

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Raver Substation Parking Lot Safety Enhancement

**PP&A No.:** 4371

**Project Manager:** Lee Fricke – TELF-TPP-3

**Location:** King County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to make modifications to the parking area at Raver Substation. The location of the current card reader and gate near the edge of the road does not provide sufficient space for the large vehicles typically used by BPA personnel to completely exit the road. When the gate is closed, vehicles entering the substation must stop at the card reader and wait while the gate opens, often blocking a portion of the roadway. The limited space between the card reader and the road results in hazards to vehicles waiting at the gate, and to vehicles traveling eastbound on Retreat-Kanaskat Road. The proposed project would relocate the existing automated gate to 10 feet inside the existing fence line. The card readers associated with the gate would be relocated as well, and existing safety loops would be replaced.

To replace the loss of parking spots due to the gate relocation, the landscaped area inside the fence and adjacent to the existing parking area would be paved with asphalt, expanding the parking area. The existing asphalt parking area would be repaired to facilitate construction of other elements such as the new pavement and the new safety loops. A new concrete sidewalk would be constructed to serve some of the new parking spaces, and a portion of the existing sidewalk adjacent to the control house would be replaced due to damage. Along with the replacement, a new concrete pad would be constructed to allow maintenance vehicles access to the microwave antenna.

The project would create about 3,000 square feet of new impervious surface, replace about 1,000 square feet of existing impervious surface, and repair about 4,500 square feet of damaged asphalt.

**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/ Kevin George*

Kevin George  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

*/s/ Katey Grange*

Date: September 24, 2020

Katey C. Grange  
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:** Raver Substation Parking Lot Safety Enhancement

### **Project Site Description**

The project site is located at the Raver Substation in King County, WA (Township 21 North, Range 7 East, Section 5). The substation is located on Retreat-Kanasket Road, approximately 5 miles east of Maple Valley. The surrounding area consists of second-growth woodlands and sparsely developed rural residential properties.

### **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

#### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The BPA Historian has reviewed the undertaking and determined that there would be no potential to affect historic properties. The substation was previously determined not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to a loss of integrity. Also, all work proposed as a part of this project would take place within the previously disturbed substation fence line and entry way; therefore, there is no potential to cause effect to cultural resources.

#### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minimal new disturbance is anticipated. Predominately, ground disturbing activities would occur on the existing entry way, parking area with adjacent landscaped area, and areas adjacent to the control house and microwave antenna. These areas would be stabilized with asphalt or concrete paving after ground disturbance. All appropriate Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be used to implement site specific erosion and sediment control. Post construction exposed/disturbed soils would be stabilized and seeded.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minimal disturbance to vegetation outside the project area is anticipated. Landscaping vegetation within the substation fence line and adjacent to the parking area would be removed in order to expand the parking area. There would be no effect to ESA-listed plant species and no impacts to state sensitive plant species are anticipated.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: In general, the project would have temporary and minimal noise and disturbance impacts to wildlife and habitat related to equipment noise and human presence. No impacts to state sensitive species are anticipated and the project would have no effect to ESA-listed species.

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

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: The proposed project would not encroach closer than 5,400 feet to the nearest waterway, Green River. BPA has reviewed the potential stormwater runoff from this project and developed a Technical Information Report (TIR) consistent with the King County 2016 Surface Water Design manual.

Notes:

- To prevent sediment transport and pollutant discharges Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) measures and Stormwater Pollution Prevention and Spill Control (SWPPS) measures that are appropriate to the project site would be applied through a comprehensive Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention (CSWPP) plan. ESC measures would include dry season construction, perimeter and inlet protection, and check dams.

#### **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are present within the project site. Erosion control measures would be implemented to prevent sedimentation.

#### **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Groundwater would not be affected by the proposed project activities; no new ground water wells or use of ground water proposed. BPA has reviewed the potential stormwater runoff from this project and developed a Technical Information Report (TIR) consistent with the King County 2016 Surface Water Design manual.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change in land use would occur and project activities would not impact existing land uses.

#### **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would have minimal impact to visual quality. Gate relocation and impervious surface replacement and expansion would be consistent with the existing visual character of the site.

## 10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Any fugitive dust or similar air quality impacts during project construction are expected to be temporary and minimal.

## 11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Project-related noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours. Operational noise would not change from current ambient conditions.

## 12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No impacts to human health and safety are expected as a result of project activities.

### **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: No landowner notification is needed since the project would take place entirely within BPA's substation property and construction noise would be minimal.

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

Signed: /s/ Kevin George  
Kevin George, EP-4

Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: September 24, 2020