of offsite in an approved waste facility. A trench for the new pipeline, measuring 200 feet long X 3 feet wide X up to 6 feet deep, would be excavated using heavy equipment such as a backhoe. The valve would be cleaned out, and new pipe laid in the trench. Bedding material would be placed around the new pipe and compacted to design specifications. Finally, three inches of asphalt would be laid over the new pipe alignment. All equipment would be staged on asphalt surfaces at the acclimation facility. Access to the site would be on the paved acclimation facility driveway.

**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/ Michele Palmer

Michele Palmer

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 16, 2019

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:** Jack Creek Acclimation Site Raceway Repair Project

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## Project Site Description

The project is located in Kittitas County, Washington, approximately 20.3 miles north of the City of Cle Elum on North Fork Teanaway Road (Township 21 North, Range 16 East, Section 8). The land is owned by the Washington Department of Natural Resources and leased by BPA. All project work including equipment staging would take place within the acclimation facility that is paved with asphalt within its fenced boundaries. Access to the site would be on the paved acclimation facility driveway. The work area would be approximately 290 feet from the left bank of the North Fork Teanaway River at about river mile 6.4 and about 175 feet from the right bank of Jack Creek at about river mile 0.5.

## 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> WA DAHP concurrence on no adverse effect determination, 12/20/2018 (BPA CR #: WA 2019-015, Log No.: 2018-11-08980-BPA). Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation consulted. The following measures would be implemented during construction work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure the project specific Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan developed for this project is distributed to the consulting parties for review prior to the initiation of construction activities and is fully implemented. This plan outlines procedures to be followed in the event of an inadvertent discovery during construction.</li><li>• Prior to construction, a pre-construction cultural resources training would be held for construction crew to ensure they understand that the construction work is being conducted in a sensitive area, and that the cultural resources monitor may ask the crew to stop work at any time to examine sediments more closely. Copies of the Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan will be distributed to construction personnel at this training.</li><li>• Ensure a cultural resources monitor meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for Archaeology would be present on site during any ground-disturbing work for the project.</li></ul>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Excavation would occur within a previously-disturbed and asphalt paved facility. Minimal soil disturbance would occur.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species are present. No vegetation removal is proposed.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> All work would occur within a previously-disturbed and asphalt paved facility; no habitat present. No special-status species have been documented in, or adjacent to the project area.</p>		

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**

(including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)

Explanation: All work would occur within a previously-disturbed and asphalt paved facility. The nearest water bodies are the North Fork Teanaway River and Jack Creek, which are about 290 and 175 feet away, respectively. There is no direct connection between the project area and these water bodies; as such, it is not anticipated that any spills or excavated materials would reach these areas.

Typical erosion control BMPs will be implemented.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No new wells or use of ground water are proposed; maximum depth of disturbance would be approximately six feet; spill prevention measures would be present on site.

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

Explanation: No change to existing land use would occur. The facility is not in a specially-designated area.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The excavation area would be restored to a pre-project grade and would be visually consistent with adjacent asphalt and would not be located in a visually sensitive area.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Temporary, small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would be generated during construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary construction noise would be generated during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No new health or safety risks are anticipated.

### 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 coordinated with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) through cultural resources consultation and coordination. The land is owned by WDNR and leased by BPA.

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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/ Michele Palmer  
Michele Palmer, ECF-4  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: May 16, 2019