

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: FY 2022 Facility Entry Sign Replacements

Project No.: PID 5252

Project Manager: Chris Ross – NWM-1

Location: King, Clallam, Franklin, and Cowlitz counties, Washington; Marion and Clatsop counties, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine Maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to replace facility entry signs at several BPA substations and maintenance headquarters (MHQ). The existing signs are on facility entry road shoulders and outside facility fencelines. All signs would be replaced in previously-disturbed graveled or grassy/bushy areas along existing roads. Signs would be made of aluminum and approximately 3 feet 5 inches high by 6 feet wide. The signs would stand no higher than 5 feet from the ground surface and secured in place by two, 4-inch by 4-inch tube supports bolted into subsurface concrete footings. Footings would occur to a maximum depth of 2 feet 6 inches and 2 feet 6 inches in diameter. Any disturbed surface after installation would be re-seeded beyond the exposed cement as needed. Most signs would be replaced in the same location but a few would be in more suitable locations based on underlying landowner preference.

Site locations in Washington include:

- Tacoma Substation, King County: replace in same location as existing sign: Puyallup Indian Reservation
- Port Angeles Substation, Clallam County: replace in same location as existing sign; BPA fee-owned property
- Nektipe MHQ, Franklin County: working with underlying landowner on location and new easement
- Lexington Substation, Cowlitz County: working with underlying landowner to replace in same location as existing sign; existing easement

Site locations in Oregon include:

- Chemawa MHQ, Marion County: install new sign as no sign currently exists at this location; BPA fee-owned property
- Driscoll Substation, Clatsop County: install new sign as no sign currently exists at this location; BPA fee-owned property

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/ Nancy A. Wittpenn

Nancy A. Wittpenn
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange June 15, 2022

Katey C. Grange 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: FY 2022 Facility Entry Sign Replacements **Project Site Description**

This work would take place in graveled or grassy/bushy areas adjacent to the entry roads to existing BPA substations and maintenance headquarters. The BPA facilities are in light industrial areas and all areas have been previously disturbed from road and facility construction. Surrounding vegetation is limited to grass, weeds, and very low-growing bushes.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A BPA archaeologist and historian reviewed the proposed activities at the Port Angeles, Nekitpe, Longview, Chemawa, and Driscoll locations and determined these activities do not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties (May 24, 2022). Since the proposed sign location in Tacoma is on reservation land, BPA initiated formal consultation with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and the Puyallup Tribal Historic Preservation Office on May 9, 2022. No response was received.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All signs would be replaced in previously-disturbed graveled or grassy/bushy areas along existing roads. Ground disturbance from concrete footings would occur to a maximum depth of 2 feet 6 inches and 2 feet 6 inches in diameter. Any exposed surface after installation would be re-seeded beyond the exposed cement as needed.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All signs would be replaced roadside in graveled or grassy/bushy areas. Some bushes may be trimmed as needed. Holes would be dug to accommodate the posts and cement.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All signs would be replaced roadside in graveled or grassy/bushy areas. Minor intermittent noise from sign replacement activities would occur and could temporarily disturb wildlife in the area.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All signs would be replaced roadside in graveled or grassy/bushy areas. No work would occur in or near water bodies.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All signs would be replaced roadside in graveled or grassy/bushy areas. No work would occur in or near wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Signpost base installation with concrete would cause minor ground disturbance to a maximum depth of 2 feet 6 inches and 2 feet 6 inches in diameter. In most cases, existing holes from sign removal would be re-used. The new posts would not impede groundwater flow.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The new signs would be replaced in the same location (Port Angeles, Tacoma, and Lexington) or new location (Chemawa, Driscoll, and Nekiŕpe) at or close to facility entry. All areas allow for their use. The Tacoma sign is on the Puyallup Reservation and its replacement has been fully coordinated with the tribe. See also Historical and Cultural Resource above.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The new signs would appear very similar to those being replaced and not out of character with their road-side light industrial surroundings.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor, localized, and temporary generation of emissions and dust from vehicles and ground disturbance would occur.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor intermittent noise from sign replacement activities would occur.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Locates for underground utilities would be done prior to any digging.

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: Port Angeles and Chemawa existing and new entry signs are/would be on BPA fee-owned property. Realty is working with the underlying landowners at Nektpe and Driscoll for new sign easements. The Lexington sign easement allows for in-kind replacement. The Tacoma sign is on Puyallup Reservation land and BPA Realty is coordinating in-kind sign replacement with Tribal staff.

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

Signed: /s/ Nancy A. Wittpenn June 15, 2022
Nancy A. Wittpenn, ECT-4 Date
Environmental Protection Specialist