

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Toledo Substation Shoofly Project

**Project No.:** P03100

**Project Manager:** Rasha Kroonen, TEPS-TPP-1

**Location:** Lincoln County, Oregon

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.11 Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to construct four new wood pole structures, string new conductor on and around them, remove an existing fiber optic cable pole, and relocate the fiber optic cable.

The four new wood pole structures would be glue-laminated construction and up to 75 feet tall above ground, and embedded about 15 feet in the ground. One fiber optic pole would be removed, and the existing fiber would be relocated to the new structures. Three of the four structures would be installed within the existing BPA Toledo Substation's gravel yard, while the fourth would be installed approximately 10 feet west of the substation's western fence. At this location, situated between a gravel access road and the substation's chain link fence, the ground is covered with gravel, is used as a vehicle access and parking area, and has been heavily disturbed in the past by the previous installation of non-BPA utility facilities immediately adjacent to the BPA substation. All four structures would be connected to the substation's grounding system for safety. Conductor would be strung between the structures.

Vehicle, equipment, and material staging areas would be on gravel surfaces, the majority of which are located within the Toledo Substation's fence.

**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/ Becky Hill

Becky Hill

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Douglas Corkran

Douglas Corkran

Acting Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 9, 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:** Toledo Substation Shoofly Project

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## Project Site Description

The project area is located within and immediately adjacent to BPA's Toledo Substation. The substation is on the east side (inland) of the coastal town of Toledo, Oregon, and is surrounded by lowland pastures, wetlands, tributary streams, and semi-rural residences. NE Sturdevant Road runs north-south between the substation and Olalla Slough.

## 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> The BPA archaeologist initiated Section 106 consultation on May 13, 2019, with The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).</p> <p>In that same communication to the consulted parties, the BPA archaeologist determined that implementation of the proposed undertaking would result in no adverse effect to historic properties.</p> <p>SHPO responded with a requirement for a professional archaeologist to be on site to monitor the excavation and installation of the poles. A monitoring report should be completed and submitted to SHPO.</p> <p>No responses were received from The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde or The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.</p> <p>Should any cultural resources be discovered during project activities, then all project work must stop in the area, and the cultural resources lead should be notified immediately. An Inadvertent Discovery procedural document with contact information would be supplied to the construction contractor prior to commencing construction work.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> During construction, appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be used to implement site-specific erosion and sediment control. All disturbed areas would be stabilized and seeded.</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 present. Work is to be conducted in an existing gravel access road and in the gravel substation yard.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</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 likely to occur, and no designated critical habitat is present in the project area.</p>		

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

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

Explanation: No water bodies, floodplains, or fish would be impacted by the project.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands would be impacted by the project.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: Spill prevention measures would be utilized during construction activities. The project would not provide a pathway for groundwater contamination.

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

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

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: There would be no change to the visual quality of the area as a result of the proposed activities.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: The project would have no significant impacts on air quality; however, small amounts of vehicle emissions and dust may occur during construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Some temporary construction noise would occur. The operational noise of the substation would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: During project activity, all standard safety protocols would be followed. Project activities would not impact human health or 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, 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 has been coordinating with the non-BPA utilities involved in the project and located adjacent to the substation.

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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/ Becky Hill  
Becky Hill, ECT-4  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Flux Resources, LLC

Date: July 9, 2019