

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Longview and Allston Substation Upgrades

Project No. (if applicable): 4211

Project Manager: Rasha Kroonen, TEP-TPP-1

Location: Cowlitz County, WA and Columbia County, OR

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: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to upgrade equipment at Longview Substation, the Longview Annex, and Allston Substation. The work at Longview Substation would include replacing main bus PCB-containing potential transformers, risers, and rod gaps. The work at the Longview Substation Annex would include replacing a disconnect switch, risers, rod gaps, and main bus PCB-containing potential transformers. This work would generate approximately 100 cubic yards of excess soil and approximately 25 cubic yards of concrete which would be disposed of off-site at an approved location. The work at Allston Substation would include adding an auxiliary bus sectionalizing disconnect, replacing main bus potential transformers, and replacing risers and rod gaps in a 230-kV bay. This work would generate approximately 55 cubic yards of excess soil and approximately 20 cubic yards of concrete which would need to be disposed of off-site at an approved location. All of the electrical upgrade work and ground disturbance would be conducted within the existing substation fence. The proposed upgrades are necessary to maintain safe and reliable transmission infrastructure.

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, 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/ Jonnel Deacon

Jonnel Deacon
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 27, 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: Longview and Allston Substation Upgrades

Project Site Description

Longview Substation is located in Cowlitz County, WA. Nearby land uses include industrial, commercial, and some residential. Allston Substation is located in Columbia County, OR. Nearby land uses include small scale agriculture and residential.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The proposed improvements to Longview Substation and Allston Substation would all occur within the substation fence. A cultural resource study was conducted of the substation footprint prior to construction. As a result of the survey, no cultural resources were identified within the substation boundary. The footprint of the substation was heavily disturbed by construction, and the potential to contain undiscovered, intact cultural resources is extremely low. This project has been discussed with BPA Historian Tama Tochiyama, who has determined that this project has no potential to cause effects to historic properties, and no further review under Section 106 is required.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> At Longview Substation and Allston Substation, temporary soil disturbance would be less than 1 acre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion and sediment controls for soil stabilization would be implemented.✓ Vehicles would be limited to access roads and immediate work areas.		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No Federal/state special-status plant species are present within the project areas. All disturbance activities would occur within the existing substation fence line.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species or designated habitats are present. All work would be performed in the substation yard. There would be minimal potential disturbance to wildlife in the vicinity from the noise generated or the vehicular traffic to and from sites.</p>		

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

Explanation: There are no Federal/state special status species, water bodies, or flood plains found within the project area.

6. Wetlands

Explanation: No wetlands are present in the project area.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Explanation: No wells or use of groundwater are proposed. Spill prevention measures would be present on-site during construction.

8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas

Explanation: The project area is located in existing substations. No special restrictions apply and no additional land use evaluation has occurred.

9. Visual Quality

Explanation: Addition of equipment would be visually consistent with the existing substation.

10. Air Quality

Explanation: Small amounts of dust and vehicle emissions due to construction. Dust abatement BMPs would be used to control construction impacts.

11. Noise

Explanation: Construction noise would be temporary and localized.

12. Human Health and Safety

Explanation: No impact to human health and safety is 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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: All work would take place on BPA fee-owned land.

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

Signed: /s/ Jonnel Deacon

Jonnel Deacon

Physical Scientist (Environmental), EPR-4

Date: June 27, 2019