

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Marion Drain Hatchery Rearing Tanks Overhead Cover Repair Project

Project No.: 1997-013-25

Project Manager: Andre L'Heureux, EWU-4

Location: Yakima County, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.20 Protection of cultural resources, fish and wildlife habitat

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to provide funding to the Yakama Nation to implement improvements to an overhead cover for rearing tanks at the Marion Drain Hatchery near Toppenish, Washington (WA). Hatchery operations for the integrated fall/summer Chinook salmon program have been ongoing at the facility since 1997.

This action would support BPA's commitments to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation under the 2020 Columbia River Fish Accord Extension agreement, while also supporting ongoing efforts to mitigate for effects of the FCRPS on fish and wildlife in the mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries pursuant to the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 (Northwest Power Act) (16 U.S.C. (USC) 839 et seq.).

The proposed project would involve the installation of a roof only support building structure to provide protective overhead cover for existing rearing tanks. The existing rearing tanks are currently housed under a temporary overhead screening that is failing. The roof only replacement structure would have no flooring/foundation, walls or doors would consist of a post-frame or a pre-fabricated structure. The structure would measure approximately 68 feet wide by 72 feet long, and would be supported by 14 posts. Post installation would require excavation for footings measuring up to 4 feet by 4 feet by 4 feet (approximately 33 cubic yards of excavation). Subsurface gravel and dirt removed would be discharged adjacent to the posts and spread over the ground surface. Access and staging would occur on existing graded unpaved areas on the hatchery property.

The roof-only structure would not extend the original intended life of the Marion Drain Hatchery, and there would be no increase in the water supply used or in the number of fish reared than has been previously authorized.

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/ Michele Palmer
Michele Palmer
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

<u>/s/ Katey C. Grange</u>	<u>February 16, 2022</u>
Katey C. Grange	Date
NEPA Compliance Officer	

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 Marion Drain Hatchery is located on a 38.5-acre parcel that is approximately eight miles southwest of Toppenish, WA (Township 10 North, Range 19 East, Section 20). The land is within the Yakama Nation Reservation and is located adjacent to the Marion Drain (man-made irrigation canal) about 13.8 miles from where the canal empties into the Yakima River at RM 77. The replacement roof only structure would be situated over several existing rearing tanks that are located in unpaved areas of the hatchery site approximately 180 feet northwest of the Marion Drain. Work would occur within previously graveled areas within the existing hatchery facility.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: BPA initiated consultation with the Yakama Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama Nation) on October 13, 2021. On December 17, 2021, the Yakama Nation THPO responded, requesting that a monitor be present to observe ground-disturbing project activities. On December 21, 2021 BPA submitted a determination of effects letter indicating that the proposed undertaking would result in no effect to historic properties and stipulating that a monitor be present during implementation of ground-disturbing activities. On January 20, 2021, the 30-day comment period expired, no additional responses were received from the consulting parties, and BPA assumed concurrence.

Notes:

- A cultural resources monitor shall be present to observe ground disturbing activities and an Inadvertent Discovery Plan shall be on site during implementation.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Localized soil disturbance would occur during installation of support posts. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized as necessary.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The work area is within a previously disturbed graveled area of an existing hatchery site. No known Federal/state special-status plants are present in the project area and vegetation disturbance is not expected.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The work area is within a previously-disturbed graveled area of an existing hatchery site. No known ESA-listed species and no habitat for any Federal or State special-status species are present in the project area. Project activities would be limited to an already impacted, unpaved area of an existing hatchery site and would not substantially alter the footprint or operational noise of the area; therefore, wildlife and associated habitat would not be affected.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All activities would occur within previously disturbed and developed areas. No in-water work is proposed for this project. Standard construction erosion control measures would be utilized to ensure sediment and other contaminants do not enter bodies of water. Therefore, waterbodies, floodplains, and fish would not be affected in the short term by the proposed project activities. In the long term, the structure would support hatchery operations for the integrated fall/summer Chinook salmon program.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All activities would occur within previously disturbed and developed areas; no wetlands are present.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No use of groundwater proposed and excavation would not extend to a depth that would intersect ground water.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Existing land uses would remain the same. The work sites are not within a specially designated area.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The structural roof cover would be located in the same area as existing equipment and buildings and existing structures would not be altered. The visual quality of the site would remain similar to existing conditions.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Emissions are anticipated from delivery and installation vehicles. The emissions would be of short duration and consistent in amount and duration with routine vehicle use currently at the hatchery and surrounding agricultural operations.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Noise is anticipated from delivery and installation vehicles, and installation activities. The noise would be of short duration and not inconsistent in volume or duration with routine activities at the hatchery and surrounding agricultural operations.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Transportation of support posts and roof materials would add to vehicle use of local roads, but that increase would last for only a few days and would not add a large quantity of vehicles. Installation actions at the hatchery would have their attendant risk to operational personnel, but no more than other routine heavy maintenance activities at the hatchery. The risk environment would not change.

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: N/A

Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation: N/A

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: N/A

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: N/A

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: The Yakama Nation, operator/owner of the property and hatchery, would coordinate and carry out the activities at Marion Drain Hatchery consistent with an unrecorded Land Use Agreement with Bonneville Power Administration dated December 28, 1994.

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

Signed: /s/ Michele Palmer February 16, 2022
Michele Palmer, EC-4 Date
Environmental Protection Specialist