

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: North Bonneville Substation Parcel Sale

Project No.: LURR 20180360

Project Manager: Charlene Belt

Location: Skamania, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.24 Property Transfers

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration proposes to allow Skamania County Public Utility District (PUD) to purchase a rectangular piece of BPA property next to their existing substation parcel. The size of the BPA parcel to be acquired by the PUD is approximately 217 feet by 58 feet. The PUD seeks to purchase the parcel for potential future expansion of their existing substation located adjacent to the BPA North Bonneville Substation.

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/ Christopher H. Furey

Christopher H. Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 6, 2020

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.

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Project Site Description

The acquisition would be on BPA owned land adjacent to the North Bonneville Substation. The legal parcel involved is in Township 2 N, Range 7 E, and Section DC 39.

The immediate surrounding topography consists of relatively flat land with neighboring parcels comprised of existing developed substation land, some coniferous forested areas, residential home sites and the North Bonneville highway. The parcel is located within the urban designation of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Freshwater forested shrub wetland areas are located about 450 feet to the northwest of the parcel. Greenleaf Creek is located about 650 feet northwest of the parcel. National Forest with designated Northern Spotted Owl habitat is about 1800 feet north of the parcel. The Columbia River is about 1500 feet to the south of the parcel.

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> A BPA archaeologist reviewed the proposed activities for the sale of the property and determined that this action does not have potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources. The WA Department of Archaeology and History (DAHP) concurred with the Determination of No Adverse Effect on December 10, 2019 with the stipulations for an unanticipated discovery plan. The tribal consulting parties for this project included the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and the Nez Perce Tribe. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs recommended an Inadvertent Discovery Plan be put in place.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The sale of the BPA parcel to Skamania County PUD would not have the potential to affect geology or soils.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The sale of the BPA parcel would not have the potential to affect ESA-listed plant plants or their habitat. There are no ESA-listed plant species on the parcel and the sale would have no effect.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The sale of the BPA parcel would not have the potential to affect wildlife or their habitats.</p>		

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



Explanation: The sale of the BPA parcel would not have the potential to affect water bodies, floodplains, or fish.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: The sale of the BPA parcel would not have the potential to affect wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The sale of the BPA parcel would not have the potential to affect groundwater and aquifers.

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



Explanation: The sale of the BPA parcel would not have the potential to affect land use and specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The sale of the BPA parcel would not have the potential to affect existing visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The sale of the BPA parcel would not have the potential to affect air quality.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: The sale of the BPA parcel would not have the potential to cause noise.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: The sale of the BPA parcel would not have the potential to affect human health and 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:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: BPA Realty is in contact with Skamania County PUD for this project.

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

Signed: /s/ Christopher H. Furey
Christopher H. Furey
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: February 6, 2020