

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Warren Substation PCA Project

Project No.: WO# 00363018

Project Manager: Charla Burke – TEP-TPP-1

Location: Columbia County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities & B4.11 Electric power substations and interconnection facilities

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to install a new Power Control Assembly (PCA) building and to remove the existing control house building at BPA's Warren Substation, located in Columbia County, OR. The existing control house is in poor condition and is no longer structurally sound. The new PCA building would be approximately 30' long, 16' wide, and 10' in height and the building foundation would require excavation depths of approximately 3'. Electrical and communication equipment would be installed within the new PCA. A new station service power transformer, 115-kV surge arresters, and the associated structures would also be required to connect the new PCA to the existing facility. The new structures would be steel lattice and less than 10' in height.

To make room for the new PCA, the electrical switchyard would be expanded by approximately 70'x25' in the southwest corner of the existing 90'x125' switchyard. Approximately, an additional 10' of disturbance would be anticipated outside the expansion area during construction activities. To provide access to the new PCA, the parking area would be expanded by approximately 25'x50' between the electrical switchyard and Church Road.

Additionally, stormwater drainage improvements would occur at Warren Substation. Stormwater improvements include replacement of corroded culverts within the substation access roads and modifications to the drainage system within the electrical switchyard.

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/ Michael Henjum

Michael Henjum
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 10, 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: Warren Substation PCA Project

Project Site Description

The project area is at the existing Warren Substation located in Columbia County, OR. Warren Substation totals approximately 1 acre in size, with the electrical switchyard and perimeter fence encompassing approximately 0.3 acres. The facility is immediately surrounded by rural, single family properties ranging from 1 to several acres in size and is located approximately 3 miles from the town of Warren, which sits adjacent to the Columbia River.

Site access is via a 50', gravel access road that connects to the paved, public Church Road.

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"/>

Explanation: BPA's archaeologists determined that the proposed project would have no potential to affect historic properties or cultural resources. On July 12 and July 17, 2018, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office concurred with this determination. The Shoalwater Bay Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, and Cowlitz Indian Tribe were also consulted regarding the project. BPA did not receive responses from Shoalwater Bay Tribe on project initiation nor on BPA's determination of no effect. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon concurred with the Area of Potential Effect of the project, but did not respond to BPA's determination of no effect letter. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe responded on September 27, 2018, concurring with BPA's no effect determination and also requested the following inadvertent discovery language be included in the project documentation, if necessary:

- 1) Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering; and
- 2) Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site; and,
- 3) Take reasonable steps to restrict access to the site of discovery.

Treat potential discoveries of archeological materials with the inadvertent discovery guidelines: Stop work, contact BPA ECT lead and BPA ECC archeologist for further notifications, and ensure integrity of site and materials until further instructions.

2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: Native soils surrounding the project area consist of a mixture of Quatama silt loam and Aloha silt loam, with slopes of 0 to 15 percent. The immediate project area consists of well graded, flat, non-native fill material.

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



Explanation: This project would expand the existing facility footprint by approximately a 25'x70' area. The expansion area would displace grass that is mowed and maintained by BPA. No noxious or Federal/state listed vegetation species are known to exist within this area.

Other project activities would occur within the existing facility footprint which is routinely managed with herbicides to prevent vegetation growth. Access to the project area would occur via existing access roads. This project would not impact vegetation.

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



Explanation: There is no suitable habitat within the immediate project area.

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



Explanation: No waterbodies, floodplains, or fish habitat exist near the project area.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No wetlands are present or within 0.5 miles to the project area.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: Construction BMPs would be required to mitigate against onsite erosion and offsite sediment transport.

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



Explanation: The project area is an existing electrical facility. Activities proposed by this project are consistent with the current land use.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The building replacement would not significantly change the visual quality of the project area. Removal of the old, structurally unsound building may benefit the visual quality from adjacent properties.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions may occur on a short-term basis during construction. These short-term effects are unlikely to contribute to significant air quality issues.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Installation noise would be minimal, temporary, and occur during daytime hours. Operational noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: This project would require the review and approval of a site-specific safety plan, which would help keep construction personnel and potential public bystanders safe during the short-term project implementation phase. No long-term impacts to human health and safety are 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 occur on BPA fee-owned property.

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

Signed: /s/ Michael Henjum
Michael Henjum – ECT-4
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: May 10, 2019