

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Fairview Substation Station Service

**Project Manager:** Rasha Kroonen – TEP-TPP-1

**Location:** Coos County, Oregon

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities

**Description of the Proposed Action:** This project would support the previously completed Fairview Substation Reactor Addition and Containment Installation, which a Categorical Exclusion was completed for on January 27, 2020.

BPA proposes to allow Coos Curry Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CCEC) to connect station service to BPA's Fairview Substation. The station service would provide a reliable 3-phase service to feed the substation from CCEC's Norway or Sumner line circuits during the event of a power loss. The work would include installation of a 45-foot-tall wooden pole, buried 6.5-feet-deep on the northwest corner of the Fairview Substation property, to intercept the existing line. From there, the cable would be installed underground using deep horizontal directional drilling (HDD) to install three 2.5" conduit for approximately 300 feet, across the front lawn of the substation and then connecting to a new 300 kilo volt amperes (kVA) transformer mounted on a concrete pad, on the northwest side of the substation's control house. At that point, the existing BPA underground 600 volt service conductor would be connected to the new station service line.

**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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| <u>/s/ Sarah T. Biegel</u> | <u>4/27/2022</u> |
| Sarah T. Biegel            | Date             |
| NEPA Compliance Officer    |                  |

Attachment: 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:** Fairview Substation Station Service

## **Project Site Description**

The project location is on BPA fee-owned property at the Fairview Substation property in Coos County, Oregon. The legal description is Section 24, Township 27 South, Range 12 West. The proposed project area is across the front lawn of the substation property, which parallels Lone Pine Lane. The North Fork Coquille River is located 0.35 mile to the south and Evans Creek is located 0.09 mile to the east of the project area. The vegetation in the project area consists of sod grass and is regularly mowed.

## **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: On August 18, 2021, BPA sent consultation initiation letters to the following entities: Coquille Indian Tribe; Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians; Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI); Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde; Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). On September 16, 2021, the CTCLUSI requested an Inadvertent Discovery Plan be in place for construction, and that an archaeological monitor be present to monitor the installation of the new pole and the horizontal directional drilling (HDD) entrance and exit pits. On October 7, 2021, the Coquille Indian Tribe requested they be given at least 72-hour notice prior to construction, so they have the opportunity to provide a tribal monitor onsite during construction activities. On February 7, 2022, BPA sent an archaeological survey report for the project area, along with a determination of “no adverse effect” for project activities. On April 21, 2022, the Oregon SHPO concurred with BPA’s determination of “no adverse effect.” To date, BPA has not received any other responses.

Notes:

- Provide at least 72-hour notice to the Coquille Indian Tribe, prior to construction, so that they can have a tribal monitor present during construction activities.
- A BPA Cultural Resources monitor must be on site for all ground-disturbing activities related to the new pole installation and the HDD entrance and exit points.

### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not significantly impact geology or soils, because minimal soil disturbance would occur. A 6.5-foot-deep hole would be excavated to install the new wooden power pole. The excavated soils would be used to backfill the hole and would be mounded around the base of the pole at ground level. Any surplus soils that could not be re-used would be required to be disposed of in an upland location or at an approved disposal facility off-site.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no Federal or state special-status plant species or habitats present at the project location. The project would disturb a minor amount of sod grass lawn.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no Federal or state special-status wildlife species or habitats present at the project location. The project is taking place between a well-traveled road and the substation; therefore, there would be no impacts to wildlife.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no water bodies, floodplains, or fish species present at or near the project location; therefore, there would be no impacts to these resources.

### **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: There are no wetlands within the project area; therefore, there would be no impacts to wetlands.

Notes:

- Excess excavated soils would be required to be disposed of in an upland location or off-site at an approved disposal facility.

### **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The nearest EPA Region 10 Sole Source Aquifer is 175 miles northeast of the project location; therefore, no impacts are expected.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The installation of station service would be consistent with the existing use of the site. There are no specially-designated areas within or near the project area. There would be no impacts to either land use or specially-designated areas.

### **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The installation of a new utility pole would be consistent with the existing surrounding landscape. There would be no impacts to the visual quality in the project area.

## 10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A small amount of fugitive dust may occur during construction, but the overall air quality would not change after completion of construction activities.

## 11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction noise would occur during daylight hours and would be consistent with the ambient noise of the substation and vehicular traffic on the adjacent roadway. After construction, there would be no change to the overall noise level at the location.

## 12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not negatively impact human health or safety. This additional power source would create electrical redundancy to maintain system reliability and therefore, reduce the amount of unplanned electrical outages.

### 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 project would occur on BPA fee-owned property and would occur during daylight hours. Landowner notification, involvement, or coordination is not required.

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

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger  
Beth Belanger, ECT-4  
Environmental Protection Specialist

4/27/2022  
Date