

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** BPA Funding for Energy Efficiency Proposals Thru 2021

**Project No.:** Multiple

**Project Manager:** Keshmira McVey - PEJD

**Location:** Multiple locations in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Montana, California, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B5.1 Actions to Conserve Energy

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to fund various utilities and other entities for actions or projects to conserve energy in the Northwest consistent with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (the Council) Seventh Northwest Conservation and Electric Power Plan (Seventh Plan). BPA's Emerging Technology Grant Program identifies, evaluates, and promotes new technologies that assist BPA and the region to accomplish energy efficiency goals established by the Council's Seventh Plan. The Seventh Plan calls for 1,400 aMW of Energy Efficiency by 2021 of which BPA's portion is 580.7 aMW.

The BPA 2016-2021 Energy Efficiency (EE) Action Plan provides guidance on which emerging technologies research efforts to fund, via its EE grant program, in residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and Federal sectors. Projects qualifying for funding consideration in the Emerging Technology Program area include, but are not limited to, the items described below:

- **Upgrade and/or installation of new heat pump technologies** including new communication devices, improved defrost strategies, low global warming potential refrigerant heat pumps, mini-split heat pumps, ductless heat pumps, carbon dioxide-based heat pump-driven water heaters, multi-function pool heating systems.
- **Research and modeling** including literature searches and information gathering, data analysis, computer modeling, analytical reviews, conceptual design, feasibility studies, document preparation, and data dissemination.
- **Installation of new technologies (other than heat pump technologies)** including new thermostat technologies (Smart and connected thermostats), variable refrigerant flow HVAC systems, Smart HVAC controls, and advanced rooftop controls.
- **Installation of new distribution system efficiency technologies** including advanced metering infrastructure, high-bandwidth data acquisition and volt/volt-ampere reactive control regulators and capacitor technologies.
- **Replacing/upgrading irrigation equipment** with improved technologies minimizing energy usage and evaporation. These technologies involve equipment upgrades, monitoring devices, and scheduling software. New ground disturbance is not required for this work.

These actions would either involve paperwork exercises or would occur at existing structures and would not require major exterior building modification (e.g. removing or replacing windows or doors, cutting new wall holes in new locations), major interior building modifications (e.g. tearing out walls), or any new ground disturbing activities.

Each project would be reviewed by the BPA National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) lead to ensure that the activities fall within the range of those described in this Categorical Exclusion (CX) and the attached checklist prior to initiating work.

**Findings:** In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) of the Department of Energy's (DOE) NEPA Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 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/ Jennifer Corwin

Jennifer Corwin

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 14, 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:** BPA Funding for Energy Efficiency Proposals Thru 2021

---

### Project Site Description

Energy efficiencies projects or actions that would be funded would occur at existing structures located in BPA's service territory, including Idaho, Oregon, Washington, western Montana and small parts of eastern Montana, California, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

### 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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The actions are such that there is no potential for impacts to historic properties.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Because the work would occur in existing structures or within previously disturbed areas, there would be no effect on geology and soils.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Because the work would occur in existing structures or within previously disturbed areas, there would be no effect on plants including federal/state special-status species.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Because the work would occur in existing structures or within previously disturbed areas, there would be no effect on wildlife including federal/state special-status species and habitats.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Because the work would occur in existing structures or consist of equipment replacement within previously disturbed areas, there would be no effect on waterbodies, floodplains, or fish.		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Because the work would occur in existing structures or consist of equipment replacement within previously disturbed areas, there would be no effect on wetlands.		
7. <b>Groundwater and Aquifers</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Because the work would occur in existing structures or consist of equipment replacement within previously disturbed areas, no ground or groundwater disturbance would occur.		

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



Explanation: Because the work would occur in existing structures or consist of equipment replacement within previously disturbed areas, no changes to land use would occur.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Because the work would occur in existing structures or consist of equipment replacement within previously disturbed areas, no change in the visual character of the facilities would occur.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Because the work would occur in existing structures or consist of equipment replacement within previously disturbed areas, no change in air quality would occur.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Minor, intermittent noise associated with installation activities may occur during project installation.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: All projects must utilize best management practices that protect human health and safety. Any activities involving hazardous materials would be disposed of at a designated hazardous waste facility.

### **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:

---

**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: Because projects would be requested by the landowner and the actions are of a nature that would not affect surrounding landowners, no further notification, involvement, or coordination would 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/ Jennifer A. Corwin  
Jennifer A. Corwin – ECP-5

Date: February 14, 2019